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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 8, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TONY WIED to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2026, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

LESSONS FROM CARACAS

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, there is much to unpack from the arrest of Venezuelan dictator Nicolas Maduro. Above all, there is the stark contrast between the American socialists who are bitterly denouncing the ouster of this socialist dictator and the masses of ordinary Venezuelans celebrating their deliverance from him.

Socialism under Chavez and Maduro utterly destroyed the prosperity and freedom of Venezuela, reducing it from one of the wealthiest nations in the world to one of the poorest. Like all socialist regimes, the Chavistas depend on brutal intimidation, terrorism, and violence to maintain their grip on power. A third of the population has now fled that afflicted nation. With Maduro's ouster, this diaspora of socialism's victims finally see a cause for hope, and they are rejoicing in the streets.

This should be a warning to our fellow Americans who today are flirting with the same socialist movement in our own country. It has long been foretold that when socialism comes to America, it will come as a smile.

Venezuelans are not the first to be seduced by the siren song of a benevolent and all-powerful government. Like every people who have blundered down that road, they awakened one morning to find the benevolence was gone and the all-powerful government was still there. Let that be a lesson to our misguided countrymen.

This should also be a warning to our adversaries around the world that the Monroe Doctrine has been revived and that America is again willing and capable of defending the New World from the intrigues of the old.

Every thug and despot around the world has new reason to fear the ancient warning: sic semper tyrannis.

Mr. Speaker, has the President acted within his inherent authority as Commander in Chief? The Federal courts have already answered that question time and again including the attacks on Libya by Obama and the arrest of Noriega by Bush. They have consistently ruled that these nearly identical precedents were within the prerogatives of the President and that Congress just as consistently has acquiesced.

As law professor Jonathan Turley put it: ''If Obama can vaporize an American citizen without even a criminal charge, Trump can capture a foreign citizen with a pending criminal indictment without prior congressional approval.''

This is an important debate that goes to the heart of the separation of powers and one that we ought to have. The Constitutional Convention originally considered giving Congress the exclusive power to make war. Elbridge Gerry successfully replaced ''make war'' with ''declare war.''

Madison explained this distinction as ''leaving to the executive the power to repel sudden attacks.'' That distinction has been widened over the centuries, and perhaps it is time to take a fresh look at this question of what distinguishes declaring war from making war.

In 1847, Congressman Abraham Lincoln addressed this very point and unsuccessfully argued that once the executive initiates a hostile act against a foreign power, it has, in fact, declared war by giving that power casus belli. He said that reacting to a military attack is one thing, but initiating an attack is quite another.

Personally, I think he had a point. I disagree with the current precedents, although I find it hard to fault the President from acting within them.

Restoring the many guardrails that separate executive, legislative, and judicial powers in our Constitution would be a fitting way for Congress to celebrate our Nation's 250th anniversary. The Supreme Court is doing its part by restoring the President's exclusive control over executive agencies, and perhaps it will soon restore Congress' exclusive control over tariffs. I certainly hope so.

Reasserting Congress' supremacy and the momentous question of war and peace will require a serious and sober discussion in Congress. When I hear the hyperbolic and hyperpartisan rhetoric of the Democrats in this House with their hatred of Donald Trump dripping from every word, I fear that discussion

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must await calmer times, cooler heads, and wiser voices.

In the meantime, let us rejoice in the fruits of this action. They include the removal of the worst despot in the Western Hemisphere; the revival of the Monroe Doctrine; the ejection of malignant powers insinuating themselves into Latin America; the unmistakable warning to tyrants around the world that America is back; the triumph of American arms; and most of all, setting the stage for the return of liberty, justice, and prosperity to the people of Venezuela.

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF STENY HOYER

(Mr. HOYER of Maryland was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would ask Mr. SCALISE: Where is my 1 minute when I need it?

Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear and close friends, STEVE WOMACK and Madam Speaker, for being here. I also thank my colleagues and my dear friends, Majority Leader SCALISE and Majority Whip EMMER, for being here.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with, obviously, mixed emotions and reluctant conviction. There is a true story I have told many times over the past 60 years. It is about a young man—myself—who was a student at the University of Maryland, College Park, just a few miles from this place.

As a freshman, like many young people, I lacked a vision for my future. I nearly flunked out of college and didn't enroll in the 1958 fall semester. Fortunately for me, I reenrolled the following spring.

It was the spring convocation of April 27, 1959. Classes were canceled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. so that we could all go hear the guest speaker. Frankly, I had not planned to attend. However, I was walking up the hill near Cole Field House where the event was located. I saw our guest drive up in a 1958 Pontiac convertible. That, Mr. Speaker, was a cool car. It was so cool that I decided to go to this convocation.

That walk was my road to Damascus. It changed my life. The speaker was John F. Kennedy. In his remarks, he urged us to do our duty in those days of world chaos. In particular, he charged us students to become more active in our communities. NANCY heard those same words.

Like many hundreds of thousands of young people, I was deeply inspired by Senator Kennedy and his words. Jack Kemp, who was my colleague when I first came here, had a similar story. A week later, I changed my major from business to political science.

Mr. Speaker, 7 years later, in 1966, 5 months out of Georgetown Law School, I was elected to the Maryland State Senate. Mr. Speaker, 15 years after that, in 1981, the voters of the Fifth District elected me to the United States House of Representatives.

I stand here now, after some 60 years in public service, including nearly 45 years as a Member of this House. I have won elections and lost a couple. I celebrated triumphs and suffered setbacks. I enjoyed friendships and endured hardships.

As the song says: ''Some days are diamonds. Some days are stone.'' Happily, I have experienced more diamonds than stone.

Shakespeare advised us all: ''This above all: to thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man.''

In that vein, Mr. Speaker, I have decided not to seek another term in the people's House. I make this decision with sadness, for I love this House, an institution the Framers designed to reflect the will of the American people and to serve as the guardian of their liberty and their democracy.

Through the past 45 years, I have come to know many good, decent, and patriotic Members chosen by their neighbors to represent them. They come from both parties and all parts of the ideological spectrum.

The Congress I entered in 1981 was somewhat different. Most Republicans and Democrats worked together in a collegial and productive way. The leaders of the House, Tip O'Neill and Bob Michael, fostered that environment. It was, of course, not a Congress without conflict.

In the year to come, I will have much more to say about the issues we have grappled with and the ways this House has changed during my time. At the outset, I have said that I spoke with reluctant conviction. That reluctance is because I am deeply concerned that this House is not living up to the Founders' goals.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to examine their conscience, renew their courage, and carry out the responsibilities that the first Article of the Constitution demands. Only in that way can we ensure that our 250 years will be a preface to a stronger and brighter beacon in a free and principled democracy. It will be a nation of laws, not of men. It will be a nation respected around the world for its strength, certainly, but even more for the ideals it represents and the justice with which it acts.

That effort must extend beyond this House. I fear that America is heading not toward greatness but toward smallness, pettiness, divisiveness, lawlessness, and disdainfulness.

We must respect and love one another. We must remember that we are not great or unique because we say we are great but because we are just, generous, and fair.

I hope that spirit can guide us the rest of this Congress because I still have much I want to do in the coming year, not least of which is keeping the government open. To do that, we must send all our appropriations bills to the President in a bipartisan and timely fashion.

There are many people I intend to thank in the coming months, but here are a few I will recognize now:

First, my family, who has borne much of the burden of my service. I ask them to stand.

□ 1015

To my late wife, Judy, who died too young and gave so much.

To my beloved daughters, Susan, Stefany, and Anne, who paid a price for Dad's absences.

To my grandchildren and great-grandchildren, for giving me great joy.

To my mother, who thankfully lived to see her son become the president of the Maryland State Senate.

To my staff, for serving me and their Nation with great loyalty and ability.

To my colleagues, for trusting me with leadership.

To the people of Prince George's County, particularly the African-American community, without whom I would not have won my elections.

To the people of Maryland's Fifth District, who gave me a majority of their votes 23 times.

To my wife, Dr. Elaine Kamarck, who has made my life whole and happy. Thank you, Babe.

And to God, for sending me down this road so many years ago that I call the ''Road to Damascus.''

I thank all of my colleagues—extraordinary people, decent people, people whom their neighbors respect and sent here. The only way they got here was through their neighbors saying that they wanted them to represent them.

I thank you all.

Mr. Speaker, with tremendous gratitude, I yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). To my friend, Mr. HOYER, you have served your district, your State, and your country with dignity and honor, and the institution wishes you Godspeed.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE STENY HOYER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, before I get into my primary remarks, for which I was going to rise, I reflect on 18 years ago when I came into the House of Representatives.

Some of my staff had been on the Hill for, actually, a couple of decades at that point.

My chief of staff said: If there was ever a Democratic Member of Congress who literally represents the term ''statesman,'' it is STENY HOYER.

He truly is. He has not failed at that task, and so I offer my congratulations on his announced retirement and my thanks for his service as a statesman, especially at a time of what we have been living through, of growing divisiveness.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight some of the great work that my office delivered in 2025 that was reflected in my year-end report.

Last year was full of legislative victories. From ensuring more milk options in public schools to making certain that rural schools receive the funding that they need, we continue to deliver for Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District.

I was proud to lead the charge to bring whole milk back into our schools, push for the largest investment in American agriculture in a generation, advocate for career and technical education, and establish a Federal regulatory framework for digital assets like cryptocurrency.

On the policy front, I helped to ensure the passage of the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act. I secured numerous provisions in the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, which benefited American agriculture, as well as a provision authorizing Workforce Pell Grants.

The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act will soon be signed into law, and the House approved both my Digital Asset Market Clarity Act of 2025 and the U.S. Grain Standards Reauthorization Act of 2025.

At home, I was honored to nominate seven exceptional students to our Nation's service academies, celebrated a talented young artist, and delivered more than $6.1 million in Federal funding for nine excellent community projects.

My office responded to more than 81,000 constituent letters, answered nearly 8,000 phone calls, and closed nearly 1,600 constituent cases, helping folks navigate the Federal agencies and Federal bureaucracy.

The most rewarding part of being a Representative is helping individuals and families get the assistance that they need. Throughout the year, my staff hosts office hours across the 18 counties in the 15th Congressional District to assist constituents with issues related to the Social Security Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, IRS, and other Federal agencies. Appointments are not necessary, and I am pleased that we are available to help those in need. Personally, I hosted over 1,200 meetings in 2025 and sponsored and cosponsored 183 bills.

Mr. Speaker, as many around the Capitol complex know, I often come to this floor to share good news from Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District. I spoke 91 days on the House floor in 2025, delivering 120 speeches. I am glad to have had the ability to communicate with my constituents in this way and to recognize their achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the people of the 15th Congressional District for allowing me the privilege to be their voice in Congress, and I firmly believe that our best days lie ahead. I look forward to working hard in 2026 to continue to earn their support.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE STENY HOYER

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today is a day of joy but also a day of some sadness that our great leader, STENY HOYER, has announced his retirement from Congress.

He still has another year. He still has another year, and I know a lot will come.

I join the gentleman in saluting Elaine, Stefany, Susan, Anne, and Judy. Judy—we loved Judy when she was here, and now we rejoice in the gentleman's happiness with Elaine.

My colleagues, we all know that STENY HOYER has been a pillar of strength in the House of Representatives and a champion for the people of Maryland for more than four decades. His patriotism, mastery of the legislative process, and steadfast commitment to America's working families have left an indelible, positive mark on our Nation.

STENY has been a steady presence in our Caucus and the Democratic leadership and a valued colleague. He has been a great leader in bipartisanship in this body. He spoke in his remarks of how it was when he came here. Many of us were here at that time. We didn't get along because we always agreed; we got along because we respected the differences that we brought in representing our districts. It was a very positive time, which he harkened us back to and challenged us to return to.

I thank STENY.

Mr. Speaker, his deep knowledge of the institution, respect for its traditions, and commitment to public service have earned him the admiration of colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Personally, STENY has not only been a trusted partner in leadership but a dear friend. He mentioned the Presidency of John F. Kennedy. When President Kennedy was President, STENY and I worked in the office of Danny Brewster of Maryland. That is when I got to know him. I was just out of school. He was in law school. Sadly, we saw the assassination of the President, and that was a horrible thing.

As he concludes his extraordinary leadership and service in the Congress, we celebrate his legacy of decency and devotion to our country. He has been just so remarkable. Our gratitude to him and his family is boundless, and we wish them every happiness in the years ahead.

STENY has been a leader to us and a mentor to many. He has really been an example of leadership and can be viewed as one of the most substantial, respected Members of Congress in the history of this body.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HOYER for his leadership.

RECOGNIZING DOUG MCMILLON

(Mr. WOMACK of Arkansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I also offer my personal thanks and congratulations to my dear friend, STENY HOYER, on the announcement that he has made today. We wish him the very best.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great friend and fellow northwest Arkansan, Doug McMillon, who steps away at the end of this month from a 12-year run as chief executive officer of Fortune 1, Walmart, in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Doug's is a story of incredible American success. Much like the company he has led, his journey started with humble beginnings.

At 16, Doug's family moved from Jonesboro, Arkansas, to Bentonville. The eldest of three children, Doug was a guard on the Bentonville High School Tigers basketball team. I had the privilege of watching him play high school sports with no way of knowing where his dreams and ambitions would take him.

□ 1030

He began his career at Walmart as an hourly associate in 1984, picking orders and unloading trailers in the warehouse. He attended the University of Arkansas and worked part time at the Bank of Bentonville. Later, he enrolled in the MBA program at the University of Tulsa.

He later became an assistant manager at Walmart Store 894 in Tulsa, and that launched a career with the Nation's leading retailer, with promotions to CEO of Sam's Club in 2005, Walmart International in 2009, and finally CEO of the entire enterprise in 2014.

With a market cap of $195 billion, under his tenure Walmart's value has increased by more than 350 percent and a current market cap of around $900 billion. His leadership in the company's digitization and strong e-commerce platforms was a major shift for the company from that as a brick-and-mortar company to an omnichannel retailer.

Supply chain automation in warehouses and major pay increases for hourly associates were instrumental in his visionary leadership and success.

Mr. Speaker, I could speak volumes about Doug McMillon's legacy. Suffice it to say, his quiet and patient demeanor, his bold and innovative leadership, and his commitment to the shareholders and associates of Walmart make him one of America's true success stories, and not only that, but his spirit of charity and funding opportunities for young entrepreneurs and in healthcare for fellow citizens.

I am proud of what he has accomplished and the inspiration he has given to thousands of people who have had the privilege of serving under his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I know Doug McMillon well enough to know that he would be embarrassed by all of this fuss that we are making about him. That is who he is, but this tribute is well deserved. Few among us have lived the American Dream like he has, and what a difference he has made.

Mr. Speaker, I say to Doug and Shelley: Well done. I know I speak for a lot of people. I thank him for his example of selfless service and his commitment to helping his fellow man. Godspeed and may he enjoy a well-earned retirement.

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ARIZONA MASS SHOOTING

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

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a solemn anniversary.

Fifteen years ago today, Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was doing her job, holding a ''Congress on Your Corner'' event at a grocery store in Tucson, standing outside in the January sunshine, listening to her constituents, figuring out how she could help them.

Then the unthinkable happened. In an instant, this moment of democracy turned into a tragedy. A gunman targeting Congresswoman Giffords killed six of our fellow Arizonans: Federal Judge John Roll, a dedicated public servant; Dorothy Morris, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, beloved members of the community; 9-year-old Christina-Taylor Green, born on September 11, 2001, a budding public servant who had just been elected to her middle school student council; and Gabe Zimmerman, Gabby's director of community research who died doing the work that he loved.

Thirteen others were wounded, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. She survived a gunshot wound to her head through the sheer force of her will, exceptional medical care, and the unwavering support of her husband, Captain MARK KELLY.

I worked closely with Gabby when she was in the State legislature, and I served on the Phoenix City Council. She was a singularly talented leader, brilliant and tough as nails, with the rare gift for bringing people together. There is no doubt in my mind that if it were not for that day, Gabby Giffords would be sitting in the United States Senate right now or the Governor's office, maybe even the White House.

We have seen the consequences when political disagreements metastasize into something darker. In the last few years, political violence has increased in frequency and intensity, and this violence has been directed at both Republicans and Democrats.

Gabby Giffords herself has shown us the path forward. Despite a long and difficult recovery that continues to this very day, she has transformed unimaginable tragedy into courageous action.

Through GIFFORDS, the organization she cofounded with MARK KELLY, she leads the fight for a future free from gun violence, not with bitterness, but with courage, determination, and with hope.

Her example stands as a rebuke to the cynicism that too often characterizes our politics. Gabby reminds us that we can disagree and disagree strongly while still recognizing the fundamental humanity in one another. We can fight for our principles without demonizing our opponents.

On this 15th anniversary, we honor those who we lost by recommitting ourselves to the work that they believed in, a democracy where disagreement is not just tolerated but celebrated, where robust debate strengthens rather than threatens our institutions, and where every American can engage in civic life without fear.

That is the America Gabby Giffords fought for then. That is the America she fights for now, and that is the America we must build together.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL KEITH CONNOLLY

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brigadier General Keith Connolly, who sadly passed away on Christmas Eve.

Keith lived a life defined by service, by family, and by purpose. He was married to his wife, Pat, for 65 years, and together they raised four children and were blessed with nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, with another expected this spring.

A devoted husband, father, and friend, Keith chose a life of service to his country. He served with distinction for 33 years in the United States Air Force as a general officer and a fighter pilot, flying more than 4,800 hours and serving across the United States and overseas, including in Japan, Thailand, and Vietnam. He was awarded two Legions of Merit and seven Air Medals for combat missions, primarily in the Pacific theater.

After retiring to Tucson in 1990, Keith continued serving veterans at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, volunteering more than 23,000 hours over 26 years, helping veterans navigate VA claims. He also recruited and mentored volunteers, assisting thousands through tax assistance programs, and he shared his passion for aviation through the Pima Air & Space Museum.

In 2016, Keith was inducted into the Arizona State Veterans Hall of Fame in recognition of his many years of volunteer service.

It was an honor to recognize General Connolly as part of the initial Veteran Servant Leader Award that I have the pleasure and the honor of conducting every year.

General Keith Connolly's life reflected deep love for his family, his community, and his country. His legacy of service will endure.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his service and may he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING MICA MOUNTAIN FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mica Mountain High School's football team on winning the championship for the second year in a row.

Number 7 Mica Mountain Thunderbolts defeated number 1 undefeated Arcadia High School with a score of 42–17. Mica Mountain started the season 2–2 and ultimately finished 12–2. It was the first time a southern Arizona school repeated as champions among the big-school ranks since 1976 and 1977.

Head Coach and Mica Mountain Assistant Principal Jay Campos led the Thunderbolts to their second consecutive State championship and the first of his coaching career.

Evan Wheeler finished with 194 yards and three touchdowns which earned him both offensive and overall MVP.

Sergio Raygada had an 18-yard pick six and was named the defensive MVP.

Mr. Speaker, this team has made their school and community very proud. This was a great victory for the Thunderbolts and one they earned. I congratulate them on yet another successful season.

CELEBRATING THE MEMORY OF DOLORES OWENS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the memory of one of my constituents, Dolores Owens.

She came to Santa Ana 60 years ago when she married Dewey Flournoy, and together they raised five boys. After Dewey's passing, Dolores later married Neddie Owens and continued to build a life rooted in love, family, and faith in Santa Ana.

Dolores was a strong and active woman, always cooking for her family, even at the age of 92. She had a deep love for the word of God and a heart for giving, donating to community. Whenever she found anybody in need, she would give, no questions asked. She was a true example of a strong woman and a loving mother who took care of everybody in her community.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers are with her family.

RECOGNIZING THE 2025 CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE WINNER

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the winner of the 2025 Congressional App Challenge in my district, Xiong Yi.

Xiong's app, MathFluent, helps students understand math by transforming complicated equations into helpful visualized stories. Users can input an equation or a problem, and MathFluent will generate a story or art piece that helps explain the solution.

Xiong is a student at Fairmont Prep Academy in my home city of Anaheim, and he is a perfect example of how the 21st century students are incorporating technology into their educational experience.

Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Xiong on a well-deserved honor.

JANUARY 6 FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago, I was on this floor when insurrectionists stormed the Capitol to interfere with the peaceful transfer of power.

On this anniversary, I remember the brave Capitol police officers who put their lives on the line to protect not only Members of Congress but America's democracy. Today, in 2026, political violence continues to threaten the fabric of our society and of our country.

I hope as we reflect back on January 6 that we look at those memories as a lesson that we have to stand together and we have to fight, not with violence, but with debate, looking at each other with understanding the way we have done in this great democratic country for over 250 years.

That night of January 6, it was both Republicans and Democrats that came together after the insurrection that night to make sure we completed the peaceful transfer of power and make sure that democracy continued to reign in America.

RECOGNIZING JIM MONAGHAN

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible career of Jim Monaghan, a dedicated public servant who has spent a lifetime serving the people of Stony Point.

Jim's public service began with a 29-year career in the New York City Police Department, where he rose to the rank of lieutenant. From January 2016 through this past December, he served as the town supervisor of Stony Point, focusing on affordability for families and seniors and ensuring public safety. Before becoming town supervisor, Jim served for 2 years on the town board.

A lifelong Rockland County resident, Jim and his wife, Jackie, have lived in Stony Point for 30 years with their two children and now their grandchildren. Community and family remain central to his life. Jim and his wife are active parishioners at Immaculate Conception Church and have volunteered in community sports programs and nonprofits throughout the county.

As Jim retires after a long career serving the people of Stony Point, Rockland County, and New York, I am proud to recognize my good friend, Jim Monaghan, for his many contributions to our community. May this next chapter for him be just as fulfilling as the last.

□ 1045

HONORING ANTHONY ADAMO

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Anthony Adamo, southern region president of the Civil Service Employees Association who passed away this week at the age of 46.

Born in Flushing, Queens, Anthony graduated from New Paltz High School and began his career at SUNY New Paltz in 1999. Not long after, he stepped up as a union activist in CSEA's SUNY New Paltz Local working as a shop steward and grievance representative, driven by his belief in standing up for the working people.

In 2009, Anthony was elected as the local president, a position he held for 10 years, during which he also served as the chair of the union's statewide political action committee.

In 2019, he became southern region president and was reelected by his peers again in 2024. Additionally, Anthony served as an AFSCME delegate and vice president of the New York State AFL–CIO.

Anthony embodied the very spirit of union leadership: passionate, hard-working, and unwavering in his commitment to others. His legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched and the workers he proudly fought for. He was a great friend, an honest broker, and a true New Yorker. I will miss my friend dearly, and may he be at peace.

HONORING JOHN ''SPO'' ESPOSITO

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John ''Spo'' Esposito, a remarkable young man from my district. John passed away peacefully on December 28 at just 25 years old.

John grew up in Somers, New York, where he graduated from Somers High School in 2018. A proud student-athlete, he was a member of the 2016 New York State Championship varsity football team, as well as the track and basketball teams, forming lifelong friendships.

John went on to attend Manhattanville University earning his business degree in 2023. He pursued his entrepreneurial spirit by working at B&E Sports Collectibles and starting his own business, Eye On The Ball Sports Collectibles, alongside his brother Joey, combining his love of sports with his ambition and his family.

Beyond his accomplishments, John was defined by his heart. An avid Yankees fan, he remained deeply connected to his community as a member of the New York Bombers, a blind beep baseball team, and showed us all what it means to persevere with humor, courage, and grace.

My deepest condolences go out to John's parents, Joe and Patti; his brothers, Joey and Michael; and everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

May God bless his memory.

HONORING LAYLA ELIZABETH SO

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Layla Elizabeth So, a remarkable young lady from Pearl River, New York, whose kindness and creativity touched everyone who knew her. Layla passed away on August 7, 2024, after a heroic 2-year battle with cancer.

Layla grew up in Pearl River, New York. She attended Lincoln Avenue Elementary, Pearl River Middle School, and was a rising sophomore at Pearl River High School where she earned High Honor Roll.

Layla excelled on the varsity bowling team, earning the most improved player award. She also participated in the marine science club, enjoyed baking, and volunteered at Pearl River Library.

One of Layla's proudest accomplishments was being a founding member of Eagle Scout Troop 97G in New City. Her Eagle Project, completed posthumously by Troop 97, transformed 10 55-gallon steel drums into decorative trash cans for the town of Orangetown and earned her the title of Eagle Scout after her final board of review in which she also became a Life Scout.

Layla's legacy reminds us that life isn't always numbered in years but in the impact we leave behind. Though her time with us and in our community was far too short, Layla's ambition and kindness will endure. May her memory always be a blessing.

HONORING PIETER GROSBECK

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary Orangeburg resident, Pieter Grosbeck, who passed away at the beginning of December due to a 9/11-related illness.

A proud Eagle Scout, a graduate of Tappan Zee High School and of Rockland Community College, Pieter dedicated his life to serving others. After working as a technician for ITT in Antarctica, Pieter began his career in public safety with the NYPD in 1984, serving as a patrolman in the 44th Precinct in the South Bronx.

In 1990, Pieter continued his career by joining the FDNY where he was later assigned to Engine Company 3 in Chelsea and later transferred to Battalion 7, serving with distinction until his retirement in 2018.

Pieter devoted 45 years of volunteer service to the Blauvelt Volunteer Fire Company, serving as president, chief on three occasions, and an active board member, being awarded life membership in 2019.

He was a loving husband to his wife, Lisa, for 32 years; a devoted friend; and a man who consistently put others before himself. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, his fellow firefighters, and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

May his memory be a blessing.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Blood Donor Month, which takes place each January, and to thank our fellow Americans who voluntarily donate blood.

As a proud blood donor myself, I commend the New York Blood Center and all the community blood centers across the United States that provide a lifeline to people and patients in our hospitals.

This week the center declared a blood emergency.

A single blood donation can save up to three lives, making the work of our community blood centers and the generosity of the employees and the volunteer blood donors who contribute their work extremely important.

NYBC has been serving New Yorkers with lifesaving blood products since 1964. Today, as part of the New York Blood Center Enterprises, that mission extends far beyond New York. Together, they serve 75 million people and provide 1 million blood products annually to over 400 hospitals.

From newborns and their mothers to cancer patients and trauma victims, community blood centers provide patients with the blood that keeps them alive. This month and always, I thank them.

SALUTING THE WORK OF PORT CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the work of those who are leaders and members of the Port Chester Historical Society. Their volunteer efforts have kept alive the memories and stories of the years past that represent the foundation of the village of Port Chester today.

Led by president Jordan Allen, the society has maintained the historic Bush-Lyon Homestead and has been able to follow through with a host of different items for this building that was built in 1760, involving the community and activities at that site: celebration of historic dates, fairs and festivals, and important seminars.

This month, in concert with the Village of Port Chester and Westchester's Revolution 250, the society cosponsors An Evening With Benjamin Franklin. The society cosponsors that evening, and he will visit us in the 21st century to tell us a little bit about the 18th century.

Also this month, the historical society holds a workshop on research and genealogy for interested adults who want to do their own family research. The energy and resources activated by those in the society, Kikki Short, Toni Sacco, Carolee Brakewood, Mike DeVittorio, Lou Russo, Joanne Bellantoni, and others, is one more example of everyday Americans doing their part to advance the story of America.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, I salute the Port Chester Historical Society.

PROTECTING DRIVERS FROM DANGEROUS ELECTRIC VEHICLE BATTERY FIRES

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because this week I am proud to introduce new legislation to protect drivers from dangerous electric vehicle battery fires with my colleague Congressman BRIAN FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania.

This bill called the Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Battery Safety Act of 2026, H.R. 6948, comes in response to several fatal EV accidents which occurred in my district. The accidents involved extremely hot and difficult-to-fight chemical battery blazes and have led to loss of multiple lives.

I became aware of the lack of standards governing EV battery design and heightened risks to passengers in EV accidents, including electrical door releases becoming disabled and lack of information on EV firefighting techniques and exposure to chemical toxins from those fires.

This bipartisan bill addresses all of those issues, requiring the U.S. Department of Transportation standards for battery safety, mandates for mechanical door releases, disseminating best practices for firefighters to tackle these runaway blazes, and requiring a study by HHS on the health risks to firefighters.

These new standards will help assure Americans that they are not taking unnecessary risks every time they get behind the wheel of an electric vehicle and ensure our firefighters have the most current knowledge and protection to handle the latest in automotive technology.

RECOGNIZING DAVID MCMAHON

(Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional public servant, David McMahon, whose career reflects unwavering leadership, unwavering patriotism, and a true commitment to the security of America.

Dave has spent much of his life and service to the State of South Carolina. He grew up in Charleston and today oversees the TSA operations at the Charleston International Airport along with five other airports all across South Carolina. He has served as a Federal security director since January of 2020, managing operations and directing security efforts all across our great State.

Dave's record of service is both extensive, and it is remarkable. He has served as an honorary commander with the U.S. Coast Guard Base Charleston through the Joint Base Charleston Program and has made equally significant contributions to national security policy through service and working on various groups.

Dave has had a distinguished record of service. Prior to his time with the Coast Guard, Dave served as the deputy Federal security director for Minnesota at the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport. He also played a pivotal role as a primary field leader for Super Bowl LII.

From assistant Federal security director roles to active director positions, Dave has consistently delivered strong leadership and results wherever he was placed. Notably, in the early days of TSA, Dave helped federalize six airports while serving as a crisis management coordinator.

His lengthy service record goes on. Prior to joining the TSA, Dave served more than 4 years as a deputy sheriff with the Dane County Sheriff's Office in Wisconsin. He also served our country for 12 years in the United States Army, a tenure which included a combat tour in Saudi Arabia and Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division.

His military roles included criminal investigator, patrol supervisor, SWAT/sniper team lead, SWAT/police sniper instructor, and military police officer basic instructor. Dave also taught criminal justice for Central Texas College while stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

Dave's life is one truly defined by his service. His commitment to our community, to our great State, and to our Nation has been unlimited. Above all, Dave's family has always been his greatest source of strength. Dave has been married to his wife, Jeanette, for over 39 years, and together they have raised two sons who continue their father's proud tradition of service as members of the United States Air Force.

Apart from his public service, Dave enjoys being with family and spending time outdoors. Dave McMahon is truly a man of strong character. At every moment, he has continually shown up with integrity, with professionalism, and with a commitment to making his community safer. He represents the very best of public service.

On behalf of the people of South Carolina, I am proud to acknowledge Dave McMahon for his decades of service, his steadfast leadership, and the example he sets for all of those who follow in his path. As a father, as a soldier, as a public servant and steadfast South Carolinian, his story is a reminder of the impact one individual can have when they devote their life to the security and well-being of others.

On behalf of our great State of South Carolina's Fifth Congressional District, I thank Dave McMahon and wish him Godspeed in his well-deserved retirement years.

VENEZUELA

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, let us make two things clear today, the

things that I think are eminently important and that perhaps could find consensus in this Chamber on both sides of the aisle. In fact, I believe even most countries across the world would agree with those two things, maybe even the United Nations and the Organization of American States could agree with that, and I am confident even the Vatican could agree with that, and that is that Nicholas Maduro was not the legitimate president of Venezuela. The Venezuelan people were neither free nor prosperous during his corrupt regime.

□ 1100

Here is another truth, Mr. Speaker, that in no way conflicts with this first one: The President of the United States must come to Congress before ordering a military engagement against any country.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot uphold the rule of law by breaking it. You cannot protect or abide by the Constitution by assaulting it.

Again, so there is no confusion between these two positions, Nicolas Maduro was not a legitimate President, and unauthorized military action is illegal without the consent of Congress.

With Nicolas Maduro now in the rearview mirror, we must look forward and craft policies that support a free and democratic future for Venezuela and policies that return war powers to the United States Congress, as enshrined in the United States Constitution.

That is why I and the executive board of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus will propose a forward-looking framework for a democratic and stable Venezuela. As members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we come from different nations in Latin America and the Caribbean. We are immigrants, like myself. Many of the members also have ancestors who settled in places in these United States before the United States even existed, and everywhere in between. We share, like most Americans with roots from all over the world, a special connection to Latin America and the Caribbean. Hence, we have crafted a series of recommendations, a roadmap if you will, for democracy and prosperity for the people of Venezuela.

Our first priorities will support a free and democratic Venezuela. That means rejecting authoritarian governance, whether the orders come from the Miraflores Palace or the White House.

The Venezuelan people deserve institutions that are accountable, transparent, and responsible to the world and a restoration of democracy through timely and legitimate elections that reflect the voices of the Venezuelan people themselves.

This is not just about the Venezuelan people. This is ultimately also about the American people, and the American people deserve a government that preserves, protects, and even respects our own rule of law, our own Constitution.

That is why we reject any further U.S. military intervention without congressional authorization. If we are together, as a nation, to put our men and women in uniform at risk, then our Constitution wisely demands that the decisions be made by the Representatives of those people. It may well be that Congress will have voted for or against an intervention, but, ultimately, it is Congress that should do it.

Now that we are so deeply involved with Venezuela, we must act according to our principles. That means ensuring humanitarian protections at home and abroad for the Venezuelan people who have been victims of tyranny for so long.

At home, that includes extending TPS. We cannot deport people to a nation where our actions have set off a new wave of oppression.

In Venezuela, that means pushing for an end to that repression. It means the release of political prisoners, including journalists and civil society leaders. It means freedom of expression and freedom of the press. We must also ensure that Venezuela's future is decided by Venezuelans.

Our future is also in balance. Mr. Speaker, we are not a nihilist nation. Mr. Speaker, we are a nation of values, principles, and laws. We must act as one.

FOLLOWING THROUGH ON AMERICANS' PRIORITIES

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the second session of the 119th Congress, we should take a moment to reset our focus and remember why we are here. A new year and a new session bring new opportunities, but the mission remains the same. Kansans sent me to Washington, D.C., to deliver results for the people of the Big First District, and that is what I will continue to do.

The Big First is home to farmers and ranchers who get up before the sun and work until the job is done. It is home to small business owners and families who balance budgets, meet payroll, and expect the same discipline from the Federal Government. Kansans are practical people who believe in hard work, common sense, and accountability. We don't want excuses. We expect results.

After President Trump's first term, the Biden administration inherited near-record lows in inflation and an agricultural trade surplus of $6 billion. After 4 years of failed Democratic policies, we were left with a 21.5 percent increase in prices and an agricultural trade deficit of $40 billion.

When a ship runs into an iceberg, it takes time to turn the ship around, Mr. Speaker. You need to bail the water, repair the planks, and restart the engine before you can fully correct course. Fortunately, thanks to the leadership of President Trump and congressional Republicans, we are back on track and moving away from the iceberg that was President Biden's administration.

Over the course of the first session of this Congress, we made important progress for Kansans. We pushed back against burdensome regulations that drive up costs for Main Street. We worked to strengthen American energy production so families can afford to heat their homes and fuel their vehicles. We advanced policies that support agricultural producers and rural communities and restored the rule of law at our border. Most importantly, we cut taxes for working families, giving the average Kansan $2,200 more per year in take-home pay beginning this month.

That work matters, and I am proud of the progress we have made, but after the damage done by the previous administration, there is much more work to do. That is what this second session must be about.

For Kansans, this starts with agriculture. Farmers have been facing higher input costs, tighter margins, and growing uncertainty since 2021. They need predictability, risk management tools, and a strong farm safety net. Completing a farm bill that reflects the realities on the ground is vitally important, and I will continue pushing for a fiscally conservative, 5-year farm bill that reflects the priorities of our producers who feed, fuel, and clothe the world.

While real wages are rising and inflation is nearing a 5-year low, there is more to be done to lower costs for families and small businesses. Washington regulations often hit Americans hardest in rural communities like the ones I represent. Commonsense regulatory relief is not about cutting corners. It is about letting people work, grow, and innovate without unnecessary government interference.

Energy is another area where House Republicans are working hard for the good of our Nation. Kansans support an all-of-the-above energy strategy that prioritizes American oil, gas, biofuels, and renewables. This approach supports good-paying jobs, strengthens our economy, and keeps prices affordable. Green New Deal policies that pick winners and losers or ignore rural realities do not work in places like the Big First of Kansas, and this Congress has a responsibility to pursue solutions grounded in reality, not ideology.

Finally, Congress needs to ensure that we continue good stewardship of hard-earned taxpayer dollars. Families in Kansas must make tough choices every day, and they expect their government to do the same. Last year, we rescinded $9.4 billion in waste, fraud, and abuse found in Federal programs, such as funding for Iraqi ''Sesame Street,'' electric buses in Rwanda, and LGBTQ programs in Uganda. Fiscal responsibility is not optional. It is a basic obligation that House Republicans are focused on each and every day in the 119th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the second session of this Congress is not about starting

over. It is about following through. Kansans sent me here to stay focused on results, not political noise. I will continue working to make sure this body delivers real outcomes for the Big First District of Kansas and keeps its promises to the people whom we serve.

PUTTING AMERICANS FIRST

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to say thank you to STENY HOYER for an incredible career and for being a role model and my friend. He is always a class act.

I also rise today to speak for the families who are forced to choose between groceries, rent, and healthcare because prices keep climbing. Affordability is equal to economic stability. Let me repeat that: Affordability is equal to economic stability. Americans are struggling to pay for groceries, rent, gas, and healthcare. They are drowning under rising costs while promises to lower the cost of living have remained unfulfilled by this administration.

On day one, President Trump said he would put America first and lower costs. Instead, he pardoned violent insurrectionists, a mob that attacked this Capitol to overthrow a fair and free election. It was an attack that resulted in the deaths of five law enforcement officers.

We were promised America First, but what we are seeing is that a majority of Americans, who have been polled on whether we are headed on the right track or the wrong track, believe that we are on the wrong track.

This administration has prioritized costly foreign entanglements without transparency or congressional approval while working families pay the price at home.

Instead of protecting the economic well-being of Americans, we are seeing the following: Tariff policies are increasing the costs of essential goods. My farmers are struggling, as well as American consumers. Healthcare costs are skyrocketing for millions. Critical programs that help families stay afloat are under attack. The cuts in Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, as well as SNAP and other programs, are taking their toll.

Take healthcare as an example. The enhanced premium tax cuts that help millions afford coverage are now expired. In California, new enrollments are down 31 percent last year, and nearly 190,000 families have canceled coverage because it is no longer affordable. Middle-class Americans who are earning more than $62,000 are no longer eligible for the Federal premium tax credits, doubling cancellations from 8 percent to 16 percent.

Californians are switching to bronze plans to save on premiums, but these plans carry higher deductibles. For pregnancy care or cancer care treatment, costs can more than double compared to silver plans.

In my district, over 65,000 families risk losing Medicaid, and another 22,000 families will face higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs. Nationwide, nearly 100,000 American families could lose their coverage each year if Congress fails to act.

Last year, Republicans passed a partisan bill that failed to renew the essential premium tax credits, forcing millions of Americans to pay higher costs this year, even though a bipartisan solution is at hand. Families, therefore, unfortunately, are left waiting.

Americans are also struggling with the rising costs of energy, transportation, and other critical services. What we need are bipartisan solutions that create jobs, lower costs, and increase enhanced premium tax credits so millions of American families can afford their healthcare.

What we need is bipartisan legislation such as my bipartisan Rural Homeownership Continuity Act that will reduce financing costs and bipartisan legislation on permitting reform to get infrastructure like energy, transportation, and housing projects more quickly approved for working families.

Mr. Speaker, we need bipartisan solutions, and they are clear. Congress must act now to ease costs, expand access to healthcare, and invest in the future of our communities throughout the country.

The cost of living is not a partisan issue. It is not. It is a matter of fairness, security, and justice. From groceries to gas and from rent to healthcare, Americans cannot afford to wait any longer.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we get together. It is time for Congress to act in a bipartisan effort to renew the sense of Congress as the people's House that we can work together. It is time, Mr. Speaker, for Congress to act. America's people, American citizens, and our constituents must come first.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CARL J. STEWART, JR.

(Mr. MOORE of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Carl J. Stewart, Jr., a proud son of Gaston County, North Carolina, and a former speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, who passed away on December 23 at the age of 89.

Carl grew up in a working-class family as the son of two Firestone Mill employees. He earned a scholarship that helped him attend Duke University and Duke University Law School. He then went on to serve in the North Carolina House for 13 years and made history as the first speaker elected to serve two consecutive terms.

□ 1115

Throughout his life, Carl was a very well-respected attorney in our area with an absolutely great law practice. He combined his legal work with public service, along with serving in the legislature. He held leadership roles on the North Carolina Board of Transportation, the North Carolina Economic Development Board, the North Carolina Ports Authority, as well as the North Carolina Ethics Commission.

His legacy lives on in the infrastructure and educational access that he helped build, especially at Gaston College. For six decades, Carl Stewart served the community college, first as a business law instructor, then as legal counsel, forming a partnership with college presidents and board members rooted in innovation, integrity, and unwavering commitment to student success. In every role, he focused on building a stronger North Carolina, and he really put in so much time to improve the lives of folks in Gaston County. Whether it was education or other things, you name it, he was always there.

I will tell you one thing about Carl. He never lost sight of where he came from, and he spent his life helping. I got to know Carl even before I was speaker of our statehouse, and I can tell you, he was a great mentor. He was somebody who loved nurturing folks who were coming up in public service and getting involved and folks who really wanted to try to make our State a better place. I am going to tell you, North Carolina is a better place because of Carl Stewart's work and his example.

I join our community in mourning this tremendous loss. I ask that you keep his family in your thoughts and prayers in appreciation for all that he has done for so many in our great State.

HONORING LIFE AND SERVICE OF OFFICER MICHAEL MILES

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and service of Officer Michael Miles, who passed away unexpectedly earlier this week.

He was a proud marine, a loving father, and a dedicated police officer serving the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department for more than 13 years. He spent much of that time protecting and mentoring others in the Freedom Division.

Before wearing the badge, he wore the uniform of the United States Marine Corps and served his country with honor. That same spirit of service guided him every day on the job and at home.

His sudden passing is a heartbreaking loss for his loved ones, his fellow officers, and our entire community. Officer Miles leaves behind his partner, Hannah, and four children. I ask my colleagues to join me in lifting up his family in prayer.

ACA TAX CREDITS EXTENSION

(Ms. PRESSLEY of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today carrying the voices and the lives of the people in the Massachusetts Seventh whose survival depends on the Affordable Care Act tax credits: the grandmother skipping meals to pay for her prescriptions; the young mom lying awake at night wondering how she will afford her baby's asthma inhaler if premiums go up; families like Deborah's in Boston, staring down premiums that will double while they care for loved ones, serve their community, and do everything right.

These are not abstract numbers. These are real people with real lives and real fears about whether they will be able to see a doctor, fill a prescription, or keep their families healthy.

In my district alone, 29,000 people will be forced to pay more for healthcare if Congress fails to act, and up to 35,000 could lose their coverage entirely.

This is a shameful policy choice. It is a choice, a choice by my colleagues across the aisle, and it is a violent one at that.

Let me tell you more about Deborah. Her family buys insurance through the Massachusetts Health Connector. Right now, for a family of five, they pay just over $1,000 a month. If these ACA tax credits expire, they will pay nearly $2,000 a month for an even worse plan, and that doesn't even include their daughter, who has aged out of the plan, is underpaid in her job, and whose premiums they will have to help cover.

Deborah told me they are fortunate they can afford it, but that affordability does come at a cost. Between paying for their premiums, their son's college tuition, and caring for her disabled sister, Deborah's husband, a dedicated public defender, now works weekends just to keep up.

As Deborah told me: Even work you love shouldn't require you to give up every day of your life just to survive.

Mr. Speaker, Deborah's story is no anomaly. It is the reality for millions of families across this country, and this crisis did not happen by accident. No, this is manufactured, man-made. It was manufactured by an occupant of the Oval Office and a Republican Party that is hell-bent on making families poorer, sicker, hungrier, and less safe. It is the same party that was content to let these lifesaving tax credits expire until Democrats had to force them to vote on a clean 3-year extension. That is the shame and the sham of it all.

Dr. King once profoundly said: ''Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhumane because it often results in physical death.'' His words still ring true today.

Mr. Speaker, healthcare isn't a nice-to-have. It is a fundamental human right. It is a matter of life and death.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do right by the people who sent them here and join us in passing this extension before it is too late.

CONGRATULATING RANDOLPH BLUE DEVILS

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Massachusetts Seventh's very own Super Bowl champions, the Randolph High School Blue Devils.

Showcasing electric offense and stifling defense, the Blue Devils shut out West Boylston at Gillette Stadium, capping off an undefeated season with another championship.

These student-athletes have made their school and families proud and proven to themselves and the Commonwealth that the town of Randolph has the talent, commitment, and the tenacity to succeed on and off the field.

I thank Superintendent Stovell Herndon, Principal Licorish, Head Coach Jon Marshall, the players, and the entire team for putting teamwork on display at the highest level.

Congratulations on earning the Division 8 Super Bowl title. Go, Blue Devils.

IN MEMORY OF ALICE WONG

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Alice Wong. Alice was a civil rights and disability justice activist who called the question that changed the conversation. She stoked our consciousness, built community, and saved lives.

She was a published author, community organizer, and a beloved friend. Alice was unapologetic in her pursuit of building a more just world and shining a light on issues society hesitated to address. She saw the humanity of everyone and spoke about intersectionality from her hometown to Capitol Hill to Gaza to the border. She affirmed that mutual aid was not a nice to have, but a lifeline.

She loved science fiction as it gave her the ability to think of a world where choices weren't limited because of a person's disability. She gave us all permission and fortitude to dream of what is possible.

Mr. Speaker, Alice is already deeply missed, and her legacy carries on.

CONGRATULATING MILEY MEREDITH

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, some achievements don't just earn applause, they open the door for others. Today, we honor someone who has done just exactly that: Miley Meredith, the first female Eagle Scout in Nassau County, Florida.

From Troop 9152 of Scouting America in Yulee, Miley has shown outstanding dedication, creativity, and a genuine commitment to serving others, qualities that earned her the rank of Eagle Scout. The accomplishment, Mr. Speaker, as you know, is impressive for any Scout, but for Miley's achievement, it also marks an historic moment for our community—expanding what is possible for young women in northeast Florida.

As part of her service project, Miley devoted more than 155 hours installing a 25-foot flagpole and creating a 6-foot mural for the Yulee Lions Club, strengthening a valued community organization.

On behalf of Florida's Fourth Congressional District, I proudly congratulate Miley Meredith, an Eagle Scout whose achievements earn and deserve applause and whose example will continue opening doors for others.

AMERICANS IN STATE OF DESPERATION

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, Americans are in a state of total desperation. For weeks, Floridians have been calling my office in tears. They are looking at their budgets with panic while President Trump rips away their healthcare, sends ICE to neighborhoods, deploys soldiers to new global conflicts, and floods billionaire and megacorporations with free money.

People cannot pay their bills, and Republicans here in Washington, D.C., are totally unfocused, busy defending the latest cruelty done by the administration.

Healthcare open enrollment ends next week. Enrollment is down. Americans can no longer afford their coverage. We are in a healthcare crisis.

Democrats don't control the House, the Senate, or the White House, but we still managed to get this bill to the floor to extend the Affordable Care Act tax subsidies. We are fighting with every tool, with every option we have to save healthcare for our people.

I am voting ''yes'' to get this bill passed this week. I encourage every single Member of Congress, whether they are a Democrat or Republican to do the same. I say this as someone who represents a community in the State of Florida, the largest Affordable Care Act marketplace in the entire country. We have millions of people in the State of Florida that will be impacted by this, and I encourage everyone to vote ''yes.''

RENEE NICOLE GOOD

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today deeply disturbed, distraught, and angered by the shooting and the killing of Renee Nicole Good by an ICE agent that happened just yesterday in Minneapolis.

This is a direct result of Trump's dangerous weaponization of our immigration system and Federal law enforcement. This is the direct result of an agency that is so emboldened by the President that they truly feel like they can do anything with zero impunity and zero accountability.

It shows up in small ways, like when I showed up to tour an ICE facility in my own community and was asked by a Federal agent, in a very condescending way, how old I was, to what we saw yesterday, which was the killing and shooting of a U.S. citizen in her own damn community.

Then yesterday, on the Oversight Committee, my Republican colleagues voted ''no'' on a simple subpoena so we can get information, documents relating to the murder of a U.S. citizen by a Federal agent. Then my colleagues broke into this righteous debate: Let the process play out, let DHS do their investigation, the agent gets due process.

Yes, all persons in the United States are entitled to due process. Renee Nicole Good didn't get that due process because the agent was the judge, jury, and executioner in the middle of a residential neighborhood. There was no process or due process before the administration that runs our Nation labeled her as a domestic terrorist just minutes after this happened.

We won't allow this President to gaslight us, and we won't allow this administration to lie to us about what we have seen before our very eyes.

Not only am I going to vote ''no'' on any funding bills that gives this agency more resources to do this type of thing and terrorize our communities from the State of Florida to across this entire Nation, but I am going to continue to show up physically at bases of operation, field offices, detention centers, and the so-called Alligator Alcatraz to conduct oversight and work with our communities to keep our people safe.

Renee Nicole Good was the mother of three, had a daughter and a son aged 15 and 12, and a 6-year-old with her husband who tragically died in 2023. She was a devout Christian who participated in youth mission trips to Northern Ireland when she was younger. According to multiple reports, she was a poet, a writer, a wife, and a mother.

She had lived most of her life in Colorado and briefly moved to Kansas to stay with her parents after her second husband, a military veteran who suffered from PTSD, died in 2023.

We will honor her life with action, of course fighting to end gun violence because what happened yesterday was gun violence, but also to fight to end ICE's campaign of terror on our communities and our people.

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

□ 1130

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GOVERNOR JAMES BAXTER HUNT, JR.

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Governor James Baxter Hunt, Jr.'s story is inseparable from North Carolina's.

From humble beginnings growing up in Wilson County, North Carolina, to his historic service as our Lieutenant Governor, he was first elected as Governor at 38 years old. He served four terms as our 69th and 71st Governor.

North Carolina's longest serving Governor was a farmer and loved North Carolina State University—a die-hard fan—although he later completed law school at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Governor Hunt believed that public service should lift people up and create opportunities for everyone. His unwavering dedication to education changed the lives of countless children and families.

Through heartfelt initiatives such as Smart Start, early childhood education, teacher support, and school accountability, he helped generations of children have a stronger foundation and a brighter future.

Beyond policy and politics, Governor Hunt led with honesty, with humility, gentleness, and genuine care for others. He believed that the government, guided by fairness and compassion, could be a force of good.

His leadership modernized North Carolina's economy, strengthened its institutions, and elevated the State as a national leader in education and innovation.

Throughout decades, bridging party lines and his unmatched energy, his influence defined an era.

Governor Hunt was not only a dedicated public servant but also a mentor, inspiring many elected and appointed officials. He was my constituent who didn't mind sharing his thoughts and, above all, sharing his support and encouragement.

He was devoted to his family. His legacy of love and service lives on through his family that he cherished and those he inspired.

Governor Hunt was admired, respected, and loved deeply by the people of North Carolina. His reach went beyond our State and made America stronger. Through his leadership, our Nation saw the best of eastern North Carolina. His vision, humble leadership, and faith that came from his days at Marsh Swamp Free Will Baptist Church and later at First Presbyterian Church of Wilson, drove him.

He passed away at 88 years old on December 18 on his farm in Rock Ridge, where he grew up and lived with his beloved wife, Carolyn Joyce Leonard Hunt, for 67 years.

Our Governor and First Lady shared a deep, deep partnership built on love and friendship. He took great pride in his children's accomplishments, especially seeing his daughter Rachel follow in his footsteps as our Lieutenant Governor.

Mr. Speaker, our hearts are with Carolyn, Rebecca, Baxter, Rachel, and Elizabeth. North Carolina will miss one of its greatest public servants. His family will miss a beloved husband, brother, father, and grandfather. I will personally miss a dear friend.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MOTHER PEGGY NOBLE

(Ms. TLAIB of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I will take a moment to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Mother Peggy Noble. She was an inspirational leader and a champion for economic justice and for working families.

Mother Peggy has dedicated her life to her College Park neighborhood where she lived. She was a community organizer, supporting her neighbors, advocating for children, and bringing people together. She believed deeply that real change is built through relationships and advocacy and showing up for our communities. Year after year, that is what she did.

Peggy was a fierce advocate for our families from standing up for her neighborhood to fighting for fairness in our broken auto insurance system. Detroit is stronger because of her voice, her leadership, and her unwavering belief in people. We carry her spirit forward in how we organize, how we protect one another, and how we show up for our neighbors.

My thoughts are with her loved ones, Rochelle, Eugene, Kimberly, Jaimi, Asante, and all of Peggy's loved ones, during this difficult time. May she rest in power and in love.

ACA TAX CREDITS

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, we always seem to have money for war, to bomb countries, but we never have money for healthcare for our families.

On January 1, Republicans ended the Affordable Care Act tax credits and raised healthcare premiums for millions of Americans, our neighbors throughout the Nation. This comes, of course, after Trump's big budget betrayal ripped healthcare away from 17 million Americans and cut Medicaid by nearly $1 trillion.

Last year, Congress did approve over $1 trillion for the Pentagon budget, which just failed its eighth audit in a row. I want folks to think about that. They are cutting money for healthcare and spending it on bombs and death.

The ACA tax credits are what help keep insurance affordable for many of our neighbors across the country. They are the difference between my neighbors having insurance or going without healthcare. It is heartbreaking to read the emails and messages I get from so many families that are putting off seeing a doctor and filling their prescriptions and now rationing their medication.

No parent, Mr. Speaker, should have to choose whether to take their child to the doctor because healthcare is too expensive. Our healthcare system is already broken, and it is inhumane.

My residents always tell me: Don't call it healthcare. Call it sick care. Because we know right now the for-profit schemes within our healthcare system are making it so unaffordable for our families. Why have we not passed the tax credits for the Affordable Care Act?

Again, we are so grateful for the leadership of HAKEEM JEFFRIES as we push forward a force vote for a 3-year ACA tax credit extension today.

Again, instead of extreme cuts, we should be expanding access to care and guaranteeing healthcare as a fundamental human right in our country. We must pass this tax credit extension today and put pressure on the Senate to take it up immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to help fix this mess they have made by restoring the extreme Medicaid cuts and joining us in extending the Affordable Care Act tax credits.

HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, housing is a human right, but as everyone knows, we are facing a housing crisis right now.

On any given night right now, more than three-quarters of a million people are unhoused nationwide. The last time the Federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour was increased was in 2009.

Since then, average rental costs have increased 76 percent. That is just completely wild.

We need action at every level of government. I know that many of our local elected officials are desperate to reduce housing costs and need the Federal Government's partnership. We know often here in this Chamber there are officials that will not promote affordable housing or address the unique barriers that our communities are facing.

That is why I introduced the Housing Our Communities Act, and it is meant to address it immediately. This is part of a legislative package that passed out of the Financial Services Committee this past year.

My bill directs the HUD Secretary to establish a competitive grant program to support a wide array of affordable housing planning and implementation activities.

For example, grants, Mr. Speaker, can support officials in crafting their own housing plans, updating zoning codes, and increasing the capacity to conduct housing inspections so that developments are completed faster, reducing project costs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Housing for the 21st Century Act and provide policymakers and our local governments with the resources they need to make affordable housing a reality.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FIRE CHIEF DAVID HAVERDINK

(Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. I have some prepared remarks, but I will also be speaking from my heart as well because, unfortunately, today I am here to honor the life and legacy of my friend, former sheriff and Fire Chief Dave Haverdink.

Dave was a staple in Allegan County who dedicated his life to serving his community until the moment tragedy struck in the line of duty on December 23. Dave passed away on December 25, Christmas Day.

He was there serving others as there had been an incident on a roadway and, unfortunately, he was struck and killed.

I first got to know Dave while he was serving as a county commissioner and was running for sheriff of Allegan County. While Dave excelled in both of those roles—in fact, he did 8 years, two terms, as the sheriff—his service didn't stop there.

Perhaps what Dave will be most remembered for was his astounding 51 years of service with the Hamilton Fire Department, including 40 of those years when he served as chief of the department.

Prior to coming out to Washington, D.C., I had a chance to go and be with his family at a visitation. I was touched and moved when his wife said to me that she and Dave pray for me and everybody in Washington every single day. It just speaks to the character of this family. At a time when the focus should be on them and supporting them, they still were thinking of others, including me and all of our colleagues here.

While Dave undoubtedly had a tremendous impact on Hamilton and all of Allegan County, his legacy, though, is going to be one as a husband and a father and a grandfather who loved his family deeply. My heart and prayers go out to his wife, Judy; sons, Jeff and Tim; and the entire Haverdink family during this tragic time.

This is a true loss. It is a loss not just for a particular community. It really is a loss for humanity. He is one of the good guys. He is one of those that put service to others above self. He is someone that focused on making sure that others were okay at every turn and didn't think about himself.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring the memory, life, and legacy of Hamilton Fire Chief Dave Haverdink with a moment of silence.

May my friend rest well. Job well done.

REMEMBERING RENEE NICOLE GOOD

(Ms. ANSARI of Arizona was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with outrage and with grief.

Yesterday, not even a full week into the new year, ICE murdered a U.S. citizen, Renee Nicole Good, after shooting her multiple times as she was seemingly attempting to drive away, blocking her from medical care, and letting her die, while a doctor stood by offering to help.

The video of this tragedy is damning. I encourage every American to watch it and make their own judgment.

A woman is dead. A child has been left without a parent. A community is shattered. The American people are left, once again, demanding answers from an agency that has shown time and time again that it operates without accountability.

□ 1145

Mr. Speaker, what happened to Renee Good in Minneapolis demands a full, independent, and immediate investigation.

I represent Arizona's Third Congressional District, a diverse and rich community of immigrants. For over a year now, ICE has been terrorizing my constituents. No agency is above the law. Yet ICE is now the most well-funded law enforcement agency in the United States, receiving more funding than most militaries around the world, while operating with virtually no meaningful checks and balances.

In the immediate aftermath of Renee Good's death, the Trump administration did what it does best. It lied. Kristi Noem and Stephen Miller rushed to smear a dead woman as a ''domestic terrorist,'' while Donald Trump took to Truth Social to gaslight the American people, asking them to deny their own eyes and accept his version of events instead.

This is what authoritarianism looks like. This is what happens when the leader of a nation turns a Federal agency into his personal paramilitary force against the civilian population of the United States.

Donald Trump has weaponized ICE, not to keep communities safe but to terrorize them. Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey has called for ICE to vacate his city, and I echo that call. People in our communities don't feel safe because they are not safe.

In my district on Christmas Eve, a woman named Flor, a DACA recipient, was detained while Christmas shopping. Why is ICE spending resources to detain a DACA recipient on Christmas Eve? They claim they are going after ''real criminals.'' That, too, is a lie.

Just days ago, ICE detained two day laborers outside a Home Depot in Phoenix, briefly detaining a U.S. citizen in the process. These people are not criminals. This isn't law enforcement. This is a Federal agency operating outside of its mandate, using fear as a tactic to spread fear and chaos in our neighborhoods.

It is no coincidence because Stephen Miller is rapidly hiring tens of thousands of new ICE agents. Many are poorly trained. Many have troubling backgrounds. This is all to meet this reckless mass deportation agenda that he has set out.

We have been sounding the alarm for well over a year, and now the worst has happened. An American woman has died. That is why I am introducing legislation to rein in ICE, demand transparency, and stop the unchecked funding that enables these abuses.

I am also joining as an original cosponsor in an effort led by my colleague Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY to introduce Articles of Impeachment against Kristi Noem, the Secretary of

the Department of Homeland Security. I urge my colleagues, Democrat and Republican alike, to join us.

A woman has been murdered. Silence is no longer neutrality. It is complicity. We must rein in ICE. We must demand accountability. We must protect our communities from this abuse of power.

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

HOLDING ICE ACCOUNTABLE

(Mr. MENENDEZ of New Jersey was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, yesterday our Nation witnessed the killing of a fellow American in broad daylight, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her name was Renee Nicole Good. She was a concerned citizen and a mother. The loss of her life was entirely preventable.

This tragic loss of life comes the same week that we remember what occurred here 5 years ago on January 6. On that day, violent insurrectionists attacked police officers, many of whom sustained serious injuries and five of whom have passed away since the attack, including Brian Sicknick, a New Jersey native and a proud Capitol Police officer.

Instead of remembering and healing from the events of that day, President Trump pardoned close to 1,600 seditious and violent insurrectionists who were convicted of criminal charges. The President and House Republicans have tried to vanish the events of that day from our collective memory, but we will not let them.

Last year, alongside my colleagues Congresswomen WATSON COLEMAN and MCIVER, I witnessed firsthand outside Delaney Hall how far this administration will go to silence dissent and opposition when more than 20 armed ICE and HSI officers physically prevented us from doing our job.

What I said then and what I would say today is that all of this should be completely unacceptable to all Americans and should shake every American to their core. I have said time and time again that no one is safe in Trump's America. Mothers, Capitol Police officers, our neighbors, Members of Congress, no one, not a single person should feel safe with him as our President.

This administration's extreme agenda does not reflect the best of who we are as a country but, instead, seeks to turn us against each other. We cannot allow that to happen.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Immortal and invisible God, speak to us this day Your inimitable words of truth. While Your wisdom has often seemed a mystery hidden from us, You have freely offered it by Your spirit, that we may receive and understand Your gracious and generous gift.

Reveal to us then what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor human mind conceived, that we may comprehend the things You have prepared for those who love You.

Show us what our limited perspective keeps us from seeing, that You, who created all things, have designed a future for us that will grant us reason to hope in what we cannot see.

Declare to us in words louder than the soundtrack of our culture that it will not have the final word.

Remind us that as much as we think we know the way, the wisdom of the world will amount to nothing, for it is You who ultimately orders our steps.

You have made clear, O God, that these promises are for those who love You. Search our hearts, O Lord, we pray, and find within us a thirst for Your Word and a desire of our love for You.

To You, the only wise God, in whose name we pray, we give thanks.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

TRUMP LEADERSHIP CAPTURES DICTATOR MADURO

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Americans are grateful that last week, under the courageous leadership of President Donald Trump, Marco Rubio, Pete Hegseth, General Dan Caine, Pam Bondi, and John Ratcliffe, that our professional military completed an inspiring, legal operation to arrest Venezuela dictator Maduro and his wife.

Dictator Maduro rigged elections and also operated a murderous, drug-dealing regime. Drug cartels, which killed hundreds of thousands of young Americans, have now been damaged.

The murderous axis of evil of war criminal Putin, Iranian and Cuban regimes, and the Chinese Communist Party are unraveling, exposing dictators with rule of gun which invade democracies with rule of law.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump, mocking Trump, with ghost Russian tankers financing the Maduro murderous dictatorship.

Our prayers for a speedy recovery for Dr. JIM BAIRD and his wife, Danise.

RECOGNIZING 20TH ANNUAL CRUCIAN-RICAN TRAMP AND BIG BREAKFAST

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to share the unbreakable ties between the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, demonstrated this week through the Annual Crucian-Rican Tramp and Big Breakfast, a powerful reminder that Virgin Islands culture is inseparable from our Latin Caribbean heritage.

Puerto Rican immigrants began coming to the Virgin Islands by the thousands in the late 1800s, cutting cane alongside Crucians, whose ancestors endured the same cane fields. Families planted roots, building communities throughout the island and on St. Thomas. They established social clubs and created businesses.

Spanish became our second language. Our children grew bilingual. Our families intertwined. Our kitchens became sacred ground, where callaloo met asopao, fungi sat beside mofongo, and johnnycakes shared the table with bacalaitos.

Yet, before the migration to St. Croix were the boats of enslaved Crucians, who were fleeing slavery by making the dangerous trip to Vieques and Culebra. This isn't fusion. It is family, Caribbean people who refused to let colonial borders divide us, who

recognized in each other the same bloodlines and the same determination to thrive.

The Crucian-Rican Tramp celebrates this truth: We are stronger together.

HONORING FATHER MIKE CRISOSTOMO

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and the service of Father Mike Crisostomo, a Catholic priest from Guam who devoted his life to caring for others and strengthening our island community.

For nearly three decades, Father Mike, affectionately known as Pale Mike, served the people of Guam, offering guidance, comfort, and support in moments of both joy and hardship. He was known for showing up when people needed him the most, whether in times of celebration, grief, or uncertainty.

Father Mike's service extended beyond the walls of the church. He worked with families, the vulnerable, and those facing difficult circumstances, always with compassion and humility.

Father Mike Crisostomo lived a life rooted in faith, service, and love for his community. Guam is in a better place because of his work, and his legacy will live on in the countless lives he touched.

MARKING 15 YEARS SINCE TUCSON SHOOTING

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, Madam Speaker Emerita, Senator MARK KELLY, the Arizona delegation, and to all of my colleagues who are present here today, I rise on the 15th anniversary of the tragic mass shooting in Tucson, Arizona, that took 6 lives and injured 13 others, including our former colleague, our good friend, Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, an extraordinary American leader who I am pleased to say is here with us in the Chamber today.

At 10:10 a.m. mountain standard time, in Tucson, Arizona, during a Congress on Your Corner event being held by Representative Gabby Giffords to serve her constituents, a gunman opened fire on this peaceful gathering.

We mourn for those whose lives were lost on that fateful day: John Roll, a Federal judge and public servant; Gabe Zimmerman, a dedicated congressional staffer; a precious 9-year-old girl named Christina-Taylor Green; and beloved community members Dorothy ''Dot'' Morris, Phyllis Schneck, and Dorwan Stoddard.

□ 1210

At the same time, we are thankful to God for the survival, the resilience, the courage, the strength, the persistence of Congresswoman Giffords and all those who survived on that fateful day.

Prior to this assassination attempt, Congresswoman Giffords served this body and the people of Arizona's Eighth District with great distinction, dedication, and determination. Her policy interests were diverse, spanning from immigration reform, economic opportunity, and promoting solar and clean energy.

After experiencing firsthand, in the most horrific fashion possible, the horror of a mass shooting, she refocused her efforts on ending the gun violence epidemic in America once and for all. We honor her and celebrate her for the transformational work that she has done in the years that have followed.

House Democrats stand with Gabby and with all Americans who say enough is enough.

Enough with the gun violence epidemic being the leading cause of death for the children in this country.

Enough with mass shootings being as frequent as the common cold.

Enough with the text messages to parents saying ''I love you'' because there is another active school shooter.

Enough with the mass-casualty incidents at concerts, grocery stores, movie theatres, nightclubs, churches, mosques, synagogues, and other gathering places.

Enough with weapons of war flooding our communities, while merchants of death rake in record profits.

Enough unnecessary loss of life due to preventable, senseless gun violence.

This is the cause to which Congresswoman Giffords has now dedicated her life, and we all join her in proclaiming enough is enough.

It is time to end the gun violence epidemic in America once and for all.

While the challenges to address this crisis may feel insurmountable at times, we cannot and will not give up hope, inspired by the perseverance of our dear leader, Congresswoman Giffords.

I am heartened by the work that has been done despite the considerable forces that have been arrayed against us.

That progress includes, under the leadership of then-Speaker NANCY PELOSI, passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act in 2022, which represented the strongest new Federal gun safety legislation in 30 years.

Our job, of course, as Gabby makes clear, is far from finished. Every day an average of 327 people are shot in this country, including 23 children shot on average every day. Over 65 million Americans say at least one person in their family has been fatally shot, their lives extinguished by gun violence in this country. There are 393 million guns in the United States of America, more guns than people, and law enforcement can't tell you where a majority of those guns are because of barriers that have been erected keeping criminals protected.

It does not have to be this way. We know there are commonsense solutions to stop the gun violence and keep the American people safe.

We can start by closing the gun background loophole that allows dangerous people to buy firearms without background checks.

We need to ban assault weapons in the United States of America to prevent these weapons of war from continuing to destroy the lives of everyday Americans.

Led by our distinguished appropriators like ROSA DELAURO, we are continuing to fight for robust funding for community violence intervention programs and appropriate funding for the ATF and gun violence research. Breaking the devastating cycle of gun violence that has a choke hold on this country is one of our Caucus' highest priorities and will be a high-priority issue when we take back control of the majority after the November election.

Democrats are continuing to maintain our commitment to keep everyday Americans safe from the scourge of gun violence, and we will not stop fighting for proven policies that we know will reduce gun violence in every community throughout our Nation.

I encourage my colleagues to support the resolution introduced by Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ to commemorate the tragic event that occurred on January 8, 2011.

I once again thank our colleague, our fearless leader, our distinguished champion, Congresswoman Giffords, for her presence here today on this solemn anniversary and for her tireless, matchless, incredible advocacy to end the scourge of gun violence in the United States of America once and for all.

I now ask everyone in the Chamber to stand, and for everyone throughout the campus to join us in a moment of silence to commemorate the lives lost and the lives forever changed by the tragic shooting that occurred on January 8, 2011.

□ 1220

ACA TAX CREDITS EXPIRED

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, Christmas has come and gone. As the ball dropped bringing in a new year, families in eastern North Carolina and across the Nation literally on New Year's Day are feeling the squeeze of rising healthcare insurance costs.

It is not a happy new year for everyone. These are hardworking families, our neighbors and friends, trying to raise kids and buy groceries, and they are small business owners.

Congress must act to extend these subsidies so hardworking families aren't left stretching out tight budgets

and forced to face skyrocketing health insurance premiums, or better yet, left without coverage all together.

We can pursue meaningful reforms. Let me say it again. We can pursue meaningful reforms without sacrificing access to affordable care, and that is exactly what the people sent us here to do.

UNAFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE COSTS

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

Ms. MORRISON. Madam Speaker, thousands of Minnesotans and millions of Americans are facing unaffordable healthcare costs. Because of their cruelly named One Big Beautiful Bill Act and Speaker Johnson's refusal to act, the Republican majority is creating a healthcare crisis that will literally dismantle American public health.

Americans are being forced into crushing medical debt, are in danger of losing their closest hospital, clinic, or emergency room.

As a doctor, I worry for the patients delaying their care and for clinics and hospitals already struggling to meet the needs of their community.

As a Minnesotan, I am heartbroken for my State. Minnesotans have suffered immeasurable loss following the tragedies of recent months.

The Trump administration's reckless actions and deliberate inaction from Republicans in Congress jeopardize the operation and availability of facilities that are the first site of care in the most tragic circumstances.

I have a responsibility to be abundantly clear, Madam Speaker. The consequences of inaction and ignoring hospitals, doctors, patients, and your own constituents will be catastrophic. The price of failing to deliver affordable healthcare isn't losing elections. It is real human suffering and American lives.

CELEBRATING WESTCHESTER JEWISH COUNCIL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, this year the Westchester Jewish Council is celebrating their 50-year anniversary, advancing a vision to serve the Jewish community of Westchester County: 130,000 people and 126 member organizations. Led by president Michael Mittelman, the board of directors, and the talented professional staff headed by CEO Elliot Forchheimer, the WJC has sponsored and organized public programs from Holocaust remembrance to Passover celebrations and gatherings. They have ensured greater synagogue security, programs to combat hatred and anti-Semitism, and the connection to Israel.

At the upcoming 50th Anniversary Gala, two outstanding individuals will be honored: board member Stu Seltzer and Pam Goldstein.

Pam is the chief operating officer of WJC. Stu, a Mamaroneck resident, is a professional in brand licensing and partnership marketing, president of a firm dominant in that field. Along with serving as a NYU adjunct professor, he is active in his local community and of the Westchester Jewish Center.

Pam has a long record of activism and volunteerism as a member of Temple Israel Center, active PTO leader and parent at what is now the Leffell School, and important nonprofits such as the Breast Cancer Foundation and the Pediatric Cancer Foundation. Friends and colleagues of Stu and Pam will join in the celebration of their accomplishments and the 50-year accomplishments of the WJC.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute the Westchester Jewish Council.

CELEBRATING DON STEVENS

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

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Don Stevens, the legendary voice of the Rochester Americans, as he calls his final season behind the microphone.

For four decades, Don has called over 3,300 games for the Amerks and became the longest tenured play-by-play broadcaster in the American Hockey League.

From Calder Cup runs to cold weeknights downtown, he has been the soundtrack of winter in Rochester calling games from a press box at the Blue Cross Arena that now proudly bears his name.

Known as the dean of AHL broadcasters, a member of the Rochester Americans Hall of Fame, and a two-time winner of the James H. Ellery Memorial Award for media excellence, Don has served in roles from public relations director to TV host, and founded the AHL Broadcasters and Writers Association.

We thank Don for the memories, the excitement, and for making Amerks hockey sound like home. I wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND SMALL BUSINESSES STRUGGLING TO AFFORD HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today because the House has a critical opportunity to support families and small businesses who are struggling to afford healthcare for 2026.

I am thinking of the parents I have talked to who will drop coverage for their families because their premiums are doubling and tripling, the nonprofits who won't be able to cover employees anymore, the manufacturer that is now paying more for health insurance than most of their raw materials.

The impacts of this healthcare debate are real and they are immediate.

This week Congress can solve the problem and actually make people's lives better.

Everywhere I go across New Hampshire, I hear the same thing: Money is tight, and people are worried about their futures.

The millions of families who rely on the Affordable Care Act tax credits for health insurance have waited long enough for Congress to do the right thing.

I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation to ensure that hardworking Americans can maintain their coverage and have the health and financial security that they deserve.

FIREFIGHTER PROTECTIONS

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

Mr. WHITESIDES. Madam Speaker, this week marks the first anniversary of the southern California wildfires that took lives, devastated communities, and left families across our region displaced.

We are lucky that the damage was not worse, and that is only because of the wildland firefighters who run toward danger and risk their lives for all of us.

For decades, these heroes were prohibited from wearing respiratory protection, even as the science made clear that wildfire smoke causes lasting lung damage and is linked to more than a dozen cancers.

Firefighters' life expectancy is now nearly 10 years shorter than the average American. That is unacceptable.

The Healthy Lungs for Heroes Act changes that. It directs our Federal land agencies to develop and require respiratory protection when smoke exposure becomes dangerous.

Protecting our firefighters' lungs should not be controversial. This bill ensures that those who protect us are finally protected themselves.

PERMISSION TO POSTPONE PROCEEDINGS ON RETAINING A PORTION OF H.R. 6938, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE; ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT; AND INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the question of retaining a portion of the bill on H.R. 6938 may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1230

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE; ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT; AND INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, Pursuant to House Resolution 977, I call up the bill (H.R. 6938) making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, 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 977, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6938

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 ''Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.
Sec. 3. References.
Sec. 4. Explanatory statement.
Sec. 5. Statement of appropriations.
DIVISION A—COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026
Title I—Department of Commerce
Title II—Department of Justice
Title III—Science
Title IV—Related Agencies
Title V—General Provisions
DIVISION B—ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026
Title I—Corps of Engineers—Civil
Title II—Department of the Interior
Title III—Department of Energy
Title IV—Independent Agencies
Title V—General Provisions
DIVISION C—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026
Title I—Department of the Interior
Title II—Environmental Protection Agency
Title III—Related Agencies
Title IV—General Provisions

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to ''this Act'' contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

SEC. 4. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.

The explanatory statement regarding this Act, printed in the House section of the Congressional Record on or about January 7, 2026, and submitted by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations of the House, shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of divisions A through C of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

SEC. 5. STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The following sums in this Act are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026.

DIVISION A—COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

operations and administration

For necessary expenses for international trade activities of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, to carry out activities associated with facilitating, attracting, and retaining business investment in the United States, to carry out activities associated with title VI of division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328), and for engaging in trade promotional activities abroad, including expenses of grants and cooperative agreements for the purpose of promoting exports of United States firms, without regard to sections 3702 and 3703 of title 44, United States Code; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas and employees temporarily posted overseas; travel and transportation of employees of the International Trade Administration between two points abroad, without regard to section 40118 of title 49, United States Code; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services; recognizing contributions to export expansion pursuant to Executive Order 10978; rental of space abroad for periods not exceeding 10 years, and expenses of alteration, repair, or improvement; purchase or construction of temporary demountable exhibition structures for use abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed $294,300 for official representation expenses abroad; purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use abroad, not to exceed $65,000 per vehicle; not to exceed $350,000 for purchase of armored vehicles without regard to the general purchase price limitations; obtaining insurance on official motor vehicles; and rental of tie lines, $582,000,000, of which $94,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That $20,000,000 is to be derived from fees to be retained and used by the International Trade Administration, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further,* That, of amounts provided under this heading, not less than $16,400,000 shall be for China antidumping and countervailing duty enforcement and compliance activities: *Provided further,* That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities; and that for the purpose of this Act, contributions under the provisions of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 shall include payment for assessments for services provided as part of these activities.

Bureau of Industry and Security

operations and administration

For necessary expenses for export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce, including costs associated with the performance of export administration field activities both domestically and abroad; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed $13,500 for official representation expenses abroad; awards of compensation to informers under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (subtitle B of title XVII of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019; Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 2208; 50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.), and as authorized by section 1(b) of the Act of June 15, 1917 (40 Stat. 223; 22 U.S.C. 401(b)); and purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use and motor vehicles for law enforcement use with special requirement vehicles eligible for purchase without regard to any price limitation otherwise established by law, $235,000,000, of which $94,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided,* That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities: *Provided further,* That payments and contributions collected and accepted for materials or services provided as part of such activities may be retained for use in covering the cost of such activities, and for providing information to the public with respect to the export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce and other export control programs of the United States and other governments.

Economic Development Administration

economic development assistance programs

For economic development assistance as provided by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, including provision of assistance under section 207(b) of such Act, for trade adjustment assistance, and for programs authorized by the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980, as amended, $400,000,000 to remain available until expended, which shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the table titled ''Economic Development Assistance Programs'' in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

salaries and expenses

For necessary expenses of administering the economic development assistance programs as provided for by law, $66,000,000: *Provided,* That funds provided under this heading may be used to monitor projects approved pursuant to title I of the Public Works Employment Act of 1976; title II of the Trade Act of 1974; sections 27 through 30 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722–3723), as amended; and the Community Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1977.

Minority Business Development Agency

minority business development

For necessary expenses of the Minority Business Development Agency in fostering, promoting, and developing minority business enterprises, as authorized by law, $50,000,000.

Economic and Statistical Analysis

salaries and expenses

For necessary expenses, as authorized by law, of economic and statistical analysis programs of the Department of Commerce, $118,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

Bureau of the Census

current surveys and programs

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing, and publishing statistics, provided for by law, $318,500,000: *Provided,* That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities.

periodic censuses and programs

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing, and publishing

statistics for periodic censuses and programs provided for by law, $1,171,849,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as provided for by law, of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), $50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1535(d), the Secretary of Commerce shall charge Federal agencies for costs incurred in spectrum management, analysis, operations, and related services, and such fees shall be retained and used as offsetting collections for costs of such spectrum services, to remain available until expended: *Provided further,* That the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to retain and use as offsetting collections all funds transferred, or previously transferred, from other Government agencies for all costs incurred in telecommunications research, engineering, and related activities by the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences of NTIA, in furtherance of its assigned functions under this paragraph, and such funds received from other Government agencies shall remain available until expended.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses for the design, construction, alteration, improvement, maintenance, and repair of buildings and facilities managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, not otherwise provided for, $1,000,000, to remain available until expended.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) provided for by law, including defense of suits instituted against the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, $4,956,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as offsetting collections of fees and surcharges assessed and collected by the USPTO under any law are received during fiscal year 2026, so as to result in a fiscal year 2026 appropriation from the general fund estimated at $0: *Provided further,* That during fiscal year 2026, should the total amount of such offsetting collections be less than $4,956,000,000, this amount shall be reduced accordingly: *Provided further,* That any amount received in excess of $4,956,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 and deposited in the Patent and Trademark Fee Reserve Fund shall remain available until expended: *Provided further,* That the Director of USPTO shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for any amounts made available by the preceding proviso and such spending plan shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further,* That any amounts reprogrammed in accordance with the preceding proviso shall be transferred to the United States Patent and Trademark Office ''Salaries and Expenses'' account: *Provided further,* That the budget of the President submitted for fiscal year 2027 under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, shall include within amounts provided under this heading for necessary expenses of the USPTO any increases that are expected to result from an increase promulgated through rule or regulation in offsetting collections of fees and surcharges assessed and collected by the USPTO under any law in either fiscal year 2026 or fiscal year 2027: *Provided further,* That from amounts provided herein, not to exceed $13,500 shall be made available in fiscal year 2026 for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further,* That in fiscal year 2026 from the amounts made available for ''Salaries and Expenses'' for the USPTO, the amounts necessary to pay (1) the difference between the percentage of basic pay contributed by the USPTO and employees under section 8334(a) of title 5, United States Code, and the normal cost percentage (as defined by section 8331(17) of that title) as provided by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for USPTO's specific use, of basic pay, of employees subject to subchapter III of chapter 83 of that title, and (2) the present value of the otherwise unfunded accruing costs, as determined by OPM for USPTO's specific use of post-retirement life insurance and post-retirement health benefits coverage for all USPTO employees who are enrolled in Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) and Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI), shall be transferred to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, the FEGLI Fund, and the Employees FEHB Fund, as appropriate, and shall be available for the authorized purposes of those accounts: *Provided further,* That any differences between the present value factors published in OPM's yearly 300 series benefit letters and the factors that OPM provides for USPTO's specific use shall be recognized as an imputed cost on USPTO's financial statements, where applicable: *Provided further,* That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, all fees and surcharges assessed and collected by USPTO are available for USPTO only pursuant to section 42(c) of title 35, United States Code, as amended by section 22 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (Public Law 112–29): *Provided further,* That within the amounts appropriated, $2,450,000 shall be transferred to the ''Office of Inspector General'' account for activities associated with carrying out investigations and audits related to the USPTO.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), $1,249,239,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $9,000,000 may be transferred to the ''Working Capital Fund'': *Provided,* That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, $405,331,366 shall be made available for the NIST—STRS projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ''Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further,* That the amounts made available for the projects referenced in the preceding proviso may not be transferred for any other purpose: *Provided further,* That not to exceed $5,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further,* That NIST may provide local transportation for summer undergraduate research fellowship program participants.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

For necessary expenses for industrial technology services, $212,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which $175,000,000 shall be for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and of which $37,000,000 shall be for the Manufacturing USA Program.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

For construction of new research facilities, including architectural and engineering design, and for renovation and maintenance of existing facilities, not otherwise provided for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, as authorized by sections 13 through 15 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278c–278e), $385,897,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, $257,897,000 shall be made available for the NIST—Construction projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ''Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further,* That up to one percent of amounts made available for the projects referenced in the preceding proviso may be used for the administrative costs of such projects: *Provided further,* That the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for any amounts made available by the preceding proviso and such spending plan shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further,* That the Secretary of Commerce shall include in the budget justification materials for fiscal year 2027 that the Secretary submits to Congress in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) an estimate for each National Institute of Standards and Technology construction project having a total multi-year program cost of more than $5,000,000, and simultaneously the budget justification materials shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such project for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of activities authorized by law for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), including maintenance, operation, and hire of aircraft and vessels; pilot programs for State-led fisheries management, notwithstanding any other provision of law; grants, contracts, or other payments to nonprofit organizations for the purposes of conducting activities pursuant to cooperative agreements; and relocation of facilities, $4,540,392,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That fees and donations received by the National Ocean Service for the management of national marine sanctuaries may be retained and used for the salaries and expenses associated with those activities, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further,* That in addition, $399,644,000 shall be derived by transfer from the fund entitled ''Promote and Develop Fishery Products and Research Pertaining to American Fisheries'', which shall only be used for fishery activities related to the Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program; Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments; Observers and Training;

Fisheries Management Programs and Services; and Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants: *Provided further*, That in addition $28,000,000 is derived from recoveries of prior year obligations: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading, including the amounts in the clause preceding the first proviso and in the second and third provisos, $4,862,168,110 shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the tables under this heading in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this Act): *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading, including the amounts in the clause preceding the first proviso and in the second and third provisos, $105,867,890 shall be made available for the NOAA—CZM and NOAA—ORF projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ''Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That the amounts made available for the projects referenced in the preceding proviso may not be transferred for any other purpose: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $71,299,000 shall be for payment to the ''Department of Commerce Working Capital Fund'': *Provided further*, That any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That in addition, for necessary retired pay expenses under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plan, and for payments for the medical care of retired personnel and their dependents under the Dependents' Medical Care Act (10 U.S.C. ch. 55), such sums as may be necessary.

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

For procurement, acquisition and construction of capital assets, including alteration and modification costs, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, $1,576,899,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, except that funds provided for acquisition and construction of satellites, vessels, aircraft, and construction of facilities shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That in addition $13,000,000 is provided from recoveries of prior year obligations: *Provided further*, That the amounts provided under this heading, including the amounts in the clause preceding the first proviso and in the first proviso, shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the tables under this heading in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this Act): *Provided further*, That any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall include in budget justification materials for fiscal year 2027 that the Secretary submits to Congress in support of the Department of Commerce budget (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) an estimate for each National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration procurement, acquisition or construction project having a total of more than $5,000,000 and simultaneously the budget justification shall include an estimate of the budgetary requirements for each such project for each of the 5 subsequent fiscal years.

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY

For necessary expenses associated with the restoration of Pacific salmon populations, $65,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That, of the funds provided herein, the Secretary of Commerce may issue grants to the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, and Alaska, and to the federally recognized Tribes of the Columbia River and Pacific Coast (including Alaska), for projects necessary for conservation of salmon and steelhead populations that are listed as threatened or endangered, or that are identified by a State as at-risk to be so listed, for maintaining populations necessary for exercise of Tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing, or for conservation of Pacific coastal salmon and steelhead habitat, based on guidelines to be developed by the Secretary of Commerce: *Provided further*, That all funds shall be allocated based on scientific and other merit principles and shall not be available for marketing activities: *Provided further*, That funds disbursed to States shall be subject to a matching requirement of funds or documented in-kind contributions of at least 33 percent of the Federal funds.

FISHERIES DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For necessary expenses of administering the fishery disaster assistance programs authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Public Law 94–265) and the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act (title III of Public Law 99–659), $300,000.

FISHERMEN'S CONTINGENCY FUND

For carrying out the provisions of title IV of Public Law 95–372, not to exceed $349,000, to be derived from receipts collected pursuant to that Act, to remain available until expended.

FISHERIES FINANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2026, obligations of direct loans may not exceed $24,000,000 for Individual Fishing Quota loans and not to exceed $150,000,000 for traditional direct loans as authorized by the Merchant Marine Act of 1936.

RECREATIONAL QUOTA ENTITY FUND

For carrying out the provisions of section 106 of the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act (title I of division S of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328)), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may assess and collect fees pursuant to such section, which shall be credited to this account, to remain available until expended, for the purposes specified in subsection (b) of such section, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the management of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, including not to exceed $4,500 for official reception and representation, $92,500,000: *Provided*, That no employee of the Department of Commerce may be detailed or assigned from a bureau or office funded by this Act or any other Act to offices within the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Commerce for more than 180 days in a fiscal year unless the individual's employing bureau or office is fully reimbursed for the salary and expenses of the employee for the entire period of assignment using funds provided under this heading: *Provided further*, That amounts made available to the Department of Commerce in this or any prior Act may not be transferred pursuant to section 508 of this or any prior Act to the account funded under this heading, except in the case of extraordinary circumstances that threaten life or property.

RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

For necessary expenses for the renovation and modernization of the Herbert C. Hoover Building, $1,142,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), $48,000,000.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations and funds made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act shall be available for the activities specified in the Act of October 26, 1949 (15 U.S.C. 1514), to the extent and in the manner prescribed by the Act, and, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3324, may be used for advanced payments not otherwise authorized only upon the certification of officials designated by the Secretary of Commerce that such payments are in the public interest.

SEC. 102. During the current fiscal year, appropriations made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act for salaries and expenses shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343 and 1344; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902).

SEC. 103. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Commerce in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall notify the Committees on Appropriations at least 15 days in advance of the acquisition or disposal of any capital asset (including land, structures, and equipment) not specifically provided for in this Act or any other law appropriating funds for the Department of Commerce.

SEC. 104. The requirements set forth by section 105 of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55), as amended by section 105 of title I of division B of Public Law 113–6, are hereby adopted by reference and made applicable with respect to fiscal year 2026: *Provided*, That the life cycle cost for the Joint Polar Satellite System is $11,322,125,000, the life cycle cost of the Polar Follow On Program is $6,837,900,000, the life cycle cost for the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite R-Series Program is $11,700,100,000, and the life cycle cost for the Space Weather Follow On Program is $692,800,000.

SEC. 105. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Commerce may furnish services (including but not limited to utilities, telecommunications, and security services) necessary to support the operation, maintenance, and improvement of space that persons, firms, or organizations are authorized, pursuant to the Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act of 1976 or other authority, to use or occupy in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Washington, DC, or other buildings, the maintenance, operation, and protection of which has been delegated to the Secretary from the Administrator of General Services pursuant to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis. Amounts received as reimbursement for services provided under this section or the authority under which the use or occupancy of the space is authorized, up to $200,000, shall be credited to the appropriation or fund

which initially bears the costs of such services.

SEC. 106. Nothing in this title shall be construed to prevent a grant recipient from deterring child pornography, copyright infringement, or any other unlawful activity over its networks.

SEC. 107. The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is authorized to use, with their consent, with reimbursement and subject to the limits of available appropriations, the land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, or of any State, local government, Indian Tribal government, Territory, or possession, or of any political subdivision thereof, or of any foreign government or international organization, for purposes related to carrying out the responsibilities of any statute administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SEC. 108. The National Technical Information Service shall not charge any customer for a copy of any report or document generated by the Legislative Branch unless the Service has provided information to the customer on how an electronic copy of such report or document may be accessed and downloaded for free online. Should a customer still require the Service to provide a printed or digital copy of the report or document, the charge shall be limited to recovering the Service's cost of processing, reproducing, and delivering such report or document.

SEC. 109. To carry out the responsibilities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Administrator of NOAA is authorized to: (1) enter into grants and cooperative agreements with; (2) use on a non-reimbursable basis land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities provided by; and (3) receive and expend funds made available on a consensual basis from: a Federal agency, State or subdivision thereof, local government, Tribal government, Territory, or possession or any subdivisions thereof: *Provided,* That funds received for permitting and related regulatory activities pursuant to this section shall be deposited under the heading ''National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Operations, Research, and Facilities'' and shall remain available until September 30, 2027, for such purposes: *Provided further,* That all funds within this section and their corresponding uses are subject to section 505 of this Act.

SEC. 110. Amounts provided by this Act or by any prior appropriations Act that remain available for obligation, for necessary expenses of the programs of the Economics and Statistics Administration of the Department of Commerce, including amounts provided for programs of the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Bureau of the Census, shall be available for expenses of cooperative agreements with appropriate entities, including any Federal, State, or local governmental unit, or institution of higher education, to aid and promote statistical, research, and methodology activities which further the purposes for which such amounts have been made available.

SEC. 111. The Secretary of Commerce, or the designee of the Secretary, may waive up to 50 percent of the cost sharing requirements under section 315, of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1461) as necessary at the request of the grant applicant, for amounts made available under this Act under the heading ''Procurement, Acquisition and Construction'' under the heading ''National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration''.

SEC. 112. Any unobligated balances of expired discretionary funds transferred to the Department of Commerce Nonrecurring Expenses Fund, as authorized by section 111 of title I of division B of Public Law 116–93, may be obligated only after the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 30 days in advance of the planned use of funds.

SEC. 113. The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with the employees of the National Weather Service and non-governmental experts in personnel management, may establish an alternative or fixed rate for relocation allowance, including permanent change of station allowance, notwithstanding the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 5724 and the regulations prescribed under 5 U.S.C. 5738.

SEC. 114. The National Weather Service shall maintain staffing levels in order to fulfill the mission required under 15 U.S.C. 313 to protect life and property to the maximum extent possible.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Commerce Appropriations Act, 2026''.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUSTICE OPERATIONS, MANAGEMENT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the operations, management, and accountability of the Department of Justice, $140,000,000, of which not to exceed $4,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027, and of which not to exceed $4,000,000 for security and construction of Department of Justice facilities shall remain available until expended.

JUSTICE INFORMATION SHARING TECHNOLOGY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information sharing technology, including planning, development, deployment and departmental direction, $38,460,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That the Attorney General may transfer up to $40,000,000 to this account, from funds available to the Department of Justice for information technology, to remain available until expended, for enterprise-wide information technology initiatives: *Provided further,* That the transfer authority in the preceding proviso is in addition to any other transfer authority contained in this Act: *Provided further,* That any transfer pursuant to the first proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the administration of immigration-related activities of the Executive Office for Immigration Review, $800,000,000, of which $10,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the Executive Office for Immigration Review fees deposited in the ''Immigration Examinations Fee'' account, and of which not less than $27,500,000 shall be available for services and activities provided by the Legal Orientation Program: *Provided,* That not to exceed $50,000,000 of the total amount made available under this heading shall remain available until September 30, 2030, for build-out and modifications of courtroom space.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, $139,000,000, including not to exceed $10,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character: *Provided,* That not to exceed $4,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Parole Commission as authorized, $13,000,000: *Provided,* That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the expiration of a term of office of a Commissioner, the Commissioner may continue to act until a successor has been appointed.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the legal activities of the Department of Justice, not otherwise provided for, including not to exceed $20,000 for expenses of collecting evidence, to be expended under the direction of, and to be accounted for solely under the certificate of, the Attorney General; the administration of pardon and clemency petitions; and rent of private or Government-owned space in the District of Columbia, $900,000,000, of which not to exceed $50,000,000 for litigation support contracts and information technology projects, including cybersecurity and hardening of critical networks, shall remain available until expended: *Provided,* That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed $9,000 shall be available to the Criminal Division for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further,* That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for litigation activities of the Civil Division, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to ''Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities'' from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further,* That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further,* That of the amount appropriated, such sums as may be necessary shall be available to the Civil Rights Division for salaries and expenses associated with the election monitoring program under section 8 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10305) and to reimburse the Office of Personnel Management for such salaries and expenses: *Provided further,* That of the amounts provided under this heading for the election monitoring program, $3,390,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further,* That any funds provided under this heading in prior year appropriations Acts that remain available to the Civil Rights Division for salaries and expenses associated with the election monitoring program under section 8 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10305) may also be used to carry out any authorized purposes of the Civil Rights Division: *Provided further,* That amounts repurposed by the preceding proviso may not be used to increase the number of permanent positions.

In addition, for reimbursement of expenses of the Department of Justice associated with processing cases under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, $22,700,000, to be appropriated from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund and to remain available until expended.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, ANTITRUST DIVISION

For expenses necessary for the enforcement of antitrust and kindred laws, $245,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $5,000 shall be

available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, fees collected in fiscal year 2026 for premerger notification filings under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 18a) shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced (1) as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2026 and (2) to the extent that any remaining general fund appropriations can be derived from amounts credited to this account as offsetting collections in previous fiscal years that are not otherwise appropriated, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation from the general fund estimated at $0: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding section 605 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1990 (15 U.S.C. 18a note), none of the funds credited to this account as offsetting collections in previous fiscal years that were unavailable for obligation as of September 30, 2025, shall become available for obligation except as provided in the preceding proviso: *Provided further*, That any premerger notification filing fees received in excess of $245,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Attorney General shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for any amounts made available by the preceding proviso and such spending plan shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

For necessary expenses of the Offices of the United States Attorneys, including intergovernmental and cooperative agreements, $2,621,000,000: *Provided*, That of the total amount appropriated, not to exceed $19,600 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $40,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That each United States Attorney shall establish or participate in a task force on human trafficking.

UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND

For necessary expenses of the United States Trustee Program, as authorized, $205,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, deposits of discretionary offsetting collections to the United States Trustee System Fund and amounts herein appropriated shall be available in such amounts as may be necessary to pay refunds due depositors: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, fees deposited into the Fund as discretionary offsetting collections pursuant to section 589a of title 28, United States Code (as limited by section 589a(f)(2) of title 28, United States Code), shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That to the extent that fees deposited into the Fund as discretionary offsetting collections in fiscal year 2026, net of amounts necessary to pay refunds due depositors, exceed $205,000,000, those excess amounts shall be available in this and future fiscal years only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced (1) as such fees are received during fiscal year 2026, net of amounts necessary to pay refunds due depositors, (estimated at $205,000,000) and (2) to the extent that any remaining general fund appropriations can be derived from amounts deposited in the Fund as discretionary offsetting collections in previous fiscal years that are not otherwise appropriated, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation from the general fund estimated at $0.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the activities of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, $2,504,000.

FEES AND EXPENSES OF WITNESSES

For fees and expenses of witnesses, for expenses of contracts for the procurement and supervision of expert witnesses, for private counsel expenses, including advances, and for expenses of foreign counsel, $320,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $16,000,000 is for construction of buildings for protected witness safesites; not to exceed $3,000,000 is for the purchase and maintenance of armored and other vehicles for witness security caravans; and not to exceed $35,000,000 is for the purchase, installation, maintenance, and upgrade of secure telecommunications equipment and a secure automated information network to store and retrieve the identities and locations of protected witnesses: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading may not be transferred pursuant to section 205 of this Act.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Community Relations Service, $20,000,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for conflict resolution and violence prevention activities of the Community Relations Service, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to the Community Relations Service, from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

ASSETS FORFEITURE FUND

For expenses authorized by subparagraphs (B), (F), and (G) of section 524(c)(1) of title 28, United States Code, $20,514,000, to be derived from the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Marshals Service, $1,702,000,000, of which not to exceed $20,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, not to exceed $8,900 shall be available for INTERPOL Washington official reception and representation expenses, and not to exceed $25,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Director of INTERPOL Washington shall concurrently report to the Deputy Attorney General.

CONSTRUCTION

For construction in space that is controlled, occupied, or utilized by the United States Marshals Service for prisoner holding and related support, $8,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FEDERAL PRISONER DETENTION

For necessary expenses related to United States prisoners in the custody of the United States Marshals Service as authorized by section 4013 of title 18, United States Code, $2,236,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed $20,000,000 shall be considered ''funds appropriated for State and local law enforcement assistance'' pursuant to section 4013(b) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the United States Marshals Service shall be responsible for managing the Justice Prisoner and Air Transportation System.

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary to carry out the activities of the National Security Division, $117,200,000, of which not to exceed $5,000,000 for information technology systems shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for the activities of the National Security Division, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to this heading from available appropriations for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice, as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

INTERAGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT

INTERAGENCY CRIME AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT

For necessary expenses for the identification, investigation, and prosecution of individuals associated with the most significant drug trafficking organizations, transnational organized crime, and money laundering organizations not otherwise provided for, to include inter-governmental agreements with State and local law enforcement agencies engaged in the investigation and prosecution of individuals involved in transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, $300,000,000, of which $50,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That any amounts obligated from appropriations under this heading may be used under authorities available to the organizations reimbursed from this appropriation: *Provided further*, That any amounts obligated from appropriations under this heading shall only be available for the same purposes for which the amounts were obligated in fiscal year 2024.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for detection, investigation, and prosecution of crimes against the United States, $10,609,456,000, of which not to exceed $216,900,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed $284,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses, to include the cost of equipment, furniture, and information technology requirements, related to construction or acquisition of buildings, facilities, and sites by purchase, or as otherwise authorized by law; conversion, modification, and extension of federally owned buildings; preliminary planning and design of projects; and operation and maintenance of secure work environment facilities and secure networking capabilities; $15,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Drug Enforcement Administration, including not to exceed $70,000 to meet unforeseen emergencies of a confidential character pursuant to section 530C of title 28, United States Code; and expenses for conducting drug education and training programs, including travel and related expenses for participants in such programs and the distribution of items of token value that promote the goals of such programs, $2,580,340,000, of which not to exceed $75,000,000 shall remain available until expended and not to exceed $90,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided,* That, notwithstanding section 3672 of Public Law 106–310, up to $10,000,000 may be used to reimburse States, units of local government, Indian Tribal Governments, other public entities, and multi-jurisdictional or regional consortia thereof for expenses incurred to clean up and safely dispose of substances associated with clandestine methamphetamine laboratories, conversion and extraction operations, tableting operations, or laboratories and processing operations for fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances which may present a danger to public health or the environment: *Provided further,* That none of the funds made available by this Act or any prior Department of Justice Appropriations Act shall be available to restart the illicit crop imagery program.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, for training of State and local law enforcement agencies with or without reimbursement, including training in connection with the training and acquisition of canines for explosives and fire accelerants detection; and for provision of laboratory assistance to State and local law enforcement agencies, with or without reimbursement, $1,585,000,000, of which not to exceed $36,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses, not to exceed $1,000,000 shall be available for the payment of attorneys' fees as provided by section 924(d)(2) of title 18, United States Code, and not to exceed $25,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided,* That none of the funds appropriated herein shall be available to investigate or act upon applications for relief from Federal firearms disabilities under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further,* That such funds shall be available to investigate and act upon applications filed by corporations for relief from Federal firearms disabilities under section 925(c) of title 18, United States Code: *Provided further,* That no funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to transfer the functions, missions, or activities of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to other agencies or Departments.

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Federal Prison System for the administration, operation, and maintenance of Federal penal and correctional institutions, and for the provision of technical assistance and advice on corrections related issues to foreign governments, $8,100,000,000: *Provided,* That not less than $409,483,000 shall be for the programs and activities authorized by the First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–391), of which not less than 2 percent shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for ''Research, Evaluation and Statistics'' for the National Institute of Justice to carry out evaluations of programs and activities related to the First Step Act of 2018: *Provided further,* That the Attorney General may transfer to the Department of Health and Human Services such amounts as may be necessary for direct expenditures by that Department for medical relief for inmates of Federal penal and correctional institutions: *Provided further,* That the Director of the Federal Prison System, where necessary, may enter into contracts with a fiscal agent or fiscal intermediary claims processor to determine the amounts payable to persons who, on behalf of the Federal Prison System, furnish health services to individuals committed to the custody of the Federal Prison System: *Provided further,* That not to exceed $5,400 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further,* That not to exceed $50,000,000 shall remain available until expended for necessary operations: *Provided further,* That, of the amounts provided for contract confinement, not to exceed $20,000,000 shall remain available until expended to make payments in advance for grants, contracts and reimbursable agreements, and other expenses: *Provided further,* That the Director of the Federal Prison System may accept donated property and services relating to the operation of the prison card program from a not-for-profit entity which has operated such program in the past, notwithstanding the fact that such not-for-profit entity furnishes services under contracts to the Federal Prison System relating to the operation of pre-release services, halfway houses, or other custodial facilities: *Provided further,* That amounts made available under this heading for programs and activities related to the First Step Act of 2018 may not be transferred, or otherwise made available, to or for administration by the Department of Labor.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For planning, acquisition of sites, and construction of new facilities; purchase and acquisition of facilities and remodeling, and equipping of such facilities for penal and correctional use, including all necessary expenses incident thereto, by contract or force account; and constructing, remodeling, and equipping necessary buildings and facilities at existing penal and correctional institutions, including all necessary expenses incident thereto, by contract or force account, $279,762,000, to remain available until expended, of which $150,000,000 shall be available only for costs related to construction of new facilities: *Provided,* That labor of United States prisoners may be used for work performed under this appropriation.

FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

The Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, is hereby authorized to make such expenditures within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available, and in accord with the law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 9104 of title 31, United States Code, as may be necessary in carrying out the program set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for such corporation.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

Not to exceed $2,700,000 of the funds of the Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, shall be available for its administrative expenses, and for services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, to be computed on an accrual basis to be determined in accordance with the corporation's current prescribed accounting system, and such amounts shall be exclusive of depreciation, payment of claims, and expenditures which such accounting system requires to be capitalized or charged to cost of commodities acquired or produced, including selling and shipping expenses, and expenses in connection with acquisition, construction, operation, maintenance, improvement, protection, or disposition of facilities and other property belonging to the corporation or in which it has an interest.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance for the prevention and prosecution of violence against women, as authorized by the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended (34 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) (''the 1968 Act''); title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (commonly known as the ''Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968'') (Public Law 90–284, as amended) (''the Indian Civil Rights Act''); the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–322, as amended) (34 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) (''the 1994 Act''); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–647) (''the 1990 Act''); the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–21); the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11101 et seq.) (''the 1974 Act''); the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–386, as amended) (''the 2000 Act''); the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405, as amended) (''the 2004 Act''); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162, as amended) (''the 2005 Act''); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4) (''the 2013 Act''); the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–22) (''the 2015 Act''); the Abolish Human Trafficking Act (Public Law 115–392); and the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (division W of Public Law 117–103) (''the 2022 Act''); and for related victims services, $720,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which $100,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from amounts available for obligation in this Act from the Fund established by section 1402 of chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98–473 (34 U.S.C. 20101), notwithstanding section 1402(d) of such Act of 1984, and merged with the amounts otherwise made available under this heading: *Provided,* That except as otherwise provided by law, not to exceed 5 percent of funds made available under this heading may be used for expenses related to evaluation, training, and technical assistance: *Provided further,* That of the amount provided—

(1) $257,000,000 is for grants to combat violence against women, as authorized by part T of the 1968 Act, and any applicable increases for the amount of such grants, as authorized by section 5903 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023: *Provided*, That $10,000,000 shall be for any such increases under such section 5903, which shall apply to fiscal year 2026 grants funded by amounts provided in this paragraph;

(2) $51,000,000 is for transitional housing assistance grants for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault as authorized by section 40299 of the 1994 Act;

(3) $2,500,000 is for the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics

for research, evaluation, and statistics of violence against women and related issues addressed by grant programs of the Office on Violence Against Women, which shall be transferred to ''Research, Evaluation and Statistics'' for administration by the Office of Justice Programs;

(4) $17,000,000 is for a grant program to provide services to advocate for and respond to youth victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; assistance to children and youth exposed to such violence; assistance to middle and high school students through education and other services related to such violence; and programs to engage men and youth in preventing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking: *Provided*, That unobligated balances available for the programs authorized by sections 41201, 41204, 41303, and 41305 of the 1994 Act, prior to its amendment by the 2013 Act, shall be available for this program: *Provided further*, That 10 percent of the total amount available for this grant program shall be available for grants under the program authorized by section 2015 of the 1968 Act: *Provided further*, That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this program;

(5) $60,500,000 is for grants to improve the criminal justice response as authorized by part U of title I of the 1968 Act, of which up to $4,000,000 is for a homicide reduction initiative; up to $2,000,000 is for a domestic violence lethality reduction initiative; and up to $5,000,000 is for an initiative to promote effective policing and prosecution responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including evaluation of the effectiveness of funded interventions (''Policing and Prosecution Initiative'');

(6) $79,500,000 is for sexual assault victims assistance, as authorized by section 41601 of the 1994 Act;

(7) $50,500,000 is for rural domestic violence and child abuse enforcement assistance grants, as authorized by section 40295 of the 1994 Act;

(8) $25,000,000 is for grants to reduce violent crimes against women on campus, as authorized by section 304 of the 2005 Act, of which $12,500,000 is for grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal colleges and universities;

(9) $55,000,000 is for legal assistance for victims, as authorized by section 1201 of the 2000 Act;

(10) $9,000,000 is for enhanced training and services to end violence against and abuse of women in later life, as authorized by section 40801 of the 1994 Act;

(11) $21,000,000 is for grants to support families in the justice system, as authorized by section 1301 of the 2000 Act: *Provided*, That unobligated balances available for the programs authorized by section 1301 of the 2000 Act and section 41002 of the 1994 Act, prior to their amendment by the 2013 Act, shall be available for this program;

(12) $11,500,000 is for education and training to end violence against and abuse of women with disabilities, as authorized by section 1402 of the 2000 Act;

(13) $1,000,000 is for the National Resource Center on Workplace Responses to assist victims of domestic violence, as authorized by section 41501 of the 1994 Act;

(14) $2,000,000 is for analysis and research on violence against Indian women, including as authorized by section 904 of the 2005 Act: *Provided*, That such funds may be transferred to ''Research, Evaluation and Statistics'' for administration by the Office of Justice Programs;

(15) $500,000 is for a national clearinghouse that provides training and technical assistance on issues relating to sexual assault of American Indian and Alaska Native women;

(16) $14,500,000 is for programs to assist Tribal Governments in exercising special Tribal criminal jurisdiction, as authorized by section 204 of the Indian Civil Rights Act: *Provided*, That the grant conditions in section 40002(b) of the 1994 Act shall apply to grants made;

(17) $1,500,000 is for the purposes authorized under the 2015 Act;

(18) $14,000,000 is for a grant program as authorized by section 41801 of the 1994 Act: *Provided,* That the definitions and grant conditions in section 109 of the 2022 Act shall apply to this program;

(19) $10,000,000 is for culturally specific services for victims, as authorized by section 121 of the 2005 Act;

(20) $4,500,000 is for an initiative to support cross-designation of tribal prosecutors as Tribal Special Assistant United States Attorneys: *Provided,* That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this initiative;

(21) $1,000,000 is for an initiative to support victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including through the provision of technical assistance, as authorized by section 206 of the 2022 Act: *Provided*, That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this initiative;

(22) $2,000,000 is for a National Deaf Services Line to provide services to Deaf victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking: *Provided,* That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this service line;

(23) $4,500,000 is for grants for outreach and services to underserved populations, as authorized by section 120 of the 2005 Act;

(24) $3,000,000 is for an initiative to provide financial assistance to victims, including evaluation of the effectiveness of funded projects: *Provided,* That the definitions and grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this initiative;

(25) $5,000,000 is for trauma-informed, victim-centered training for law enforcement, and related research and evaluation activities, as authorized by section 41701 of the 1994 Act;

(26) $12,000,000 is for grants to support access to sexual assault nurse examinations, as authorized by section 304 of title III of the 2004 Act: *Provided,* That the grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this program; and

(27) $5,000,000 is for local law enforcement grants for prevention, enforcement, and prosecution of cybercrimes against individuals, as authorized by section 1401 of the 2022 Act, and for a National Resource Center on Cybercrimes Against Individuals, as authorized by section 1402 of the 2022 Act: *Provided,* That the grant conditions in section 40002 of the 1994 Act shall apply to this paragraph.

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND STATISTICS

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (''title I of the 1968 Act'') (Public Law 90–351); the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–322) (''the 1994 Act''); the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (''the 1974 Act'') (Public Law 93–415); the Missing Children's Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11291 et seq.); the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–21) (''the PROTECT Act''); the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162) (''the 2005 Act''); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (title II of Public Law 101–647); the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199); the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98–473); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248) (''the Adam Walsh Act''); the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–401); subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296) (''the 2002 Act''); the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–79) (''PREA''); the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–180); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4) (''the 2013 Act''); the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–198); the First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–391); and other programs, $55,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which—

(1) $33,000,000 is for criminal justice statistics programs and other activities as authorized by part C of title I of the 1968 Act; and

(2) $22,000,000 is for research, development, and evaluation programs, and other activities as authorized by part B of title I of the 1968 Act and subtitle C of title II of the 2002 Act, and for activities authorized by or consistent with the First Step Act of 2018.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–322) (''the 1994 Act''); the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (Public Law 90–351) (''the 1968 Act''); the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–405); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–647) (''the 1990 Act''); the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–164) (''the TVPRA of 2005''); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162) (''the 2005 Act''); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248) (''the Adam Walsh Act''); the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–386) (''the Victims of Trafficking Act''); the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–180); subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296) (''the 2002 Act''); the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–79) (''PREA''); the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199); the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–403); the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–473); the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–416); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4) (''the 2013 Act''); the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–198) (''CARA''); the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–324); Kevin and Avonte's Law (division Q of Public Law 115–141) (''Kevin and Avonte's Law''); the Keep Young Athletes Safe Act of 2018 (title III of division S of Public Law 115–141) (''the Keep Young Athletes Safe Act''); the STOP School Violence Act of 2018 (title V of division S of Public Law 115–141) (''the STOP School Violence Act''); the Fix NICS Act of 2018 (title VI of division S of Public Law 115–141); the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–185); the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115–271); the

Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–391); the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (Public Law 111–84); the Ashanti Alert Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–401); the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–277); the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act (34 U.S.C. 30507); the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (division W of Public Law 117–103) (''the 2022 Act''); the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263); and other programs, $2,400,000,000, to remain available until expended as follows—

(1) $964,000,000 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program as authorized by subpart 1 of part E of title I of the 1968 Act (except that section 1001(c), and the special rules for Puerto Rico under section 505(g), of title I of the 1968 Act shall not apply for purposes of this Act), of which, notwithstanding such subpart 1—

(A) $12,500,000 is for an Officer Robert Wilson III memorial initiative on Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability (VALOR);

(B) $3,000,000 is for the operation, maintenance, and expansion of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System;

(C) $6,000,000 is for a grant program for State and local law enforcement to provide officer training on responding to individuals with mental illness or disabilities, including for purposes described in the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–325);

(D) $2,500,000 is for a student loan repayment assistance program pursuant to section 952 of Public Law 110–315;

(E) $15,000,000 is for prison rape prevention and prosecution grants to States and units of local government, and other programs, as authorized by PREA;

(F) $2,500,000 is for the Missing Americans Alert Program (title XXIV of the 1994 Act), as amended by Kevin and Avonte's Law;

(G) $13,000,000 is for grants authorized under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–185);

(H) $11,500,000 is for the Capital Litigation Improvement Grant Program, as authorized by section 426 of Public Law 108–405, and for grants for wrongful conviction review;

(I) $3,000,000 is for the program specified in paragraph (1)(I) under the heading ''State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance'' in division B of Public Law 117–328;

(J) $1,000,000 is for the purposes of the Ashanti Alert Communications Network as authorized under the Ashanti Alert Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–401);

(K) $2,750,000 is for a grant program to replicate and support family-based alternative sentencing programs;

(L) $3,000,000 is for a rural violent crime initiative, including assistance for law enforcement;

(M) $3,000,000 is for grants authorized under the Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–277);

(N) $1,000,000 is for the purposes authorized under section 1506 of the 2022 Act; and

(O) $537,978,926 is for discretionary grants to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to prevent or combat juvenile delinquency, and to assist victims of crime (other than compensation), which shall be made available for the OJP—Byrne projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ''Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That such amounts may not be transferred for any other purpose;

(2) $202,500,000 for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, as authorized by section 241(I)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1231(I)(5)): *Provided*, That no jurisdiction shall request compensation for any cost greater than the actual cost for Federal immigration and other detainees housed in State and local detention facilities;

(3) $83,500,000 for victim services programs for victims of trafficking, as authorized by section 107(b)(2) of the Victims of Trafficking Act, by the TVPRA of 2005, or programs authorized under Public Law 113–4;

(4) $7,500,000 for a grant program to prevent and address economic, high technology, white collar, and Internet crime, including as authorized by section 401 of Public Law 110–403, of which not less than $2,500,000 is for intellectual property enforcement grants including as authorized by section 401, and $2,000,000 is for grants to develop databases on Internet of Things device capabilities and to build and execute training modules for law enforcement;

(5) $19,000,000 for sex offender management assistance, as authorized by the Adam Walsh Act, and related activities, of which $1,000,000 is for the National Sex Offender Public Website;

(6) $30,000,000 for the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, as authorized by section 2501 of title I of the 1968 Act: *Provided*, That $1,500,000 shall be transferred directly to the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Office of Law Enforcement Standards for research, testing, and evaluation programs;

(7) $83,000,000 for grants to States to upgrade criminal and mental health records for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, of which no less than $24,000,000 shall be for grants made under the authorities of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–180) and Fix NICS Act of 2018;

(8) $32,500,000 for Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grants under part BB of title I of the 1968 Act;

(9) $138,000,000 for DNA-related and forensic programs and activities, of which—

(A) $115,000,000 is for the purposes authorized under section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–546) (the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program): *Provided*, That up to 4 percent of funds made available under this paragraph may be used for the purposes described in the DNA Training and Education for Law Enforcement, Correctional Personnel, and Court Officers program (Public Law 108–405, section 303);

(B) $6,000,000 is for other local, State, and Federal forensic activities;

(C) $13,000,000 is for the purposes described in the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program (Public Law 108–405, section 412); and

(D) $4,000,000 is for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program grants, including as authorized by section 304 of Public Law 108–405;

(10) $50,000,000 for community-based grant programs to improve the response to sexual assault, including assistance for investigation and prosecution of related cold cases;

(11) $14,000,000 for the court-appointed special advocate program, as authorized by section 217 of the 1990 Act;

(12) $48,000,000 for assistance to Indian Tribes;

(13) $111,000,000 for offender reentry programs and research, as authorized by the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–199) and by the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–391), without regard to the time limitations specified at section 6(1) of such Act, of which not to exceed—

(A) $8,000,000 is for a program to improve State, local, and Tribal probation or parole supervision efforts and strategies;

(B) $5,000,000 is for children of incarcerated parents demonstration programs to enhance and maintain parental and family relationships for incarcerated parents as a reentry or recidivism reduction strategy;

(C) $5,000,000 is for additional replication sites employing the Project HOPE Opportunity Probation with Enforcement model implementing swift and certain sanctions in probation, of which no less than $500,000 shall be used for a project that provides training, technical assistance, and best practices; and

(D) $10,000,000 is for a grant program for crisis stabilization and community reentry, as authorized by the Crisis Stabilization and Community Reentry Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–281):

Provided, That up to $7,500,000 of funds made available in this paragraph may be used for performance-based awards for Pay for Success projects, of which up to $5,000,000 shall be for Pay for Success programs implementing the Permanent Supportive Housing Model and reentry housing;

(14) $403,000,000 for comprehensive opioid use reduction activities, including as authorized by CARA, and for the following programs, which shall address opioid, stimulant, and substance use disorders consistent with underlying program authorities, of which—

(A) $86,000,000 is for Drug Courts, as authorized by section 1001(a)(25)(A) of title I of the 1968 Act;

(B) $35,000,000 is for mental health courts and adult and juvenile collaboration program grants, as authorized by parts V and HH of title I of the 1968 Act, and the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–416);

(C) $30,000,000 is for grants for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners, as authorized by part S of title I of the 1968 Act;

(D) $32,000,000 is for a veterans treatment courts program, of which $4,000,000 is for a national center for veterans justice;

(E) $35,000,000 is for a program to monitor prescription drugs and scheduled listed chemical products; and

(F) $185,000,000 is for a comprehensive opioid, stimulant, and substance use disorder program;

(15) $2,500,000 for a competitive grant program authorized by the Keep Young Athletes Safe Act;

(16) $82,000,000 for grants to be administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance for purposes authorized under the STOP School Violence Act;

(17) $3,000,000 for grants to State and local law enforcement agencies for the expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses involving civil rights, as authorized by the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–325);

(18) $17,000,000 for grants to State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to conduct educational outreach and training on hate crimes and to investigate and prosecute hate crimes, as authorized by section 4704 of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (Public Law 111–84);

(19) $9,000,000 for grants specified in paragraph (20) under the heading ''State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance'' in division B of Public Law 117–328;

(20) $9,000,000 for programs authorized under the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act (34 U.S.C. 30507);

(21) $84,000,000 for initiatives to improve police-community relations, of which $15,000,000 is for a competitive matching

grant program for purchases of body-worn cameras for State, local, and Tribal law enforcement; $19,000,000 is for a justice reinvestment initiative, for activities related to criminal justice reform and recidivism reduction; and $50,000,000 is for a community violence intervention and prevention initiative; and

(22) $7,500,000 for a grant program as authorized by the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263):

Provided, That, if a unit of local government uses any of the funds made available under this heading to increase the number of law enforcement officers, the unit of local government will achieve a net gain in the number of law enforcement officers who perform non-administrative public sector safety service: *Provided further*, That in the spending plan submitted pursuant to section 528 of this Act, the Office of Justice Programs shall specifically and explicitly identify all changes in the administration of competitive grant programs for fiscal year 2026, including changes to applicant eligibility, priority areas or weightings, and the application review process.

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

For grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (Public Law 93–415) (''the 1974 Act''); title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (Public Law 90–351) (''the 1968 Act''); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162) (''the 2005 Act''); the Missing Children's Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11291 et seq.); the PROTECT Act (Public Law 108–21); the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–647) (''the 1990 Act''); the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248) (''the Adam Walsh Act''); the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–401) (''the 2008 Act''); the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4) (''the 2013 Act''); the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–324); the Missing Children's Assistance Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–267); the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–385); the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98–473) (''the 1984 Act''); the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–198); and other juvenile justice programs, $375,000,000, to remain available until expended as follows—

(1) $65,000,000 for programs authorized by section 221 of the 1974 Act, and for training and technical assistance to assist small, nonprofit organizations with the Federal grants process: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided under this paragraph, $500,000 shall be for a competitive demonstration grant program to support emergency planning among State, local, and Tribal juvenile justice residential facilities;

(2) $105,000,000 for youth mentoring grants;

(3) $50,500,000 for delinquency prevention, of which, pursuant to sections 261 and 262 of the 1974 Act—

(A) $4,000,000 shall be for grants to prevent trafficking of girls;

(B) $16,000,000 shall be for the Tribal Youth Program;

(C) $4,500,000 shall be for competitive grants focusing on girls in the juvenile justice system;

(D) $10,500,000 shall be for an initiative relating to youth affected by opioids, stimulants, and substance use disorder;

(E) $9,000,000 shall be for an initiative relating to children exposed to violence; and

(F) $2,000,000 shall be for the Arts in Juvenile Justice Demonstration Program;

(4) $43,000,000 for programs authorized by the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990;

(5) $105,000,000 for missing and exploited children programs, including as authorized by sections 404(b) and 405(a) of the 1974 Act (except that section 102(b)(4)(B) of the 2008 Act (Public Law 110–401) shall not apply for purposes of this Act);

(6) $4,500,000 for child abuse training programs for judicial personnel and practitioners, as authorized by section 222 of the 1990 Act; and

(7) $2,000,000 for a program to improve juvenile indigent defense:

Provided, That not more than 10 percent of each amount may be used for research, evaluation, and statistics activities designed to benefit the programs or activities authorized: *Provided further,* That not more than 2 percent of the amounts designated under paragraphs (1) through (3) and (6) may be used for training and technical assistance: *Provided further,* That the two preceding provisos shall not apply to grants and projects administered pursuant to sections 261 and 262 of the 1974 Act and to missing and exploited children programs.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER BENEFITS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For payments and expenses authorized under section 1001(a)(4) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, such sums as are necessary (including amounts for administrative costs), to remain available until expended; and $34,800,000 for payments authorized by section 1201(b) of such Act and for educational assistance authorized by section 1218 of such Act, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That notwithstanding section 205 of this Act, upon a determination by the Attorney General that emergent circumstances require additional funding for such disability and education payments, the Attorney General may transfer such amounts to ''Public Safety Officer Benefits'' from available appropriations for the Department of Justice as may be necessary to respond to such circumstances: *Provided further,* That any transfer pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For activities authorized by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–322); the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (''the 1968 Act''); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162) (''the 2005 Act''); the American Law Enforcement Heroes Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–37); the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–113) (''the LEMHW Act''); the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115–271); the Supporting and Treating Officers In Crisis Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–32) (''the STOIC Act''); and the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–325), $800,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That any balances made available through prior year deobligations shall only be available in accordance with section 505 of this Act: *Provided further,* That of the amount provided under this heading—

(1) $253,093,613 is for grants under section 1701 of title I of the 1968 Act (34 U.S.C. 10381) for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers under part Q of such title notwithstanding subsection (i) of such section: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding section 1704(c) of such title (34 U.S.C. 10384(c)), funding for hiring or rehiring a career law enforcement officer may not exceed $125,000 unless the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services grants a waiver from this limitation: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, $32,000,000 is for improving Tribal law enforcement, including hiring, equipment, training, anti-methamphetamine activities, and anti-opioid activities: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, $44,000,000 is for regional information sharing activities, as authorized by part M of title I of the 1968 Act, which shall be transferred to and merged with ''Research, Evaluation, and Statistics'' for administration by the Office of Justice Programs: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, no less than $4,000,000 is to support the Tribal Access Program: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, $10,000,000 is for training, peer mentoring, mental health program activities, and other support services as authorized under the LEMHW Act and the STOIC Act: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, $5,500,000 is for the collaborative reform model of technical assistance in furtherance of section 1701 of title I of the 1968 Act (34 U.S.C. 10381);

(2) $11,500,000 is for activities authorized by the POLICE Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–199);

(3) $13,500,000 is for competitive grants to State law enforcement agencies in States with high seizures of precursor chemicals, finished methamphetamine, laboratories, and laboratory dump seizures: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this paragraph shall be utilized for investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activities, including precursor diversion, laboratories, or methamphetamine traffickers;

(4) $34,500,000 is for competitive grants to statewide law enforcement agencies in States with high rates of primary treatment admissions for heroin and other opioids: *Provided*, That these funds shall be utilized for investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activities, including activities related to the distribution of heroin or unlawful distribution of prescription opioids, or unlawful heroin and prescription opioid traffickers through statewide collaboration;

(5) $53,000,000 is for competitive grants to be administered by the Community Oriented Policing Services Office for purposes authorized under the STOP School Violence Act (title V of division S of Public Law 115–141);

(6) $18,000,000 is for community policing development activities in furtherance of section 1701 of title I of the 1968 Act (34 U.S.C. 10381);

(7) $401,406,387 is for a law enforcement technologies and interoperable communications program, and related law enforcement and public safety equipment, which shall be made available for the COPS Tech projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ''Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided,* That such amounts may not be transferred for any other purpose: *Provided further*, That grants funded by such amounts shall not be subject to section 1703 of title I of the 1968 Act (34 U.S.C. 10383); and

(8) $15,000,000 is for activities authorized by the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–325).

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. In addition to amounts otherwise made available in this title for official reception and representation expenses, a total of not to exceed $50,000 from funds appropriated to the Department of Justice in this title shall be available to the Attorney General for official reception and representation expenses.

SEC. 202. None of the funds appropriated by this title shall be available to pay for an abortion, except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term, or in the case of rape or incest: *Provided*, That should this prohibition be declared unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this section shall be null and void.

SEC. 203. None of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used to require any person to perform, or facilitate in any way the performance of, any abortion.

SEC. 204. Nothing in the preceding section shall remove the obligation of the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to provide escort services necessary for a female inmate to receive such service outside the Federal facility: *Provided*, That nothing in this section in any way diminishes the effect of section 203 intended to address the philosophical beliefs of individual employees of the Bureau of Prisons.

SEC. 205. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Justice in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to the following—

(1) paragraph 1(O) under the heading ''State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance''; and

(2) paragraph (7) under the heading ''Community Oriented Policing Services Programs''.

SEC. 206. None of the funds made available under this title may be used by the Federal Bureau of Prisons or the United States Marshals Service for the purpose of transporting an individual who is a prisoner pursuant to conviction for crime under State or Federal law and is classified as a maximum or high security prisoner, other than to a prison or other facility certified by the Federal Bureau of Prisons as appropriately secure for housing such a prisoner.

SEC. 207. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used by Federal prisons to purchase cable television services, or to rent or purchase audiovisual or electronic media or equipment used primarily for recreational purposes.

(b) Subsection (a) does not preclude the rental, maintenance, or purchase of audiovisual or electronic media or equipment for inmate training, religious, or educational programs.

SEC. 208. None of the funds made available under this title shall be obligated or expended for any new or enhanced information technology program having total estimated development costs in excess of $100,000,000, unless the Deputy Attorney General and the investment review board certify to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the information technology program has appropriate program management controls and contractor oversight mechanisms in place, and that the program is compatible with the enterprise architecture of the Department of Justice.

SEC. 209. The notification thresholds and procedures set forth in section 505 of this Act shall apply to deviations from the amounts designated for specific activities in this Act and in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), and to any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this title in previous years.

SEC. 210. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to plan for, begin, continue, finish, process, or approve a public-private competition under the Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76 or any successor administrative regulation, directive, or policy for work performed by employees of the Bureau of Prisons or of Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated.

SEC. 211. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds shall be available for the salary, benefits, or expenses of any United States Attorney assigned dual or additional responsibilities by the Attorney General or his designee that exempt that United States Attorney from the residency requirements of section 545 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 212. At the discretion of the Attorney General, and in addition to any amounts that otherwise may be available (or authorized to be made available) by law, with respect to funds appropriated by this title under the headings ''Research, Evaluation and Statistics'', ''State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance'', and ''Juvenile Justice Programs''—

(1) up to 2 percent of funds made available to the Office of Justice Programs for grant or reimbursement programs may be used by such Office to provide training and technical assistance; and

(2) up to 2 percent of funds made available for grant or reimbursement programs under such headings, except for amounts appropriated specifically for research, evaluation, or statistical programs administered by the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, shall be transferred to and merged with funds provided to the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, to be used by them for research, evaluation, or statistical purposes, without regard to the authorizations for such grant or reimbursement programs.

This section shall not apply to paragraph 1(O) under the heading ''State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance''.

SEC. 213. Upon request by a grantee for whom the Attorney General has determined there is a fiscal hardship, the Attorney General may, with respect to funds appropriated in this or any other Act making appropriations for fiscal years 2023 through 2026 for the following programs, waive the following requirements:

(1) For the adult and juvenile offender State and local reentry demonstration projects under part FF of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10631 et seq.), the requirements under section 2976(g)(1) of such part (34 U.S.C. 10631(g)(1)).

(2) For grants to protect inmates and safeguard communities as authorized by section 6 of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (34 U.S.C. 30305(c)(3)), the requirements of section 6(c)(3) of such Act.

SEC. 214. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, section 20109(a) of subtitle A of title II of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12109(a)) shall not apply to amounts made available by this or any other Act.

SEC. 215. None of the funds made available under this Act, other than for the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901), may be used by a Federal law enforcement officer to facilitate the transfer of an operable firearm to an individual if the Federal law enforcement officer knows or suspects that the individual is an agent of a drug cartel, unless law enforcement personnel of the United States continuously monitor or control the firearm at all times.

SEC. 216. (a) None of the income retained in the Department of Justice Working Capital Fund pursuant to title I of Public Law 102–140 (105 Stat. 784; 28 U.S.C. 527 note) shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2026, except up to $12,000,000 may be obligated for implementation of a unified Department of Justice financial management system.

(b) Not to exceed $30,000,000 of the unobligated balances transferred to the capital account of the Department of Justice Working Capital Fund pursuant to title I of Public Law 102–140 (105 Stat. 784; 28 U.S.C. 527 note) shall be available for obligation in fiscal year 2026, and any use, obligation, transfer, or allocation of such funds shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act.

(c) Not to exceed $10,000,000 of the excess unobligated balances available under section 524(c)(8)(E) of title 28, United States Code, shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2026, and any use, obligation, transfer or allocation of such funds shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act.

SEC. 217. Discretionary funds that are made available in this Act for the Office of Justice Programs may be used to participate in Performance Partnership Pilots authorized under such authorities as have been enacted for Performance Partnership Pilots in appropriations acts in prior fiscal years and the current fiscal year.

SEC. 218. The Attorney General shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate quarterly reports on the Crime Victims Fund, the Working Capital Fund, the Three Percent Fund, and the Assets Forfeiture Fund. Such quarterly reports shall contain at least the same level of information and detail for each Fund as was provided to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate in fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 219. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to conduct, contract for, or otherwise support, live tissue training, unless the Attorney General issues a written, non-delegable determination that such training is medically necessary and cannot be replicated by alternatives.

SEC. 220. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Justice to target or investigate parents who peacefully protest at school board meetings and are not suspected of engaging in unlawful activity.

SEC. 221. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to investigate or prosecute religious institutions on the basis of their religious beliefs.

SEC. 222. Any remaining unobligated balances from amounts originally made available under the heading ''Federal Bureau of Investigation—Construction'' in the Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2016 (title II of division B of Public Law 114–113) or in the Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2017 (title II of division B of Public Law 115–31) for the new Federal Bureau of Investigation consolidated headquarters facility in the National Capital Region that were

subsequently reprogrammed pursuant to a notification received by the Committees on Appropriations from the Assistant Attorney General for Administration on July 1, 2025, may not be further obligated until the Federal Bureau of Investigation submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate the contracted and completed architectural and engineering plan for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's new headquarters building for review: *Provided*, That classified portions of the architectural and engineering plan shall be submitted through a classified annex.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2026''.

TITLE III

SCIENCE

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

For necessary expenses of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in carrying out the purposes of the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.), hire of passenger motor vehicles, and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, not to exceed $2,250 for official reception and representation expenses, and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, $7,965,000.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

SCIENCE

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of science research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $7,250,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, the total amount specified in the table under this heading in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this Act) shall be for the purposes and in not less than the amount for each such purpose specified in such table.

AERONAUTICS

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of aeronautics research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $935,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of space technology research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $920,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

EXPLORATION

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of exploration research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $7,783,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, concurrent with the annual budget submission, a 5-year budget profile for an integrated system that includes the Space Launch System, the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, Human Landing System, and associated ground systems.

SPACE OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of space operations research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support and services; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities, including operations, production, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $4,175,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS ENGAGEMENT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of aerospace and aeronautical education research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $143,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, the total amount specified in the table under this heading in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act) shall be for the purposes and in not less than the amount for each such purpose specified in such table.

SAFETY, SECURITY AND MISSION SERVICES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of science, aeronautics, space technology, exploration, space operations and education research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support, and services; maintenance and repair, facility planning and design; space flight, spacecraft control, and communications activities; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed $63,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $3,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That if available balances in the ''Science, Space, and Technology Education Trust Fund'' are not sufficient to provide for the grant disbursements required under the third and fourth provisos under such heading in the Department of Housing and Urban Development-Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1989 (Public Law 100–404) as amended by the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1995 (Public Law 103–327), up to $1,000,000 shall be available from amounts made available under this heading to make such grant disbursements: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, $58,417,135 shall be made available for the SSMS projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ''Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That the amounts made available for the projects referenced in the preceding proviso may not be transferred for any other purpose.

CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION

For necessary expenses for construction of facilities including repair, rehabilitation, revitalization, and modification of facilities, construction of new facilities and additions to existing facilities, facility planning and design, and restoration, and acquisition or condemnation of real property, as authorized by law, and environmental compliance and restoration, $185,336,000, to remain available until September 30, 2031: *Provided*, That proceeds from leases deposited into this account shall be available for a period of 5 years to the extent and in amounts as provided in annual appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That such proceeds referred to in the preceding proviso shall be available for obligation for fiscal year 2026 in an amount not to exceed $33,000,000: *Provided further*, That each annual budget request shall include an annual estimate of gross receipts and collections and proposed use of all funds collected pursuant to section 20145 of title 51, United States Code.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, $46,500,000, of which $2,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Funds for any announced prize otherwise authorized shall remain available, without fiscal year limitation, until a prize is claimed or the offer is withdrawn.

Not to exceed 10 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 20 percent by any such transfers. Any

funds transferred to ''Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration'' for construction activities shall not increase that account by more than 20 percent. Balances so transferred shall be merged with and available for the same purposes and the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred. Any transfer pursuant to this provision shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation provided for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under previous appropriations Acts that remains available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2026 may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers. Any transfer pursuant to this provision shall retain its original availability and shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

The spending plan required by this Act shall be provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at the theme, program, project, and activity level. The spending plan, as well as any subsequent change of an amount established in that spending plan that meets the notification requirements of section 505 of this Act, shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

Not more than 20 percent or $50,000,000, whichever is less, of the amounts made available in the current-year Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration (CECR) appropriation may be applied to CECR projects funded under previous years' CECR appropriations. Use of current-year funds under this provision shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

Of the amounts made available in this Act under the heading ''Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Engagement'' (''STEM Engagement''), up to $5,000,000 shall be available to jointly fund, with an additional amount of up to $1,000,000 each from amounts made available in this Act under the headings ''Science'', ''Aeronautics'', ''Space Technology'', ''Exploration'', and ''Space Operations'', projects and activities for engaging students in STEM and increasing STEM research capacities of universities, including Minority Serving Institutions.

Not to exceed $38,500,000 made available for the current fiscal year in this Act within ''Safety, Security and Mission Services'' may be transferred to the Working Capital Fund of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Balances so transferred shall be available until expended only for activities described in section 30102(b)(3) of title 51, United States Code, as amended by this Act, and shall remain available until expended. Any transfer pursuant to this provision shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the ''National Aeronautics and Space Administration Nonrecurring Expenses Fund'' (the Fund). Unobligated balances of expired discretionary funds appropriated for this or any succeeding fiscal year from the General Fund of the Treasury to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) by this or any other Act may be transferred (not later than the end of the fifth fiscal year after the last fiscal year for which such funds are available for the purposes for which appropriated) into the Fund. Amounts deposited in the Fund shall be available until expended, and in addition to such other funds as may be available for such purposes, for facilities infrastructure improvements, including nonrecurring maintenance, necessary for the operation of NASA, subject to approval by the Office of Management and Budget. Amounts in the Fund may not be available for the purpose described in subsection (b)(3) of section 30102 of title 51, United States Code. Amounts in the Fund may be obligated only after the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 30 days in advance of the planned use of funds.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

For necessary expenses in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), and Public Law 86–209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.); services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; maintenance and operation of aircraft and purchase of flight services for research support; acquisition of aircraft; and authorized travel; $7,176,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, not to exceed $700,000,000 shall remain available until expended for polar research and operations support, and for reimbursement to other Federal agencies for operational and science support and logistical and other related activities for the United States Antarctic program: *Provided further*, That of the amounts in the preceding proviso, not less than $118,800,000 shall be for U.S. Antarctic Logistical Support: *Provided further*, That receipts for scientific support services and materials furnished by the National Research Centers and other National Science Foundation supported research facilities may be credited to this appropriation.

MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses for the acquisition, construction, commissioning, and upgrading of major research equipment, facilities, and other such capital assets pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), including authorized travel, $251,000,000, to remain available until expended.

STEM EDUCATION

For necessary expenses in carrying out science, mathematics, and engineering education and human resources programs and activities pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, authorized travel, and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, $938,250,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, the total amount specified in the table under this heading in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act) shall be for the purposes and in not less than the amount for each such purpose specified in such table.

AGENCY OPERATIONS AND AWARD MANAGEMENT

For agency operations and award management necessary in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.); services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia; and reimbursement of the Department of Homeland Security for security guard services; $355,000,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed $12,000 is for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That contracts may be entered into under this heading in fiscal year 2026 for maintenance and operation of facilities and for other services to be provided during the next fiscal year.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) involved in carrying out section 4 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1863) and Public Law 86–209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.), $5,090,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed $2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General as authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, $24,160,000, of which $1,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the National Science Foundation in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers. Any transfer pursuant to this paragraph shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

The Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate at least 30 days in advance of any planned divestment through transfer, decommissioning, termination, or deconstruction of any NSF-owned facilities or any NSF capital assets (including land, structures, and equipment) valued greater than $2,500,000.

This title may be cited as the ''Science Appropriations Act, 2026''.

TITLE IV

RELATED AGENCIES

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Commission on Civil Rights, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, $14,350,000: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used to employ any individuals under Schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations exclusive of one special assistant for each Commissioner: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used to reimburse Commissioners for more than 75 billable days, with the exception of the chairperson, who is permitted 125 billable days: *Provided further*, That the Chair may accept and use any gift or donation to carry out the work of the Commission: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used for any activity or expense that is not explicitly authorized by section 3 of the Civil Rights Commission Act of 1983 (42 U.S.C. 1975a): *Provided*

further, That notwithstanding the preceding proviso, $2,000,000 shall be used to separately fund the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as authorized by title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) of 2008 (Public Law 110–233), the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–325), the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–2), and Public Law 117–328, including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by section 1343(b) of title 31, United States Code; nonmonetary awards to private citizens; and up to $32,500,000 for payments to State and local enforcement agencies for authorized services to the Commission, $435,382,000, of which $2,788,000 shall be for the Office of the Inspector General: *Provided,* That the Commission is authorized to make available for official reception and representation expenses not to exceed $2,250 from available funds: *Provided further,* That the Commission may take no action to implement any workforce repositioning, restructuring, or reorganization until such time as the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate have been notified of such proposals, in accordance with the reprogramming requirements of section 505 of this Act: *Provided further,* That the Chair may accept and use any gift or donation to carry out the work of the Commission.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the International Trade Commission, including hire of passenger motor vehicles and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, and not to exceed $2,250 for official reception and representation expenses, $122,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not less than $2,096,176 shall be for the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 401 et seq.).

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

For payment to the Legal Services Corporation to carry out the purposes of the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974, $540,000,000, of which $496,300,000 is for basic field programs and required independent audits; $6,000,000 is for the Office of Inspector General, of which such amounts as may be necessary may be used to conduct additional audits of recipients; $26,200,000 is for management and grants oversight; $4,750,000 is for client self-help and information technology; $4,750,000 is for a Pro Bono Innovation Fund; and $2,000,000 is for loan repayment assistance: *Provided,* That the budget execution for the payment to the Legal Services Corporation shall be carried out in this fiscal year in the same manner as such budget execution was carried out in fiscal year 2024 and such payment shall be made in full as an annual installment paid to the Corporation at the beginning of the fiscal year in such amounts as specified under this heading: *Provided further,* That the Legal Services Corporation may continue to provide locality pay to officers and employees at a rate no greater than that provided by the Federal Government to Washington, DC-based employees as authorized by section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, notwithstanding section 1005(d) of the Legal Services Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 2996d(d)): *Provided further,* That the authorities provided in section 205 of this Act shall be applicable to the Legal Services Corporation: *Provided further,* That, for the purposes of section 505 of this Act, the Legal Services Corporation shall be considered an agency of the United States Government.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

None of the funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be expended for any purpose prohibited or limited by, or contrary to any of the provisions of, sections 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, and 506 of Public Law 105–119, and all funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be subject to the same terms and conditions set forth in such sections, except that all references in sections 502 and 503 to 1997 and 1998 shall be deemed to refer instead to 2025 and 2026, respectively.

Section 501 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (Public Law 105–119) is amended by adding the following new subsection at the end:

''(d) MODIFIED GOVERNING BODY REQUIREMENT.—For purposes of this Act, section 1007(c) of the Legal Services Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 2996f(c)) shall be applied by substituting '33 percent' for '60 percent'.''.

Section 502(2) of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104–134) is amended by striking subparagraph (B) in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

''(B) is governed by a board of directors or other governing body, 33 percent of which is comprised of attorneys who are members of the bar of a State, as defined in section 1002(8) of the Legal Services Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 2996a(8)), in which the legal assistance is to be provided;''.

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Marine Mammal Commission as authorized by title II of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), $4,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and the employment of experts and consultants as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, $65,000,000, of which $1,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided,* That of the total amount made available under this heading, not to exceed $124,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

TRADE ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For activities of the United States Trade Representative authorized by section 611 of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4405), including transfers, $23,000,000, to be derived from the Trade Enforcement Trust Fund: *Provided,* That any transfer pursuant to subsection (d)(1) of such section shall be treated as a reprogramming under section 505 of this Act.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the State Justice Institute, as authorized by the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10701 et seq.) $7,640,000, of which $500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That not to exceed $2,250 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further,* That, for the purposes of section 505 of this Act, the State Justice Institute shall be considered an agency of the United States Government.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS AND RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used for publicity or propaganda purposes not authorized by the Congress.

SEC. 502. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 503. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract, pursuant to section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued pursuant to existing law.

SEC. 504. If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of each provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 505. (a) None of the funds provided under this Act, or provided under previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2026, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that: (1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity; (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity; (3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted; (4) relocates an office or employees; (5) reorganizes or renames offices, programs, or activities; (6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees; (7) augments existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of $500,000 or 5 percent, whichever is less, or reduces by 5 percent funding for any program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 5 percent; (8) results from any general savings, including savings from a reduction in personnel, which would result in a change in existing programs, projects, or activities as approved by Congress; unless the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations are notified 30 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds.

SEC. 506. (a) If it has been finally determined by a court or Federal agency that any person intentionally affixed a label bearing a ''Made in America'' inscription, or any inscription with the same meaning, to any product sold in or shipped to the United States that is not made in the United States, the person shall be ineligible to receive any contract or subcontract made with funds made available in this Act, pursuant to the debarment, suspension, and ineligibility procedures described in sections 9.400 through 9.409 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b)(1) To the extent practicable, with respect to authorized purchases of promotional items, funds made available by this Act shall

be used to purchase items that are manufactured, produced, or assembled in the United States, its territories or possessions.

(2) The term ''promotional items'' has the meaning given the term in OMB Circular A–87, Attachment B, Item (1)(f)(3).

SEC. 507. (a) The Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Science Foundation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a quarterly report on the status of balances of appropriations at the account level. For unobligated, uncommitted balances and unobligated, committed balances the quarterly reports shall separately identify the amounts attributable to each source year of appropriation from which the balances were derived. For balances that are obligated, but unexpended, the quarterly reports shall separately identify amounts by the year of obligation.

(b) The report described in subsection (a) shall be submitted within 30 days of the end of each quarter.

(c) If a department or agency is unable to fulfill any aspect of a reporting requirement described in subsection (a) due to a limitation of a current accounting system, the department or agency shall fulfill such aspect to the maximum extent practicable under such accounting system and shall identify and describe in each quarterly report the extent to which such aspect is not fulfilled.

SEC. 508. Any costs incurred by a department or agency funded under this Act resulting from, or to prevent, personnel actions taken in response to funding reductions included in this Act shall be absorbed within the total budgetary resources available to such department or agency: *Provided,* That the authority to transfer funds between appropriations accounts as may be necessary to carry out this section is provided in addition to authorities included elsewhere in this Act: *Provided further,* That use of funds to carry out this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 505 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further,* That for the Department of Commerce, this section shall also apply to actions taken for the care and protection of loan collateral or grant property.

SEC. 509. None of the funds provided by this Act shall be available to promote the sale or export of tobacco or tobacco products, or to seek the reduction or removal by any foreign country of restrictions on the marketing of tobacco or tobacco products, except for restrictions which are not applied equally to all tobacco or tobacco products of the same type.

SEC. 510. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts deposited or available in the Fund established by section 1402 of chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98–473 (34 U.S.C. 20101) in any fiscal year in excess of $1,950,000,000 shall not be available for obligation until the following fiscal year: *Provided,* That notwithstanding section 1402(d) of such Act, of the amounts available from the Fund for obligation: (1) $10,000,000 shall be transferred to the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General and remain available until expended for oversight and auditing purposes associated with this section; and (2) 5 percent shall be available to the Office for Victims of Crime for grants, consistent with the requirements of the Victims of Crime Act, to Indian Tribes to improve services for victims of crime.

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available to the Department of Justice in this Act may be used to discriminate against or denigrate the religious or moral beliefs of students who participate in programs for which financial assistance is provided from those funds, or of the parents or legal guardians of such students.

SEC. 512. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 513. (a) The Inspectors General of the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the Legal Services Corporation shall conduct audits, pursuant to the Inspector General Act (5 U.S.C. App.), of grants or contracts for which funds are appropriated by this Act, and shall submit reports to Congress on the progress of such audits, which may include preliminary findings and a description of areas of particular interest, within 180 days after initiating such an audit and every 180 days thereafter until any such audit is completed.

(b) Within 60 days after the date on which an audit described in subsection (a) by an Inspector General is completed, the Secretary, Attorney General, Administrator, Director, or President, as appropriate, shall make the results of the audit available to the public on the Internet website maintained by the Department, Administration, Foundation, or Corporation, respectively. The results shall be made available in redacted form to exclude—

(1) any matter described in section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) sensitive personal information for any individual, the public access to which could be used to commit identity theft or for other inappropriate or unlawful purposes.

(c) Any person awarded a grant or contract funded by amounts appropriated by this Act shall submit a statement to the Secretary of Commerce, the Attorney General, the Administrator, Director, or President, as appropriate, certifying that no funds derived from the grant or contract will be made available through a subcontract or in any other manner to another person who has a financial interest in the person awarded the grant or contract.

(d) The provisions of the preceding subsections of this section shall take effect 30 days after the date on which the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, determines that a uniform set of rules and requirements, substantially similar to the requirements in such subsections, consistently apply under the executive branch ethics program to all Federal departments, agencies, and entities.

SEC. 514. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used by the Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Science Foundation to acquire a high-impact or moderate-impact information system, as defined for security categorization in the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Federal Information Processing Standard Publication 199, ''Standards for Security Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems'' unless the agency has—

(1) reviewed the supply chain risk for the information systems against criteria developed by NIST and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to inform acquisition decisions for high-impact and moderate-impact information systems within the Federal Government;

(2) reviewed the supply chain risk from the presumptive awardee against available and relevant threat information provided by the FBI and other appropriate agencies; and

(3) in consultation with the FBI or other appropriate Federal entity, conducted an assessment of any risk of cyber-espionage or sabotage associated with the acquisition of such system, including any risk associated with such system being produced, manufactured, or assembled by one or more entities identified by the United States Government as posing a cyber threat, including but not limited to, those that may be owned, directed, or subsidized by the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or the Russian Federation.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to acquire a high-impact or moderate-impact information system reviewed and assessed under subsection (a) unless the head of the assessing entity described in subsection (a) has—

(1) developed, in consultation with NIST, the FBI, and supply chain risk management experts, a mitigation strategy for any identified risks;

(2) determined, in consultation with NIST and the FBI, that the acquisition of such system is in the national interest of the United States; and

(3) reported that determination to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate and the agency Inspector General.

SEC. 515. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be used in any way whatsoever to support or justify the use of torture by any official or contract employee of the United States Government.

SEC. 516. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to include in any new bilateral or multilateral trade agreement the text of—

(1) paragraph 2 of article 16.7 of the United States–Singapore Free Trade Agreement;

(2) paragraph 4 of article 17.9 of the United States–Australia Free Trade Agreement; or

(3) paragraph 4 of article 15.9 of the United States–Morocco Free Trade Agreement.

SEC. 517. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to authorize or issue a national security letter in contravention of any of the following laws authorizing the Federal Bureau of Investigation to issue national security letters: The Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978; The Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986; The Fair Credit Reporting Act; The National Security Act of 1947; USA PATRIOT Act; USA FREEDOM Act of 2015; and the laws amended by these Acts.

SEC. 518. If at any time during any quarter, the program manager of a project within the jurisdiction of the Departments of Commerce or Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Science Foundation totaling more than $75,000,000 has reasonable cause to believe that the total program cost has increased by 10 percent or more, the program manager shall immediately inform the respective Secretary, Administrator, or Director. The Secretary, Administrator, or Director shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 30 days in writing of such increase, and shall include in such notice: the date on which such determination was made; a statement of the reasons for such increases; the action taken and proposed to be taken to control future cost growth of the project; changes made in the performance or schedule milestones and the degree to which such changes have contributed to the increase in total program costs or procurement costs; new estimates of the total project or procurement costs; and a

statement validating that the project's management structure is adequate to control total project or procurement costs.

SEC. 519. Funds appropriated by this Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence or intelligence related activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094) during fiscal year 2026 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026.

SEC. 520. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract in an amount greater than $5,000,000 or to award a grant in excess of such amount unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the contractor or grantee has filed all Federal tax returns required during the three years preceding the certification, has not been convicted of a criminal offense under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and has not, more than 90 days prior to certification, been notified of any unpaid Federal tax assessment for which the liability remains unsatisfied, unless the assessment is the subject of an installment agreement or offer in compromise that has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service and is not in default, or the assessment is the subject of a non-frivolous administrative or judicial proceeding.

(RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 521. (a) Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Commerce, the following funds are hereby permanently rescinded, not later than September 30, 2026, from the following accounts in the specified amounts—

(1) ''Economic Development Administration—Economic Development Assistance Programs'', $60,000,000, only from prior year appropriations that remain available until expended; and

(2) ''Census Working Capital Fund'', $15,000,000.

(b) Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available to the Department of Justice, the following funds are hereby permanently rescinded, not later than September 30, 2026, from the following accounts in the specified amounts—

(1) ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Office on Violence Against Women—Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs'', $36,000,000;

(2) ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Office of Justice Programs'', $250,000,000; and

(3) ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Community Oriented Policing Services'', $25,000,000.

(c) Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Justice, the following funds are hereby permanently rescinded, not later than September 30, 2026, from the following accounts in the specified amounts—

(1) ''Working Capital Fund'', $210,000,000; and

(2) ''Legal Activities—Assets Forfeiture Fund'', $113,200,000.

(d) The Departments of Commerce and Justice shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report no later than September 1, 2026, specifying the amount of each rescission made pursuant to subsections (a), (b), and (c).

(e) The amounts rescinded in subsections (a), (b), and (c) shall not be from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency or disaster relief requirement pursuant to the concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(f) The amounts rescinded pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) shall not be from—

(1) amounts provided under subparagraph (Q) of paragraph (1) under the heading ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Office of Justice Programs—State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance'' in title II of division B of Public Law 117–103 or Public Law 117–328, or amounts provided under subparagraph (R) of paragraph (1) under the heading ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Office of Justice Programs—State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance'' in title II of division C of Public Law 118–42; or

(2) amounts provided under paragraph (7) under the heading ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Community Oriented Policing Services—Community Oriented Policing Services Programs'' in title II of division B of Public Law 117–103 or Public Law 117–328, or amounts provided under paragraph (7) under the heading ''State and Local Law Enforcement Activities—Community Oriented Policing Services—Community Oriented Policing Services Programs'' in title II of division C of Public Law 118–42.

SEC. 522. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to purchase first class or premium airline travel in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 523. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 50 employees from a Federal department or agency, who are stationed in the United States, at any single conference occurring outside the United States unless—

(1) such conference is a law enforcement training or operational conference for law enforcement personnel and the majority of Federal employees in attendance are law enforcement personnel stationed outside the United States; or

(2) such conference is a scientific conference and the department or agency head determines that such attendance is in the national interest and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within at least 15 days of that determination and the basis for that determination.

SEC. 524. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall instruct any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States receiving funds appropriated under this Act to track undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts and include in its annual performance plan and performance and accountability reports the following:

(1) Details on future action the department, agency, or instrumentality will take to resolve undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts.

(2) The method that the department, agency, or instrumentality uses to track undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts.

(3) Identification of undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts that may be returned to the Treasury of the United States.

(4) In the preceding 3 fiscal years, details on the total number of expired grant accounts with undisbursed balances (on the first day of each fiscal year) for the department, agency, or instrumentality and the total finances that have not been obligated to a specific project remaining in the accounts.

SEC. 525. To the extent practicable, funds made available in this Act should be used to purchase light bulbs that are ''Energy Star'' qualified or have the ''Federal Energy Management Program'' designation.

SEC. 526. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) or the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to develop, design, plan, promulgate, implement, or execute a bilateral policy, program, order, or contract of any kind to participate, collaborate, or coordinate bilaterally in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company unless such activities are specifically authorized by a law enacted after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to effectuate the hosting of official Chinese visitors at facilities belonging to or utilized by NASA.

(c) The limitations described in subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to activities which NASA or OSTP, after consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have certified—

(1) pose no risk of resulting in the transfer of technology, data, or other information with national security or economic security implications to China or a Chinese-owned company; and

(2) will not involve knowing interactions with officials who have been determined by the United States to have direct involvement with violations of human rights.

(d) Any certification made under subsection (c) shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, no later than 30 days prior to the activity in question and shall include a description of the purpose of the activity, its agenda, its major participants, and its location and timing.

SEC. 527. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, adjudication, or other law enforcement- or victim assistance-related activity.

SEC. 528. The Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Commission on Civil Rights, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the International Trade Commission, the Legal Services Corporation, the Marine Mammal Commission, the Offices of Science and Technology Policy and the United States Trade Representative, and the State Justice Institute shall submit spending plans, signed by the respective department or agency head, to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That the spending plans submitted pursuant to this section shall contain at least the same level of detail as the spending plans submitted pursuant to this section in fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 529. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay award or incentive fees for contractor performance that has been judged to be below satisfactory performance or for performance that does not meet the basic requirements of a contract.

SEC. 530. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 7606 (''Legitimacy of Industrial Hemp Research'') of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) by the Department of Justice or the Drug Enforcement Administration.

SEC. 531. None of the funds made available under this Act to the Department of Justice may be used, with respect to any of the

States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, or with respect to the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, or Puerto Rico, to prevent any of them from implementing their own laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana.

SEC. 532. The Department of Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation shall provide a quarterly report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on any official travel to China by any employee of such Department or agency, including the purpose of such travel.

SEC. 533. Of the amounts made available by this Act, not less than 10 percent of each total amount provided, respectively, for Public Works grants authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 and grants authorized by section 27 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722) shall be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, the term ''persistent poverty counties'' means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1993 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, the 2000 decennial census, and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, or any Territory or possession of the United States.

SEC. 534. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or treaty, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act or any other Act may be expended or obligated by a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States to pay administrative expenses or to compensate an officer or employee of the United States in connection with requiring an export license for the export to Canada of components, parts, accessories or attachments for firearms listed in Category I, section 121.1 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations (International Trafficking in Arms Regulations (ITAR), part 121, as it existed on April 1, 2005) with a total value not exceeding $500 wholesale in any transaction, provided that the conditions of subsection (b) of this section are met by the exporting party for such articles.

(b) The foregoing exemption from obtaining an export license—

(1) does not exempt an exporter from filing any Shipper's Export Declaration or notification letter required by law, or from being otherwise eligible under the laws of the United States to possess, ship, transport, or export the articles enumerated in subsection (a); and

(2) does not permit the export without a license of—

(A) fully automatic firearms and components and parts for such firearms, other than for end use by the Federal Government, or a Provincial or Municipal Government of Canada;

(B) barrels, cylinders, receivers (frames) or complete breech mechanisms for any firearm listed in Category I, other than for end use by the Federal Government, or a Provincial or Municipal Government of Canada; or

(C) articles for export from Canada to another foreign destination.

(c) In accordance with this section, the District Directors of Customs and postmasters shall permit the permanent or temporary export without a license of any unclassified articles specified in subsection (a) to Canada for end use in Canada or return to the United States, or temporary import of Canadian-origin items from Canada for end use in the United States or return to Canada for a Canadian citizen.

(d) The President may require export licenses under this section on a temporary basis if the President determines, upon publication first in the Federal Register, that the Government of Canada has implemented or maintained inadequate import controls for the articles specified in subsection (a), such that a significant diversion of such articles has and continues to take place for use in international terrorism or in the escalation of a conflict in another nation. The President shall terminate the requirements of a license when reasons for the temporary requirements have ceased.

SEC. 535. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States receiving appropriated funds under this Act or any other Act shall obligate or expend in any way such funds to pay administrative expenses or the compensation of any officer or employee of the United States to deny any application submitted pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2778(b)(1)(B) and qualified pursuant to 27 CFR section 478.112 or .113, for a permit to import United States origin ''curios or relics'' firearms, parts, or ammunition.

SEC. 536. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel to deny, or fail to act on, an application for the importation of any model of shotgun if—

(1) all other requirements of law with respect to the proposed importation are met; and

(2) no application for the importation of such model of shotgun, in the same configuration, had been denied by the Attorney General prior to January 1, 2011, on the basis that the shotgun was not particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes.

SEC. 537. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to implement the Arms Trade Treaty until the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty.

SEC. 538. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release to or within the United States, its territories, or possessions Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee who—

(1) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is or was held on or after June 24, 2009, at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

SEC. 539. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to construct, acquire, or modify any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual described in subsection (c) for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 540. Funds made available to the Department of Commerce and the Department of Justice in this Act and any remaining unobligated balances of funds made available to the Department of Commerce and the Department of Justice in prior year Acts, other than amounts designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or from amounts made available under the heading ''Department of Justice—Legal Activities—Fees and Expenses of Witnesses'', shall be available to provide payments pursuant to section 901(i)(2) of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b(i)(2)): *Provided*, That payments made pursuant to the matter preceding this proviso may not exceed $5,000,000 for the Department of Commerce and $10,000,000 for the Department of Justice.

SEC. 541. (a)(1) Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall allocate amounts made available from the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Fund for fiscal year 2026 pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 102(a) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (division A of Public Law 117–167) not otherwise allocated pursuant to section 546(a)(1)(B) of division C of Public Law 118–42, including the transfer authority in such paragraphs of that section of that Act, to the accounts specified, in the amounts specified, and for the projects and activities specified, in the table titled ''Department of Commerce Allocation of National Institute of Standards and Technology Funds: CHIPS Act Fiscal Year 2026'' in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

(2) Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall allocate amounts made available from the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Workforce and Education Fund for fiscal year 2026 pursuant to section 102(d)(1) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (division A of Public Law 117–167), to the account specified, in the amounts specified, and for the projects and activities specified in the table titled ''National Science Foundation Allocation of Funds: CHIPS Act Fiscal Year 2026'' in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

(b) Neither the President nor his designee may allocate any amounts that are made available for any fiscal year under section 102(a)(2)(A) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 or under section 102(d)(2) of such Act if there is in effect an Act making or continuing appropriations for part of a fiscal year for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies: *Provided*, That in any fiscal year, the matter preceding this proviso shall not apply to the allocation, apportionment, or allotment of amounts for continuing administration of programs allocated funds from the CHIPS for America Fund, which may be allocated only in amounts that are no more than the allocation for such purposes in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and subject to the terms and conditions in section 505 of this Act—

(1) the Secretary of Commerce may reallocate funds allocated to Industrial Technology Services for section 9906 of Public Law 116–283 by subsection (a)(1) of this section; and

(2) the Director of the National Science Foundation may reallocate funds allocated to the CHIPS for America Workforce and Education Fund by subsection (a)(2) of this section.

(d) Concurrent with the annual budget submission of the President for fiscal year 2027, the Director of the National Science Foundation, as appropriate, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate proposed allocations by account and by program, project, or activity, with detailed justifications, for amounts made available under section 102(d)(2) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 for fiscal year 2027.

(e) The Department of Commerce and the National Science Foundation, as appropriate, shall each provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate quarterly reports on the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the CHIPS for America Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section and prior appropriations Acts, the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to section 543(a)(2) of division B of Public Law 117–328, and the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the CHIPS for America Workforce and Education Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a)(2) of this section and prior appropriations Acts, including all uncommitted, committed, and unobligated funds.

SEC. 542. In making Federal financial assistance, the Department of Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation shall continue to apply the negotiated indirect cost rates in section 200.414 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, including with respect to the approval of deviations from negotiated indirect cost rates, to the same extent and in the same manner as such negotiated indirect cost rates were applied in fiscal year 2024: *Provided,* That none of the funds appropriated in this or prior Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Acts, or otherwise made available to the Department of Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation may be used to develop, modify, or implement changes to such fiscal year 2024 negotiated indirect cost rates.

SEC. 543. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to move the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Canine Training Center or the ATF National Canine Division from Front Royal, Virginia, to another location.

SEC. 544. (a) Of the amounts made available under the heading ''Department of Commerce—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Operations, Research, and Facilities'', $507,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the unobligated balances of amounts previously appropriated under such heading for fiscal year 2026 in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58): *Provided,* That amounts derived by transfer pursuant to this subsection shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118–5.

(b) Of the amounts made available under the heading ''Department of Commerce—National Telecommunications and Information Administration—Salaries and Expenses'', $50,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the unobligated balances of amounts previously appropriated under the heading ''National Telecommunications and Information Administration'' in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58), of which $25,000,000 shall be from amounts repurposed or transferred for salaries and expenses, administration, and oversight of programs pursuant to section 542 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118–42) and $25,000,000 shall be from amounts made available under the heading ''Middle Mile Deployment'': *Provided,* That amounts derived by transfer pursuant to this subsection shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118–5.

(c) Of the amounts made available under the heading ''Department of Commerce—Economic Development Administration—Economic Development Assistance Programs'', $16,276,000 shall be derived by transfer from the unobligated balances of amounts previously appropriated under the heading ''National Telecommunications and Information Administration'' in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58) and repurposed or transferred for salaries and expenses, administration, and oversight of programs pursuant to section 542 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118–42): *Provided,* That amounts derived by transfer pursuant to this subsection shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118–5.

(d) Of the amounts made available under the heading ''Department of Commerce—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Procurement, Acquisition and Construction'', $44,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the unobligated balances of the Department of Commerce Nonrecurring Expenses Fund.

This division may be cited as the ''Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026''.

DIVISION B—ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

TITLE I

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

The following appropriations shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers for authorized civil functions of the Department of the Army pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related efforts.

INVESTIGATIONS

For expenses necessary where authorized by law for the collection and study of basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related needs; for surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of proposed river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, and related efforts prior to construction; for restudy of authorized projects; and for miscellaneous investigations, and, when authorized by law, surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of projects prior to construction, $150,384,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

CONSTRUCTION

For expenses necessary for the construction of river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; for conducting detailed studies, and plans and specifications, of such projects (including those involving participation by States, local governments, or private groups) authorized or made eligible for selection by law (but such detailed studies, and plans and specifications, shall not constitute a commitment of the Government to construction); $3,169,966,000, to remain available until expended; of which $217,983,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, shall be to cover the Federal share of construction costs for facilities under the Dredged Material Disposal Facilities program; and of which such sums as are necessary to cover 25 percent of the costs of construction, replacement, rehabilitation, and expansion of inland waterways projects shall be derived from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, except as otherwise specifically provided for in law: *Provided,* That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

For expenses necessary for flood damage reduction projects and related efforts in the Mississippi River alluvial valley below Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as authorized by law, $531,588,000, to remain available until expended, of which $9,768,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, shall be to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for inland harbors: *Provided,* That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the operation, maintenance, and care of existing river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; providing security for infrastructure owned or operated by the Corps, including administrative buildings and laboratories; maintaining harbor channels provided by a State, municipality, or other public agency that serve essential navigation needs of general commerce, where authorized by law; surveying and charting northern and northwestern lakes and connecting waters; clearing and straightening channels; and removing obstructions to navigation, $6,013,217,000, to remain available until expended, of which $3,245,249,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, shall be to cover the Federal share of eligible operations and maintenance costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors, of which $416,760,000 shall be for donor and energy ports as specified in section 102 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020; of which $40,000,000, to be derived from the general fund of the Treasury, shall be for the design and construction to replace Federal dredges, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purposes, and shall be transferred to and merged with funds available for such purposes in the revolving fund established by the first section of the Act of July 27, 1953 (33 U.S.C. 576); of which such sums as may be necessary shall be derived from amounts collected in this or prior fiscal

years under section 210 of the Flood Control Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. 460d–3) and are not otherwise appropriated shall be for resource protection, research, interpretation, and maintenance activities related to resource protection in the areas at which outdoor recreation is available; of which such sums as become available from fees collected under section 217 of Public Law 104–303 shall be used to cover the cost of operation and maintenance of the dredged material disposal facilities for which such fees have been collected; and of which $62,000,000, to be derived from the general fund of the Treasury, shall be to carry out subsection (c) of section 2106 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2238c) and shall be designated as being for such purpose pursuant to paragraph (2) of section 14003 of division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136): *Provided*, That funding derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for donor and energy ports shall be allocated solely in accordance with section 2106 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014: *Provided further*, That 1 percent of the total amount of funds provided for each of the programs, projects, or activities funded under this heading shall not be allocated to a field operating activity prior to the beginning of the fourth quarter of the fiscal year and shall be available for use by the Chief of Engineers to fund such emergency activities as the Chief of Engineers determines to be necessary and appropriate, and that the Chief of Engineers shall allocate during the fourth quarter any remaining funds which have not been used for emergency activities proportionally in accordance with the amounts provided for the programs, projects, or activities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

REGULATORY PROGRAM

For expenses necessary for administration of laws pertaining to regulation of navigable waters and wetlands, $221,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

For expenses necessary to clean up contamination from sites in the United States resulting from work performed as part of the Nation's early atomic energy program, $75,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For expenses necessary to prepare for flood, hurricane, and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to such disasters as authorized by law, $40,000,000, to remain available until expended.

EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the supervision and general administration of the civil works program in the headquarters of the Corps of Engineers and the offices of the Division Engineers; and for costs of management and operation of the Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity, the Institute for Water Resources, the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Finance Center allocable to the civil works program, $220,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which not to exceed $5,000 may be used for official reception and representation purposes and only during the current fiscal year: *Provided*, That no part of any other appropriation provided in this title shall be available to fund the civil works activities of the Office of the Chief of Engineers or the civil works executive direction and management activities of the division offices: *Provided further*, That any Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies appropriation may be used to fund the supervision and general administration of emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to any flood, hurricane, or other natural disaster.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 7016(b)(3), $7,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That not more than 75 percent of such amount may be obligated or expended until the Assistant Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the report required under section 101(d) of this Act and a work plan that allocates at least 95 percent of the additional funding provided under each heading in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), to specific programs, projects, or activities.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans and for the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, $2,200,000, to remain available until expended, for safety projects to maintain, upgrade, and repair dams identified in the National Inventory of Dams with a primary owner type of State, local government, public utility, or private: *Provided*, That any activity that results in a decrease in the hazard or a decrease in the potential consequences of poor performance of a dam structure listed on the National Inventory of Dams with a primary owner type of State, local government, public utility, or private shall be considered a safety project eligible for funds provided under this heading for that purpose by this or any prior Act: *Provided further*, That any safety project for a dam identified in the National Inventory of Dams with a primary owner type of State, local government, public utility, or private shall be eligible under section 5026(1)(A) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121) (33 U.S.C. 3905(1)(A)) for funds provided under this heading for that purpose by this or any prior Act: *Provided further*, That no project may be funded with amounts provided under this heading in this or any prior Act for a dam that is identified as jointly owned in the National Inventory of Dams and where one of those joint owners is the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That not later than 90 days following the end of any submittal period occurring before or after the date of enactment of this Act of a solicitation of preliminary applications from prospective borrowers seeking credit assistance of funds made available under this heading by this or any prior Act, the Secretary shall provide to each applicant a written notice to inform the applicant whether the applicant will be invited to apply for credit assistance: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act shall also be available for projects to construct, maintain, upgrade, and repair levees and ancillary features with a primary owner type of State, municipal, county, private, or other non-Federal entity: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall begin a rulemaking process to establish the process to provide financial assistance for projects to construct, maintain, upgrade, and repair levees and ancillary features with a primary owner type of State, municipal, county, private, or other non-Federal entity: *Provided further*, That no project may be funded with amounts provided under this heading for a levee unless the Secretary has certified in advance, in writing, that the levee is not owned, in whole or in part, by the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans, including capitalized interest, and total loan principal, including capitalized interest, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed $500,000,000: *Provided further*, That the use of direct loans or loan guarantee authority under this heading for direct loans or commitments to guarantee loans for any project, including any project that is made eligible for funds pursuant to the second proviso under this heading, shall be in accordance with the criteria published in the Federal Register on June 30, 2020 (85 FR 39189) pursuant to the fourth proviso under the heading ''Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program Account'' in division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94): *Provided further*, That none of the direct loans or loan guarantee authority made available under this heading shall be available for any project unless the Secretary and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget have certified in advance in writing that the direct loan or loan guarantee, as applicable, and the project comply with the criteria referenced in the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That any references to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the Administrator in the criteria referenced in the previous two provisos shall be deemed to be references to the Army Corps of Engineers or the Secretary of the Army, respectively, for purposes of the direct loans or loan guarantee authority made available under this heading: *Provided further*, That for the purposes of carrying out the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office may request, and the Secretary shall promptly provide, documentation and information relating to a project identified in a Letter of Interest submitted to the Secretary pursuant to a Notice of Funding Availability for applications for credit assistance under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program, including with respect to a project that was initiated or completed before the date of enactment of this Act.

In addition, fees authorized to be collected pursuant to sections 5029 and 5030 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 shall be deposited in this account, to remain available until expended.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, notwithstanding section 5033 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, $5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) None of the funds provided in title I of this Act, or provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in title I of this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2026, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that:

(1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds

have been denied or restricted by this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity for a different purpose, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(5) augments or reduces existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of the amounts contained in paragraphs (6) through (10), unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(6) INVESTIGATIONS.—For a base level over $100,000, reprogramming of 25 percent of the base amount up to a limit of $150,000 per project, study or activity is allowed: *Provided*, That for a base level less than $100,000, the reprogramming limit is $25,000: *Provided further*, That up to $25,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses;

(7) CONSTRUCTION.—For a base level over $2,000,000, reprogramming of 15 percent of the base amount up to a limit of $3,000,000 per project, study or activity is allowed: *Provided*, That for a base level less than $2,000,000, the reprogramming limit is $300,000: *Provided further*, That up to $3,000,000 may be reprogrammed for settled contractor claims, changed conditions, or real estate deficiency judgments: *Provided further*, That up to $300,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses;

(8) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—Unlimited reprogramming authority is granted for the Corps to be able to respond to emergencies: *Provided*, That the Chief of Engineers shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of these emergency actions as soon thereafter as practicable: *Provided further*, That for a base level over $1,000,000, reprogramming of 15 percent of the base amount up to a limit of $5,000,000 per project, study, or activity is allowed: *Provided further*, That for a base level less than $1,000,000, the reprogramming limit is $150,000: *Provided further*, That $150,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation;

(9) MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES.—The reprogramming guidelines in paragraphs (6), (7), and (8) shall apply to the Investigations, Construction, and Operation and Maintenance portions of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Account, respectively; and

(10) FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM.—Reprogramming of up to 15 percent of the base of the receiving project is permitted.

(b) DE MINIMUS REPROGRAMMINGS.—In no case should a reprogramming for less than $50,000 be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(c) CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM.—Subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to any project or activity funded under the continuing authorities program.

(d) Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year which shall include:

(1) A table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the President's budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if applicable, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(2) A delineation in the table for each appropriation both by object class and program, project and activity as detailed in the budget appendix for the respective appropriations; and

(3) An identification of items of special congressional interest.

SEC. 102. The Secretary shall allocate funds made available in this Act solely in accordance with the provisions of this Act and in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), including the determination and designation of new starts.

SEC. 103. (a) None of the funds made available in this title may be used to award or modify any contract that commits funds beyond the amounts appropriated for that program, project, or activity that remain unobligated, except that such amounts may include any funds that have been made available through reprogramming pursuant to section 101.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to projects with awarded integrated design and construction contracts (IDaC) as of the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That the Corps shall modify the existing IDaC contracts for such projects to incorporate the authority provided in 33 U.S.C. 621 and DFARS 252.232–7007 pursuant to DFARS 232.703–1(1)(ii)(B) within 60 days of the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That the Corps shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress upon execution of such modifications for each project and upon commencement of work addressed in such modification: *Provided further*, That the Corps shall fully obligate any funds previously designated in Public Law 117–58 or prior appropriations bill as part of the modification, and as required supervision and administration associated with that modification: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118–5.

SEC. 104. The Secretary of the Army may transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service may accept and expend, up to $8,733,000 of funds provided in this title under the heading ''Operation and Maintenance'' to mitigate for fisheries lost due to Corps of Engineers projects.

SEC. 105. None of the funds in this Act shall be used for an open lake placement alternative for dredged material, after evaluating the least costly, environmentally acceptable manner for the disposal or management of dredged material originating from Lake Erie or tributaries thereto, unless it is approved under a State water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341): *Provided*, That until an open lake placement alternative for dredged material is approved under a State water quality certification, the Corps of Engineers shall continue upland placement of such dredged material consistent with the requirements of section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211).

SEC. 106. Additional funding provided in this Act shall be allocated only to projects determined to be eligible by the Chief of Engineers.

SEC. 107. Subject to consultation with the non-Federal sponsor and retaining sufficient amounts for the Corps of Engineers to carry out any of its responsibilities relating to the project and using appropriations made available to the project prior to the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall make advance payments to the non-Federal sponsors for their use in completing construction of any project for flood risk management identified in implementation guidance for the Civil Works Public-Private Partnership Pilot Program issued by the Director of Civil Works on January 8, 2019 and that is under construction on the date of enactment of this Act and for which a prior executed Project Partnership Agreement, as amended, specifically identifies Federal Work, Non-Federal Work, and a Federal Participation Amount in excess of $700,000,000: *Provided*, That amounts described in the matter preceding this proviso shall be credited by the Secretary toward the Federal Participation Amount: *Provided further*, That prior to making any payments authorized in the matter preceding the first proviso, the Secretary and the non-Federal sponsors shall amend the Project Partnership Agreement executed for the project in order to implement any such payments and credits.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any water supply reallocation study under the Wolf Creek Dam, Lake Cumberland, Kentucky, project authorized under the Act of July 24, 1946 (60 Stat. 636, ch. 595).

SEC. 109. Section 225(c)(2)(A)(ii) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2328(c)(2)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking ''at recreation site at which the fee is collected'' and inserting ''at any recreation site or facility that is located at the civil works project at which the fee is collected''.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACCOUNT

For carrying out activities authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act, $23,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which $4,000,000 shall be deposited into the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Account for use by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, $1,950,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for expenses necessary in carrying out related responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2026, of the amount made available to the Commission under this Act or any other Act, the Commission may use an amount not to exceed $2,186,000 for administrative expenses.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The following appropriations shall be expended to execute authorized functions of the Bureau of Reclamation:

WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For management, development, and restoration of water and related natural resources and for related activities, including the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of reclamation and other facilities, participation in fulfilling related Federal responsibilities to Native Americans, and related grants to, and cooperative and other agreements with, State and local governments, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and others, $1,465,630,000, to remain available until expended, of which $23,899,000 shall be available for transfer to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and $7,679,000 shall be available for transfer to the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund; of which such amounts as may be necessary may be advanced to the Colorado River Dam Fund: *Provided*, That such transfers may be increased or decreased within the overall appropriation under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the total appropriated, the amount for program activities that can be financed by the Reclamation Fund, the Water

Storage Enhancement Receipts account established by section 4011(e) of Public Law 114–322, or the Bureau of Reclamation special fee account established by 16 U.S.C. 6806 shall be derived from that Fund or account: *Provided further,* That funds contributed under 43 U.S.C. 395 are available until expended for the purposes for which the funds were contributed: *Provided further,* That funds advanced under 43 U.S.C. 397a shall be credited to this account and are available until expended for the same purposes as the sums appropriated under this heading: *Provided further,* That of the amounts made available under this heading, $3,237,000 shall be deposited in the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund established by section 110 of title I of division B of appendix D of Public Law 106–554: *Provided further,* That in accordance with section 4007 of Public Law 114–322 and as recommended by the Secretary in a letter dated January 2, 2026, funding provided for such purpose in fiscal year 2025 shall be made available to the Sites Reservoir Project and the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project: *Provided further,* That in accordance with section 4009(a) of Public Law 114–322 and as recommended by the Secretary in a letter dated January 2, 2026, funding provided for such purpose in fiscal year 2025 and prior fiscal years shall be made available to the Kay Bailey Hutchison Expansion—Concentrate Pipeline Partial Replacement Project and the McAllen Brackish Groundwater Treatment Facility.

CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT RESTORATION FUND

For carrying out the programs, projects, plans, habitat restoration, improvement, and acquisition provisions of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, such sums as may be collected in fiscal year 2026 in the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund pursuant to sections 3407(d), 3404(c)(3), and 3405(f) of Public Law 102–575, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That the Bureau of Reclamation is directed to assess and collect the full amount of the additional mitigation and restoration payments authorized by section 3407(d) of Public Law 102–575: *Provided further,* That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used for the acquisition or leasing of water for in-stream purposes if the water is already committed to in-stream purposes by a court adopted decree or order.

CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA RESTORATION
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For carrying out activities authorized by the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, consistent with plans to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, $32,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such amounts as may be necessary to carry out such activities may be transferred to appropriate accounts of other participating Federal agencies to carry out authorized purposes: *Provided,* That funds appropriated herein may be used for the Federal share of the costs of CALFED Program management: *Provided further,* That CALFED implementation shall be carried out in a balanced manner with clear performance measures demonstrating concurrent progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the Program.

POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for policy, administration, and related functions in the Office of the Commissioner, the Denver office, and offices in the six regions of the Bureau of Reclamation, to remain available until September 30, 2027, $64,000,000, to be derived from the Reclamation Fund and be nonreimbursable as provided in 43 U.S.C. 377, of which not to exceed $5,000 may be used for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided,* That no part of any other appropriation in this Act shall be available for activities or functions budgeted as policy and administration expenses.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

Appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation shall be available for purchase and replacement of not to exceed 30 motor vehicles, which are for replacement only.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 201. (a) None of the funds provided in title II of this Act for Water and Related Resources, or provided by previous or subsequent appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in title II of this Act for Water and Related Resources that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2026, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) initiates or creates a new program, project, or activity;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(4) restarts or resumes any program, project or activity for which funds are not provided in this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(5) transfers funds in excess of the following limits, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress:

(A) 15 percent for any program, project or activity for which $2,000,000 or more is available at the beginning of the fiscal year; or

(B) $400,000 for any program, project or activity for which less than $2,000,000 is available at the beginning of the fiscal year;

(6) transfers more than $500,000 from either the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category or the Resources Management and Development category to any program, project, or activity in the other category, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress; or

(7) transfers, where necessary to discharge legal obligations of the Bureau of Reclamation, more than $5,000,000 to provide adequate funds for settled contractor claims, increased contractor earnings due to accelerated rates of operations, and real estate deficiency judgments, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(b) Subsection (a)(5) shall not apply to any transfer of funds within the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term ''transfer'' means any movement of funds into or out of a program, project, or activity.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (a) and (b), the amounts made available in this title under the heading ''Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources'' shall be expended for the programs, projects, and activities specified in the ''Final Bill'' columns in the ''Water and Related Resources'' table included under the heading ''Title II—Department of the Interior'' in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

(e) The Bureau of Reclamation shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing all the funds reprogrammed between programs, projects, activities, or categories of funding. The first quarterly report shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 202. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to determine the final point of discharge for the interceptor drain for the San Luis Unit until development by the Secretary of the Interior and the State of California of a plan, which shall conform to the water quality standards of the State of California as approved by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to minimize any detrimental effect of the San Luis drainage waters.

(b) The costs of the Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and the costs of the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program shall be classified by the Secretary of the Interior as reimbursable or nonreimbursable and collected until fully repaid pursuant to the ''Cleanup Program—Alternative Repayment Plan'' and the ''SJVDP—Alternative Repayment Plan'' described in the report entitled ''Repayment Report, Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program, February 1995'', prepared by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. Any future obligations of funds by the United States relating to, or providing for, drainage service or drainage studies for the San Luis Unit shall be fully reimbursable by San Luis Unit beneficiaries of such service or studies pursuant to Federal reclamation law.

SEC. 203. Section 9504(e) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 10364(e)) is amended by striking ''$920,000,000'' and inserting ''$1,000,000,000''.

SEC. 204. (a) Title I of Public Law 108–361 (the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act) (118 Stat. 1681), as amended, shall be applied by substituting ''2026'' for ''2022'' each place it appears.

(b) Section 103(f)(4)(A) of Public Law 108–361 (the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act) (118 Stat. 1681) is amended by striking ''$30,000,000'' and inserting ''$32,600,000''.

SEC. 205. Section 9106(g)(2) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11) shall be applied by substituting ''2026'' for ''2022''.

SEC. 206. Section 301 of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (43 U.S.C. 2241) shall be applied by substituting ''$130,000,000'' for ''$120,000,000''.

SEC. 207. Section 9503(f) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 10363(f)) shall be applied by substituting ''2026'' for ''2023''.

SEC. 208. In this fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, notwithstanding the Act of May 9, 1938, (43 U.S.C. 392a), all monies received by the United States in connection with the repayment or reimbursement of costs for all projects, including power, financed in whole or in part with money from the Aging Infrastructure Account created pursuant to section 9603(d) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 510b(d)) shall be repaid and deposited to that account.

SEC. 209. (a) Section 10609(a)(1) of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (subtitle B of title X of Public Law 111–11)—

(1) is amended by striking ''$870,000,000'' and inserting ''$1,815,000,000''; and

(2) shall be applied by substituting ''2026'' for ''2024''.

(b) Section 10604(b)(3)(B) of the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (subtitle B of title X of Public Law 111–11) is amended to read as follows: ''MAXIMUM SHARE.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the repayment obligation of the City shall not exceed $76,000,000''.

SEC. 210. Section 10 of Public Law 89–108, as amended (79 Stat. 433; 100 Stat. 424; 106 Stat. 4669; 114 Stat. 2763A–291), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by—

(A) redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(B) inserting after subparagraph (B), the following:

''(C) OTHER AMOUNTS.—In addition to the amounts made available under subparagraphs (A) and (B), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 7(a) $50,000,000.''; and

(2) in subsection (e), by inserting prior to the last sentence, the following: ''Such indexing shall also be applied for the $50,000,000 amount under subsection (b)(1)(C) for costs incurred after the date of enactment.''.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENERGY PROGRAMS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy efficiency and renewable energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $3,100,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That of such amount, $224,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

CYBERSECURITY, ENERGY SECURITY, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy sector cybersecurity, energy security, and emergency response activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $190,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That of such amount, $24,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

ELECTRICITY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for electricity activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $235,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That of such amount, $19,700,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

GRID DEPLOYMENT

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for grid deployment in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $25,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That of such amount, $6,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for nuclear energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $1,785,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That of such amount, $88,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction: *Provided further,* That for the purpose of section 954(a)(7) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended, the only amount available shall be from the amount specified as including that purpose in the ''Final Bill'' column in the ''Department of Energy'' table included under the heading ''Title III—Department of Energy'' in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

FOSSIL ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out fossil energy research and development activities, under the authority of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition of interest, including defeasible and equitable interests in any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition or expansion, and for conducting inquiries, technological investigations and research concerning the extraction, processing, use, and disposal of mineral substances without objectionable social and environmental costs (30 U.S.C. 3, 1602, and 1603), $720,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That of such amount $70,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

ENERGY PROJECTS

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out community project funding activities, under the authority of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), $97,557,000, to remain available until expended, for projects, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table entitled ''Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending'' in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

NAVAL PETROLEUM AND OIL SHALE RESERVES

For Department of Energy expenses necessary to carry out naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities, $13,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That notwithstanding any other provision of law, unobligated funds remaining from prior years shall be available for all naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility development and operations and program management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), $206,325,000, to remain available until expended.

SPR PETROLEUM ACCOUNT

For the acquisition, transportation, and injection of petroleum products, and for other necessary expenses pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), sections 403 and 404 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 6241, 6239 note), section 32204 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241 note), and section 30204 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 6241 note), $100,000, to remain available until expended.

NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve storage, operation, and management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), $7,150,000, to remain available until expended.

ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities of the Energy Information Administration, $135,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NON-DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for non-defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $322,371,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That in addition, fees collected pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of section 5 of the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 6939f(b)(1)), and deposited under this heading in fiscal year 2026 pursuant to section 309 of title III of division C of Public Law 116–94 are appropriated, to remain available until expended, for mercury storage costs.

URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING FUND

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out uranium enrichment facility decontamination and decommissioning, remedial actions, and other activities of title II of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, $865,000,000, to be deposited into and subsequently derived from the Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund, to remain available until expended, of which $0 shall be available in accordance with title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

SCIENCE

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for science activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and purchase of not more than 35 passenger motor vehicles, $8,400,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That of such amount, $226,831,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for nuclear waste disposal activities to carry out the purposes of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, Public Law 97–425, as amended, $12,040,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund.

ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY—ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities authorized by section 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110–69), $350,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That of such amount, $40,000,000 shall be

available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

TITLE 17 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Such sums as are derived from amounts received from borrowers pursuant to section 1702(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 under this heading in prior Acts, shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided*, That for necessary administrative expenses of the Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program, as authorized, $35,000,000 is appropriated, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That up to $35,000,000 of fees collected in fiscal year 2026 pursuant to section 1702(h) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 shall be credited as offsetting collections under this heading and used for necessary administrative expenses in this appropriation and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That to the extent that fees collected in fiscal year 2026 exceed $35,000,000, those excess amounts shall be credited as offsetting collections under this heading and available in future fiscal years only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced (1) as such fees are received during fiscal year 2026 (estimated at $240,000,000) and (2) to the extent that any remaining general fund appropriations can be derived from fees collected in previous fiscal years that are not otherwise appropriated, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation from the general fund estimated at $0: *Provided further*, That the Department of Energy shall not subordinate any loan obligation to other financing in violation of section 1702 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 or subordinate any Guaranteed Obligation to any loan or other debt obligations in violation of section 609.8 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations.

In addition, $150,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the cost of loan guarantees for the construction of small modular reactors or advanced nuclear reactors eligible under section 1703(b)(4) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16513(b)(4)): *Provided*, That the amounts provided under this paragraph are in addition to those provided in any other Act: *Provided further*, That for amounts collected pursuant to section 1702(b)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the source of such payment received from borrowers may not be a loan or other debt obligation that is guaranteed by the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That none of such loan guarantee authority made available under this paragraph shall be available for commitments to guarantee loans for any projects where funds, personnel, or property (tangible or intangible) of any Federal agency, instrumentality, personnel, or affiliated entity are expected be used (directly or indirectly) through acquisitions, contracts, demonstrations, exchanges, grants, incentives, leases, procurements, sales, other transaction authority, or other arrangements, to support the project or to obtain goods or services from the project: *Provided further*, That the preceding proviso shall not be interpreted as precluding the use of the loan guarantee authority provided under this paragraph for commitments to guarantee loans for:

(1) projects as a result of such projects benefitting from otherwise allowable Federal income tax benefits;

(2) projects as a result of such projects benefitting from being located on Federal land pursuant to a lease or right of-way agreement for which all consideration for all uses is:

(A) paid exclusively in cash;

(B) deposited in the Treasury as offsetting receipts; and

(C) equal to the fair market value as determined by the head of the relevant agency;

(3) projects as a result of such projects benefitting from Federal insurance programs, including under section 170 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2210; commonly known as the ''Price-Anderson Act''); or

(4) electric generation projects using transmission facilities owned or operated by a Federal Power Marketing Administration or the Tennessee Valley Authority that have been authorized, approved, and financed independent of the project receiving the guarantee:

Provided further, That none of the loan guarantee authority made available under this heading shall be available for any project unless the Director of the Office of Management and Budget has certified in advance in writing that the loan guarantee and the project comply with the provisions under this heading.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES MANUFACTURING LOAN PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary in carrying out the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, $9,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

TRIBAL ENERGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary in carrying out the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, $6,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

INDIAN ENERGY POLICY AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for Indian Energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), $75,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, $14,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Department of Energy necessary for departmental administration in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), $300,578,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and official reception and representation expenses not to exceed $30,000, plus such additional amounts as necessary to cover increases in the estimated amount of cost of work for others notwithstanding the provisions of the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.): *Provided*, That such increases in cost of work are offset by revenue increases of the same or greater amount: *Provided further*, That moneys received by the Department for miscellaneous revenues estimated to total $100,578,000 in fiscal year 2026 may be retained and used for operating expenses within this account, as authorized by section 201 of Public Law 95–238, notwithstanding the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 3302: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than $200,000,000.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of the Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, $90,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

WEAPONS ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for atomic energy defense weapons activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $20,378,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, $149,244,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for defense nuclear nonproliferation activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $2,367,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NAVAL REACTORS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for naval reactors activities to carry out the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition (by purchase, condemnation, construction, or otherwise) of real property, plant, and capital equipment, facilities, and facility expansion, $2,134,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which, $96,740,000 shall be transferred to ''Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy'', for the Advanced Test Reactor: *Provided*, That of such amount made available under this heading, $61,540,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

FEDERAL SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for Federal Salaries and Expenses in the National Nuclear Security Administration, $525,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, including official reception and representation expenses not to exceed $17,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for atomic energy defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $7,375,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, $312,818,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses, necessary for atomic energy defense, other defense activities, and classified activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility

acquisition, construction, or expansion, $1,170,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That of such amount, $384,404,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION FUND

Expenditures from the Bonneville Power Administration Fund, established pursuant to Public Law 93–454, are approved for: the Rocky Reach Kelt Facility, the Colville Acclimation Building Enclosures, the Colville Tribes Resident Fish Hatchery Expansion, the Chief Joseph Hatchery Water Quality Project, and the Umatilla Hatchery Facility and Acclimation Facilities: *Provided,* That expenditures are also approved for official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed $5,000: *Provided further,* That during fiscal year 2026, no new direct loan obligations may be made.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHEASTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, including transmission wheeling and ancillary services, pursuant to section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the southeastern power area, $9,285,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed $1,500, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, up to $9,285,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southeastern Power Administration: *Provided further,* That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than $0: *Provided further,* That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to $81,819,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further,* That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, for construction and acquisition of transmission lines, substations and appurtenant facilities, and for administrative expenses, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed $1,500 in carrying out section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration, $59,766,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), up to $49,366,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southwestern Power Administration: *Provided further,* That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than $10,400,000: *Provided further,* That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to $80,000,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further,* That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

For carrying out the functions authorized by title III, section 302(a)(1)(E) of the Act of August 4, 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7152), and other related activities including conservation and renewable resources programs as authorized, $311,035,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed $1,500, to remain available until expended, of which $311,035,000 shall be derived from the Department of the Interior Reclamation Fund: *Provided,* That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), and section 1 of the Interior Department Appropriation Act, 1939 (43 U.S.C. 392a), up to $247,663,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Western Area Power Administration: *Provided further,* That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than $63,372,000, of which $63,372,000 is derived from the Reclamation Fund: *Provided further,* That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to $475,000,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 and the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further,* That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

FALCON AND AMISTAD OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE FUND

For operation, maintenance, and emergency costs for the hydroelectric facilities at the Falcon and Amistad Dams, $6,510,000, to remain available until expended, and to be derived from the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund of the Western Area Power Administration, as provided in section 2 of the Act of June 18, 1954 (68 Stat. 255): *Provided,* That notwithstanding the provisions of that Act and of 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to $6,282,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services from the Falcon and Amistad Dams shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the hydroelectric facilities of these Dams and associated Western Area Power Administration activities: *Provided further,* That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than $228,000: *Provided further,* That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred: *Provided further,* That for fiscal year 2026, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration may accept up to $1,072,000 in funds contributed by United States power customers of the Falcon and Amistad Dams for deposit into the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund, and such funds shall be available for the purpose for which contributed in like manner as if said sums had been specifically appropriated for such purpose: *Provided further,* That any such funds shall be available without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation for use by the Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission for the sole purpose of operating, maintaining, repairing, rehabilitating, replacing, or upgrading the hydroelectric facilities at these Dams in accordance with agreements reached between the Administrator, Commissioner, and the power customers.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to carry out the provisions of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, official reception and representation expenses not to exceed $3,000, and the hire of passenger motor vehicles, $520,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed $520,000,000 of revenues from fees and annual charges, and other services and collections in fiscal year 2026 shall be retained and used for expenses necessary in this account, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further,* That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as revenues are received during fiscal year 2026 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than $0.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 301. (a) No appropriation, funds, or authority made available by this title for the Department of Energy shall be used to initiate or resume any program, project, or activity or to prepare or initiate Requests For Proposals or similar arrangements (including Requests for Quotations, Requests for Information, and Funding Opportunity Announcements) for a program, project, or activity if the program, project, or activity has not been funded by Congress.

(b)(1) Unless the Secretary of Energy notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 full business days in advance, none of the funds made available in this title may be used to—

(A) make a grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling $1,000,000 or more;

(B) make a discretionary contract award or Other Transaction Agreement totaling $1,000,000 or more, including a contract covered by the Federal Acquisition Regulation;

(C) provide nonoperational funding through a competition restricted only to Department of Energy National Laboratories totaling $1,000,000 or more;

(D) provide nonoperational funding directly to a Department of Energy National Laboratory totaling $25,000,000 or more;

(E) issue a letter of intent to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D);

(F) announce publicly the intention to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D); or

(G) issue a letter to terminate an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D).

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 15 days of the conclusion of each quarter a report detailing each grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling less than $1,000,000 provided during the previous quarter.

(3) The notification required by paragraph (1) and the report required by paragraph (2) shall include the recipient of the award, the amount of the award, the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated, the account and program, project, or activity from which the funds are being drawn, the title of the award, and a brief description of the activity for which the award is made.

(c) The Department of Energy may not, with respect to any program, project, or activity that uses budget authority made available in this title under the heading ''Department of Energy—Energy Programs'', enter into a multiyear contract, award a multiyear grant, or enter into a multiyear cooperative agreement unless—

(1) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award; or

(2) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement includes a clause conditioning the Federal Government's obligation on the availability of future year budget authority and the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 days in advance.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (e), (f), and (g), the amounts made available by this title shall be expended as authorized by law for the programs, projects, and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the ''Final Bill'' column in the ''Department of Energy'' table included under the heading ''Title III—Department of Energy'' in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

(e) The amounts made available by this title may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Department shall notify, and obtain the prior approval of, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program, project, or activity funding level to increase or decrease by more than $5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(f) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates, initiates, or eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(2) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act; or

(3) reduces funds that are directed to be used for a specific program, project, or activity by this Act.

(g)(1) The Secretary of Energy may waive any requirement or restriction in this section that applies to the use of funds made available for the Department of Energy if compliance with such requirement or restriction would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver.

(h) The unexpended balances of prior appropriations provided for activities in this Act may be available to the same appropriation accounts for such activities established pursuant to this title. Available balances may be merged with funds in the applicable established accounts and thereafter may be accounted for as one fund for the same time period as originally enacted.

SEC. 302. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for the construction of facilities classified as high-hazard nuclear facilities under 10 CFR Part 830 unless independent oversight is conducted by the Office of Enterprise Assessments to ensure the project is in compliance with nuclear safety requirements.

SEC. 303. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to approve critical decision-2 or critical decision-3 under Department of Energy Order 413.3B, or any successive departmental guidance, for construction projects where the total project cost exceeds $100,000,000, until a separate independent cost estimate has been developed for the project for that critical decision.

SEC. 304. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to support a grant allocation award, discretionary grant award, or cooperative agreement that exceeds $100,000,000 in Federal funding unless the project is carried out through internal independent project management procedures.

SEC. 305. No funds shall be transferred directly from ''Department of Energy—Power Marketing Administration—Colorado River Basins Power Marketing Fund, Western Area Power Administration'' to the general fund of the Treasury in the current fiscal year.

SEC. 306. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to draw down and sell petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (1) to any entity that is under the ownership, control, or influence of the Chinese Communist Party; or (2) except on condition that such petroleum products will not be exported to the People's Republic of China.

SEC. 307. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Energy to award any grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or loan of $10,000,000 or greater to an entity of concern as defined in section 10114 of division B of Public Law 117–167.

(b) The Secretary shall implement the requirements under subsection (a) using a risk-based approach and analytical tools to aggregate, link, analyze, and maintain information reported by an entity seeking or receiving such funds made available by this Act.

(c) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with the obligations of the United States under applicable international agreements.

(d) The Secretary shall have the authority to require the submission to the agency, by an entity seeking or receiving such funds made available by this Act, documentation necessary to implement the requirements under subsection (a).

(e) Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Paperwork Reduction Act''), shall not apply to the implementation of the requirements under this section.

(f) The Secretary and other Federal agencies shall coordinate to share relevant information necessary to implement the requirements under subsection (a).

SEC. 308. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to admit any non-U.S. citizen from Russia or China to any nuclear weapons production facility, as such term is defined in section 4002 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2501), other than areas accessible to the general public, unless 30 days prior to facility admittance, the Department of Energy provides notification to the Committees on Appropriations and Armed Services of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 309. Funds made available in this title under the headings ''Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy'', ''Electricity'', ''Fossil Energy'', ''Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response'', and ''Science'' that are allocated for the purposes of section 9 of the Small Business Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 638), including for Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer activities, or for the purposes of section 1001 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended (42 U.S.C. 16391), for Technology Commercialization Fund activities, may be reprogrammed within each account without being subject to the restrictions in section 301 of this title: *Provided*, That the administration and selection of awards pursuant to such sections will be in coordination with the offices that oversee the appropriations accounts to which the relevant funding was originally appropriated.

SEC. 310. Section 15(g)(3) of Public Law 85–536 (15 U.S.C. 644(g)(3)) is further amended by inserting ''and by site support prime contractors at the National Energy Technology Laboratory'' following ''Department of Energy''.

SEC. 311. (a) Of the amounts specified in subsection (d), $3,100,000,000 shall be transferred to, and merged with, amounts provided in this Act under the heading ''Nuclear Energy'' that remain available until expended, and in addition to amounts otherwise available, shall only be available for the not more than two competitive awards for Generation 3+ small modular reactor deployment projects described in section 311(a)(1)(A) of division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118–42), the two awards for demonstration projects made prior to the date of enactment of this Act under the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program, as authorized under section 959A of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16279a), and Risk Reduction for Future Demonstrations, as described under the heading Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program in the explanatory statement accompanying division C of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94).

(b) Of the amounts specified in subsection (d), $375,000,000 shall be transferred to, and merged with, amounts provided in this Act under the heading ''Grid Deployment Office'' that remain available until expended, and in addition to amounts otherwise available, shall be available for necessary expenses to carry out a program to enhance the domestic supply chain for the manufacture of distribution and power transformers, components, and materials, and electric grid components, including financial assistance, technical assistance, and competitive awards for procurement and acquisition.

(c) Of the amounts provided in this title that remain available until expended, the following amounts shall be derived by transfer from the funds specified in subsection (d):

(1) $1,150,000,000 of the amounts provided under the heading ''Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy'';
(2) $100,000,000 of the amounts provided under the heading ''Nuclear Energy'';
(3) $140,000,000 of the amounts provided under the heading ''Fossil Energy'';
(4) $150,000,000 of the amounts provided under the heading ''Science''; and
(5) $150,000,000 of the amounts provided in the second paragraph under the heading ''Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program''.

(d) The funds specified in this subsection are the unobligated balances, as of the date of enactment of this Act, from amounts provided in title III of division J of Public Law 117–58, as follows:
(1) $1,281,141,701 of the amounts made available to carry out section 40323 of division D of Public Law 117–58;
(2) $1,500,000,000 of the amounts made available to carry out subtitle J of title IX of the Energy Policy Act of 2005;
(3) $1,040,000,000 of the amounts made available to carry out section 969D of the Energy Policy Act of 2005;
(4) $950,000,000 of the amounts made available to carry out subparagraph (B) or subparagraph (C) of section 962(b)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; and
(5) $393,858,299 of the amounts provided under the heading ''Energy Programs—Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy''.

(e) Not later than 15 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Energy shall transmit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report that details the amounts repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section: *Provided*, That such report shall be delineated by both source and destination by Treasury Appropriations Fund Symbol and statutory authority (including by subparagraph for funds specified in subsection (d)(4)).

(f) Amounts repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118–5.

SEC. 312. Section 4(c)(10)(B) of the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 839b(c)(10)(B)) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting '', adjusted for inflation.''.

SEC. 313. In making Federal financial assistance, the Department of Energy shall continue to apply the indirect cost rates, including negotiated indirect cost rates, as described in section 200.414 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, including with respect to the approval of deviations from negotiated indirect cost rates, to the same extent and in the same manner as was applied in fiscal year 2024: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this or prior Acts or otherwise made available to the Department of Energy may be used to develop, modify, or implement changes to such negotiated indirect cost rates.

TITLE IV

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the programs authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, as amended, and for expenses necessary for the Federal Co-Chairman and the Alternate on the Appalachian Regional Commission, for payment of the Federal share of the administrative expenses of the Commission, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, and hire of passenger motor vehicles, $200,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in carrying out activities authorized by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by Public Law 100–456, section 1441, $42,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which not to exceed $1,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Delta Regional Authority and to carry out its activities, as authorized by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, notwithstanding sections 382F(d), 382M, and 382N of said Act, $32,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DENALI COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Denali Commission including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment as necessary and other expenses, $18,000,000, to remain available until expended, notwithstanding the limitations contained in section 306(g) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998: *Provided*, That funds shall be available for construction projects for which the Denali Commission is the sole or primary funding source in an amount not to exceed 90 percent of total project cost for distressed communities, as defined by such section and by section 701 of appendix D, title VII, Public Law 106–113 (113 Stat. 1501A–280), and for Indian Tribes, as defined by section 5304(e) of title 25, United States Code, and in an amount not to exceed 50 percent for non-distressed communities: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding payment of a non-Federal share in connection with a grant-in-aid program, amounts under this heading shall be available for the payment of such a non-Federal share for any project for which the Denali Commission is not the sole or primary funding source, provided that such project is consistent with the purposes of the Commission.

NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Northern Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, $42,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be available for administrative expenses, notwithstanding section 15751(b) of title 40, United States Code.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to establish a Northwest Regional Commission located in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana, $1,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That amounts provided to the Northwest Regional Commission shall be used to carry out activities authorized for other regional Commissions by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code.

SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, $20,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SOUTHWEST BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Southwest Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, $5,500,000, to remain available until expended.

GREAT LAKES AUTHORITY

For expenses necessary for the Great Lakes Authority in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, $5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Commission in carrying out the purposes of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 and the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, $952,700,000, including official representation expenses not to exceed $30,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated herein, not more than $11,494,000 may be made available for salaries, travel, and other support costs for the Office of the Commission, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at $804,509,977 in fiscal year 2026 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2026 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than $148,190,023.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, $18,795,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at $14,885,000 in fiscal year 2026 shall be retained and be available until September 30, 2027, for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2026 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than $3,910,000: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, $1,572,000 shall be for Inspector General services for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, as authorized by Public Law 100–203, section 5051, $4,000,000, to be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

SEC. 401. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall comply with the July 5, 2011, version of Chapter VI of its Internal Commission Procedures when responding to Congressional requests for information, consistent with Department of Justice guidance for all Federal agencies.

SEC. 402. (a) The amounts made available by this title for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program funding level to increase or decrease by more than $500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(b)(1) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission may waive the notification requirement in subsection (a) if compliance with such requirement would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such

notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver and shall provide a detailed report to the Committees of such waiver and changes to funding levels to programs, projects, or activities.

(c) Except as provided in subsections (a), (b), and (d), the amounts made available by this title for ''Nuclear Regulatory Commission—Salaries and Expenses'' shall be expended as directed in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

(d) None of the funds provided for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act.

(e) The Commission shall provide a monthly report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, which includes the following for each program, project, or activity, including any prior year appropriations—

(1) total budget authority;

(2) total unobligated balances; and

(3) total unliquidated obligations.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 501. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 502. (a) None of the funds made available in title III of this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(b) None of the funds made available for any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may be transferred to accounts funded in title III of this Act, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(c) The head of any relevant department or agency funded in this Act utilizing any transfer authority shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a semiannual report detailing the transfer authorities, except for any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality, used in the previous 6 months and in the year-to-date. This report shall include the amounts transferred and the purposes for which they were transferred, and shall not replace or modify existing notification requirements for each authority.

SEC. 503. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

This division may be cited as the ''Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026''.

DIVISION C—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES

For necessary expenses for protection, use, improvement, development, disposal, cadastral surveying, classification, acquisition of easements and other interests in lands, and performance of other functions, including maintenance of facilities, as authorized by law, in the management of lands and their resources under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, including the general administration of the Bureau, and assessment of mineral potential of public lands pursuant to section 1010(a) of Public Law 96–487 (16 U.S.C. 3150(a)), $1,260,166,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027; of which $48,560,000 for annual maintenance and deferred maintenance programs and $144,000,000 for the wild horse and burro program, as authorized by Public Law 92–195 (16 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That amounts in the fee account of the BLM Permit Processing Improvement Fund may be used for any bureau-related expenses associated with the processing of oil and gas applications for permits to drill and related use of authorizations: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, up to $1,000,000 may be made available for the purposes described in section 122(e)(1)(A) of division G of Public Law 115–31 (43 U.S.C. 1748c(e)(1)(A)): *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, not to exceed $15,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, $3,246,000 is for projects specified for Land Management Priorities in the table titled ''Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, up to $3,000,000 of the amounts made available for Wildlife habitat management shall be available in fiscal year 2026 subject to a match by at least an equal amount by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for cost-shared projects supporting conservation of Bureau lands; and such funds shall be advanced to the Foundation as a lump-sum grant without regard to when expenses are incurred.

In addition, $42,696,000 is for Mining Law Administration program operations, including the cost of administering the mining claim fee program, to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Bureau and credited to this appropriation from mining claim maintenance fees and location fees that are hereby authorized for fiscal year 2026, so as to result in a final appropriation estimated at not more than $1,260,166,000, and $2,000,000, to remain available until expended, from communication site rental fees established by the Bureau for the cost of administering communication site activities.

OREGON AND CALIFORNIA GRANT LANDS

For expenses necessary for management, protection, and development of resources and for construction, operation, and maintenance of access roads, reforestation, and other improvements on the revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands, on other Federal lands in the Oregon and California land-grant counties of Oregon, and on adjacent rights-of-way; and acquisition of lands or interests therein, including existing connecting roads on or adjacent to such grant lands; $115,521,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Bureau of Land Management shall maintain the current Western Oregon Operating Plan and will fully participate in a unified wildfire protection system.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

For rehabilitation, protection, and acquisition of lands and interests therein, and improvement of Federal rangelands pursuant to section 401 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1751), notwithstanding any other Act, sums equal to 50 percent of all moneys received during the prior fiscal year under sections 3 and 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act (43 U.S.C. 315b, 315m) and the amount designated for range improvements from grazing fees and mineral leasing receipts from Bankhead-Jones lands transferred to the Department of the Interior pursuant to law, but not less than $10,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed $600,000 shall be available for administrative expenses.

SERVICE CHARGES, DEPOSITS, AND FORFEITURES

For administrative expenses and other costs related to processing application documents and other authorizations for use and disposal of public lands and resources, for costs of providing copies of official public land documents, for monitoring construction, operation, and termination of facilities in conjunction with use authorizations, and for rehabilitation of damaged property, such amounts as may be collected under Public Law 94–579 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185), to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any provision to the contrary of section 305(a) of Public Law 94–579 (43 U.S.C. 1735(a)), any moneys that have been or will be received pursuant to that section, whether as a result of forfeiture, compromise, or settlement, if not appropriate for refund pursuant to section 305(c) of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1735(c)), shall be available and may be expended under the authority of this Act by the Secretary of the Interior to improve, protect, or rehabilitate any public lands administered through the Bureau of Land Management which have been damaged by the action of a resource developer, purchaser, permittee, or any unauthorized person, without regard to whether all moneys collected from each such action are used on the exact lands damaged which led to the action: *Provided further*, That any such moneys that are in excess of amounts needed to repair damage to the exact land for which funds were collected may be used to repair other damaged public lands.

MISCELLANEOUS TRUST FUNDS

In addition to amounts authorized to be expended under existing laws, there is hereby appropriated such amounts as may be contributed under section 307 of Public Law 94–579 (43 U.S.C. 1737), and such amounts as may be advanced for administrative costs, surveys, appraisals, and costs of making conveyances of omitted lands under section

211(b) of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1721(b)), to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The Bureau of Land Management may carry out the operations funded under this Act by direct expenditure, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and reimbursable agreements with public and private entities, including with States. Appropriations for the Bureau shall be available for purchase, erection, and dismantlement of temporary structures, and alteration and maintenance of necessary buildings and appurtenant facilities to which the United States has title; up to $100,000 for payments, at the discretion of the Secretary, for information or evidence concerning violations of laws administered by the Bureau; miscellaneous and emergency expenses of enforcement activities authorized or approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for solely on the Secretary's certificate, not to exceed $10,000: *Provided,* That notwithstanding Public Law 90–620 (44 U.S.C. 501), the Bureau may, under cooperative cost-sharing and partnership arrangements authorized by law, procure printing services from cooperators in connection with jointly produced publications for which the cooperators share the cost of printing either in cash or in services, and the Bureau determines the cooperator is capable of meeting accepted quality standards: *Provided further,* That projects to be funded pursuant to a written commitment by a State government to provide an identified amount of money in support of the project may be carried out by the Bureau on a reimbursable basis: *Provided further,* That the Bureau of Land Management shall maintain staffing levels in order to fulfill the mission required under title 16, title 30, title 43, and title 54, United States Code, including to protect natural and cultural resources, provide and maintain appropriate access and recreation for visitors, provide safety precautions for visitors and staff, maintain physical and natural infrastructure, provide information and respond to stakeholders and the general public, conduct tribal consultation, provide for administrative support, manage energy and minerals resources, and carry out other activities in support of effectively managing the National Conservation Lands and other public lands in a timely manner.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as authorized by law, and for scientific and economic studies, general administration, and for the performance of other authorized functions related to such resources, $1,451,515,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which not to exceed $15,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided,* That not to exceed $14,000,000 shall be used for implementing subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e) of section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) (except for processing petitions, developing and issuing proposed and final regulations, and taking any other steps to implement actions described in subsection (c)(2)(A), (c)(2)(B)(i), or (c)(2)(B)(ii) of such section): *Provided further,* That of the amount appropriated under this heading, $19,115,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, shall be for projects specified for Stewardship Priorities in the table titled ''Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further,* That amounts in the preceding proviso may be transferred to the appropriate program, project, or activity under this heading and shall continue to only be available for the purposes and in such amounts as such funds were originally appropriated.

CONSTRUCTION

For construction, improvement, acquisition, or removal of buildings and other facilities required in the conservation, management, investigation, protection, and utilization of fish and wildlife resources, and the acquisition of lands and interests therein; $14,709,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That of the amounts made available under this heading, $1,000,000 is for the project specified for Line Item Construction Projects in the table titled ''Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1535), $22,202,000, to remain available until expended, to be derived from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND

For expenses necessary to implement the Act of October 17, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 715s), $13,228,000.

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.), $49,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION

For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), $5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.), the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4261 et seq.), the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.), $21,000,000, to remain available until expended.

STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS

For wildlife conservation grants to States and to the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Indian tribes under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished, $73,812,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That of the amount provided herein, $6,200,000 is for a competitive grant program for Indian tribes not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: *Provided further,* That $7,612,000 is for a competitive grant program to implement approved plans for States, territories, and other jurisdictions and at the discretion of affected States, the regional Associations of fish and wildlife agencies, not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: *Provided further,* That the Secretary shall, after deducting $13,812,000 and administrative expenses, apportion the amount provided herein in the following manner: (1) to the District of Columbia and to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, each a sum equal to not more than one-half of 1 percent thereof; and (2) to Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, each a sum equal to not more than one-fourth of 1 percent thereof: *Provided further,* That the Secretary of the Interior shall apportion the remaining amount in the following manner: (1) one-third of which is based on the ratio to which the land area of such State bears to the total land area of all such States; and (2) two-thirds of which is based on the ratio to which the population of such State bears to the total population of all such States: *Provided further,* That the amounts apportioned under this paragraph shall be adjusted equitably so that no State shall be apportioned a sum which is less than 1 percent of the amount available for apportionment under this paragraph for any fiscal year or more than 5 percent of such amount: *Provided further,* That the Federal share of planning grants shall not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such projects and the Federal share of implementation grants shall not exceed 65 percent of the total costs of such projects: *Provided further,* That the non-Federal share of such projects may not be derived from Federal grant programs: *Provided further,* That any amount apportioned in 2026 to any State, territory, or other jurisdiction that remains unobligated as of September 30, 2027, shall be reapportioned, together with funds appropriated in 2028, in the manner provided herein.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service may carry out the operations of Service programs by direct expenditure, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements and reimbursable agreements with public and private entities. Appropriations and funds available to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall be available for repair of damage to public roads within and adjacent to reservation areas caused by operations of the Service; options for the purchase of land at not to exceed one dollar for each option; facilities incident to such public recreational uses on conservation areas as are consistent with their primary purpose; and the maintenance and improvement of aquaria, buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Service and to which the United States has title, and which are used pursuant to law in connection with management, and investigation of fish and wildlife resources: *Provided,* That notwithstanding 44 U.S.C. 501, the Service may, under cooperative cost sharing and partnership arrangements authorized by law, procure printing services from cooperators in connection with jointly produced publications for which the cooperators share at least one-half the cost of printing either in cash or services and the Service determines the cooperator is capable of meeting accepted quality standards: *Provided further,* That the Service may accept donated aircraft as replacements for existing aircraft: *Provided further,* That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, all fees collected for non-toxic shot review and approval shall be deposited under the heading ''United States Fish and Wildlife Service—Resource Management'' and shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, to be used for expenses of processing of such non-toxic shot type or coating applications and revising regulations as necessary, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further,* That the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall maintain staffing levels in order to fulfill the mission required under title 16, title 43,

and title 54, United States Code, including to protect natural and cultural resources, provide and maintain appropriate access and recreation for visitors, provide safety precautions for visitors and staff, maintain physical and natural infrastructure, provide information and respond to stakeholders and the general public, conduct tribal consultation, provide for administrative support, enforce Federal wildlife laws, protect species, uphold Acts, treaties, conventions and agreements to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats, providing professional expertise to other agencies and international and private partners, and carry out other activities in support of effectively operating the National Fish Hatchery System and National Wildlife Refuge System and carrying out programs administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in a timely manner.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

For expenses necessary for the management, operation, protection, and maintenance of areas and facilities administered by the National Park Service and for the general administration of the National Park Service, $2,877,195,000, of which $11,661,000 for planning and interagency coordination in support of Everglades restoration and $148,285,000 for maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation projects for constructed assets and $157,950,000 for cyclic maintenance projects for constructed assets and cultural resources and $12,500,000 for uses authorized by section 101122 of title 54, United States Code shall remain available until September 30, 2027, and not to exceed $15,000 may be for official reception and representative expenses: *Provided,* That funds appropriated under this heading in this Act are available for the purposes of section 5 of Public Law 95–348: *Provided further,* That notwithstanding section 9 of the 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act (36 U.S.C. note prec. 101; Public Law 115–102), $3,300,000 of the funds provided under this heading shall be made available for the purposes specified by that Act: *Provided further,* That sections 7(b) and 8 of that Act shall be amended by striking ''July 1, 2025'' and inserting ''July 1, 2027''.

In addition, for purposes described in section 2404 of Public Law 116–9, an amount equal to the amount deposited in this fiscal year into the National Park Medical Services Fund established pursuant to such section of such Act, to remain available until expended, shall be derived from such Fund.

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PRESERVATION

For expenses necessary to carry out recreation programs, natural programs, cultural programs, heritage partnership programs, environmental compliance and review, international park affairs, and grant administration, not otherwise provided for, $91,596,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which $250,000 shall be for projects specified for Statutory and Contractual Aid in the table titled ''Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary in carrying out the National Historic Preservation Act (division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code), $205,059,000, to be derived from the Historic Preservation Fund and to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which $25,500,000 shall be for Save America's Treasures grants for preservation of nationally significant sites, structures and artifacts as authorized by section 7303 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (54 U.S.C. 3089): *Provided,* That an individual Save America's Treasures grant shall be matched by non-Federal funds: *Provided further,* That individual projects shall only be eligible for one grant: *Provided further,* That all projects to be funded shall be approved by the Secretary of the Interior in consultation with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further,*That of the funds provided for the Historic Preservation Fund, $1,250,000 is for competitive grants for the survey and nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places and as National Historic Landmarks associated with communities currently under-represented, as determined by the Secretary; $24,000,000 is for competitive grants to preserve the sites and stories of the African American Civil Rights movement; $5,000,000 is for competitive grants to preserve sites related to the struggle of all people to achieve equal rights in America; $11,000,000 is for grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities; $7,906,000 is for competitive grants for the restoration of historic properties of national, State, and local significance listed on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, to be made without imposing the usage or direct grant restrictions of section 101(e)(3) (54 U.S.C. 302904) of the National Historic Preservation Act; $4,907,000 is for a competitive grant program to honor the semiquincentennial anniversary of the United States by restoring and preserving sites and structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places that commemorate the founding of the nation; $62,150,000 is for State Historic Preservation Offices; $23,750,000 is for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices; and $15,596,000 is for projects specified for the Historic Preservation Fund in the table titled ''Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further,* That such competitive grants shall be made without imposing the matching requirements in section 302902(b)(3) of title 54, United States Code to States and Indian tribes as defined in chapter 3003 of such title, Native Hawaiian organizations, local governments, including Certified Local Governments, and non-profit organizations.

CONSTRUCTION

For construction, improvements, repair, or replacement of physical facilities, and related equipment, and compliance and planning for programs and areas administered by the National Park Service, $88,461,000, of which $3,190,000 is for projects specified for Line item construction and maintenance in the table titled ''Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That notwithstanding any other provision of law, for any project initially funded in fiscal year 2026 with a future phase indicated in the National Park Service 5–Year Line Item Construction Plan, a single procurement may be issued which includes the full scope of the project: *Provided further,* That the solicitation and contract shall contain the clause availability of funds found at 48 CFR 52.232–18: *Provided further,* That National Park Service Donations, Park Concessions Franchise Fees, and Recreation Fees may be made available for the cost of adjustments and changes within the original scope of effort for projects funded by the National Park Service Construction appropriation: *Provided further,* That the Secretary of the Interior shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations, in accordance with current reprogramming thresholds, prior to making any changes authorized by this section.

CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of section 101701 of title 54, United States Code, relating to challenge cost share agreements, $5,000,000, to remain available until expended, for Centennial Challenge projects and programs: *Provided,* That not less than 50 percent of the total cost of each project or program shall be derived from non-Federal sources in the form of donated cash, assets, or a pledge of donation guaranteed by an irrevocable letter of credit.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In addition to other uses set forth in section 101917(c)(2) of title 54, United States Code, franchise fees credited to a sub-account shall be available for expenditure by the Secretary, without further appropriation, for use at any unit within the National Park System to extinguish or reduce liability for Possessory Interest or leasehold surrender interest. Such funds may only be used for this purpose to the extent that the benefitting unit anticipated franchise fee receipts over the term of the contract at that unit exceed the amount of funds used to extinguish or reduce liability. Franchise fees at the benefitting unit shall be credited to the sub-account of the originating unit over a period not to exceed the term of a single contract at the benefitting unit, in the amount of funds so expended to extinguish or reduce liability.

For the costs of administration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund grants authorized by section 105(a)(2)(B) of Public Law 109–432 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note), the National Park Service may retain up to 3 percent of the amounts which are authorized to be disbursed under such section, such retained amounts to remain available until expended.

National Park Service funds may be transferred to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation, for purposes authorized under 23 U.S.C. 203. Transfers may include a reasonable amount for FHWA administrative support costs.

The National Park Service shall maintain staffing levels in order to fulfill the mission required under title 16, title 43, and title 54, United States Code, including to protect natural and cultural resources, provide and maintain appropriate access and recreation for visitors, provide safety precautions for visitors and staff, maintain physical and natural infrastructure, provide information and respond to stakeholders and the general public, conduct tribal consultation, provide for administrative support, administer historic and other preservation programs, and carry out other activities in support of effectively operating the National Park System and carrying out programs administered by the National Park Service in a timely manner.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the United States Geological Survey to perform surveys, investigations, and research covering topography, geology, hydrology, biology, and the mineral and water resources of the United States, its territories and possessions, and other areas as authorized by 43

U.S.C. 31, 1332, and 1340; classify lands as to their mineral and water resources; give engineering supervision to power permittees and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensees; administer the minerals exploration program (30 U.S.C. 641); conduct inquiries into the economic conditions affecting mining and materials processing industries (30 U.S.C. 3, 21a, and 1603; 50 U.S.C. 98g(a)(1)) and related purposes as authorized by law; and to publish and disseminate data relative to the foregoing activities; $1,420,433,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027; of which $95,334,000 shall remain available until expended for satellite operations; and of which $74,840,000 shall be available until expended for deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects that exceed $100,000 in cost: *Provided*, That none of the funds provided for the ecosystem research activity shall be used to conduct new surveys on private property, unless specifically authorized in writing by the property owner: *Provided further*, That no part of this appropriation shall be used to pay more than one-half the cost of topographic mapping or water resources data collection and investigations carried on in cooperation with States and municipalities: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, $2,250,000 shall be for projects specified for Special Initiatives in the table titled ''Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That amounts in the preceding proviso may be transferred to the appropriate program, project, or activity under this heading and shall continue to only be available for the purposes and in such amounts as such funds were originally appropriated: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, not to exceed $15,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

From within the amount appropriated for activities of the United States Geological Survey such sums as are necessary shall be available for contracting for the furnishing of topographic maps and for the making of geophysical or other specialized surveys when it is administratively determined that such procedures are in the public interest; construction and maintenance of necessary buildings and appurtenant facilities; acquisition of lands for gauging stations, observation wells, and seismic equipment; expenses of the United States National Committee for Geological Sciences; and payment of compensation and expenses of persons employed by the Survey duly appointed to represent the United States in the negotiation and administration of interstate compacts: *Provided*, That activities funded by appropriations herein made may be accomplished through the use of contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements (including noncompetitive cooperative agreements with tribes) as defined in section 6302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the United States Geological Survey may enter into contracts or cooperative agreements directly with individuals or indirectly with institutions or nonprofit organizations, without regard to 41 U.S.C. 6101, for the temporary or intermittent services of students or recent graduates, who shall be considered employees for the purpose of chapters 57 and 81 of title 5, United States Code, relating to compensation for travel and work injuries, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, relating to tort claims, but shall not be considered to be Federal employees for any other purposes.

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

For expenses necessary for granting and administering leases, easements, rights-of-way, and agreements for use for oil and gas, other minerals, energy, and marine-related purposes on the Outer Continental Shelf and approving operations related thereto, as authorized by law; for environmental studies, as authorized by law; for implementing other laws and to the extent provided by Presidential or Secretarial delegation; and for matching grants or cooperative agreements, $191,128,000, of which $133,128,000 is to remain available until September 30, 2027, and of which $58,000,000 is to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That this total appropriation shall be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary of the Interior and credited to this appropriation from additions to receipts resulting from increases to lease rental rates in effect on August 5, 1993, and from cost recovery fees from activities conducted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, including studies, assessments, analysis, and miscellaneous administrative activities: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as such collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than $133,128,000: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $3,000 shall be available for reasonable expenses related to promoting volunteer beach and marine cleanup activities: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $5,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

OFFSHORE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

For expenses necessary for the regulation of operations related to leases, easements, rights-of-way, and agreements for use for oil and gas, other minerals, energy, and marine-related purposes on the Outer Continental Shelf, as authorized by law; for enforcing and implementing laws and regulations as authorized by law and to the extent provided by Presidential or Secretarial delegation; and for matching grants or cooperative agreements, $160,751,000, of which $128,871,000, including not to exceed $3,000 for official reception and representation expenses, is to remain available until September 30, 2027, and of which $31,880,000 is to remain available until expended, including $2,880,000 for offshore decommissioning activities: *Provided*, That this total appropriation shall be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary of the Interior and credited to this appropriation from additions to receipts resulting from increases to lease rental rates in effect on August 5, 1993, and from cost recovery fees from activities conducted by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, including studies, assessments, analysis, and miscellaneous administrative activities: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as such collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than $131,751,000.

For an additional amount, $36,000,000, to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary and credited to this appropriation, which shall be derived from non-refundable inspection fees collected in fiscal year 2026, as provided in this Act: *Provided*, That for fiscal year 2026, not less than 50 percent of the inspection fees expended by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement will be used to fund personnel and mission-related costs to expand capacity and expedite the orderly development, subject to environmental safeguards, of the Outer Continental Shelf pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), including the review of applications for permits to drill.

OIL SPILL RESEARCH

For necessary expenses to carry out title I, section 1016; title IV, sections 4202 and 4303; title VII; and title VIII, section 8201 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, $15,099,000, which shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, to remain available until expended.

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

REGULATION AND TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, Public Law 95–87, $117,575,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which $63,700,000 shall be available for State and tribal regulatory grants, and of which not to exceed $5,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That appropriations for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement may provide for the travel and per diem expenses of State and tribal personnel attending Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement sponsored training.

In addition, for costs to review, administer, and enforce permits issued by the Office pursuant to section 507 of Public Law 95–87 (30 U.S.C. 1257), $40,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That fees assessed and collected by the Office pursuant to such section 507 shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than $117,575,000.

ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND

For necessary expenses to carry out title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, Public Law 95–87, $32,975,000, to be derived from receipts of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That pursuant to Public Law 97–365, the Department of the Interior is authorized to use up to 20 percent from the recovery of the delinquent debt owed to the United States Government to pay for contracts to collect these debts: *Provided further*, That funds made available under title IV of Public Law 95–87 may be used for any required non-Federal share of the cost of projects funded by the Federal Government for the purpose of environmental restoration related to treatment or abatement of acid mine drainage from abandoned mines: *Provided further*, That such projects must be consistent with the purposes and priorities of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act: *Provided further*, That amounts provided under this heading may be used for the travel and per diem expenses of State and tribal personnel attending Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement sponsored training: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading, not to exceed $5,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

In addition, $134,000,000, to remain available until expended, for payments to States and federally recognized Indian tribes for reclamation of abandoned mine lands and

other related activities in accordance with the terms and conditions described in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That such additional amount shall be used for economic and community development in conjunction with the priorities described in section 403(a) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1233(a)): *Provided further*, That of such additional amount, $88,500,000 shall be distributed in equal amounts to the three Appalachian States with the greatest amount of unfunded needs to meet the priorities described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of such section, $33,750,000 shall be distributed in equal amounts to the three Appalachian States with the subsequent greatest amount of unfunded needs to meet such priorities, and $11,750,000 shall be for grants to federally recognized Indian tribes, without regard to their status as certified or uncertified under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1233(a)), for reclamation of abandoned mine lands and other related activities in accordance with the terms and conditions described in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act) and shall be used for economic and community development in conjunction with the priorities in section 403(a) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977: *Provided further*, That such payments shall be made to States and federally recognized Indian tribes not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That if payments have not been made by the date specified in the preceding proviso, the amount appropriated for salaries and expenses under the heading ''Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement'' shall be reduced by $100,000 per day until such payments have been made.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the operation of Indian programs, as authorized by law, including the Snyder Act of November 2, 1921 (25 U.S.C. 13) and the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), $1,933,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, except as otherwise provided herein; of which not to exceed $15,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses; of which not to exceed $78,494,000 shall be for welfare assistance payments: *Provided*, That in cases of designated Federal disasters, the Secretary of the Interior may exceed such cap for welfare payments from the amounts provided herein, to provide for disaster relief to Indian communities affected by the disaster: *Provided further*, That federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations of federally recognized Indian tribes may use their tribal priority allocations for unmet welfare assistance costs: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $71,495,000 shall remain available until expended for housing improvement, road maintenance, land acquisition, attorney fees, litigation support, land records improvement, hearings and appeals, and the Navajo-Hopi Settlement Program: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, $8,491,000 shall be for projects specified for Special Initiatives (CDS) in the table titled ''Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That any forestry funds allocated to a federally recognized tribe which remain unobligated as of September 30, 2027, may be transferred during fiscal year 2028 to an Indian forest land assistance account established for the benefit of the holder of the funds within the holder's trust fund account: *Provided further*, That any such unobligated balances not so transferred shall expire on September 30, 2028: *Provided further*, That in order to enhance the safety of Bureau field employees, the Bureau may use funds to purchase uniforms or other identifying articles of clothing for personnel: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $7,096,000 of funds made available under this heading may, as needed, be transferred to ''Office of the Secretary—Departmental Operations'' for trust, probate, and administrative functions: *Provided further*, That the Bureau of Indian Affairs may accept transfers of funds from United States Customs and Border Protection to supplement any other funding available for reconstruction or repair of roads owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as identified on the National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory, 23 U.S.C. 202(b)(1).

INDIAN LAND CONSOLIDATION

For the acquisition of fractional interests to further land consolidation as authorized under the Indian Land Consolidation Act Amendments of 2000 (Public Law 106–462), and the American Indian Probate Reform Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–374), $4,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That any provision of the Indian Land Consolidation Act Amendments of 2000 (Public Law 106–462) that requires or otherwise relates to application of a lien shall not apply to the acquisitions funded herein.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS

For payments to tribes and tribal organizations for contract support costs associated with Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act agreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education for fiscal year 2026, such sums as may be necessary, which shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts made available under this heading shall be available for transfer to another budget account.

PAYMENTS FOR TRIBAL LEASES

For payments to tribes and tribal organizations for leases pursuant to section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)) for fiscal year 2026, such sums as may be necessary, which shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts made available under this heading shall be available for transfer to another budget account.

CONSTRUCTION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For construction, repair, improvement, and maintenance of irrigation and power systems, buildings, utilities, and other facilities, including architectural and engineering services by contract; acquisition of lands, and interests in lands; and preparation of lands for farming, and for construction of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project pursuant to Public Law 87–483; $135,780,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts as may be available for the construction of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project may be transferred to the Bureau of Reclamation: *Provided further*, That any funds provided for the Safety of Dams program pursuant to the Indian Dams Safety Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 3804), shall be made available on a nonreimbursable basis: *Provided further*, That this appropriation may be reimbursed from the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration appropriation for the appropriate share of construction costs for space expansion needed in agency offices to meet trust reform implementation: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $10,000,000 shall be derived from the Indian Irrigation Fund established by section 3211 of the WIIN Act (Public Law 114–322): *Provided further*, That amounts provided under this heading are made available for the modernization of Federal field communication capabilities, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purpose.

INDIAN LAND AND WATER CLAIM SETTLEMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS PAYMENTS TO INDIANS

For payments and necessary administrative expenses for implementation of Indian land and water claim settlements pursuant to Public Laws 99–264, 101–618, and 117–349 and for implementation of other land and water rights settlements, $976,000, to remain available until expended.

INDIAN GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans and insured loans, $13,329,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which $2,125,000 is for administrative expenses, as authorized by the Indian Financing Act of 1974: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed or insured, not to exceed $227,318,923.

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

OPERATION OF INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

For expenses necessary for the operation of Indian education programs, as authorized by law, including the Snyder Act of November 2, 1921 (25 U.S.C. 13), the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2001–2019), and the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), $1,131,617,000 to remain available until September 30, 2027, except as otherwise provided herein: *Provided*, That federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations of federally recognized Indian tribes may use their tribal priority allocations for unmet welfare assistance costs: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $833,592,000 for school operations costs of Bureau-funded schools and other education programs shall become available on June 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, including but not limited to the Indian Self–Determination Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) and section 1128 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2008), not to exceed $95,822,000 within and only from such amounts made available for school operations shall be available for administrative cost grants associated with grants approved prior to June 1, 2026: *Provided further*, That in order to enhance the safety of Bureau field employees, the Bureau may use funds to purchase uniforms or other identifying articles of clothing for personnel.

EDUCATION CONSTRUCTION

For construction, repair, improvement, and maintenance of buildings, utilities, and other facilities necessary for the operation of Indian education programs, including architectural and engineering services by contract; acquisition of lands, and interests in lands; $234,725,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That in order to ensure timely completion of construction projects,

the Secretary of the Interior may assume control of a project and all funds related to the project, if, not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, any Public Law 100–297 (25 U.S.C. 2501, et seq.) grantee receiving funds appropriated in this Act or in any prior Act, has not completed the planning and design phase of the project and commenced construction.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education may carry out the operation of Indian programs by direct expenditure, contracts, cooperative agreements, compacts, and grants, either directly or in cooperation with States and other organizations.

Notwithstanding Public Law 87–279 (25 U.S.C. 15), the Bureau of Indian Affairs may contract for services in support of the management, operation, and maintenance of the Power Division of the San Carlos Irrigation Project.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Bureau of Indian Education for central office oversight and Executive Direction and Administrative Services (except Executive Direction and Administrative Services funding for Tribal Priority Allocations, regional offices, and facilities operations and maintenance) shall be available for contracts, grants, compacts, or cooperative agreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Bureau of Indian Education under the provisions of the Indian Self-Determination Act or the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–413).

In the event any tribe returns appropriations made available by this Act to the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Bureau of Indian Education, this action shall not diminish the Federal Government's trust responsibility to that tribe, or the government-to-government relationship between the United States and that tribe, or that tribe's ability to access future appropriations.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Bureau of Indian Education, other than the amounts provided herein for assistance to public schools under 25 U.S.C. 5342 et seq., shall be available to support the operation of any elementary or secondary school in the State of Alaska.

No funds available to the Bureau of Indian Education shall be used to support expanded grades for any school or dormitory beyond the grade structure in place or approved by the Secretary of the Interior at each school in the Bureau of Indian Education school system as of October 1, 1995, except that the Secretary of the Interior may waive this prohibition to support expansion of up to one additional grade when the Secretary determines such waiver is needed to support accomplishment of the mission of the Bureau of Indian Education, or more than one grade to expand the elementary grade structure for Bureau-funded schools with a K–2 grade structure on October 1, 1996. Appropriations made available in this or any prior Act for schools funded by the Bureau shall be available, in accordance with the Bureau's funding formula, only to the schools in the Bureau school system as of September 1, 1996, and to any school or school program that was reinstated in fiscal year 2012. Funds made available under this Act may not be used to establish a charter school at a Bureau-funded school (as that term is defined in section 1141 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2021)), except that a charter school that is in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act and that has operated at a Bureau-funded school before September 1, 1999, may continue to operate during that period, but only if the charter school pays to the Bureau a pro rata share of funds to reimburse the Bureau for the use of the real and personal property (including buses and vans), the funds of the charter school are kept separate and apart from Bureau funds, and the Bureau does not assume any obligation for charter school programs of the State in which the school is located if the charter school loses such funding. Employees of Bureau-funded schools sharing a campus with a charter school and performing functions related to the charter school's operation and employees of a charter school shall not be treated as Federal employees for purposes of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 113 of title I of appendix C of Public Law 106–113, if in fiscal year 2003 or 2004 a grantee received indirect and administrative costs pursuant to a distribution formula based on section 5(f) of Public Law 101–301, the Secretary shall continue to distribute indirect and administrative cost funds to such grantee using the section 5(f) distribution formula.

Funds available under this Act may not be used to establish satellite locations of schools in the Bureau school system as of September 1, 1996, except that the Secretary may waive this prohibition in order for an Indian tribe to provide language and cultural immersion educational programs for nonpublic schools located within the jurisdictional area of the tribal government which exclusively serve tribal members, do not include grades beyond those currently served at the existing Bureau-funded school, provide an educational environment with educator presence and academic facilities comparable to the Bureau-funded school, comply with all applicable Tribal, Federal, or State health and safety standards, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, and demonstrate the benefits of establishing operations at a satellite location in lieu of incurring extraordinary costs, such as for transportation or other impacts to students such as those caused by busing students extended distances: *Provided*, That no funds available under this Act may be used to fund operations, maintenance, rehabilitation, construction, or other facilities-related costs for such assets that are not owned by the Bureau: *Provided further*, That the term ''satellite school'' means a school location physically separated from the existing Bureau school by more than 50 miles but that forms part of the existing school in all other respects.

Funds made available for Tribal Priority Allocations within Operation of Indian Programs and Operation of Indian Education Programs may be used to execute requested adjustments in tribal priority allocations initiated by an Indian tribe.

BUREAU OF TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTRATION

FEDERAL TRUST PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the operation of trust programs for Indians by direct expenditure, contracts, cooperative agreements, compacts, and grants, $100,009,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $17,152,000 from this or any other Act, may be available for settlement support: *Provided*, That funds for trust management improvements and litigation support may, as needed, be transferred to or merged with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, ''Operation of Indian Programs'' and Bureau of Indian Education, ''Operation of Indian Education Programs'' accounts; the Office of the Solicitor, ''Salaries and Expenses'' account; and the Office of the Secretary, ''Departmental Operations'' account: *Provided further*, That funds made available through contracts or grants obligated during fiscal year 2026, as authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), shall remain available until expended by the contractor or grantee: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to provide a quarterly statement of performance for any Indian trust account that has not had activity for at least 15 months and has a balance of $15 or less: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall issue an annual account statement and maintain a record of any such accounts and shall permit the balance in each such account to be withdrawn upon the express written request of the account holder: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $100,000 is available for the Secretary to make payments to correct administrative errors of either disbursements from or deposits to Individual Indian Money or Tribal accounts after September 30, 2002: *Provided further*, That erroneous payments that are recovered shall be credited to and remain available in this account for this purpose: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall not be required to reconcile Special Deposit Accounts with a balance of less than $500 unless the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration receives proof of ownership from a Special Deposit Accounts claimant: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 102 of the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–412) or any other provision of law, the Secretary may aggregate the trust accounts of individuals whose whereabouts are unknown for a continuous period of at least 5 years and shall not be required to generate periodic statements of performance for the individual accounts: *Provided further*, That with respect to the preceding proviso, the Secretary shall continue to maintain sufficient records to determine the balance of the individual accounts, including any accrued interest and income, and such funds shall remain available to the individual account holders.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for management of the Department of the Interior and for grants and cooperative agreements, as authorized by law, $131,012,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027; of which not to exceed $15,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses; of which up to $1,000,000 shall be available for workers compensation payments and unemployment compensation payments associated with the orderly closure of the United States Bureau of Mines; and of which $14,295,000 for Indian land, mineral, and resource valuation activities shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds for Indian land, mineral, and resource valuation activities may, as needed, be transferred to and merged with the Bureau of Indian Affairs ''Operation of Indian Programs'' and Bureau of Indian Education ''Operation of Indian Education Programs'' accounts and the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration ''Federal Trust Programs'' account: *Provided further*, That funds made available through contracts or grants obligated during fiscal year 2026, as authorized by the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), shall remain available until expended by the contractor or grantee.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

For fiscal year 2026, up to $550,000 of the payments authorized by chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code, may be retained for administrative expenses of the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Program: *Provided*, That the

amounts provided under this Act specifically for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program are the only amounts available for payments authorized under chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That in the event the sums appropriated for any fiscal year for payments pursuant to this chapter are insufficient to make the full payments authorized by that chapter to all units of local government, then the payment to each local government shall be made proportionally: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may make adjustments to payment to individual units of local government to correct for prior overpayments or underpayments: *Provided further*, That no payment shall be made pursuant to that chapter to otherwise eligible units of local government if the computed amount of the payment is less than $100.

INSULAR AFFAIRS

ASSISTANCE TO TERRITORIES

For expenses necessary for assistance to territories under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior and other jurisdictions identified in section 104(e) of Public Law 108–188, $117,217,000, of which: (1) $105,395,000 shall remain available until expended for territorial assistance, including general technical assistance, maintenance assistance, disaster assistance, coral reef initiative and natural resources activities, and brown tree snake control and research; grants to the judiciary in American Samoa for compensation and expenses, as authorized by law (48 U.S.C. 1661(c)); grants to the Government of American Samoa, in addition to current local revenues, for construction and support of governmental functions; grants to the Government of the Virgin Islands, as authorized by law; grants to the Government of Guam, as authorized by law; and grants to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, as authorized by law (Public Law 94–241; 90 Stat. 272); and (2) $11,822,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for salaries and expenses of the Office of Insular Affairs: *Provided*, That all financial transactions of the territorial and local governments herein provided for, including such transactions of all agencies or instrumentalities established or used by such governments, may be audited by the Government Accountability Office, at its discretion, in accordance with chapter 35 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That Northern Mariana Islands Covenant grant funding shall be provided according to those terms of the Agreement of the Special Representatives on Future United States Financial Assistance for the Northern Mariana Islands approved by Public Law 104–134: *Provided further*, That the funds for the program of operations and maintenance improvement are appropriated to institutionalize routine operations and maintenance improvement of capital infrastructure with territorial participation and cost sharing to be determined by the Secretary based on the grantee's commitment to timely maintenance of its capital assets: *Provided further*, That any appropriation for disaster assistance under this heading in this Act or previous appropriations Acts may be used as non-Federal matching funds for the purpose of hazard mitigation grants provided pursuant to section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c).

COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION

For grants and necessary expenses, $813,000, to remain available until expended, to support Federal services and programs provided to the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

At the request of the Governor of Guam, the Secretary may transfer discretionary funds or mandatory funds provided under section 104(e) of Public Law 108–188 and Public Law 104–134, that are allocated for Guam, to the Secretary of Agriculture for the subsidy cost of direct or guaranteed loans, plus not to exceed three percent of the amount of the subsidy transferred for the cost of loan administration, for the purposes authorized by the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 and section 306(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act for construction and repair projects in Guam, and such funds shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such loans or loan guarantees may be made without regard to the population of the area, credit elsewhere requirements, and restrictions on the types of eligible entities under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 and section 306(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: *Provided further*, That any funds transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be in addition to funds otherwise made available to make or guarantee loans under such authorities.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Solicitor, $84,181,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, $65,000,000.

DEPARTMENT-WIDE PROGRAMS

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for fire preparedness, fire suppression operations, fire science and research, emergency rehabilitation, fuels management activities, and rural fire assistance by the Department of the Interior, $1,147,171,000, of which $383,657,000 shall remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $10,000,000 shall be for the renovation or construction of fire facilities: *Provided*, That such funds are also available for repayment of advances to other appropriation accounts from which funds were previously transferred for such purposes: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided $214,450,000 is for fuels management activities: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, $10,000,000 is for burned area rehabilitation: *Provided further*, That persons hired pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1469 may be furnished subsistence and lodging without cost from funds available from this appropriation: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 42 U.S.C. 1856d, sums received by a bureau or office of the Department of the Interior for fire protection rendered pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1856 et seq., protection of United States property, may be credited to the appropriation from which funds were expended to provide that protection, and are available without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That using the amounts designated under this title of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may enter into procurement contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements, for fuels management activities, and for training and monitoring associated with such fuels management activities on Federal land, or on adjacent non-Federal land for activities that benefit resources on Federal land: *Provided further*, That the costs of implementing any cooperative agreement between the Federal Government and any non-Federal entity may be shared, as mutually agreed on by the affected parties: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding requirements of the Competition in Contracting Act, the Secretary, for purposes of fuels management activities, may obtain maximum practicable competition among: (1) local private, nonprofit, or cooperative entities; (2) Youth Conservation Corps crews, Public Lands Corps (Public Law 109–154), or related partnerships with State, local, or nonprofit youth groups; (3) small or micro-businesses; or (4) other entities that will hire or train locally a significant percentage, defined as 50 percent or more, of the project workforce to complete such contracts: *Provided further*, That in implementing this section, the Secretary shall develop written guidance to field units to ensure accountability and consistent application of the authorities provided herein: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be used to reimburse the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for the costs of carrying out their responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to consult and conference, as required by section 7 of such Act, in connection with wildland fire management activities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior may use wildland fire appropriations to enter into leases of real property with local governments, at or below fair market value, to construct capitalized improvements for fire facilities on such leased properties, including but not limited to fire guard stations, retardant stations, and other initial attack and fire support facilities, and to make advance payments for any such lease or for construction activity associated with the lease: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize the transfer of funds appropriated for wildland fire management, in an aggregate amount not to exceed $50,000,000 between the Departments when such transfers would facilitate and expedite wildland fire management programs and projects: *Provided further*, That funds provided for wildfire suppression shall be available for support of Federal emergency response actions: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for assistance to or through the Department of State in connection with forest and rangeland research, technical information, and assistance in foreign countries, and, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, shall be available to support forestry, wildland fire management, and related natural resource activities outside the United States and its territories and possessions, including technical assistance, education and training, and cooperation with United States and international organizations: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, $383,657,000 shall be available for wildfire suppression operations, and is provided to meet the terms of section 4004(b)(5)(B) 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.

WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS RESERVE FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

In addition to the amounts provided under the heading ''Department of the Interior—Department-Wide Programs—Wildland Fire Management'' for wildfire suppression operations, $370,000,000, to remain available until transferred, is additional new budget authority as specified for purposes of section 4004(b)(5) 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: *Provided*, That such amounts may be transferred to and merged with amounts made available under the headings ''Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management'' and ''Department of the Interior—Department-Wide Programs—Wildland Fire Management'' for wildfire suppression operations in the fiscal year in which such amounts are transferred: *Provided further*, That amounts may be transferred to the ''Wildland Fire Management'' accounts in the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior only upon the notification of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that all wildfire suppression operations funds appropriated under that heading in this and prior appropriations Acts to the agency to which the funds will be transferred will be obligated within 30 days: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That, in determining whether all wildfire suppression operations funds appropriated under the heading ''Wildland Fire Management'' in this and prior appropriations Acts to either the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior will be obligated within 30 days pursuant to the preceding proviso, any funds transferred or permitted to be transferred pursuant to any other transfer authority provided by law shall be excluded.

CENTRAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FUND

For necessary expenses of the Department of the Interior and any of its component offices and bureaus for the response action, including associated activities, performed pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), $9,031,000, to remain available until expended.

ENERGY COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Department of the Interior to inventory, assess, decommission, reclaim, respond to hazardous substance releases, remediate lands pursuant to section 40704 of Public Law 117–58 (30 U.S.C. 1245), and carry out the purposes of section 349 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15907), as amended, $4,700,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount shall be in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes: *Provided further*, That amounts appropriated under this heading are available for program management and oversight of these activities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may transfer the funds provided under this heading in this Act to any other account in the Department to carry out such purposes, and may expend such funds directly, or through grants: *Provided further*, That these amounts are not available to fulfill Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) obligations agreed to in settlement or imposed by a court, whether for payment of funds or for work to be performed.

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FUND

To conduct natural resource damage assessment, restoration activities, and onshore oil spill preparedness by the Department of the Interior necessary to carry out the provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), and 54 U.S.C. 100721 et seq., $6,500,000, to remain available until expended.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

For the operation and maintenance of a departmental financial and business management system, data management, information technology improvements of general benefit to the Department, cybersecurity, and the consolidation of facilities and operations throughout the Department, $90,775,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this Act or any other Act may be used to establish reserves in the Working Capital Fund account other than for accrued annual leave and depreciation of equipment without prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior may assess reasonable charges to State, local, and tribal government employees for training services provided by the National Indian Program Training Center, other than training related to Public Law 93–638: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may lease or otherwise provide space and related facilities, equipment, or professional services of the National Indian Program Training Center to State, local and tribal government employees or persons or organizations engaged in cultural, educational, or recreational activities (as defined in section 3306(a) of title 40, United States Code) at the prevailing rate for similar space, facilities, equipment, or services in the vicinity of the National Indian Program Training Center: *Provided further*, That all funds received pursuant to the two preceding provisos shall be credited to this account, shall be available until expended, and shall be used by the Secretary for necessary expenses of the National Indian Program Training Center: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may enter into grants and cooperative agreements to support the Office of Natural Resource Revenue's collection and disbursement of royalties, fees, and other mineral revenue proceeds, as authorized by law.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

There is hereby authorized for acquisition from available resources within the Working Capital Fund, aircraft which may be obtained by donation, purchase, or through available excess surplus property: *Provided*, That existing aircraft being replaced may be sold, with proceeds derived or trade-in value used to offset the purchase price for the replacement aircraft.

OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE

For necessary expenses for management of the collection and disbursement of royalties, fees, and other mineral revenue proceeds, and for grants and cooperative agreements, as authorized by law, $159,850,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027; of which $55,916,000 shall remain available until expended for the purpose of mineral revenue management activities: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, $50,000 shall be available for refunds of overpayments in connection with certain Indian leases in which the Secretary of the Interior concurred with the claimed refund due, to pay amounts owed to Indian allottees or tribes, or to correct prior unrecoverable erroneous payments.

GENERAL PROVISIONS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

EMERGENCY TRANSFER AUTHORITY—INTRA-BUREAU

SEC. 101. Appropriations made in this title shall be available for expenditure or transfer (within each bureau or office), with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, for the emergency reconstruction, replacement, or repair of aircraft, buildings, utilities, or other facilities or equipment damaged or destroyed by fire, flood, storm, or other unavoidable causes: *Provided*, That no funds shall be made available under this authority until funds specifically made available to the Department of the Interior for emergencies shall have been exhausted: *Provided further*, That all funds used pursuant to this section must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation, which must be requested as promptly as possible.

EMERGENCY TRANSFER AUTHORITY—DEPARTMENT-WIDE

SEC. 102. The Secretary of the Interior may authorize the expenditure or transfer of any no year appropriation in this title, in addition to the amounts included in the budget programs of the several agencies, for the suppression or emergency prevention of wildland fires on or threatening lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior; for the emergency rehabilitation of burned-over lands under its jurisdiction; for emergency actions related to potential or actual earthquakes, floods, volcanoes, storms, or other unavoidable causes; for contingency planning subsequent to actual oil spills; for response and natural resource damage assessment activities related to actual oil spills or releases of hazardous substances into the environment; for the prevention, suppression, and control of actual or potential grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary, pursuant to the authority in section 417(b) of Public Law 106–224 (7 U.S.C. 7717(b)); for emergency reclamation projects under section 410 of Public Law 95–87; and shall transfer, from any no year funds available to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, such funds as may be necessary to permit assumption of regulatory authority in the event a primacy State is not carrying out the regulatory provisions of the Surface Mining Act: *Provided*, That appropriations made in this title for wildland fire operations shall be available for the payment of obligations incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and for reimbursement to other Federal agencies for destruction of vehicles, aircraft, or other equipment in connection with their use for wildland fire operations, with such reimbursement to be credited to appropriations currently available at the time of receipt thereof: *Provided further*, That for wildland fire operations, no funds shall be made available under this authority until the Secretary determines that funds appropriated for ''wildland fire suppression'' shall be exhausted within 30 days: *Provided further*, That all funds used pursuant to this section must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation, which must be requested as promptly as possible: *Provided further*, That such replenishment funds shall be used to reimburse, on a pro rata basis, accounts from which emergency funds were transferred.

AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 103. Appropriations made to the Department of the Interior in this title shall be available for services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, when authorized by the Secretary of the Interior, in total amount not to exceed $500,000; purchase and replacement of motor vehicles, including specially equipped law enforcement vehicles; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; hire of passenger motor vehicles; purchase of reprints; payment for telephone service in private residences in the field, when authorized under regulations approved by the Secretary; and the payment of dues,

when authorized by the Secretary, for library membership in societies or associations which issue publications to members only or at a price to members lower than to subscribers who are not members.

AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS, INDIAN TRUST MANAGEMENT

SEC. 104. Appropriations made in this Act under the headings Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, and Bureau of Trust Funds Administration and any unobligated balances from prior appropriations Acts made under the same headings shall be available for expenditure or transfer for Indian trust management and reform activities. Total funding for settlement support activities shall not exceed amounts specifically designated in this Act for such purpose. The Secretary shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations within 60 days of the expenditure or transfer of any funds under this section, including the amount expended or transferred and how the funds will be used.

REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS, BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

SEC. 105. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to redistribute any Tribal Priority Allocation funds, including tribal base funds, to alleviate tribal funding inequities by transferring funds to address identified, unmet needs, dual enrollment, overlapping service areas or inaccurate distribution methodologies. No tribe shall receive a reduction in Tribal Priority Allocation funds of more than 10 percent in fiscal year 2026. Under circumstances of dual enrollment, overlapping service areas or inaccurate distribution methodologies, the 10 percent limitation does not apply.

ELLIS, GOVERNORS, AND LIBERTY ISLANDS

SEC. 106. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire lands, waters, or interests therein, including the use of all or part of any pier, dock, or landing within the State of New York and the State of New Jersey, for the purpose of operating and maintaining facilities in the support of transportation and accommodation of visitors to Ellis, Governors, and Liberty Islands, and of other program and administrative activities, by donation or with appropriated funds, including franchise fees (and other monetary consideration), or by exchange; and the Secretary is authorized to negotiate and enter into leases, subleases, concession contracts, or other agreements for the use of such facilities on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may determine reasonable: *Provided*, That for purposes of 54 U.S.C. 200306(a), such lands, waters, or interests acquired under this heading shall be considered to be within the exterior boundary of a System unit authorized or established.

OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF INSPECTION FEES

SEC. 107. (a) In fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of the Interior shall collect a nonrefundable inspection fee, which shall be deposited in the ''Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement'' account, from the designated operator for facilities subject to inspection under 43 U.S.C. 1348(c).

(b) Annual fees shall be collected for facilities that are above the waterline, excluding drilling rigs, and are in place at the start of the fiscal year. Fees for fiscal year 2026 shall be—

(1) $10,500 for facilities with no wells, but with processing equipment or gathering lines;

(2) $17,000 for facilities with 1 to 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells; and

(3) $31,500 for facilities with more than 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells.

(c) Fees for drilling rigs shall be assessed for all inspections completed in fiscal year 2026. Fees for fiscal year 2026 shall be—

(1) $30,500 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of 500 feet or more; and

(2) $16,700 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of less than 500 feet.

(d) Fees for inspection of well operations conducted via non-rig units as outlined in title 30 CFR 250 subparts D, E, F, and Q shall be assessed for all inspections completed in fiscal year 2026. Fees for fiscal year 2026 shall be—

(1) $13,260 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths of 2,500 feet or more;

(2) $11,530 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths between 500 and 2,499 feet; and

(3) $4,470 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths of less than 500 feet.

(e) The Secretary shall bill designated operators under subsection (b) quarterly, with payment required within 30 days of billing. The Secretary shall bill designated operators under subsection (c) within 30 days of the end of the month in which the inspection occurred, with payment required within 30 days of billing. The Secretary shall bill designated operators under subsection (d) with payment required by the end of the following quarter.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS FOR WILD HORSE AND BURRO HOLDING FACILITIES

SEC. 108. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may enter into multiyear cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations and other appropriate entities, and may enter into multiyear contracts in accordance with the provisions of section 3903 of title 41, United States Code (except that the 5-year term restriction in subsection (a) shall not apply), for the long-term care and maintenance of excess wild free roaming horses and burros by such organizations or entities on private land. Such cooperative agreements and contracts may not exceed 10 years, subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary.

MASS MARKING OF SALMONIDS

SEC. 109. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall, in carrying out its responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species of salmon, implement a system of mass marking of salmonid stocks, intended for harvest, that are released from federally operated or federally financed hatcheries including but not limited to fish releases of coho, chinook, and steelhead species. Marked fish must have a visible mark that can be readily identified by commercial and recreational fishers.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS WITH INDIAN AFFAIRS

SEC. 110. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2026, in carrying out work involving cooperation with State, local, and tribal governments or any political subdivision thereof, Indian Affairs may record obligations against accounts receivable from any such entities, except that total obligations at the end of the fiscal year shall not exceed total budgetary resources available at the end of the fiscal year.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR EXPERIENCED SERVICES PROGRAM

SEC. 111. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law relating to Federal grants and cooperative agreements, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to make grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, private nonprofit organizations designated by the Secretary of Labor under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 to utilize the talents of older Americans in programs authorized by other provisions of law administered by the Secretary and consistent with such provisions of law.

(b) Prior to awarding any grant or agreement under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that the agreement would not—

(1) result in the displacement of individuals currently employed by the Department, including partial displacement through reduction of non-overtime hours, wages, or employment benefits;

(2) result in the use of an individual under the Department of the Interior Experienced Services Program for a job or function in a case in which a Federal employee is in a layoff status from the same or substantially equivalent job within the Department; or

(3) affect existing contracts for services.

OBLIGATION OF FUNDS

SEC. 112. Amounts appropriated by this Act to the Department of the Interior shall be available for obligation and expenditure not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEPARATION OF ACCOUNTS

SEC. 113. The Secretary of the Interior, in order to implement an orderly transition to separate accounts of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education, may transfer funds among and between the successor offices and bureaus affected by the reorganization only in conformance with the reprogramming guidelines described in this Act.

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT)

SEC. 114. Section 6906 of title 31, United States Code, shall be applied by substituting ''fiscal year 2026'' for ''fiscal year 2019''.

DISCLOSURE OF DEPARTURE OR ALTERNATE PROCEDURE APPROVAL

SEC. 115. (a) Subject to subsection (b), in any case in which the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement or the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management prescribes or approves any departure or use of alternate procedure or equipment, in regards to a plan or permit, under 30 CFR 585.103; 30 CFR 550.141; 30 CFR 550.142; 30 CFR 250.141; or 30 CFR 250.142, the head of such bureau shall post a description of such departure or alternate procedure or equipment use approval on such bureau's publicly available website not more than 15 business days after such issuance.

(b) The head of each bureau may exclude confidential business information.

LONG BRIDGE PROJECT

SEC. 116. (a) AUTHORIZATION OF CONVEYANCE.—Hereafter, until the expiration of authority pursuant to subsection (e), on request by the State of Virginia or the District of Columbia for the purpose of the construction of rail and other infrastructure relating to the Long Bridge Project, the Secretary of the Interior may convey to the State or the District of Columbia, as applicable, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to any portion of the approximately 4.4 acres of National Park Service land depicted as ''Permanent Impact to NPS Land'' on the Map dated May 15, 2020, that is identified by the State or the District of Columbia.

(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Such conveyance of the National Park Service land under subsection (a) shall be subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary may require. If such conveyed land is no longer being used for the purposes specified in this section, the lands or interests therein shall revert to the National Park Service after they have been restored or remediated to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

(c) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and the State or the District of Columbia, as applicable, by mutual agreement, may—

(1) make minor boundary adjustments to the National Park Service land to be conveyed to the State or the District of Columbia under subsection (a); and

(2) correct any minor errors in the Map referred to in subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) LONG BRIDGE PROJECT.—The term ''Long Bridge Project'' means the rail project, as identified by the Federal Railroad Administration, from Rosslyn (RO) Interlocking in Arlington, Virginia, to L'Enfant (LE) Interlocking in Washington, DC, which includes a bicycle and pedestrian bridge.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(3) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Virginia.

(e) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided by this section shall expire once the conveyance described in subsection (a) has been completed.

INTERAGENCY MOTOR POOL

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or Federal regulation, federally recognized Indian tribes or authorized tribal organizations that receive Tribally-Controlled School Grants pursuant to Public Law 100–297 may obtain interagency motor vehicles and related services for performance of any activities carried out under such grants to the same extent as if they were contracting under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

APPRAISER PAY AUTHORITY

SEC. 118. For fiscal year 2026, funds made available in this or any other Act or otherwise made available to the Department of the Interior for the Appraisal and Valuation Services Office may be used by the Secretary of the Interior to establish higher minimum rates of basic pay for employees of the Department of the Interior in the Appraiser (GS–1171) job series at grades 11 through 15 carrying out appraisals of real property and appraisal reviews conducted in support of the Department's realty programs at rates no greater than 15 percent above the minimum rates of basic pay normally scheduled, and such higher rates shall be consistent with subsections (e) through (h) of section 5305 of title 5, United States Code.

SAGE-GROUSE

SEC. 119. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used by the Secretary of the Interior to write or issue pursuant to section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533)—

(1) a proposed rule for greater sage-grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus);

(2) a proposed rule for the Columbia basin distinct population segment of greater sage-grouse.

STATE CONSERVATION GRANTS

SEC. 120. For expenses necessary to carry out section 200305 of title 54, United States Code, the National Park Service may retain up to 7 percent of the State Conservation Grants program to provide to States, the District of Columbia, and insular areas, as matching grants to support state program administrative costs.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND DEPOSITS

SEC. 121. Section 303102 of title 54, United States Code, shall be applied by substituting ''fiscal year 2026'' for ''fiscal year 2023''.

INTERIOR AUTHORITY FOR OPERATING EFFICIENCIES

SEC. 122. (a) In fiscal years 2026 and 2027, the Secretary of the Interior may authorize and execute agreements to achieve operating efficiencies among and between two or more component bureaus and offices through the following activities:

(1) co-locating in offices and facilities leased or owned by any such component and sharing related utilities and equipment;

(2) detailing or assigning staff on a non-reimbursable basis for up to 5 business days; and

(3) sharing staff and equipment necessary to meet mission requirements.

(b) The authority provided by subsection (a) is to support areas of mission alignment between and among component bureaus and offices or where geographic proximity allows for efficiencies.

(c) Bureaus and offices entering into agreements authorized under subsections (a)(1) and (a)(3) shall bear costs for such agreements in a manner that reflects their approximate benefit and share of total costs, which may or may not include indirect costs.

(d) In furtherance of the requirement in subsection (c), the Secretary of the Interior may make transfers of funds in advance or on a reimbursable basis.

EMERGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT CEILING

SEC. 123. Section 103101 of title 54, United States Code, is amended in subsection (c)(1) by striking ''$250,000'' and inserting ''$500,000''.

CONTRIBUTION AUTHORITY EXTENSION

SEC. 124. Section 113 of division G of Public Law 113–76, as amended by Public Law 116–6, is further amended by striking ''2024'' and inserting ''2030''.

LIMITATION

SEC. 125. If requested by the claimant of any mining claim located within the area covered by Public Land Order 7921, the Bureau of Land Management shall prioritize completion of a validity determination for such claim. The Bureau of Land Management shall strive to complete any such validity determination not later than 3 years of receipt of the request.

RENEWAL

SEC. 126. The first section of Public Law 99–338 (100 Stat. 641) is amended—

(1) by striking ''3 renewals'' and inserting ''7 renewals''; and

(2) by striking ''of Southern California Edison Company''.

FIELD UNIT LOCAL HIRING

SEC. 127. The Secretary of the Interior may recruit and directly appoint qualified individuals into the competitive service who are certified as maintaining a permanent and exclusive residence in the vicinity of a field unit, into any position at or below grades GS–9 or WG–15 or equivalent within such field unit: *Provided,* That any action authorized herein shall be consistent with the merit principles of section 2301 of such title 5, and with the public notice requirements of section 3327 of such title 5: *Provided further,* That appointments under this authority shall be considered compliant with all applicable provisions of chapter 33 of title 5.

GRANT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

SEC. 128. Section 1521 of the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Culture and Art Development Act (20 U.S.C. 4441) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''private,''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''be Native Hawaiians or'' and inserting ''include Native Hawaiians and''; and

(ii) by striking the comma at the end and inserting ''; and'';

(B) by striking subparagraphs (B) through (D);

(C) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''of office''; and

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (B).

TITLE II

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

For science and technology, including research and development activities, which shall include research and development activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; necessary expenses for personnel and related costs and travel expenses; procurement of laboratory equipment and supplies; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; and other operating expenses in support of research and development, $744,195,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the funds included under this heading, $27,253,000 shall be for Research: National Priorities as specified in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), of which $6,278,000 shall be for projects specified for Science and Technology in the table titled ''Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT

For environmental programs and management, including necessary expenses not otherwise provided for, for personnel and related costs and travel expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; purchase of reprints; library memberships in societies or associations which issue publications to members only or at a price to members lower than to subscribers who are not members; administrative costs of the brownfields program under the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002; implementation of a coal combustion residual permit program under section 2301 of the Water and Waste Act of 2016; and not to exceed $40,000 for official reception and representation expenses, $3,114,671,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That of amounts made available for Environmental Programs and Management, not less than $33,024,000 is to carry out the Energy Star Program pursuant to section 324(c) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a(c)): *Provided further,* That of the funds included under this heading, $30,000,000 shall be for grants, including for projects and implementation and training: *Provided further,* That for the funds provided in the preceding proviso not less than 10 percent shall be for any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1993 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, the 2000 decennial census, and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, or any territory or possession of the United States: *Provided further,* That of the funds included under this heading—

(1) $30,700,000 shall be for Environmental Protection: National Priorities as specified in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act);

(2) $690,202,000 shall be for Geographic Programs as specified in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act); and

(3) $20,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for grants, including grants that may be awarded on a non-competitive basis, interagency agreements, and associated program support costs to establish and implement a program to assist Alaska Native Regional Corporations, Alaskan Native Village Corporations, federally-recognized tribes in Alaska, Alaska Native Non-Profit Organizations and Alaska Native Nonprofit Associations, and intertribal consortia comprised of Alaskan tribal entities to address contamination on lands conveyed under or pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) that were or are contaminated at the time of conveyance and are on an inventory of such lands developed and maintained by the Environmental Protection Agency: *Provided,* That grants awarded using funds made available in this paragraph may be used by a recipient to supplement other funds provided by the Environmental Protection Agency through individual media or multi-media grants or cooperative agreements: *Provided further,* That of the amounts made available in this paragraph, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes, the Environmental Protection Agency may reserve up to $2,000,000 for salaries, expenses, and administration of the program and for grants related to such program that address contamination on lands conveyed under or pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) that were or are contaminated at the time of conveyance and are on the EPA inventory of such lands.

In addition, $9,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses of activities described in section 26(b)(1) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2625(b)(1)): *Provided,* That fees collected pursuant to that section of that Act and deposited in the ''TSCA Service Fee Fund'' as discretionary offsetting receipts in fiscal year 2026 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this appropriation and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further,* That the sum herein appropriated in this paragraph from the general fund for fiscal year 2026 shall be reduced by the amount of discretionary offsetting receipts received during fiscal year 2026, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than $0: *Provided further,* That to the extent that amounts realized from such receipts exceed $9,000,000, those amounts in excess of $9,000,000 shall be deposited in the ''TSCA Service Fee Fund'' as discretionary offsetting receipts in fiscal year 2026, shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further,* That of the funds included in the first paragraph under this heading, the Chemical Risk Review and Reduction program project shall be allocated for this fiscal year, excluding the amount of any fees appropriated, not less than the amount of appropriations for that program project for fiscal year 2014.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, $43,250,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That the Office of Inspector General shall be subject to the terms, conditions, and requirements specified under this heading in Senate Report 118–83.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities of, or for use by, the Environmental Protection Agency, $40,676,000, to remain available until expended.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SUPERFUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), including sections 111(c)(3), (c)(5), (c)(6), and (e)(4) (42 U.S.C. 9611), and hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft, $282,749,000, to remain available until expended, consisting of such sums as are available in the Trust Fund on September 30, 2025, and not otherwise appropriated from the Trust Fund, as authorized by section 517(a) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) and up to $282,749,000 as a payment from general revenues to the Hazardous Substance Superfund for purposes as authorized by section 517(b) of SARA: *Provided,* That funds appropriated under this heading may be allocated to other Federal agencies in accordance with section 111(a) of CERCLA: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, $11,328,000 shall be paid to the ''Office of Inspector General'' appropriation to remain available until September 30, 2027, and $17,607,000 shall be paid to the ''Science and Technology'' appropriation to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further,* That section 122(b)(3) of CERCLA (42 U.S.C. 9622(b)(3)) shall be applied in this fiscal year by inserting before the period: '', including for the hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft'': *Provided further,* That the matter preceding the first proviso in section 443(b) of title IV of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328) shall be applied in this fiscal year by inserting before the semicolon '', including for the hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft'': *Provided further,* That amounts repurposed pursuant to the preceding proviso shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118–5.

LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, $88,903,000, to remain available until expended, of which $64,583,000 shall be for carrying out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act; and $24,320,000 shall be for carrying out the other provisions of the Solid Waste Disposal Act specified in section 9508(c) of the Internal Revenue Code: *Provided,* That the Administrator is authorized to use appropriations made available under this heading to implement section 9013 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to provide financial assistance to federally recognized Indian tribes for the development and implementation of programs to manage underground storage tanks.

INLAND OIL SPILL PROGRAMS

For expenses necessary to carry out the Environmental Protection Agency's responsibilities under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, including hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft, $20,561,000, to be derived from the Oil Spill Liability trust fund, to remain available until expended.

STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For environmental programs and infrastructure assistance, including capitalization grants for State revolving funds and performance partnership grants, $4,409,609,000, to remain available until expended, of which—

(1) $1,638,861,000 shall be for making capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; and of which $1,126,101,000 shall be for making capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act: *Provided,* That $892,762,272 of the funds made available for capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds and $715,364,627 of the funds made available for capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds shall be for the construction of drinking water, wastewater, and storm water infrastructure and for water quality protection in accordance with the terms and conditions specified for such grants in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act) for projects specified for ''STAG—Drinking Water State Revolving Fund'' and ''STAG—Clean Water State Revolving Fund'' in the table titled ''Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act), and, for purposes of these grants, each grantee shall contribute not less than 20 percent of the cost of the project unless the grantee is approved for a waiver by the Agency: *Provided further,* That $13,300,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading for capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds and for capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes, may be used by the Administrator for salaries, expenses, and administration for Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items: *Provided further,* That for fiscal year 2026, to the extent there are sufficient eligible project applications and projects are consistent with State Intended Use Plans, not less than 10 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Clean Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants shall be used by the State for projects to address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements, or other environmentally innovative activities: *Provided further,* That for fiscal year 2026, funds made available under this title to each State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants may, at the discretion of each State, be used for projects to address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements, or other environmentally innovative activities: *Provided further,* That the Administrator is authorized to use up to $1,500,000 of funds made available for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds under this heading under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381) to conduct the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey: *Provided further,* That notwithstanding section 603(d)(7) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the limitation on the amounts in a State water pollution control revolving fund that may be used by a State to administer the fund shall not apply to amounts included as principal in loans made by such fund in fiscal year 2026 and prior years where such amounts represent costs of administering the fund to the extent that such amounts are or were deemed reasonable by the Administrator, accounted for separately from other assets in the fund, and used for eligible purposes of the fund, including administration: *Provided further,* That for fiscal year 2026, notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (g)(1), (h), and (l) of section 201 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, grants made under title II of such Act for American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the United States Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia may

also be made for the purpose of providing assistance: (1) solely for facility plans, design activities, or plans, specifications, and estimates for any proposed project for the construction of treatment works; and (2) for the construction, repair, or replacement of privately owned treatment works serving one or more principal residences or small commercial establishments: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2026, notwithstanding the provisions of such subsections (g)(1), (h), and (l) of section 201 and section 518(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, funds reserved by the Administrator for grants under section 518(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act may also be used to provide assistance: (1) solely for facility plans, design activities, or plans, specifications, and estimates for any proposed project for the construction of treatment works; and (2) for the construction, repair, or replacement of privately owned treatment works serving one or more principal residences or small commercial establishments: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2026, notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and regulations issued pursuant thereof, up to a total of $2,000,000 of the funds reserved by the Administrator for grants under section 518(c) of such Act may also be used for grants for training, technical assistance, and educational programs relating to the operation and management of the treatment works specified in section 518(c) of such Act: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2026, funds reserved under section 518(c) of such Act shall be available for grants only to Indian tribes, as defined in section 518(h) of such Act and former Indian reservations in Oklahoma (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior) and Native Villages as defined in Public Law 92–203: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2026, notwithstanding the limitation on amounts in section 518(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, up to a total of 2 percent of the funds appropriated, or $30,000,000, whichever is greater, and notwithstanding the limitation on amounts in section 1452(i) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, up to a total of 2 percent of the funds appropriated, or $20,000,000, whichever is greater, for State Revolving Funds under such Acts may be reserved by the Administrator for grants under section 518(c) and section 1452(i) of such Acts: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2026, notwithstanding the amounts specified in section 205(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, up to 1.5 percent of the aggregate funds appropriated for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program under the Act less any sums reserved under section 518(c) of the Act, may be reserved by the Administrator for grants made under title II of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act for American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and United States Virgin Islands: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2026, notwithstanding the limitations on amounts specified in section 1452(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, up to 1.5 percent of the funds appropriated for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs under the Safe Drinking Water Act may be reserved by the Administrator for grants made under section 1452(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act: *Provided further*, That 10 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Clean Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants and 14 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants shall be used by the State to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of principal, negative interest loans, or grants (or any combination of these), and shall be so used by the State only where such funds are provided as initial financing for an eligible recipient or to buy, refinance, or restructure the debt obligations of eligible recipients only where such debt was incurred on or after the date of enactment of this Act, or where such debt was incurred prior to the date of enactment of this Act if the State, with concurrence from the Administrator, determines that such funds could be used to help address a threat to public health from heightened exposure to lead in drinking water or if a Federal or State emergency declaration has been issued due to a threat to public health from heightened exposure to lead in a municipal drinking water supply before the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That in a State in which such an emergency declaration has been issued, the State may use more than 14 percent of the funds made available under this title to the State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 1452(o) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(o)), the Administrator shall reserve up to $12,000,000 of the amounts made available for fiscal year 2026 for making capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to pay the costs of monitoring for unregulated contaminants under section 1445(a)(2)(C) of such Act: *Provided further*, That the funds made available under this heading for Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending grants in this or prior appropriations Acts are not subject to compliance with Federal procurement requirements for competition and methods of procurement applicable to Federal financial assistance, if a Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending recipient has procured services or products through contracts entered into prior to the date of enactment of this legislation that complied with state and/or local laws governing competition;

(2) $35,000,000 shall be for architectural, engineering, planning, design, construction and related activities in connection with the construction of high priority water and wastewater facilities in the area of the United States-Mexico Border, after consultation with the appropriate border commission: *Provided*, That no funds provided by this appropriations Act to address the water, wastewater and other critical infrastructure needs of the colonias in the United States along the United States-Mexico border shall be made available to a county or municipal government unless that government has established an enforceable local ordinance, or other zoning rule, which prevents in that jurisdiction the development or construction of any additional colonia areas, or the development within an existing colonia the construction of any new home, business, or other structure which lacks water, wastewater, or other necessary infrastructure;

(3) $39,000,000 shall be for grants to the State of Alaska to address drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs of rural and Alaska Native Villages: *Provided*, That of these funds: (A) the State of Alaska shall provide a match of 25 percent; (B) no more than 5 percent of the funds may be used for administrative and overhead expenses; and (C) the State of Alaska shall make awards consistent with the Statewide priority list established in conjunction with the Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for all water, sewer, waste disposal, and similar projects carried out by the State of Alaska that are funded under section 221 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1301) or the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.) which shall allocate not less than 25 percent of the funds provided for projects in regional hub communities;

(4) $98,000,000 shall be to carry out section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), including grants, interagency agreements, and associated program support costs: *Provided*, That at least 10 percent shall be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this section, the term ''persistent poverty counties'' means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1993 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, the 2000 decennial census, and the most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, or any territory or possession of the United States;

(5) $90,000,000 shall be for grants under title VII, subtitle G of the Energy Policy Act of 2005;

(6) $67,800,000 shall be for targeted airshed grants in accordance with the terms and conditions in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act);

(7) $28,500,000 shall be for grants under subsections (a) through (j) of section 1459A of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–19a): *Provided*, That for fiscal year 2026, funds provided under subsections (a) through (j) of such section of such Act may be used—

(A) by a State to provide assistance to benefit one or more owners of drinking water wells that are not public water systems or connected to a public water system for necessary and appropriate activities related to a contaminant pursuant to subsection (j) of such section of such Act; and

(B) to support a community described in subsection (c)(2) of such section of such Act;

(8) $28,000,000 shall be for grants under section 1464(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–24(d));

(9) $22,000,000 shall be for grants under section 1459B of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–19b);

(10) $6,500,000 shall be for grants under section 1459A(l) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–19a(l));

(11) $25,500,000 shall be for grants under section 104(b)(8) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1254(b)(8));

(12) $41,000,000 shall be for grants under section 221 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1301);

(13) $5,400,000 shall be for grants under section 4304(b) of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–270);

(14) $3,500,000 shall be for carrying out section 302(a) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (33 U.S.C. 4282(a)), of which not more than 2 percent shall be for administrative costs to carry out such section: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 302(a) of such Act, the Administrator may also provide grants pursuant to such authority to intertribal consortia consistent with the requirements in 40 CFR 35.504(a), to former Indian reservations in Oklahoma (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior), and Alaska Native Villages as defined in Public Law 92–203;

(15) $8,500,000 shall be for grants under section 103(b)(3) of the Clean Air Act for wildfire smoke preparedness grants in accordance with the terms and conditions in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That not more than 3 percent shall be for administrative costs to carry out such section;

(16) $20,364,000 shall be for State and Tribal Assistance Grants to be allocated in the amounts specified for those projects and for the purposes delineated in the table titled ''Interior and Environment Incorporation of

Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act) for remediation, construction, and related environmental management activities in accordance with the terms and conditions specified for such grants in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act);

(17) $2,250,000 shall be for grants under section 1459F of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–19g);

(18) $4,000,000 shall be for carrying out section 2001 of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–270, 42 U.S.C. 300j–3c note): *Provided*, That the Administrator may award grants to and enter into contracts with tribes, intertribal consortia, public or private agencies, institutions, organizations, and individuals, without regard to section 3324(a) and (b) of title 31 and section 6101 of title 41, United States Code, and enter into interagency agreements as appropriate;

(19) $2,000,000 shall be for grants under section 50217(b) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (33 U.S.C. 1302f(b); Public Law 117–58);

(20) $3,500,000 shall be for grants under section 124 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1276);

(21) $2,000,000 shall be for grants for remediation of above ground leaking fuel tanks pursuant to Public Law 106–554;

(22) $2,000,000 shall be for grants under section 220 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1300); and

(23) $1,109,833,000 shall be for grants, including associated program support costs, to States, federally recognized tribes, interstate agencies, tribal consortia, and air pollution control agencies for multi-media or single media pollution prevention, control and abatement, and related activities, including activities pursuant to the provisions set forth under this heading in Public Law 104–134, and for making grants under section 103 of the Clean Air Act for particulate matter monitoring and data collection activities subject to terms and conditions specified by the Administrator, and under section 2301 of the Water and Waste Act of 2016 to assist States in developing and implementing programs for control of coal combustion residuals, of which: $46,250,000 shall be for carrying out section 128 of CERCLA; $9,500,000 shall be for Environmental Information Exchange Network grants, including associated program support costs; $1,475,000 shall be for grants to States under section 2007(f)(2) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, which shall be in addition to funds appropriated under the heading ''Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program'' to carry out the provisions of the Solid Waste Disposal Act specified in section 9508(c) of the Internal Revenue Code other than section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act; $18,512,000 of the funds available for grants under section 106 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act shall be for State participation in national- and State-level statistical surveys of water resources and enhancements to State monitoring programs.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans and for the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, $64,634,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans, including capitalized interest, and total loan principal, including capitalized interest, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed $12,500,000,000: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $5,000,000 shall be used solely for the cost of direct loans and for the cost of guaranteed loans for projects described in section 5026(9) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 to State infrastructure financing authorities, as authorized by section 5033(e) of such Act: *Provided further*, That the use of direct loans or loan guarantee authority under this heading for direct loans or commitments to guarantee loans for any project shall be in accordance with the criteria published in the Federal Register on June 30, 2020 (85 FR 39189) pursuant to the fourth proviso under the heading ''Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program Account'' in division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94): *Provided further*, That none of the direct loans or loan guarantee authority made available under this heading shall be available for any project unless the Administrator and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget have certified in advance in writing that the direct loan or loan guarantee, as applicable, and the project comply with the criteria referenced in the previous proviso: *Provided further*, That, for the purposes of carrying out the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office may request, and the Administrator shall promptly provide, documentation and information relating to a project identified in a Letter of Interest submitted to the Administrator pursuant to a Notice of Funding Availability for applications for credit assistance under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program, including with respect to a project that was initiated or completed before the date of enactment of this Act.

In addition, fees authorized to be collected pursuant to sections 5029 and 5030 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 shall be deposited in this account, to remain available until expended.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, notwithstanding section 5033 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, $7,640,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For fiscal year 2026, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 6303(1) and 6305(1), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in carrying out the Agency's function to implement directly Federal environmental programs required or authorized by law in the absence of an acceptable tribal program, may award cooperative agreements to federally recognized Indian tribes or Intertribal consortia, if authorized by their member tribes, to assist the Administrator in implementing Federal environmental programs for Indian tribes required or authorized by law, except that no such cooperative agreements may be awarded from funds designated for State financial assistance agreements.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency is authorized to collect and obligate pesticide registration service fees in accordance with section 33 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w–8), to remain available until expended.

Notwithstanding section 33(d)(2) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 U.S.C. 136w–8(d)(2)), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may assess fees under section 33 of FIFRA (7 U.S.C. 136w–8) for fiscal year 2026.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency is authorized to collect and obligate fees in accordance with section 3024 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6939g) for fiscal year 2026, to remain available until expended.

The Administrator is authorized to transfer up to $369,000,000 of the funds appropriated for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative under the heading ''Environmental Programs and Management'' to the head of any Federal department or agency, with the concurrence of such head, to carry out activities that would support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement programs, projects, or activities; to enter into an interagency agreement with the head of such Federal department or agency to carry out these activities; and to make grants to governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, institutions, and individuals for planning, research, monitoring, outreach, and implementation in furtherance of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

The Science and Technology, Environmental Programs and Management, Office of Inspector General, Hazardous Substance Superfund, and Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program Accounts, are available for the construction, alteration, repair, rehabilitation, and renovation of facilities, provided that the cost does not exceed $300,000 per project.

For fiscal year 2026, and notwithstanding section 518(f) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1377(f)), the Administrator is authorized to use the amounts appropriated for any fiscal year under section 319 of the Act to make grants to Indian tribes pursuant to sections 319(h) and 518(e) of that Act.

The Administrator is authorized to use the amounts appropriated under the heading ''Environmental Programs and Management'' for fiscal year 2026 to provide grants to implement the Southeast New England Watershed Restoration Program.

Notwithstanding the limitations on amounts in section 320(i)(2)(B) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, not less than $2,500,000 of the funds made available under this title for the National Estuary Program shall be for making competitive awards described in section 320(g)(4).

For fiscal year 2026, the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention and the Office of Water may, using funds appropriated under the headings ''Environmental Programs and Management'' and ''Science and Technology'', contract directly with individuals or indirectly with institutions or nonprofit organizations, without regard to 41 U.S.C. 5, for the temporary or intermittent personal services of students or recent graduates, who shall be considered employees for the purposes of chapters 57 and 81 of title 5, United States Code, relating to compensation for travel and work injuries, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, relating to tort claims, but shall not be considered to be Federal employees for any other purpose: *Provided*, That amounts used for this purpose by the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention and the Office of Water collectively may not exceed $2,000,000.

In this fiscal year and each fiscal year through 2031, the Administrator may, after consultation with the Office of Personnel Management, employ up to 100 persons at any one time at the Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the authority provided in 42 U.S.C. 209.

The Environmental Protection Agency shall maintain staffing levels in order to fulfill the mission and statutory obligations of the agency, including Section 2(f) of the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 4363).

The Environmental Protection agency shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate with copies of any available Department of Treasury quarterly certification of trust fund receipts collected from section 13601 of Public Law 117–169 and section 80201 of Public Law 117–58, an annual operating plan for such receipts showing amounts allocated by program area and program project, and quarterly reports for such receipts of obligated balances by program area and program project.

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, $780,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to any agency in the Natural Resources and Environment mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the office.

FOREST SERVICE

FOREST SERVICE OPERATIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, $1,090,600,000, of which $944,114,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2029: *Provided,* That a portion of the funds made available under this heading shall be for the base salary and expenses of employees in the Chief's Office, the Work Environment and Performance Office, the Business Operations Deputy Area, and the Chief Financial Officer's Office to carry out administrative and general management support functions: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading shall be available for the costs of facility maintenance, repairs, and leases for buildings and sites where these administrative, general management and other Forest Service support functions take place; the costs of all utility and telecommunication expenses of the Forest Service, as well as business services; and, for information technology, including cybersecurity requirements: *Provided further*, That funds provided under this heading may be used for necessary expenses to carry out administrative and general management support functions of the Forest Service not otherwise provided for and necessary for its operation.

FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

For necessary expenses of forest and rangeland research as authorized by law, $308,697,000, to remain available through September 30, 2029: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, $32,197,000 is for the forest inventory and analysis program: *Provided further,* That all authorities for the use of funds, including the use of contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements, available to execute amounts made available under this heading, are also available in the utilization of funds for Fire Science Research.

STATE, PRIVATE, AND TRIBAL FORESTRY

For necessary expenses of cooperating with and providing technical and financial assistance to States, territories, possessions, tribes, and others, and for forest health management, including for invasive plants, and conducting an international program and trade compliance activities as authorized, $310,594,000, to remain available through September 30, 2029, as authorized by law, of which $18,094,000 shall be for projects specified for Forest Resource Information and Analysis in the table titled ''Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, for management, protection, improvement, and utilization of the National Forest System, and for hazardous fuels management on or adjacent to such lands, $1,857,843,000, to remain available through September 30, 2029: *Provided,* That of the funds provided, $31,000,000 shall be deposited in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund for ecological restoration treatments as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 7303(f): *Provided further*, That for the funds provided in the preceding proviso, section 4003(d)(3)(A) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303(d)(3)(A)) shall be applied by substituting ''20'' for ''10'' and section 4003(d)(3)(B) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303(d)(3)(B)) shall be applied by substituting ''4'' for ''2'': *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, $39,000,000 shall be for forest products: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, $176,850,000 shall be for hazardous fuels management activities, of which not to exceed $30,000,000 may be used to make grants, using any authorities available to the Forest Service under the ''State, Private, and Tribal Forestry'' appropriation, for the purpose of creating incentives for increased use of biomass from National Forest System lands: *Provided further*, That $20,000,000 may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into procurement contracts or cooperative agreements or to issue grants for hazardous fuels management activities, and for training or monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels management activities on Federal land, or on non-Federal land if the Secretary determines such activities benefit resources on Federal land: *Provided further,* That funds made available to implement the Community Forest Restoration Act, Public Law 106–393, title VI, shall be available for use on non-Federal lands in accordance with authorities made available to the Forest Service under the ''State, Private, and Tribal Forestry'' appropriation: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 33 of the Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1012), the Secretary of Agriculture, in calculating a fee for grazing on a National Grassland, may provide a credit of up to 50 percent of the calculated fee to a Grazing Association or direct permittee for a conservation practice approved by the Secretary in advance of the fiscal year in which the cost of the conservation practice is incurred, and that the amount credited shall remain available to the Grazing Association or the direct permittee, as appropriate, in the fiscal year in which the credit is made and each fiscal year thereafter for use on the project for conservation practices approved by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated to this account shall be available for the base salary and expenses of employees that carry out the functions funded by the ''Capital Improvement and Maintenance'' account, the ''Range Betterment Fund'' account, and the ''Management of National Forest Lands for Subsistence Uses'' account.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, $153,250,000, to remain available through September 30, 2029, for construction, capital improvement, maintenance, and acquisition of buildings and other facilities and infrastructure; for construction, reconstruction, and decommissioning of roads that are no longer needed, including unauthorized roads that are not part of the transportation system; and for maintenance of forest roads and trails by the Forest Service as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 532–538 and 23 U.S.C. 101 and 205: *Provided,* That $6,000,000 shall be for activities authorized by 16 U.S.C. 538(a): *Provided further*, That $20,850,000 shall be for projects specified for Construction Projects in the table titled ''Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That funds becoming available in fiscal year 2026 under the Act of March 4, 1913 (16 U.S.C. 501) shall be transferred to the General Fund of the Treasury and shall not be available for transfer or obligation for any other purpose unless the funds are appropriated.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR NATIONAL FORESTS SPECIAL ACTS

For acquisition of lands within the exterior boundaries of the Cache, Uinta, and Wasatch National Forests, Utah; the Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada; and the Angeles, San Bernardino, Sequoia, and Cleveland National Forests, California; and the Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests, Arkansas; as authorized by law, $664,000, to be derived from forest receipts.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS TO COMPLETE LAND EXCHANGES

For acquisition of lands, such sums, to be derived from funds deposited by State, county, or municipal governments, public school districts, or other public school authorities, and for authorized expenditures from funds deposited by non-Federal parties pursuant to Land Sale and Exchange Acts, pursuant to the Act of December 4, 1967 (16 U.S.C. 484a), to remain available through September 30, 2029, (16 U.S.C. 516–617a, 555a; Public Law 96–586; Public Law 76–589, Public Law 76–591; and Public Law 78–310).

RANGE BETTERMENT FUND

For necessary expenses of range rehabilitation, protection, and improvement, 50 percent of all moneys received during the prior fiscal year, as fees for grazing domestic livestock on lands in National Forests in the 16 Western States, pursuant to section 401(b)(1) of Public Law 94–579, to remain available through September 30, 2029, of which not to exceed 6 percent shall be available for administrative expenses associated with on-the-ground range rehabilitation, protection, and improvements.

GIFTS, DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS FOR FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

For expenses authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1643(b), $45,000, to remain available through September 30, 2029, to be derived from the fund established pursuant to the above Act.

MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL FOREST LANDS FOR SUBSISTENCE USES

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service to manage Federal lands in Alaska for subsistence uses under title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.), $1,099,000, to remain available through September 30, 2029.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for forest fire presuppression activities on National Forest System lands, for emergency wildland fire suppression on or adjacent to such lands or other lands under fire protection agreement, and for emergency rehabilitation of burned-over National Forest System lands and water, $2,426,111,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such funds, including unobligated balances under this heading, are available for repayment of advances from other appropriations accounts previously transferred for such purposes: *Provided further*, That any unobligated funds appropriated in a previous fiscal year for hazardous fuels management may be transferred to the ''National Forest System'' account: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available to reimburse State and other cooperating entities for services provided in response to wildfire and other emergencies or disasters to the extent such reimbursements by the Forest Service for non-fire emergencies are fully repaid by the responsible emergency management agency: *Provided further*, That funds provided shall be available for support to Federal emergency response: *Provided further*, That the costs of implementing any cooperative agreement between the Federal Government and any non-Federal entity may be shared, as mutually agreed on by the affected parties: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, $1,011,000,000 shall be available for wildfire suppression operations, and is provided to meet the terms of section 4004(b)(5)(B) 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.

WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS RESERVE FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

In addition to the amounts provided under the heading ''Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management'' for wildfire suppression operations, $2,480,000,000, to remain available until transferred, is additional new budget authority as specified for purposes of section 4004(b)(5) 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: *Provided*, That such amounts may be transferred to and merged with amounts made available under the headings ''Department of the Interior—Department-Wide Programs—Wildland Fire Management'' and ''Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management'' for wildfire suppression operations in the fiscal year in which such amounts are transferred: *Provided further*, That amounts may be transferred to the ''Wildland Fire Management'' accounts in the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture only upon the notification of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that all wildfire suppression operations funds appropriated under that heading in this and prior appropriations Acts to the agency to which the funds will be transferred will be obligated within 30 days: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That, in determining whether all wildfire suppression operations funds appropriated under the heading ''Wildland Fire Management'' in this and prior appropriations Acts to either the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior will be obligated within 30 days pursuant to the preceding proviso, any funds transferred or permitted to be transferred pursuant to any other transfer authority provided by law shall be excluded.

COMMUNICATIONS SITE ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Amounts collected in this fiscal year pursuant to section 8705(f)(2) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334), shall be deposited in the special account established by section 8705(f)(1) of such Act, shall be available to cover the costs described in subsection (c)(3) of such section of such Act, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be transferred to the ''National Forest System'' account.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FOREST SERVICE

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations to the Forest Service for the current fiscal year shall be available for: (1) purchase of passenger motor vehicles; acquisition of passenger motor vehicles from excess sources, and hire of such vehicles; purchase, lease, operation, maintenance, and acquisition of aircraft to maintain the operable fleet for use in Forest Service wildland fire programs and other Forest Service programs; notwithstanding other provisions of law, existing aircraft being replaced may be sold, with proceeds derived or trade-in value used to offset the purchase price for the replacement aircraft; (2) services pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2225, and not to exceed $100,000 for employment under 5 U.S.C. 3109; (3) purchase, erection, and alteration of buildings and other public improvements (7 U.S.C. 2250); (4) acquisition of land, waters, and interests therein pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 428a; (5) for expenses pursuant to the Volunteers in the National Forest Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 558a, 558d, and 558a note); (6) the cost of uniforms as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; and (7) for debt collection contracts in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3718(c).

Funds made available to the Forest Service in this Act may be transferred between accounts affected by the Forest Service budget restructure outlined in section 435 of division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94): *Provided*, That any transfer of funds pursuant to this paragraph shall not increase or decrease the funds appropriated to any account in this fiscal year by more than ten percent: *Provided further*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

Any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service may be transferred to the Wildland Fire Management appropriation for forest firefighting, emergency rehabilitation of burned-over or damaged lands or waters under its jurisdiction, and fire preparedness due to severe burning conditions upon the Secretary of Agriculture's notification of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that all fire suppression funds appropriated under the heading ''Wildland Fire Management'' will be obligated within 30 days: *Provided*, That all funds used pursuant to this paragraph must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation which must be requested as promptly as possible.

Not more than $50,000,000 of funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for expenditure or transfer to the Department of the Interior for wildland fire management, hazardous fuels management, and State fire assistance when such transfers would facilitate and expedite wildland fire management programs and projects.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Forest Service may transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated to the Forest Service by this Act to or within the National Forest System Account, or reprogram funds to be used for the purposes of hazardous fuels management and urgent rehabilitation of burned-over National Forest System lands and water: *Provided*, That such transferred funds shall remain available through September 30, 2029: *Provided further*, That none of the funds transferred pursuant to this paragraph shall be available for obligation without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for assistance to or through the U.S. Department of State and other Federal agencies in connection with forest and rangeland research, technical information, and assistance in foreign countries, and shall be available to support forestry and related natural resource activities outside the United States and its territories and possessions, including technical assistance, education and training, and cooperation with United States government, private sector, and international organizations: *Provided*, That amounts made available for International Programs and Trade may utilize all authorities related to forestry, research, and cooperative assistance regardless of program designations.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available to enter into a cooperative agreement with the section 509(a)(3) Supporting Organization, ''Forest Service International Foundation'' to assist the Foundation in meeting administrative, project, and other expenses, and may provide the Foundation's use of Forest Service personnel and facilities.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for expenditure or transfer to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, for removal, preparation, and adoption of excess wild horses and burros from National Forest System lands, and for the performance of cadastral surveys to designate the boundaries of such lands.

None of the funds made available to the Forest Service in this Act or any other Act with respect to any fiscal year shall be subject to transfer under the provisions of section 702(b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 2257), section 442 of Public Law 106–224 (7 U.S.C. 7772), or section 10417(b) of Public Law 107–171 (7 U.S.C. 8316(b)).

Not more than $82,000,000 of funds available to the Forest Service shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture and not more than $14,500,000 of funds available to the Forest Service shall be transferred to the Department of Agriculture for Department Reimbursable Programs, commonly referred to as Greenbook charges: *Provided*, That nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit or limit the use of reimbursable agreements requested by the Forest Service in order to obtain information technology services, including telecommunications and system modifications or enhancements, from the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture.

Of the funds available to the Forest Service, up to $5,000,000 shall be available for priority projects within the scope of the approved budget, which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps and shall be carried out under the authority of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.).

Of the funds available to the Forest Service, $4,000 is available to the Chief of the Forest Service for official reception and representation expenses.

Pursuant to sections 405(b) and 410(b) of Public Law 101–593, of the funds available to

the Forest Service, up to $3,000,000 may be advanced in a lump sum to the National Forest Foundation to aid conservation partnership projects in support of the Forest Service mission, without regard to when the Foundation incurs expenses, for projects on or benefitting National Forest System lands or related to Forest Service programs: *Provided*, That of the Federal funds made available to the Foundation, no more than $300,000 shall be available for administrative expenses: *Provided further*, That the Foundation shall obtain, by the end of the period of Federal financial assistance, private contributions to match funds made available by the Forest Service on at least a one-for-one basis: *Provided further*, That the Foundation may transfer Federal funds to a Federal or a non-Federal recipient for a project at the same rate that the recipient has obtained the non-Federal matching funds.

Pursuant to section 2(b)(2) of Public Law 98–244, up to $3,000,000 of the funds available to the Forest Service may be advanced to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in a lump sum to aid cost-share conservation projects, without regard to when expenses are incurred, on or benefitting National Forest System lands or related to Forest Service programs: *Provided*, That such funds shall be matched on at least a one-for-one basis by the Foundation or its sub-recipients: *Provided further*, That the Foundation may transfer Federal funds to a Federal or non-Federal recipient for a project at the same rate that the recipient has obtained the non-Federal matching funds.

Any amounts made available to the Forest Service in this fiscal year, including available collections, may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, to enter into Federal financial assistance grants and cooperative agreements to support forest or grassland collaboratives in the accomplishment of activities benefitting both the public and the National Forest System, Federal lands and adjacent non-Federal lands. Eligible activities are those that will improve or enhance Federal investments, resources, or lands, including for collaborative and collaboration-based activities, including but not limited to facilitation, planning, and implementing projects, technical assistance, administrative functions, operational support, participant costs, and other capacity support needs, as identified by the Forest Service. Eligible recipients are Indian tribal entities (defined at 25 U.S.C. 5304(e)), state government, local governments, private and nonprofit entities, for-profit organizations, and educational institutions. The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may enter into such cooperative agreements notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31 when the Secretary determines that the public interest will be benefited and that there exists a mutual interest other than monetary considerations. Transactions subject to Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations shall be publicly advertised and require competition when required by such Title 2. For those transactions not subject to Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the agency may require public advertising and competition when deemed appropriate. The term ''forest and grassland collaboratives'' means groups of individuals or entities with diverse interests participating in a cooperative process to share knowledge, ideas, and resources about the protection, restoration, or enhancement of natural and other resources on Federal and adjacent non-Federal lands, the improvement or maintenance of public access to Federal lands, or the reduction of risk to such lands caused by natural disasters.

The 19th unnumbered paragraph under the heading ''Administrative Provisions, Forest Service'' in title III of Public Law 109–54 is amended in the first sentence by inserting ''and future Acts'' after ''funds available to the Forest Service in this Act'' and by striking ''prior to the date of enactment of this Act''.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for interactions with and providing technical assistance to rural communities and natural resource-based businesses for sustainable rural development purposes.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for payments to counties within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, pursuant to section 14(c)(1) and (2), and section 16(a)(2) of Public Law 99–663.

Any funds appropriated to the Forest Service may be used to meet the non-Federal share requirement in section 502(c) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056(c)(2)).

The Forest Service shall not assess funds for the purpose of performing fire, administrative, and other facilities maintenance and decommissioning.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service, not to exceed $500,000 may be used to reimburse the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), Department of Agriculture, for travel and related expenses incurred as a result of OGC assistance or participation requested by the Forest Service at meetings, training sessions, management reviews, land purchase negotiations, and similar matters unrelated to civil litigation: *Provided*, That future budget justifications for both the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture should clearly display the sums previously transferred and the sums requested for transfer.

An eligible individual who is employed in any project funded under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.) and administered by the Forest Service shall be considered to be a Federal employee for purposes of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

The Forest Service may employ or contract with an individual who is enrolled in a training program at a longstanding Civilian Conservation Center (as defined in section 147(d) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3197(d))) at regular rates of pay for necessary hours of work on National Forest System lands.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available to pay, from a single account, the base salary and expenses of employees who carry out functions funded by other accounts for Enterprise Program, Geospatial Technology and Applications Center, National Applications Liaison Office, Job Corps, and National Technology and Development Program.

The Forest Service shall maintain staffing levels in order to fulfill the mission required under title 7, title 16, title 30, title 43, and title 54, United States Code, including to protect natural and cultural resources, provide and maintain appropriate access and recreation for visitors, provide safety precautions for visitors and staff, maintain physical and natural infrastructure, provide information and respond to stakeholders and the general public, conduct tribal consultation, provide for administrative support, administer forestry assistance programs, provide technical assistance to states, tribes and private landowners, manage energy and minerals resources, and carry out other activities in support of effectively operating the National Forest System and carrying out programs administered by the Forest Service in a timely manner.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES

For expenses necessary to carry out the Act of August 5, 1954 (68 Stat. 674), the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, and titles II and III of the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Indian Health Service, $66,993,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, except as otherwise provided herein, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2025; in addition, $264,702,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, for the Electronic Health Record System and the Indian Healthcare Improvement Fund, of which $74,138,000 is for the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund and may be used, as needed, to carry out activities typically funded under the Indian Health Facilities account; and, in addition, $4,789,731,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, and remain available through September 30, 2028, except as otherwise provided herein; together with payments received during the fiscal year pursuant to sections 231(b) and 233 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 238(b) and 238b), for services furnished by the Indian Health Service: *Provided*, That funds made available to tribes and tribal organizations through contracts, grant agreements, or any other agreements or compacts authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), shall be deemed to be obligated at the time of the grant or contract award and thereafter shall remain available to the tribe or tribal organization without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That from the amounts that become available on October 1, 2026, $2,500,000 shall be available for grants or contracts with public or private institutions to provide alcohol or drug treatment services to Indians, including alcohol detoxification services: *Provided further*, That from the amounts that become available on October 1, 2026, $996,755,000 shall remain available until expended for Purchased/Referred Care: *Provided further*, That of the total amount specified in the preceding proviso for Purchased/Referred Care, $54,000,000 shall be for the Indian Catastrophic Health Emergency Fund: *Provided further*, That from the amounts that become available on October 1, 2026, up to $53,000,000 shall remain available until expended for implementation of the loan repayment program under section 108 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act: *Provided further*, That from the amounts that become available on October 1, 2026, $58,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for costs related to or resulting from accreditation emergencies, including supplementing activities funded under the heading ''Indian Health Facilities'', of which up to $4,000,000 may be used to supplement amounts otherwise available for Purchased/Referred Care: *Provided further*, That the amounts collected by the Federal Government as authorized by sections 104 and 108 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1613a and 1616a) during the preceding fiscal year for breach of contracts shall be deposited in the Fund authorized by section 108A of that Act (25 U.S.C. 1616a–1) and shall remain available until expended and, notwithstanding section 108A(c) of that Act (25 U.S.C. 1616a–1(c)), funds shall be available to make new awards under the loan repayment and scholarship programs under sections 104 and 108 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 1613a and 1616a): *Provided further*, That the amounts made available within this account for the Substance Abuse and

Suicide Prevention Program, for Opioid Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services, for the Domestic Violence Prevention Program, for the Zero Suicide Initiative, for the housing subsidy authority for civilian employees, for Aftercare Pilot Programs at Youth Regional Treatment Centers, for transformation and modernization costs of the Indian Health Service Electronic Health Record system, for national quality and oversight activities, to improve collections from public and private insurance at Indian Health Service and tribally operated facilities, for an initiative to treat or reduce the transmission of HIV and HCV, for a maternal health initiative, for the Telebehaviorial Health Center of Excellence, for Alzheimer's activities, for Village Built Clinics, for a produce prescription pilot, and for accreditation emergencies shall be allocated at the discretion of the Director of the Indian Health Service and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That funds provided in this Act may be used for annual contracts and grants that fall within 2 fiscal years, provided the total obligation is recorded in the year the funds are appropriated: *Provided further*, That the amounts collected by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under the authority of title IV of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1613) shall remain available until expended for the purpose of achieving compliance with the applicable conditions and requirements of titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act, except for those related to the planning, design, or construction of new facilities: *Provided further*, That funding contained herein for scholarship programs under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1613) shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That amounts received by tribes and tribal organizations under title IV of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act shall be reported and accounted for and available to the receiving tribes and tribal organizations until expended: *Provided further*, That the Bureau of Indian Affairs may collect from the Indian Health Service, and from tribes and tribal organizations operating health facilities pursuant to Public Law 93–638, such individually identifiable health information relating to disabled children as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out its functions under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.): *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided that become available on October 1, 2026, may be used for implementation of the Electronic Health Record System or the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act, or any other Act, to the Indian Health Service for the Electronic Health Record system shall be available for obligation or expenditure for the selection or implementation of a new Information Technology infrastructure system, unless the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are consulted 90 days in advance of such obligation.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS

For payments to tribes and tribal organizations for contract support costs associated with Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act agreements with the Indian Health Service for fiscal year 2026, such sums as may be necessary: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts made available under this heading shall be available for transfer to another budget account: *Provided further*, That amounts obligated but not expended by a tribe or tribal organization for contract support costs for such agreements for the current fiscal year shall be applied to contract support costs due for such agreements for subsequent fiscal years.

PAYMENTS FOR TRIBAL LEASES

For payments to tribes and tribal organizations for leases pursuant to section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)) for fiscal year 2026, such sums as may be necessary, which shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts made available under this heading shall be available for transfer to another budget account.

INDIAN HEALTH FACILITIES

For construction, repair, maintenance, demolition, improvement, and equipment of health and related auxiliary facilities, including quarters for personnel; preparation of plans, specifications, and drawings; acquisition of sites, purchase and erection of modular buildings, and purchases of trailers; and for provision of domestic and community sanitation facilities for Indians, as authorized by section 7 of the Act of August 5, 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2004a), the Indian Self-Determination Act, and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, and for expenses necessary to carry out such Acts and titles II and III of the Public Health Service Act with respect to environmental health and facilities support activities of the Indian Health Service, $5,826,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2025; in addition, $292,622,000, to remain available until expended, for Sanitation Facilities Construction and Health Care Facilities Construction; and, in addition, $516,600,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, and remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated for the planning, design, construction, renovation, or expansion of health facilities for the benefit of an Indian tribe or tribes may be used to purchase land on which such facilities will be located: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $500,000 may be used for fiscal year 2027 by the Indian Health Service to purchase TRANSAM equipment from the Department of Defense for distribution to the Indian Health Service and tribal facilities: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided that become available on October 1, 2026, may be used for Health Care Facilities Construction or for Sanitation Facilities Construction: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading for fiscal year 2026 for Sanitation Facilities Construction, $17,039,000 shall be for projects specified for Sanitation Facilities Construction (CDS) in the table titled ''Interior and Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items'' included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated to the Indian Health Service may be used for sanitation facilities construction for new homes funded with grants by the housing programs of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Appropriations provided in this Act to the Indian Health Service shall be available for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109 at rates not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the maximum rate payable for senior-level positions under 5 U.S.C. 5376; hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; purchase of medical equipment; purchase of reprints; purchase, renovation, and erection of modular buildings and renovation of existing facilities; payments for telephone service in private residences in the field, when authorized under regulations approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services; uniforms, or allowances therefor as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; and for expenses of attendance at meetings that relate to the functions or activities of the Indian Health Service: *Provided*, That in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, non-Indian patients may be extended health care at all tribally administered or Indian Health Service facilities, subject to charges, and the proceeds along with funds recovered under the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651–2653) shall be credited to the account of the facility providing the service and shall be available without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other law or regulation, funds transferred from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Indian Health Service shall be administered under Public Law 86–121, the Indian Sanitation Facilities Act and Public Law 93–638: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated to the Indian Health Service in this Act, except those used for administrative and program direction purposes, shall not be subject to limitations directed at curtailing Federal travel and transportation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the Indian Health Service in this Act shall be used for any assessments or charges by the Department of Health and Human Services unless such assessments or charges are identified in the budget justification and provided in this Act, or approved by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations through the reprogramming process: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds previously or herein made available to a tribe or tribal organization through a contract, grant, or agreement authorized by title I or title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), may be deobligated and reobligated to a self-determination contract under title I, or a self-governance agreement under title V of such Act and thereafter shall remain available to the tribe or tribal organization without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the Indian Health Service in this Act shall be used to implement the final rule published in the Federal Register on September 16, 1987, by the Department of Health and Human Services, relating to the eligibility for the health care services of the Indian Health Service until the Indian Health Service has submitted a budget request reflecting the increased costs associated with the proposed final rule, and such request has been included in an appropriations Act and enacted into law: *Provided further*, That with respect to functions transferred by the Indian Health Service to tribes or tribal organizations, the Indian Health Service is authorized to provide goods and services to those entities on a reimbursable basis, including payments in advance with subsequent adjustment, and the reimbursements received therefrom, along with the funds received from those entities pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination Act, may be credited to the same or subsequent appropriation account from which the funds were originally derived, with such amounts to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That reimbursements for training, technical assistance, or services provided by the Indian Health Service will contain total costs, including direct, administrative, and overhead costs associated with the provision of goods, services, or technical assistance: *Provided*

further, That the Indian Health Service may provide to civilian medical personnel serving in hospitals operated by the Indian Health Service housing allowances equivalent to those that would be provided to members of the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service serving in similar positions at such hospitals: *Provided further*, That the appropriation structure for the Indian Health Service may not be altered without advance notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

For necessary expenses for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in carrying out activities set forth in section 311(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9660(a)) and section 126(g) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, $77,100,000.

AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

For necessary expenses for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in carrying out activities set forth in sections 104(i) and 111(c)(4) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) and section 3019 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, $79,800,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, in lieu of performing a health assessment under section 104(i)(6) of CERCLA, the Administrator of ATSDR may conduct other appropriate health studies, evaluations, or activities, including, without limitation, biomedical testing, clinical evaluations, medical monitoring, and referral to accredited healthcare providers: *Provided further*, That in performing any such health assessment or health study, evaluation, or activity, the Administrator of ATSDR shall not be bound by the deadlines in section 104(i)(6)(A) of CERCLA: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for ATSDR to issue in excess of 40 toxicological profiles pursuant to section 104(i) of CERCLA during fiscal year 2026, and existing profiles may be updated as necessary.

OTHER RELATED AGENCIES

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

For necessary expenses to continue functions assigned to the Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970, and Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1977, and not to exceed $750 for official reception and representation expenses, $4,629,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 202 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970, the Council shall consist of one member, appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, serving as chairman and exercising all powers, functions, and duties of the Council.

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses in carrying out activities pursuant to section 112(r)(6) of the Clean Air Act, including hire of passenger vehicles, uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902, the rental of space, and for services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109 but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem equivalent to the maximum rate payable for senior level positions under 5 U.S.C. 5376, $14,000,000: *Provided*, That the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (Board) shall have not more than three career Senior Executive Service positions: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the individual appointed to the position of Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall, by virtue of such appointment, also hold the position of Inspector General of the Board: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Inspector General of the Board shall utilize personnel of the Office of Inspector General of EPA in performing the duties of the Inspector General of the Board, and shall not appoint any individuals to positions within the Board.

INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT

PAYMENT TO THE INSTITUTE

For payment to the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development, as authorized by part A of title XV of Public Law 99–498 (20 U.S.C. 4411 et seq.), $13,482,000, which shall become available on July 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Smithsonian Institution, as authorized by law, including research in the fields of art, science, and history; development, preservation, and documentation of the National Collections; presentation of public exhibits and performances; collection, preparation, dissemination, and exchange of information and publications; conduct of education, training, and museum assistance programs; maintenance, alteration, operation, lease agreements of no more than 30 years, and protection of buildings, facilities, and approaches; not to exceed $100,000 for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and purchase, rental, repair, and cleaning of uniforms for employees, $928,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, except as otherwise provided herein; of which not to exceed $27,000,000 for the instrumentation program, collections acquisition, exhibition reinstallation, Smithsonian American Women's History Museum, National Museum of the American Latino, and the repatriation of skeletal remains program shall remain available until expended; and including such funds as may be necessary to support American overseas research centers: *Provided*, That funds appropriated herein are available for advance payments to independent contractors performing research services or participating in official Smithsonian presentations: *Provided further*, That the Smithsonian Institution may expend Federal appropriations designated in this Act for lease or rent payments, as rent payable to the Smithsonian Institution, and such rent payments may be deposited into the general trust funds of the Institution to be available as trust funds for expenses associated with the purchase of a portion of the building at 600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, to the extent that federally supported activities will be housed there: *Provided further*, That the use of such amounts in the general trust funds of the Institution for such purpose shall not be construed as Federal debt service for, a Federal guarantee of, a transfer of risk to, or an obligation of the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That no appropriated funds may be used directly to service debt which is incurred to finance the costs of acquiring a portion of the building at 600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, or of planning, designing, and constructing improvements to such building: *Provided further*, That any agreement entered into by the Smithsonian Institution for the sale of its ownership interest, or any portion thereof, in such building so acquired may not take effect until the expiration of a 30 day period which begins on the date on which the Secretary of the Smithsonian submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate, the Committees on House Administration and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate a report, as outlined in the explanatory statement described in section 4 of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94; 133 Stat. 2536) on the intended sale.

FACILITIES CAPITAL

For necessary expenses of repair, revitalization, and alteration of facilities owned or occupied by the Smithsonian Institution, by contract or otherwise, as authorized by section 2 of the Act of August 22, 1949 (63 Stat. 623), and for construction, including necessary personnel, $152,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $10,000 shall be for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For the upkeep and operations of the National Gallery of Art, the protection and care of the works of art therein, and administrative expenses incident thereto, as authorized by the Act of March 24, 1937 (50 Stat. 51), as amended by the public resolution of April 13, 1939 (Public Resolution 9, 76th Congress), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; payment in advance when authorized by the treasurer of the Gallery for membership in library, museum, and art associations or societies whose publications or services are available to members only, or to members at a price lower than to the general public; purchase, repair, and cleaning of uniforms for guards, and uniforms, or allowances therefor, for other employees as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902); purchase or rental of devices and services for protecting buildings and contents thereof, and maintenance, alteration, improvement, and repair of buildings, approaches, and grounds; and purchase of services for restoration and repair of works of art for the National Gallery of Art by contracts made, without advertising, with individuals, firms, or organizations at such rates or prices and under such terms and conditions as the Gallery may deem proper, $185,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which not to exceed $3,893,000 for the special exhibition program shall remain available until expended.

REPAIR, RESTORATION AND RENOVATION OF BUILDINGS

For necessary expenses of repair, restoration, and renovation of buildings, grounds and facilities owned or occupied by the National Gallery of Art, by contract or otherwise, for operating lease agreements of no more than 10 years, that address space needs created by the ongoing renovations in the Master Facilities Plan, as authorized, $19,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds made available in prior Acts under this heading for the design and construction of an off-site art storage facility in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution may be used for the repair, restoration, and renovation of other National Gallery of Art buildings, grounds, and facilities: *Provided further*, That contracts awarded for environmental systems, protection systems, and exterior repair or renovation of buildings of the National Gallery of

Art may be negotiated with selected contractors and awarded on the basis of contractor qualifications as well as price.

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

For necessary expenses for the operation, maintenance, and security of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, including rent of temporary office space in the District of Columbia during renovations of such Center, $32,340,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

CAPITAL REPAIR AND RESTORATION

For necessary expenses for capital repair and restoration of the existing features of the building and site of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, $4,860,000, to remain available until expended.

WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary in carrying out the provisions of the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Act of 1968 (82 Stat. 1356) including hire of passenger vehicles and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, $5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses to carry out the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, $207,000,000 shall be available to the National Endowment for the Arts for the support of projects and productions in the arts, including arts education and public outreach activities, through assistance to organizations and individuals pursuant to section 5 of the Act, for program support, and for administering the functions of the Act, to remain available until expended.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses to carry out the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, $207,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which $192,000,000 shall be available for support of activities in the humanities, pursuant to section 7(c) of the Act and for administering the functions of the Act; and $15,000,000 shall be available to carry out the matching grants program pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Act, including $13,000,000 for the purposes of section 7(h): *Provided,* That appropriations for carrying out section 10(a)(2) shall be available for obligation only in such amounts as may be equal to the total amounts of gifts, bequests, devises of money, and other property accepted by the chairman or by grantees of the National Endowment for the Humanities under the provisions of sections 11(a)(2)(B) and 11(a)(3)(B) during the current and preceding fiscal years for which equal amounts have not previously been appropriated.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

None of the funds appropriated to the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities may be used to process any grant or contract documents which do not include the text of 18 U.S.C. 1913: *Provided,* That none of the funds appropriated to the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities may be used for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further,* That funds from nonappropriated sources may be used as necessary for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further,* That the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts may approve grants of up to $10,000, if in the aggregate the amount of such grants does not exceed 5 percent of the sums appropriated for grantmaking purposes per year: *Provided further,* That such small grant actions are taken pursuant to the terms of an expressed and direct delegation of authority from the National Council on the Arts to the Chairperson.

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses of the Commission of Fine Arts under chapter 91 of title 40, United States Code, $3,641,000: *Provided,* That the Commission is authorized to charge fees to cover the full costs of its publications, and such fees shall be credited to this account as an offsetting collection, to remain available until expended without further appropriation: *Provided further,* That the Commission is authorized to accept gifts, including objects, papers, artwork, drawings and artifacts, that pertain to the history and design of the Nation's Capital or the history and activities of the Commission of Fine Arts, for the purpose of artistic display, study, or education: *Provided further,* That one-tenth of 1 percent of the funds provided under this heading may be used for official reception and representation expenses.

NATIONAL CAPITAL ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

For necessary expenses as authorized by Public Law 99–190 (20 U.S.C. 956a), $5,000,000.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Public Law 89–665), $8,285,000.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the National Capital Planning Commission under chapter 87 of title 40, United States Code, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, $8,750,000: *Provided,* That one-quarter of 1 percent of the funds provided under this heading may be used for official reception and representational expenses associated with hosting international visitors engaged in the planning and physical development of world capitals.

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

For expenses of the Holocaust Memorial Museum, as authorized by Public Law 106–292 (36 U.S.C. 2301–2310), $65,231,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which $1,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028, for the Museum's equipment replacement program; and of which $4,000,000 for the Museum's repair and rehabilitation program and $1,264,000 for the Museum's outreach initiatives program shall remain available until expended.

UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission to plan and coordinate observances and activities associated with the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, as authorized by Public Law 116–282, the technical amendments to Public Law 114–196, $15,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

TITLE IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available for any activity or the publication or distribution of literature that in any way tends to promote public support or opposition to any legislative proposal on which Congressional action is not complete other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

OBLIGATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 402. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

DISCLOSURE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

SEC. 403. The amount and basis of estimated overhead charges, deductions, reserves, or holdbacks, including working capital fund charges, from programs, projects, activities and subactivities to support government-wide, departmental, agency, or bureau administrative functions or headquarters, regional, or central operations shall be presented in annual budget justifications and subject to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Changes to such estimates shall be presented to the Committees on Appropriations for approval.

MINING APPLICATIONS

SEC. 404. (a) LIMITATION OF FUNDS.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to this Act shall be obligated or expended to accept or process applications for a patent for any mining or mill site claim located under the general mining laws.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Secretary of the Interior determines that, for the claim concerned: (1) a patent application was filed with the Secretary on or before September 30, 1994; and (2) all requirements established under sections 2325 and 2326 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 29 and 30) for vein or lode claims, sections 2329, 2330, 2331, and 2333 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 35, 36, and 37) for placer claims, and section 2337 of the Revised Statutes (30 U.S.C. 42) for mill site claims, as the case may be, were fully complied with by the applicant by that date.

(c) REPORT.—On September 30, 2027, the Secretary of the Interior shall file with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on actions taken by the Department under the plan submitted pursuant to section 314(c) of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–208).

(d) MINERAL EXAMINATIONS.—In order to process patent applications in a timely and responsible manner, upon the request of a patent applicant, the Secretary of the Interior shall allow the applicant to fund a qualified third-party contractor to be selected by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to conduct a mineral examination of the mining claims or mill sites contained in a patent application as set forth in subsection (b). The Bureau of Land Management shall have the sole responsibility to choose and pay the third-party contractor in accordance with the standard procedures employed by the Bureau of Land Management in the retention of third-party contractors.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS, PRIOR YEAR LIMITATION

SEC. 405. Sections 405 and 406 of division F of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113–235) shall continue in effect in fiscal year 2026.

CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS, FISCAL YEAR 2026 LIMITATION

SEC. 406. Amounts provided by this Act for fiscal year 2026 under the headings ''Department of Health and Human Services, Indian

Health Service, Contract Support Costs'' and ''Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, Contract Support Costs'' are the only amounts available for contract support costs arising out of self-determination or self-governance contracts, grants, compacts, or annual funding agreements for fiscal year 2026 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and the Indian Health Service: *Provided*, That such amounts provided by this Act are not available for payment of claims for contract support costs for prior years, or for repayments of payments for settlements or judgments awarding contract support costs for prior years.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS

SEC. 407. The Secretary of Agriculture shall not be considered to be in violation of section 6(f)(5)(A) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5)(A)) solely because more than 15 years have passed without revision of the plan for a unit of the National Forest System. Nothing in this section exempts the Secretary from any other requirement of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.) or any other law: *Provided*, That if the Secretary is not acting expeditiously and in good faith, within the funding available, to revise a plan for a unit of the National Forest System, this section shall be void with respect to such plan and a court of proper jurisdiction may order completion of the plan on an accelerated basis.

PROHIBITION WITHIN NATIONAL MONUMENTS

SEC. 408. No funds provided in this Act may be expended to conduct preleasing, leasing and related activities under either the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) or the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) within the boundaries of a National Monument established pursuant to the Act of June 8, 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) as such boundary existed on January 20, 2001, except where such activities are allowed under the Presidential proclamation establishing such monument.

LIMITATION ON TAKINGS

SEC. 409. Unless otherwise provided herein, no funds appropriated in this Act for the acquisition of lands or interests in lands may be expended for the filing of declarations of taking or complaints in condemnation without the advance notification and approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That this provision shall not apply to funds appropriated to implement the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989, or to funds appropriated for Federal assistance to the State of Florida to acquire lands for Everglades restoration purposes.

PROHIBITION ON NO-BID CONTRACTS

SEC. 410. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act to executive branch agencies may be used to enter into any Federal contract unless such contract is entered into in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 33 of title 41, United States Code, or Chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation, unless—

(1) Federal law specifically authorizes a contract to be entered into without regard for these requirements, including formula grants for States, or federally recognized Indian tribes;

(2) such contract is authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (Public Law 93–638, 25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) or by any other Federal laws that specifically authorize a contract within an Indian tribe as defined in section 4(e) of that Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)); or

(3) such contract was awarded prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

POSTING OF REPORTS

SEC. 411. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public website of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANT GUIDELINES

SEC. 412. Of the funds provided to the National Endowment for the Arts—

(1) The Chairperson shall only award a grant to an individual if such grant is awarded to such individual for a literature fellowship, National Heritage Fellowship, or American Jazz Masters Fellowship.

(2) The Chairperson shall establish procedures to ensure that no funding provided through a grant, except a grant made to a State or local arts agency, or regional group, may be used to make a grant to any other organization or individual to conduct activity independent of the direct grant recipient. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit payments made in exchange for goods and services.

(3) No grant shall be used for seasonal support to a group, unless the application is specific to the contents of the season, including identified programs or projects.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS PROGRAM PRIORITIES

SEC. 413. (a) In providing services or awarding financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 from funds appropriated under this Act, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts shall ensure that priority is given to providing services or awarding financial assistance for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that serve underserved populations.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term ''underserved population'' means a population of individuals, including urban minorities, who have historically been outside the purview of arts and humanities programs due to factors such as a high incidence of income below the poverty line or to geographic isolation.

(2) The term ''poverty line'' means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))) applicable to a family of the size involved.

(c) In providing services and awarding financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 with funds appropriated by this Act, the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts shall ensure that priority is given to providing services or awarding financial assistance for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that will encourage public knowledge, education, understanding, and appreciation of the arts.

(d) With funds appropriated by this Act to carry out section 5 of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965—

(1) the Chairperson shall establish a grant category for projects, productions, workshops, or programs that are of national impact or availability or are able to tour several States;

(2) the Chairperson shall not make grants exceeding 15 percent, in the aggregate, of such funds to any single State, excluding grants made under the authority of paragraph (1);

(3) the Chairperson shall report to the Congress annually and by State, on grants awarded by the Chairperson in each grant category under section 5 of such Act; and

(4) the Chairperson shall encourage the use of grants to improve and support community-based music performance and education.

STATUS OF BALANCES OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 414. The Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service, and the Indian Health Service shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate quarterly reports on the status of balances of appropriations including all uncommitted, committed, and unobligated funds in each program and activity within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

EXTENSION OF GRAZING PERMITS

SEC. 415. The terms and conditions of section 325 of Public Law 108–108 (117 Stat. 1307), regarding grazing permits issued by the Forest Service on any lands not subject to administration under section 402 of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1752), shall remain in effect for fiscal year 2026.

FUNDING PROHIBITION

SEC. 416. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network is designed to block access to pornography websites.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

HUMANE TRANSFER AND TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

SEC. 417. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, or the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land administered by the Forest Service (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary concerned''), may transfer excess wild horses and burros that have been removed from land administered by the Secretary concerned to other Federal, State, and local government agencies for use as work animals.

(b) The Secretary concerned may make a transfer under subsection (a) immediately on the request of a Federal, State, or local government agency.

(c) An excess wild horse or burro transferred under subsection (a) shall lose status as a wild free-roaming horse or burro (as defined in section 2 of Public Law 92–195 (commonly known as the ''Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act'') (16 U.S.C. 1332)).

(d) A Federal, State, or local government agency receiving an excess wild horse or burro pursuant to subsection (a) shall not—

(1) destroy the horse or burro in a manner that results in the destruction of the horse or burro into a commercial product;

(2) sell or otherwise transfer the horse or burro in a manner that results in the destruction of the horse or burro for processing into a commercial product; or

(3) euthanize the horse or burro, except on the recommendation of a licensed veterinarian in a case of severe injury, illness, or advanced age.

(e) Amounts appropriated by this Act shall not be available for—

(1) the destruction of any healthy, unadopted, and wild horse or burro under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned (including a contractor); or

(2) the sale of a wild horse or burro that results in the destruction of the wild horse or burro for processing into a commercial product.

FOREST SERVICE FACILITY REALIGNMENT AND ENHANCEMENT AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. 418. Section 503(f) of Public Law 109–54 (16 U.S.C. 580d note) shall be applied by substituting ''September 30, 2026'' for ''September 30, 2019''.

USE OF AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL

SEC. 419. (a)(1) None of the funds made available by a State water pollution control revolving fund as authorized by section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12) shall be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system or treatment works unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.

(2) In this section, the term ''iron and steel'' products means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (in this section referred to as the ''Administrator'') finds that—

(1) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest;

(2) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or

(3) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

(c) If the Administrator receives a request for a waiver under this section, the Administrator shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Administrator concerning the request, and shall allow for informal public input on the request for at least 15 days prior to making a finding based on the request. The Administrator shall make the request and accompanying information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(d) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

(e) The Administrator may retain up to 0.25 percent of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds for carrying out the provisions described in subsection (a)(1) for management and oversight of the requirements of this section.

LOCAL COOPERATOR TRAINING AGREEMENTS AND TRANSFERS OF EXCESS EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR WILDFIRES

SEC. 420. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to enter into grants and cooperative agreements with volunteer fire departments, rural fire departments, rangeland fire protection associations, and similar organizations to provide for wildland fire training and equipment, including supplies and communication devices. Notwithstanding section 121(c) of title 40, United States Code, or section 521 of title 40, United States Code, the Secretary is further authorized to transfer title to excess Department of the Interior firefighting equipment no longer needed to carry out the functions of the Department's wildland fire management program to such organizations.

REPROGRAMMING GUIDELINES

SEC. 421. None of the funds made available in this Act, in this and prior fiscal years, may be reprogrammed without the advance notification and approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations in accordance with the reprogramming procedures contained in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

LOCAL CONTRACTORS

SEC. 422. Section 412 of division E of Public Law 112–74 shall be applied by substituting ''fiscal year 2026'' for ''fiscal year 2019''.

INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. 423. Section 426 of division G of Public Law 113–76 (16 U.S.C. 565a–1 note) shall be applied by substituting ''September 30, 2026'' for ''September 30, 2019''.

FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCTS FEE COLLECTION AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. 424. Section 339 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106–113; 16 U.S.C. 528 note), as amended by section 335(6) of Public Law 108–108 and section 432 of Public Law 113–76, shall be applied by substituting ''fiscal year 2026'' for ''fiscal year 2019''.

CHACO CANYON

SEC. 425. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to accept a nomination for oil and gas leasing under 43 CFR 3120.3 et seq., or to offer for oil and gas leasing, any Federal lands within the withdrawal area identified on the map of the Chaco Culture National Historical Park prepared by the Bureau of Land Management and dated April 2, 2019, prior to the completion of the cultural resources investigation identified in the explanatory statement described in section 4 in the matter preceding division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260).

TRIBAL LEASES

SEC. 426. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of any lease under section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)), the initial lease term shall commence no earlier than the date of receipt of the lease proposal.

(b) The Secretaries of the Interior and Health and Human Services shall, jointly or separately, during fiscal year 2026 consult with tribes and tribal organizations through public solicitation and other means regarding the requirements for leases under section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5324(l)) on how to implement a consistent and transparent process for the payment of such leases.

FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND RECOVERY FUND

SEC. 427. The authority provided under the heading ''Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund'' in title I of Public Law 111–88, as amended by section 117 of division F of Public Law 113–235, shall be applied by substituting ''fiscal year 2026'' for ''fiscal year 2020'' each place it appears.

ALLOCATION OF PROJECTS, LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

SEC. 428. (a)(1) Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate, shall allocate amounts made available for expenditure from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2026 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 200303 of title 54, United States Code, to the agencies and accounts specified, for the projects specified under the accounts titled ''Land Acquisition Projects'' and ''Forest Legacy Projects'' in the Forest Service, and in the amounts specified in the table titled ''Allocation of Funds: Land and Water Conservation Fund Fiscal Year 2026'' in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided,* That the matter preceding this proviso shall not apply to amounts in any account titled ''Land Acquisition Projects'' in the Bureau of Land Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or National Park Service in such table.

(2)(A) Within 30 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations project lists with project data sheets as described in subsection (c)(4), which shall include a sufficient number of projects to total the amounts for the account titled ''Land Acquisition Projects'' for each of the Bureau of Land Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service, as specified in the table titled ''Allocation of Funds: Land and Water Conservation Fund Fiscal Year 2026'' in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided,* That on the date on which the Secretary of the Interior provides to the Committees on Appropriations such project lists with such project data sheets, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations lists of supplementary allocations for Federal land acquisition projects for each of the Bureau of Land Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service that are prioritized and detailed by account, program, and project, and that total no less than half the full amount allocated to each such account for that land management Agency in the table titled ''Allocation of Funds: Land and Water Conservation Fund Fiscal Year 2026'' in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided further,* That expenditure of funds under this paragraph is a reprogramming and shall be subject to section 421 of this Act.

(B) Within 45 days of the date on which a reprogramming is approved pursuant to the last proviso in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of the Interior shall allocate amounts made available for expenditure from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2026 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 200303 of title 54, United States Code, to the account titled ''Land Acquisition Projects'' for each of the Bureau of Land Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service, as applicable, in the amounts specified in the table titled ''Allocation of Funds: Land and Water Conservation Fund Fiscal Year 2026'' in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act) and for the projects included in the project lists approved by the Committees on Appropriations in accordance with subparagraph (A).

(3) If any portion of a project specified under the accounts titled ''Land Acquisition Projects'' and ''Forest Legacy Projects'' in

the Forest Service in the table titled ''Allocation of Funds: Land and Water Conservation Fund Fiscal Year 2026'' in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act) or for the projects included in the project lists approved by the Committees on Appropriations in accordance with subsection (a)(2)(A) is intended to be carried out within the Federal land unit or project boundary as specified in such table (or any prior allocation table incorporated by reference into a prior Act, as applicable) or project list but outside the specific tracts for the project described in the corresponding project data sheet submitted to the Committees on Appropriations required by section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code, or paragraph (2), not later than 30 days before the date on which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture expends amounts on the project, the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate, shall provide written notice to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of such expenditure.

(b) Neither the President nor his designee may allocate any amounts that are made available for any fiscal year under subsection (a) of section 200303 of title 54, United States Code, other than in amounts and for projects and activities that are allocated by subsection (a)(1) or in accordance with subsection (a)(2) of this section: *Provided*, That in any fiscal year, the matter preceding this proviso shall not apply to the allocation of amounts for continuing administration of programs allocated funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which may be allocated only in amounts that are no more than the allocation for such purposes in subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section.

(c)(1) Concurrent with the annual budget submission of the President for fiscal year 2027, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations a list of supplementary allocations for Federal land acquisition and Forest Legacy Projects at the Forest Service that are in addition to the ''Submission of Cost Estimates'' required by section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code, that are prioritized and detailed by account, program, and project, and that total no less than half the full amount allocated to each such account for the Forest Service under the allocations submitted under section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code: *Provided*, That in the event amounts allocated by this Act or any prior Act pursuant to subsection (a) of section 200303 of title 54, United States Code, are no longer needed because a project has been completed or can no longer be executed, such amounts must be clearly identified if proposed for reallocation in the annual budget submission.

(2) Concurrent with the annual budget submission of the President for fiscal year 2027, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations a list of supplementary allocations for Federal land acquisition projects at the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management that are in addition to the ''Submission of Cost Estimates'' required by section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code, that are prioritized and detailed by account, program, and project, and that total the full amount allocated to each such account for that land management Agency in the table titled ''Allocation of Funds: Land and Water Conservation Fund Fiscal Year 2026'' in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act): *Provided*, That in the event amounts allocated by this Act or any prior Act pursuant to subsection (a) of section 200303 of title 54, United States Code, are no longer needed because a project has been completed or can no longer be executed, such amounts must be clearly identified if proposed for reallocation in the annual budget submission.

(3) The Federal land acquisition and Forest Legacy projects in the ''Submission of Cost Estimates'' required by section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code, in the project lists provided under subsection (a)(2), in the list of supplementary allocations provided under subsection (a)(2), and on the lists of supplementary allocations required by paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be comprised only of projects for which a willing seller has been identified and for which an appraisal or market research has been initiated.

(4) Concurrent with the annual budget submission of the President for fiscal year 2027, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall each submit to the Committees on Appropriations project data sheets in the same format and containing the same level of detailed information that is found on such sheets in the Budget Justifications annually submitted by the Secretary of the Interior with the President's Budget for the projects in the ''Submission of Cost Estimates'' required by section 200303(c)(1) of title 54, United States Code, and in the same format and containing the same level of detailed information that is found on such sheets submitted to the Committees on Appropriations pursuant to section 427 of division D of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94) for the list of supplementary allocations required by paragraphs (1) and (2).

(5) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations quarterly reports on the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a)(2) of this section, including all uncommitted, committed, and unobligated funds.

(d) Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate, shall allocate amounts made available for expenditure from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2025 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 200303 of title 54, United States Code, to the agencies and accounts specified, for the projects specified, under the accounts specified, and in the amounts specified in the table titled ''Allocation of Funds: Land and Water Conservation Fund Fiscal Year 2025 Revisions'' in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

(e)(1) Within 30 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations project lists with project data sheets, which shall include a sufficient number of projects to total the amounts for the account titled ''National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund'' for each of the Bureau of Land Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Education, and U.S. Forest Service: *Provided*, That expenditure of funds under this paragraph is a reprogramming and shall be subject to section 421 of this Act.

(2) Within 45 days of the date on which a reprogramming is approved pursuant to the last proviso in subparagraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall allocate amounts made available for expenditure from the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund for fiscal year 2026 pursuant to subsection (c) of 200402 of title 54, United States Code, to the account titled ''National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund'' for each of the Bureau of Land Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Education, and U.S. Forest Service as applicable, in the amounts specified and for the projects included in the project lists approved by the Committees on Appropriations in accordance with subparagraph (1).

POLICIES RELATING TO BIOMASS ENERGY

SEC. 429. To support the key role that forests in the United States can play in addressing the energy needs of the United States, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall, consistent with their missions, jointly—

(1) ensure that Federal policy relating to forest bioenergy—

(A) is consistent across all Federal departments and agencies; and

(B) recognizes the full benefits of the use of forest biomass for energy, conservation, and responsible forest management; and

(2) establish clear and simple policies for the use of forest biomass as an energy solution, including policies that—

(A) reflect the carbon neutrality of forest bioenergy and recognize biomass as a renewable energy source, provided the use of forest biomass for energy production does not cause conversion of forests to non-forest use;

(B) encourage private investment throughout the forest biomass supply chain, including in—

(i) working forests;

(ii) harvesting operations;

(iii) forest improvement operations;

(iv) forest bioenergy production;

(v) wood products manufacturing; or

(vi) paper manufacturing;

(C) encourage forest management to improve forest health; and

(D) recognize State initiatives to produce and use forest biomass.

SMALL REMOTE INCINERATORS

SEC. 430. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to implement or enforce the regulation issued on March 21, 2011 at 40 CFR part 60 subparts CCCC and DDDD with respect to units in the State of Alaska that are defined as ''small, remote incinerator'' units in those regulations and, until a subsequent regulation is issued, the Administrator shall implement the law and regulations in effect prior to such date.

TIMBER SALE REQUIREMENTS

SEC. 431. No timber sale in Alaska's Region 10 shall be advertised if the indicated rate is deficit (defined as the value of the timber is not sufficient to cover all logging and stumpage costs and provide a normal profit and risk allowance under the Forest Service's appraisal process) when appraised using a residual value appraisal. The western red cedar timber from those sales which is surplus to the needs of the domestic processors in Alaska, shall be made available to domestic processors in the contiguous 48 United States at prevailing domestic prices. All additional western red cedar volume not sold to Alaska or contiguous 48 United States domestic processors may be exported to foreign markets at the election of the timber sale holder. All Alaska yellow cedar may be sold at prevailing export prices at the election of the timber sale holder.

TRANSFER AUTHORITY TO FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION FOR THE NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LAND LEGACY RESTORATION FUND

SEC. 432. Funds made available or allocated in this Act to the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture that are subject to the allocations and limitations in 54 U.S.C. 200402(e) and prohibitions in 54 U.S.C. 200402(f) may be further allocated or reallocated to the Federal Highway Administration for transportation projects of the covered agencies defined in 54 U.S.C. 200401(2).

PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 433. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this Act or any other Act may be used to promulgate or implement any regulation requiring the issuance of permits under title V of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7661 et seq.) for carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, water vapor, or methane emissions resulting from biological processes associated with livestock production.

GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING RESTRICTIONS

SEC. 434. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used to implement any provision in a rule, if that provision requires mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from manure management systems.

FUNDING PROHIBITION

SEC. 435. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to regulate the lead content of ammunition, ammunition components, or fishing tackle under the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) or any other law.

FIREFIGHTER PAY CAP

SEC. 436. (a) Section 1701 of division B of the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (5 U.S.C. 5547 note), as amended by Public Law 117–103, is further amended in subsection (a)(1), by striking the last sentence and inserting ''Any Services during a given calendar year that generate payments payable in the subsequent calendar year shall be disregarded in applying this subsection''.

(b) The waivers of premium and overtime pay authorized in subsections (a) through (c) of section 1701 of division B of the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (5 U.S.C. 5547 note), as amended by Public Law 117–103, shall be applied in fiscal year 2026.

ALASKA NATIVE REGIONAL HEALTH ENTITIES AUTHORIZATION EXTENSION

SEC. 437. Section 424(a) of title IV of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113–76) shall be applied by substituting ''October 1, 2026'' for ''December 24, 2022''.

LAVA RIDGE WIND PROJECT

SEC. 438. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended for the purpose of granting, issuing, or renewing a right-of-way under section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761) for the Lava Ridge Wind Project, unless or until the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, has analyzed, in consultation with local elected officials and stakeholders, action alternatives designed to reduce impacts to wildlife, cultural resources, transportation, hunting, wetlands and the connected surface and ground waters. The Secretary shall complete such consultations, and seek feedback regarding action alternatives, not later than September 30, 2026, and no funds made available in this Act shall be used for granting, issuing, or renewing a right-of-way under section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761) for the Lava Ridge Wind Project while such consultations and efforts are ongoing.

(b) Prior to granting, issuing, or renewing a right-of-way under section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761) for the Lava Ridge Wind Project, the Secretary shall periodically report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on the status of consultations required under subsection (a) and, once such consultations are complete, provide a briefing to the Committees on the action alternatives and the feedback of local elected officials and stakeholders.

WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION FUNDING AND FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT

SEC. 439. Section 104 of the Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act (division O of Public Law 115–141) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''90'' and inserting ''180''; and

(2) in paragraph (4) of subsection (b), by inserting the following before the semi-colon: '', and shall include an accounting of any spending in the first two quarters of the succeeding fiscal year that is attributable to suppression operations in the fiscal year for which the report was prepared''.

FIVE YEAR CONSTRUCTION PLAN

SEC. 440. The Department of the Interior and the Forest Service are directed to maintain updated 5-year deferred maintenance plans that, to the extent practicable, include a list of all outstanding deferred maintenance needs, and to provide them to the Committee on a quarterly basis.

QUARTERLY DISASTER ESTIMATES

SEC. 441. The Department of the Interior, the United States Forest Service, and the Environmental Protection agency shall provide quarterly estimates to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 30 days of a quarter closing detailing the costs to repair, restore, or otherwise remediate damages to Federal lands and infrastructure caused by disasters and, for the Environmental Protection Agency, the costs to repair and improve the resiliency of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure damaged in states, territories, and on tribal lands.

AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM AND NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN LATINO

SEC. 442. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to close, halt development of, merge with or transfer to another function or program, reduce funding, or otherwise diminish the operations of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum or the National Museum of the American Latino established by Public Law 116–260 on December 27, 2020.

PROGRAM FUNDING INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

SEC. 443. Amounts provided in this Act shall be allocated in the amounts specified for the programs, projects and activities specified in the tables in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act) titled:

(1) Program Funding for Management of Lands and Resources;

(2) Program Funding for Resource Management;

(3) Program Funding for Operation of the National Park System;

(4) Program Funding for National Recreation and Preservation;

(5) Program Funding for National Heritage Areas;

(6) Program Funding for Surveys, Investigations, and Research;

(7) Program Funding for Operation of Indian Programs;

(8) Program Funding for Science and Technology Programs;

(9) Program Funding for Environmental Programs and Management;

(10) Program Funding for National Estuary Program;

(11) Program Funding for Forest and Rangeland Research;

(12) Program Funding for State, Private, and Tribal Forestry; and

(13) Program Funding for National Forest System.

REPURPOSING

SEC. 444. (a) Of the amounts made available under the heading ''Department of the Interior—Departmental Offices—Department-Wide Programs—Wildland Fire Management'', $763,514,000 shall be derived by transfer from the unobligated balances of amounts previously appropriated in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58) as follows: (1) $125,000,000 from the unobligated balances under the heading ''Environmental Protection Agency—State and Tribal Assistance Grants'' from amounts that will become available for fiscal year 2026 in paragraph (3); (2) $353,514,000 from the unobligated balances under the heading ''Department of the Interior—Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement—Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund''; (3) $285,000,000 from the unobligated balances under the heading ''Department of the Interior—Methane Reduction Infrastructure'': *Provided*, That amounts derived by transfer pursuant to this subsection shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118–5: *Provided further*, That amounts derived by transfer pursuant to this subsection shall not be available for wildfire suppression operations.

(b) Of the amounts made available under the heading ''Department of the Interior—Departmental Offices—Office of Inspector General'', $65,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the unobligated balances of amounts previously appropriated in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58), including amounts that will become available for fiscal year 2026, that have been or will be transferred to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of the Interior for oversight of funding provided to the Department of the Interior in title VI of division J of that Act: *Provided*, That amounts derived by transfer pursuant to this subsection shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118–5.

(c) Of the amounts made available under the heading ''Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Forest Service Operations'', $146,486,000 shall be derived by transfer from the unobligated balances of amounts previously appropriated under the heading ''Department of the Interior—Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement—Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund'' in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58): *Provided*, That amounts derived by transfer pursuant to this subsection shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118–5.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS REGARDING GRAZING ON PUBLIC LANDS

SEC. 445. Paragraph (1) of section 122(a) of division E of Public Law 112–74 (125 Stat. 1013) is amended by striking ''through 2024.'' in the first sentence and inserting ''through 2027,''.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

SEC. 446. The contents in the ''Senate'' sub column of the ''Requestor(s)'' column in the table titled ''Community Project Funding/ Congressional Directed Spending'' under the heading ''Disclosure of Earmarks and Congressionally Directed Spending Items'' in the explanatory statement for the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations Act, 2026 (division B of Public Law 119–37) described in section 4 in the matter preceding division A of such Act are deemed to be amended—

(1) by inserting ''Schiff'' for the project identified as the ''Forest and Watershed Management Plan'' for the recipient ''McKinleyville Community Services District'';

(2) by inserting ''Schatz'' for the project identified as ''Facility Improvements and Purchase of Equipment'' for the recipient ''The Queens Health System''; and

(3) by inserting ''Cantwell'' for the project identified as the ''Chewelah Expansion and Regional Workforce Development Center'' for the recipient ''NEW Health Programs Association''.

This division may be cited as the ''Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026''.

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 Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6938, a three-bill package covering the Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment appropriations measures for fiscal year 2026.

These bills are the product of bipartisan, bicameral consensus and are grounded in a Member-driven process.

As I stand here today, I think of the genius of our Founding Fathers. They designed Congress to be an engine of thoughtful and deliberative policymaking. It wasn't meant to be easy. In fact, difficulty is what separates serious legislating from political performance.

In her 250 years, America has never shied away from hard work, nor does the Appropriations Committee in carrying out our constitutional responsibilities for fiscal year 2026. Even after the longest government shutdown in history, political obstruction, and tough deadlines, we remained resolute and took responsible steps forward to restore regular order.

I am proud to say we have ended the cycle of pork-filled omnibuses decided at the last minute. Just as importantly, we have been turning America First priorities into action. President Trump set a critical foundation by signing three appropriations bills into law in November, and we are carrying that momentum forward today. The measure before us keeps us on track to complete all 12 appropriations bills for fiscal year 2026.

With passage of these three bills, we will provide full-year funding for many of our most critical programs.

We prioritize public safety by supporting law enforcement and stopping the flow of fentanyl into our communities. We advance American strength by unleashing energy dominance, securing critical minerals, and investing in nuclear power. We uphold stewardship by protecting public lands, supporting wildland firefighters, ensuring responsible resource management, and fulfilling our obligations to our Tribal nations.

All of this is achieved while cutting waste and keeping total fiscal year '26 spending below the current continuing resolution.

These results are not accidental. They are by design, and they are the result of the hard work of our subcommittee chairmen, HAL ROGERS, MIKE SIMPSON, and CHUCK FLEISCHMANN. Thanks to their leadership, good will, attention to detail, and strong relationships with their negotiating partners, the power of the purse is, once again, being exercised by lawmakers through the committee process, as Article I intended.

To their accompanying ranking members, GRACE MENG, CHELLIE PINGREE, and MARCY KAPTUR, I thank them for their partnership and collaboration, which was instrumental to this effort.

As I look ahead to today's action, Republicans are strongest when they are focused; Democrats are more effective when they negotiate in good faith; and the country is better off when Republicans and Democrats work together.

In its Statement of Administrative Policy on this package, the White House said, in part: ''The administration urges every Member of Congress to support this fiscally responsible bill, which is a win for the American taxpayer.'' Not surprisingly, I completely agree. I look forward to enacting these full-year appropriations and taking every action to complete our work.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill. It is the product of a genuine bipartisan compromise, something that was once common in this body but has since fallen out of fashion.

I am eager to share all the great things that are in this bill, but before I do, I must take a moment to express my profound gratitude to the devoted public servants who worked tirelessly to make this happen.

They are Ranking Members GRACE MENG, MARCY KAPTUR, and CHELLIE PINGREE on the Appropriations Committee, who led these negotiations and secured crucial funding for key programs. Subcommittee staff, especially Bob Bonner, Rita Culp, Scott McKee, Adam Wilson, Nora Faye, Jamie Wise, Faye Cobb, Jocelyn Hunn, Michael Schmeltz, and Ippo Dellatolas worked through the holidays to craft this legislation. I send a shout-out to Chris Bigelow, the appropriations staff director.

Of course, I thank our Republican counterparts on the committee under the leadership of my dear friend, Chairman COLE.

When we began this process, we set out three goals: protect Democratic priorities, eliminate any poison pills, and reassert Congress' power of the purse. I am pleased to report that this package accomplishes all three.

It protects funding for key Democratic priorities, and it rejects draconian cuts proposed by the Trump administration. It invests in programs at the Department of Energy that will bring down energy costs and utility bills, which are core drivers of the ongoing affordability crisis, programs that President Trump proposed to cut or eliminate, despite the cost-of-living crisis he has led us into.

This package promotes community safety, increasing funding for Violence Against Women Act grants by $7 million, supporting victims of abuse who otherwise would have nowhere to turn.

It rejects efforts by the Trump administration to eviscerate scientific research funding, providing $4.8 billion more for the National Science Foundation than the White House proposed.

The agreement also rejects the Office of Management and Budget's illegal efforts to undermine America's dominance in scientific innovation across the entire government by protecting the indirect costs that research institutions depend on to do groundbreaking work with the Department of Energy, NASA, and the National Science Foundation. This is something Chairman COLE and I have worked on in the past with regard to the NIH, and it is critical for us to expand it to other agencies in this package.

The bill provides funding to protect our national parks, natural resources, endangered species, and public lands, rejecting $9.5 billion in proposed cuts in the Interior bill. It protects our environment while restraining polluters, providing $8.8 billion in funding for the EPA, nearly double the budget proposed by the White House.

Additionally, there is not a single poison pill policy rider in this bill. I know my friend, the chairman, and I may disagree on what constitutes a poison pill, but it is a testament to the

good faith of these negotiations that both sides agreed to drop provisions the other found truly objectionable.

I know some of my Democratic colleagues may be reticent to support a funding package for an administration that has been rife with abuse since the day they took office. I understand their concerns, and I share them. However, abandoning the appropriations process only empowers the President and the Office of Management and Budget to continue manipulating Federal spending as a partisan weapon. If we give up on appropriations, there are only two alternatives: a permanent shutdown or endless stopgaps with funding on autopilot. Neither is a viable option.

Stopgap measures afford the administration broader discretion over the budget and cede our authority over Federal spending. The more ambiguity we afford them, the more they will exploit it. One of the best ways to rein in this reckless administration is by providing precise spending levels for specific projects that they are bound by law to carry out.

That is exactly what this bill does.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), who is the distinguished chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, the chairman emeritus of the full committee, and the dean of the House.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I thank my chairman for the introduction. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the CJS Subcommittee, I rise in support of H.R. 6938.

From national security and law enforcement to American innovation and space exploration, the CJS bill before us puts the Nation on a path to greatness while reinforcing President Trump's bold agenda on trade and combating illicit drug trafficking.

□ 1240

To continue the fight against the drug cartels that are ravaging American communities, the Drug Enforcement Administration receives an increase of $63 million in this bill.

The bill also streamlines and enhances support for the National Weather Service to ensure Americans receive lifesaving information in times of need.

This bill is pro-law enforcement. It includes increased funding for State and local police through the Byrne Formula Grant Program and COPS hiring grants, while also making cuts to wasteful grant programs.

I thank Chairman COLE for his steady leadership. This has been a courageous effort on his part and our committee to restore regular order to the way we apportion taxpayer moneys that are entrusted to us. This legislation is a product of good faith, bipartisan negotiations.

I thank and recognize Ranking Member MENG and Ranking Member DELAURO for their partnership as well as staff for their hard work on the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the distinguished ranking member of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I very much thank Ranking Member DELAURO for yielding time. I also thank Chairman COLE and the chair of our committee, CHARLES FLEISCHMANN, for their cooperation. Please let me thank our diligent staff for all their hard work on this bill, both majority and minority, including from the minority staff Scott McKee, Adam Wilson, Ippo Dellatolas, and on my personal staff Jed Bullock, Kaitlin Ulin, and Margaret McInnis.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the fiscal year 2026 Energy and Water Development bill, a measure that chooses progress over retreat, American energy independence in perpetuity inside our borders, not dependence on foreign energy supplies.

At $63.3 billion, this legislation provides a critical $2.4 billion increase over last year. Our bill aims to help address significantly rising energy and water bills coast to coast for families, as well as climate-caused water shortages in the West and across our Nation, with crop losses from coast to coast and increasing flooding across our beloved country.

Our Nation must help communities reimagine affordable power grids and water conveyance systems. We must also assure technologies like artificial intelligence and data centers don't bankrupt the ability of families to afford to live, nor take our society down dangerous roads without a roadmap.

For those of us from the industrial and agricultural heartland, energy and water drive the lifeblood of our economies. This bill invests $10.4 billion in the indefatigable Army Corps of Engineers. That is $3.8 billion more than the Trump administration's shortsighted request.

It includes more dollars for harbor maintenance. It ensures that our Great Lakes stay vibrant, our ports on all coasts stay open, and our water infrastructure is built to last for Mother Nature's complexities in this century and beyond. Our bill maintains our commitment for critical regional commissions and authorities to build America forward in the underinvested corners of America right here at home.

While the White House astoundingly proposed eliminating the Weatherization Assistance Program entirely, this bill restores and increases that funding to $329 million, a commonsense investment that puts an average of $372 back into the pockets of thousands of struggling households in every single congressional district. Every dollar counts to make ends meet nowadays in an era marred by ill-considered Trump-inflicted tariffs that make living in America more expensive as prices rise.

To tackle the cost-of-living crisis and affordability head-on, this bill provides an additional $375 million for electric grid modernization to help reduce prices to target the primary driver of skyrocketing utility bills and ensure every American has access to reliable, affordable power.

This bill provides $3.1 billion for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, an increase of $1.3 billion over the Republican bill. Our goal seeks to secure U.S. energy independence in perpetuity to drive down prices for the long haul.

Further, with $8.4 billion allocated for the Department of Energy's Office of Science, we invest in the next generation of technological breakthroughs. In the past, we have had some—like fracking, for example, that unleashed the gas deposits of this country, but we want those investments inside our borders. American innovators, universities, and labs—not foreign adversaries overseas—must command the new energy frontiers and not lose the edge on inventing our common future.

Finally, our bill provides an increase to $25.4 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Alabama). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for allowing me to focus on our National Nuclear Security Administration, where we must maintain safe, secure, and credible nuclear deterrents that power our unparalleled, remarkable nuclear Navy—thank God for them—and counter the threat of nuclear proliferation and terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. America can and must meet the new-age frontiers of energy and water. Let us invest in our workers, protect our water, and power our future. Future generations are depending on all of us to pass this bill.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), chairman of the Interior-Environment Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee and my very good friend.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to begin consideration of H.R. 6938 today, which includes the fiscal year 2026 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

First, I commend Chairman COLE for his leadership over the Appropriations Committee and his continued support of the Interior bill. A lot of people don't realize how hard it is to get all these bills done. We had them all marked up through the committee by the end of September, on time. That is an amazing task by the chairman of this committee, and I thank him for his continued work on this.

I also thank Ranking Member PINGREE for her partnership, as well as

Ranking Member DELAURO and the subcommittee members for their work on this bill.

The fiscal year 2026 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill provides $38.6 billion in total nondefense discretionary funding, reducing spending from fiscal year 2025 by $1.9 billion.

This legislation prioritizes critical needs and addresses specific concerns brought to my attention through more than 8,000 Member requests.

The bill invests $1.74 billion in 1,277 Community Project Funding and Congressionally Directed Spending projects. These projects will improve clean and drinking water infrastructure throughout this country.

This bill also fully funds all of our, what I call, must-pays, such as PILT payments—payments in lieu of taxes—to States and territories and payments to Tribes through Contract Support Costs and section 105(l) leases.

This bill eliminates waste and restores fiscal responsibility, prioritizes unleashing American energy, and protects public lands and access to those lands. It bolsters national security and public safety by reducing our reliance on foreign countries for energy and mineral resources and by increasing law enforcement funding for our land management agencies and for our Tribes.

It protects our communities, fully funding firefighter pay to support wildland firefighters and prevent catastrophic wildfires.

The bill prioritizes upholding our trust and treaty responsibilities with Tribal nations. I continue to say that I refuse to balance this budget on the backs of our Tribes, and I am proud that this bill does not do that. The bill increases support for public safety and justice through Indian Country and provides over $8 billion to the Indian Health Service for key healthcare programs, prioritizing Federal investment where it is needed.

We need to pass this bill that efficiently invests in our priorities, supports the programs our communities care about, and reduces the bureaucratic overreach of the prior administration. This bill does just that, and it makes sensible cuts across 28 bureaus and agencies and closing one agency that has completed its mission.

Thoughtful cuts were made to the Department of the Interior, resulting in a nearly 2 percent reduction in the top line. EPA is cut by nearly 4 percent.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Idaho.

□ 1250

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, renewable energy is cut by $34 million, while providing targeted increases that preserve our Nation's natural heritage and ensure a sustainable and fiscally responsible future.

Passage of these bills will send a strong message that Congress is determined to return to regular order and deliver results for our districts.

Mr. Speaker, this bill works to ensure our priority programs receive funding without any poison pills. We had to make some tough decisions, but I am proud that this is a bipartisan, bicameral bill that both parties and Chambers see as a benefit to the American people. I urge its adoption.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE), the distinguished ranking member of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the consolidated appropriations act.

First, I thank Ranking Member DELAURO for yielding me the time, but also for her leadership and perseverance in this challenging time.

I thank Mr. SIMPSON for his collaboration and partnership in this committee, and I also thank Chairman COLE for the work he has done on this committee.

Mr. Speaker, I will give the most applause and great thanks to our committee staff, Rita Culp, Jocelyn Hunn, and Michael Schmeltz, who put in many long hours, as we know, and worked over the holidays. We wouldn't be standing here today if they and so many others on both sides of the aisle hadn't put in this work.

I am pleased we were able to reach a bipartisan agreement to produce a bill that protects Tribal lands and the environment, invests in our Tribal communities, supports the arts, and rejects billions in extreme cuts proposed by the administration.

Rather than handing the Trump administration a blank check through another stopgap measure, this bill imposes precise, legally binding spending requirements that constrain executive overreach.

This will provide much-needed funding and certainty to public land management agencies, like the National Park Service, that have suffered tremendous disruption over the past year.

The bill also protects funding for programs important to combating and adapting to climate change. It rejects House Republicans' effort to gut funding for renewable energy and funds USGS climate science.

Funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's environmental justice, a top target for this administration, is included at $30 million. The continuation of these grants is a sharp rebuke of this administration's attack on communities of color and low-income communities facing high pollution burdens.

The bill also protects the arts and humanities, maintaining the enacted funding level for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, which the administration tried to eliminate entirely. This funding will support the arts in communities across the country.

Finally, this bill supports Native American families by investing in a strong and resilient Indian Country, including through education, public safety and justice, and healthcare programs.

Importantly, this bill strips out every single partisan poison pill rider that the Republicans tried to jam into the process, including the pesticide liability shield that would have let chemical giants evade accountability.

This bill is significantly better than a continuing resolution. It is not all that we would want or all that we should be delivering, but its investments will improve the lives of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN), my very good friend and distinguished chairman of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee of Appropriations.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman COLE for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6938. As chairman of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I worked hard to ensure this bill includes many House Republican priorities.

The bill provides a total of $58 billion to advance our national security, strengthen our economy, and unleash American energy dominance.

The bill delivers strong support for our national defense and provides $25.4 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration, prioritizing the continued modernization of the nuclear weapons stockpile and the United States Navy nuclear fleet.

The bill strengthens our Nation's energy security by advancing American leadership in deploying new nuclear technologies and supporting the administration's efforts to make full use of our Nation's vast fossil fuel resources. The bill will reduce reliance on foreign materials and secure the full supply chain of critical minerals.

The bill furthers our Nation's scientific and technological leadership, including a strong focus on laying the groundwork for AI and quantum efforts, by providing $8.4 billion for the Department of Energy's Office of Science.

At the same time, the bill reduces funding by over 29 percent across numerous other Department programs, including the applied energy technology offices, to ensure taxpayer resources are focused on the highest priority research and development projects.

The bill also strengthens our economy and promotes public safety, providing $10.3 billion for the great Army Corps of Engineers, including full funding of harbor maintenance and over $2

billion for flood and storm damage reduction, and continued support for the highest priority, ongoing construction projects on the inland waterways system.

Additionally, the bill prioritizes funding for the Bureau of Reclamation for projects that increase water supply and support drought resilience.

Mr. Speaker, there are many other important provisions in the Energy and Water bill, but before I conclude, I will specifically congratulate and thank Chairman COLE for being an outstanding chairman of the full committee. He has let the cardinals do their work. He has worked with Members in the minority and the majority. He has worked with Members of the Senate and the House. Mr. Speaker, I also thank Ranking Member MARCY KAPTUR and our colleagues across the Capitol.

This is a strong bipartisan bill. It addresses America's needs and is a great bill, and it should get bipartisan support. This is a strong bill for America.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank the staff, and I do not say this lightly: My staff, Republican and Democratic staff, worked up and through Christmas and after Christmas to get this done. These men and women are outstanding. They do a great job. Let's pass this great bill for America.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG), the distinguished ranking member of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this appropriations package.

As the ranking member of CJS, this may not be the bill I would have drafted if my Democratic colleagues and I were in the majority, but it is a strong, responsible compromise that meets the needs of the American people. I will be voting in favor, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I am proud that this bill increases funding for grants to State and local law enforcement, including for Community Oriented Policing Services programs and the Violence Against Women Act. These funds are vital for the public safety of all of our local communities and for victim services.

Earlier proposals, including the President's budget requests in the previous House bill, eliminated funding for the community violence intervention and prevention program. Thanks to Democrats' advocacy, we secured level funding to continue this important program in this bill.

Earlier proposals also zeroed out funding for grant programs to prevent hate crimes. I am proud that we ensured these programs will continue without cuts.

We secured strong funding levels for the Economic Development Administration and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, which both work to create and preserve good jobs in the United States.

We continued and funded three agencies that the Trump administration wanted to eliminate entirely: the Minority Business Development Agency, the Legal Services Corporation, and the DOJ's Community Relations Service.

This bill also resoundingly rejects efforts to cut funding for basic scientific research, technology development, and STEM education at NSF and NASA.

Importantly, this bill strengthens congressional oversight and control over funding for Federal agencies, to ensure that they spend this money as Congress intended rather than for their own political purposes.

Last but not least, every single one of the extreme, partisan policy riders contained in the previous House CJS bill has been removed from the bill before us today.

I am proud of the work we have done in this bipartisan package. I thank Chairman TOM COLE and his team, and our subcommittee Chairman HAL ROGERS and his team, for their cooperation. I thank our ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, ROSA DELAURO, and her team, for her leadership. I especially thank our Appropriations subcommittee staff, Bob Bonner, Jamie Wise, Nora Faye, and Faye Cobb, for their tireless work on this, and also Tom Dinegar and Rebecca Lee from my individual office, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

□ 1300

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD), my very good friend and the distinguished vice chairman of the Energy and Water and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the fiscal year 2026 Energy and Water Appropriations Act.

As vice chair of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I am encouraged by this bill's historic commitment to unleashing American energy dominance, while also responsibly stewarding taxpayer dollars.

We are at a time when our Nation is at an energy crossroads. Certainly, as we work to win the AI race against China, energy dominance is mandatory. This bill appropriately allocates resources to invest in our nuclear capabilities, mining production, water resources, and more.

Specifically, this bill repurposes wasteful Biden administration spending on things like unproductive carbon capture toward real infrastructure and energy production capabilities. This includes $1.785 billion in total resources for nuclear energy technology, $720 million in investments for fossil energy production, and $190 million to improve cybersecurity and grid resilience.

Unleashing American energy dominance means truly building our production and infrastructure to meet the modern demands, not just coming up with more and more regulation.

A prime example of real building is found in the $10.435 billion secured for the Army Corps of Engineers and their projects such as improvements to the Matagorda and Corpus Christi Ship Channels in south Texas. The Port of Corpus Christi, for example, is the leading energy exporter in the country, and its strength is essential to our Nation's energy security.

In addition to these critical energy investments, this bill points investments toward desalination projects, drought response, and rural water supplies so that our communities can receive much-needed relief and long-term stability.

This bill gets us on the right path in accomplishing the Trump administration's goal of energy dominance and leaves behind wasteful and destructive, often counterproductive, Biden administration spending and regulation that created things like the Office of Energy Justice and Equity and crippled our efficient and cost-saving energy production capabilities.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Chair for his diligent work on this piece, and I thank him for his guidance on this committee. I look forward to our continued work, and I encourage support of this legislation.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), the distinguished ranking member of the Defense Subcommittee.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member DELAURO and Chairman COLE for their work in bringing this bipartisan package to the floor. I especially thank Ranking Member PINGREE and Chair SIMPSON. I serve on the subcommittee with them.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation that secures funding for public safety, public infrastructure, public lands and, yes, public health. This bill will help reassert Congress' Article I power of the purse and provide clear funding direction to this administration.

I want to highlight how this bill maintains funding to our trust and treaty responsibilities to Indian Country. It continues to support education, healthcare, public safety, and human services for our Native American brothers and sisters.

This bill maintains Indian Health Service advanced appropriations, which is targeted for elimination by President Trump's budget. I thank the leaders for their work on making this part of the bill. The Tribal leaders fought hard to establish this advanced appropriations security, and I am glad it is included. I am so proud of our bipartisan ranking members working hard to get this provision and this bill across the line.

I am pleased this bill includes nearly $9 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency, a significant increase over the House position and twice that of what the White House had proposed for the EPA.

This bill also fully funds the National Endowment for the Arts and the Humanities at $207 million each. This bill, as has been pointed out, rejects all the poison pill riders.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this appropriations bill.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FRANKLIN).

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6938, which includes the FY26 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

This bill makes critical investments in our national defense by increasing Department of Energy defense program funding by $912 million. This includes $25.4 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration, an increase of $1.3 billion. These funds ensure we can maintain today's nuclear stockpile, prepare for future needs, and modernize aging infrastructure that underpins our nuclear deterrent.

Our bill also delivers a nearly 10 percent increase for naval reactors, advancing Columbia-class submarine reactor development, and supporting the safe handling of naval spent fuel.

This package is not just about national defense. It reins in the Biden administration's climate agenda that dismantled our energy independence and hurt American consumers. Instead, it refocuses the Federal Government on affordable and reliable energy that will drive down costs.

For Florida, this bill continues funding for critical infrastructure projects that protect our waterways, help our rural communities, and grow our economy.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this is a huge win for our national security and for all Americans, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN), a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the negotiated FY26 Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act.

As a new member of the CJS Committee, I am pleased to have been part of crafting this legislation. I thank my fellow Appropriations Committee members and staff for their extraordinary hard work making this bill happen.

Despite being in the minority, Democrats on the Appropriations Committee have fought for months to reject the Trump administration's proposed cuts to crucial programs, programs that make our communities safer and support our law enforcement. Our fight was fruitful.

For example, we secured $50 million for community violence intervention and prevention initiative grants, despite the President and the House Republicans' attempts to eliminate this funding that so many of our local law enforcement rely upon. These programs have immeasurably reduced crime and gun violence.

We successfully removed 76 partisan policy riders that would have eliminated firearms trafficking regulations, climate change, and so much more.

Further, this bill provides $938 million for STEM education so that we can invest in the next generation of innovators, despite the House Republicans' attempt to eliminate this funding.

Overall, this is a strong repudiation of the Trump administration's antiscience agenda. The Interior and Environment bill appropriates $8.8 billion for the EPA and includes provisions to protect staffing levels at EPA so that the agency can perform its mission to protect human health and the environment.

The Energy and Water bill includes strong funding for energy research and innovation programs including energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

This isn't just good for the environment. It is good for business. Amid rising energy demands and higher prices, an increase of $3 million to the Weatherization Assistance Program will help low-income households reduce their home energy use.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, these bills, while not perfect, reflect months of hard work by the Democrats to fight against the administration's cuts to vital programs and services so many Americans rely upon.

They reassert Congress' power of the purse, impose checks on the administration, and provide stability to our country and economy by avoiding another stopgap measure.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman COLE. I thank the ranking member. It has been a privilege to serve on this committee, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the package.

□ 1310

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD), my very good friend.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair and my good friend, Ranking Member ROSA DELAURO, for their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, for too long, Washington has governed by crisis: shutdown threats, continuing resolutions, these omnibus bills, and backroom deals that the American people never asked for.

Mr. Speaker, this bill proves that those days are coming to an end. The Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026 is bipartisan, bicameral, and built the right way—from the ground up, from subcommittees up.

It strengthens our national security, restores American energy dominance, backs law enforcement, combats illicit drugs, and supports responsible land management, all while spending less than the current continuing resolution.

Mr. Speaker, that is not chaos. That is responsible governing. There are no poison pills, no partisan games, and full-year funding that takes shutdown leverage off the table and allows America to plan, build, and lead.

As an appropriator, I am proud of what this bill delivers for Missouri's Fourth Congressional District. There are several investments that I won't go into here, but I am proud of this process. I am proud to be under the leadership of TOM COLE. I have never seen a committee—and I know I have been on your committee, as well. I have never worked this hard in my life, but I have never been more proud of what I am able to do in this body and on this committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MRVAN), a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for this time.

Mr. Speaker, since my first day as an elected Federal official, I sought to serve on the House Appropriations Committee because the work of this committee is so critical to the economic success of our Nation and the safety of our communities.

This focus and interest are also what led me to choose to be a member of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee and the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. I am so pleased today that a reasonable and bipartisan version of these two measures is included in this legislation.

I thank the ranking member and the chairman of both the full committee and these subcommittees, as well as all the dedicated staff, for their similar commitment to put in the hours, find common ground, and move these essential bills forward.

Notably, I express my profound appreciation for the inclusion of the community project funding requests in these measures, including the funds specific to the members of northwest Indiana law enforcement agencies. I am grateful every day for the selfless service and sacrifice that first responders, including our local police, fire departments, and emergency personnel, provide to our communities every day.

These requested funds will ensure that our officers and public safety personnel have the resources that they need to carry out their responsibilities safely and effectively, while ensuring that families in northwest Indiana can live, work, play, and raise their children without fear.

I thank the leaders of this committee for advocating for a transparent process that allows Members to advocate safely for the well-being of the communities that we represent and for prioritizing the protection of northwest Indiana and our neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to supporting this measure and continuing to work with the Appropriations Committee to deliver real, meaningful public safety investments for the people whom I serve.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank ROSA DELAURO, our ranking member, and Chairman COLE for the countless hours truly working in a bipartisan way and being an example to me of how people should work together for the interests of our Nation. I thank them both very much for their work on this bill, and it is a pleasure to serve on their committee.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. STRONG), my very good friend and distinguished vice chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. STRONG. Mr. Speaker, as vice chair of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I rise in strong support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, our Republic is alive and well. This bill refocuses Washington's spending. It cuts waste, restores accountability, and delivers on President Trump's agenda. It cracks down on fentanyl and foreign adversaries, defends American values and principles, and ensures that taxpayer dollars are spent on public safety and national security, not bloated bureaucracy.

It provides strong support for State and local law enforcement partnerships, and it defends the Second Amendment and America's right to bear arms.

Republicans are working to advance regular order and deliver results for the American people—reliable and affordable energy, strong national security, safe communities, and long-term fiscal responsibility. The appropriations process works for America.

I also highlight the provisions important to my community and, as a result, the security of our Nation. This bill ensures continued American dominance in space, making crucial investments that secure the future of the space launch system, human landing system, and nuclear thermal propulsion, for all of which Marshall Space Flight Center in north Alabama plays a central role.

These investments reinforce America's leadership in space through competition and innovation, while strengthening our national security, protecting taxpayers' dollars, and ensuring NASA remains focused on results.

This legislation returns the FBI to its core mission and ensures that our dedicated FBI agents are back in the field and out of the beltway. There is no better place to achieve this than the FBI Redstone in Huntsville, Alabama. We are making America safe and secure again.

This is a responsible bill that supports law enforcement, strengthens national security, and puts America first.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman COLE, Ranking Member DELAURO, and Chairman ROGERS for their steady leadership throughout this process, and I thank the subcommittee staff for their hard work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bill. Our time is now.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. HERNÁNDEZ).

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill because investing in energy infrastructure, education, and public safety is not optional. It is essential.

Mr. Speaker, I will focus on what this bill does for the people of Puerto Rico. I have the honor to represent them in the United States Congress.

This bill incorporates one of my amendments and assigns $235 million for the Department of Energy to support grid modernization in the 50 States and Puerto Rico, which so direly needs it.

This bill also incorporates another of my amendments to provide $14 million to the Corps of Engineers that could support water infrastructure projects in Puerto Rico, which so direly needs it.

In this bill, we also secured $1.7 million in community project funding that updates crime prevention technology in Juana Diaz, provides new patrol vehicles in Cabo Rojo, and supports STEM education in San Juan.

This bill is an important step in delivering Federal funding for Puerto Rico and communities across the United States. I praise the bipartisan work led by the chairman and ranking member. Let's continue marching forward and finish the six remaining bills. The American people deserve a Congress that works for them.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I extend my thanks to Chairman COLE, an incredible partner in working on all 12 appropriations bills.

The Appropriations Committee is the lifeblood of the government. It is a place where you can only achieve work on behalf of the American people through bipartisan, bicameral legislation. Without it, we know what happens: the catastrophe with the continuing resolutions that go on forever, or the government shuts down. That is not a path to success on behalf of the people of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to say that it is the lifeblood of our government. Those of us who serve on the Appropriations Committee know that. I will be bold in saying that, quite frankly, if they left these things to us, we would get them done. In this regard, we have. We are through six bills. We have six more to go. We are going to get this done, and we are going to meet the January 30 deadline.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of this bill. I am proud of the process that produced it.

□ 1320

We have shown good faith, bipartisan negotiation is still possible in an era of increasing polarization, and the kind of constructive conversations that produced this package continue with regard to the remaining six funding bills. The negotiations are ongoing. We haven't stopped the conversations in order for us to meet that January 30 deadline, and I remain confident that we can meet the deadline and avoid another continuing resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I will begin by recognizing the hard work of my distinguished ranking member and my very good friend, Ms. DELAURO from Connecticut. We have had the opportunity to work together for a long time in a variety of capacities, and I particularly appreciate the cooperation, the bipartisanship, and the professionalism that she and her whole staff always show when we sit down. To paraphrase my friend, if they would just leave us alone, we will get this job done. I could not have a better working partner than my good friend from Connecticut.

I am very proud that this bill is, as my friend said, bipartisan. This has been in negotiation at every level, and the ranking member and I have worked hard to push the decisionmaking down to the subcommittee levels as much as we possibly can. I know we have both told our respective chairmen and ranking members: ''Hey, if you don't send us anything up, you are making us happy. We want you to make the decisions.'' The members of the subcommittees know the subject matter better than anybody else. They have done the hearings. They have done the work. They work well. The higher up the food chain it goes, frankly, the more political the decisions become and the less informed. Let the people who have actually done the work write the bills. In this case, in these three and the three preceding bills, that is exactly what happened, and I couldn't be more pleased with that result.

I would be remiss not to build on a remark my friend, Ms. MCCOLLUM, made in her speech. I am very proud of

this bill on Native-American issues, which have been a bipartisan priority over the years. I am proud of all of my cardinals and all of my ranking members, but particularly the relationship between Mr. SIMPSON and Ms. PINGREE, which we have seen on this committee before, and my friend, Ms. MCCOLLUM, who also has chaired this subcommittee earlier in her career. As a matter of fact, we worked together on the matter that she mentioned in terms of forward-funding for Indian healthcare. It has just been a pleasure in these areas where we have so much in common and a common commitment to fulfill our trust obligations.

I, for one, am very proud of the community projects in this bill. It allows the Members, not just on our committee, but across the entire Congress, to do things that they think are important for their constituents. They are the best people to make that judgment because they represent them in the House.

My friend, again, Ms. DELAURO, has worked over the years to build a system that will make sure that these things are used appropriately, honestly, and openly. We continue to work together on that matter. Again, I am very proud of her.

Mr. Speaker, I want to join every other speaker today, which is unusual in a very partisan-polarized era, to urge the passage of this bill. We have worked together. We have worked in good faith. We have worked effectively. We have actually cut spending in these bills collectively. I think we have a common commitment to get the most out of our tax dollars.

I think this is a three-bill package, as the previous three-bill package was, that Members of this body can be proud of, should point to, and should celebrate. When we have bipartisan, bicameral cooperation and work together, we can get the job done and do a great job for the American people. I share my good friend Ms. DELAURO's opinion in this case, that is exactly what we did.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the bill and urge its passage. I urge my colleagues to support this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 977, the previous question is ordered.

Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 977, the Chair will put the question on retaining Division A of the bill, and then retaining Divisions B and C.

The question is: Shall Division A of the bill be retained?

Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 977, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the order of the House of today, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

FINISH THE ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT ACT—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 2, 2026, the unfinished business is the further consideration of the veto message of the President on the bill (H.R. 131) to make certain modifications to the repayment for the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Will the House, on reconsideration, pass the bill, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?

(For veto message, see proceedings of the House of January 2, 2026, at page H6135.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), the ranking member of the House Committee on Natural Resources, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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 the veto message of the President of the United States to H.R. 131.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 131, the Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act, facilitates the construction of the Arkansas Valley Conduit, or AVC, by easing the repayment requirements for project beneficiaries.

The AVC is designed to provide potable water from Pueblo Reservoir to 39 communities in southeastern Colorado, many of which are dependent on groundwater supplies that contain unacceptable levels of naturally-occurring heavy metals and radionuclides. According to the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, 18 of those communities are currently failing to meet Federal drinking water standards due to these contaminants.

H.R. 131 passed the House Committee on Natural Resources and then the House of Representatives in July 2025. However, President Trump has returned H.R. 131 to the House without his approval. I respect the administration's views on this legislation and its commitment to fiscal responsibility. President Trump's record demonstrates a commitment to prioritizing unleashing abundant water supplies across the West.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in 1962, Congress authorized a 130-mile pipeline, known as the Arkansas Valley Conduit, to deliver clean, reliable water to communities in southeastern Colorado. More than 60 years later, the project remains uncompleted, while communities in the region continue to face unreliable water supplies and serious water quality challenges.

The drinking water sources they rely on are often contaminated with unsafe levels of radium, uranium, and other pollutants. Treating these contaminants places a significant burden on rural communities and forces many families to rely on bottled water or expensive filtration systems to meet basic needs that we all take for granted.

□ 1330

The Arkansas Valley Conduit was designed to address these challenges, but the project is still not completed largely because the communities that it will serve do not have the financial capacity to meet the traditional repayment obligations. They need our help.

For over a decade, the Colorado delegation has worked to advance this project so that families in southeastern Colorado can finally have access to clean, safe drinking water. Senators BENNET and HICKENLOOPER helped secure $500 million through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for this project that was a major step toward completion.

Last year, this body worked in a bipartisan manner to pass H.R. 131. Now, as introduced, Representative BOEBERT's bill did raise some concerns about removing interest payments and extending the repayment period, but our colleagues in the Senate worked to address these shared concerns, and we in the Natural Resources Committee came together to build on that work to ensure that this legislation addresses the real water reliability challenges facing the people of southeastern Colorado while remaining consistent with core reclamation law principles.

Together, Congress sent the President a carefully negotiated and narrowly tailored bipartisan bill to support the completion of this project.

The administration has no problem subsidizing water for certain stakeholders, including large-scale agricultural projects, yet when it comes to a tailored bill to ensure access to safe drinking water for rural communities, unfortunately, the President has taken a different path.

Now, we are going to talk about the merits of this bill today, I am sure, but we all know that this veto has nothing to do with fiscal policy, nothing to do with the merits. There has been extensive reporting that raises broader concerns about the administration's posture toward the State of Colorado and even toward the sponsor of this bill.

We know what this veto was about, and the message that that sends to Colorado and communities awaiting the

completion of the Arkansas Valley Conduit is deeply troubling.

Meanwhile, and the good news, is that this Congress has kept working to find a solution, and the legislation before us today is reasonably negotiated and bipartisan. It is going to help communities who have waited too long to finally have clean water.

I thank my colleagues for their commitment to working with us to reach the language before us today. I am deeply disappointed that the President chose to veto a bill that would help communities gain access to clean drinking water. The communities of southeastern Colorado deserve better, and today we have a bipartisan opportunity to do that for them.

I express my support and urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on overriding the President's veto, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT), the lead sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of our House Natural Resources Committee and the ranking member of our committee for all the work that has been put in on this legislation. I also thank my colleagues in the Senate for their work on this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of today's veto override to ensure my bill, H.R. 131, becomes law.

In December of last year, this commonsense, bipartisan, and bicameral bill passed both the House and Senate unanimously. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that my bill will not result in a measurable increase to Federal spending.

H.R. 131, the Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act, will help small rural communities in southeast Colorado finally complete a Federal water project that was authorized in 1962 under the Kennedy administration.

Radium, uranium, and other naturally occurring elements are found in the surface and groundwater of southeastern Colorado, and the water quality is problematic year-round because of its salinity, selenium, sulfate, hardness, and manganese levels.

The Bureau of Reclamation has found that these contamination levels are so severe that local communities could see the costs of their drinking water triple without this legislation.

Contrary to what the veto message states, my bill does not authorize any additional Federal funding. It simply modifies the repayment terms for small rural communities in my district so they are able to afford their 35 percent cost share of the project that they are statutorily obligated to repay.

After the project broke ground, inflation took place. Costs doubled under the previous administration. The price tag of this project doubled due to construction and labor costs.

Once completed, the Arkansas Valley Conduit will provide 7,500 acre-feet of water per year to as many as 50,000 Coloradans across 40 different communities in Pueblo, Otero, Bent, Kiowa, Prowers, Crowley, and Baca Counties.

I boldly remind my colleagues here today that this project broke ground during the first Trump administration in 2020 due to major investments from the Trump-led Bureau of Reclamation and the State of Colorado.

From 1962 until 2020, only $24 million had been invested in this project. In 2020, President Trump and his team, his administration, did the right thing, continuing with their commitment to improve Western water infrastructure. He more than doubled the Federal investments in this project with $28 million going toward it. The State of Colorado then invested over $100 million in this project.

Former Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt personally attended the groundbreaking of the AVC and retweeted: ''For nearly 60 years, Colorado's leaders have worked to move the Arkansas Valley Conduit forward.''

The Trump administration got it done.

A press release from the Department of the Interior announcing the groundbreaking reads: ''Western water supply reliability and infrastructure investments has been a priority for President Trump and his administration.''

This bill makes good on not only a 60-year plus commitment without wasting hundreds of millions of dollars in State and local and Federal investments, but it also makes good on President Trump's commitment to rural communities, to Western water issues.

President Trump's commitment to Western water supply and reliability will be upheld, and the Arkansas Valley Conduit will finally be completed.

We were able to get this bill passed and sent to the White House the right way, the way that I have fought for since I have been in Congress. This is a piece of legislation that has gone through committee, has been negotiated, has been debated, has gone back and forth between both Chambers, and we were able to pass this single-subject legislation all the way through with unanimous support in this body and in the Senate. It is something I am very, very proud of, and it is past time that we finally fulfill the promise that the Federal Government made to the communities I represent in Colorado. I urge my colleagues to support this override to finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE).

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for the time. I support this bill for many reasons. I support it for the reasons that were articulated by the sponsor, my colleague from Colorado, Ms. BOEBERT; by the ranking member; and by the chairman. I think they have ably explained why this water infrastructure project for southeastern Colorado is so critical, a project 60 years in the making.

I support it because, as was noted, there are no cogent issues with this bill as were purportedly articulated in the veto message from President Trump. Far from it, this bill will cost taxpayers virtually nothing as was referenced. It makes good on a promise to the people of rural Colorado.

I support the bill because I believe that the people of Otero County and Bent County and Crowley County deserve access to clean water just as every citizen of the great State that I serve and that Ms. BOEBERT serves, that Mr. HURD serves, and my other colleagues in the Colorado congressional delegation deserve.

□ 1340

I think what is perhaps missing from this debate, and it is important for us to level with the American people, is: Why are we here? Why, despite all the reasons that this bill makes a whole lot of sense? Why, despite the fact that this bill passed unanimously in the House and in the Senate, Mr. Speaker? Why did the President veto this bill?

We are here, unfortunately and profoundly, because the President has declared war on our State. In the last 40 days, he has taken step after step to harm the people whom I serve and whom I represent. He is denying disaster assistance for folks in Rio Blanco County and down south in La Plata County. He is freezing childcare assistance and food assistance for hungry families across our State and trying to dismantle a scientific institution in my district. Now, he is denying access to clean water to 50,000 people in southeastern Colorado.

It is unconscionable.

Now, I am speaking to my Democratic colleagues. To be clear, it is important in this moment for Members to support this override and ensure that this promise that was made to the people of southeastern Colorado is not impaired and is not abrogated by the President's retaliation against the State of Colorado. We cannot let that become the new normal.

I will say to all of my colleagues: As you consider where you land on this particular vote, let me be abundantly clear. It does not matter if your community supported Donald Trump politically. If we don't take this step, then, trust me, no town is safe, no county is safe, and no State is safe from political retaliation by the administration. We will be back here on the floor debating a veto for a project in Arkansas or in Texas or in Ohio.

The House has an opportunity, in my view, to do the right thing on the merits and to support this important legislation that Ms. BOEBERT has introduced and that she has fought for with our colleagues in the Senate, Senator BENNET and Senator HICKENLOOPER.

I am urging every Member of this body: Put aside political differences. Recognize that this is a bill you already supported as recently as last month. Recognize that it is going to

have a dramatic and consequential impact on a lot of hardworking Americans in the rural parts of our country. Vote in the affirmative on the override.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 8 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HURD).

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote to override the President's veto of H.R. 131, the Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act.

This is not a symbolic vote. It is not messaging. It is not partisan. This is a test of whether Congress keeps its word not just to southeastern Colorado but to every community in every State and district that depends on Federal commitments being honored.

For those of us who represent the American West, this vote is personal. In the West, water means survival. It means whether communities grow or disappear, whether agriculture survives, and whether moms can trust the water they give their kids out of the tap. Westerners understand something instinctively: When the government makes a water promise, it should keep it.

In 1962, Congress authorized the Arkansas Valley Conduit to deliver safe drinking water to rural communities in southeastern Colorado. These communities grow amazing watermelons, cantaloupes, and chilies, and support families who ranch and raise livestock.

When we talk about honoring Federal commitments, we are talking about whether the people who grow our food can have clean water.

Decades later, that promise remains unfinished. More than 50,000 Coloradans, across a distance spanning more than some Eastern States, still rely on contaminated and radioactive groundwater. Eighteen systems are under enforcement orders for violating EPA standards. These are real families, real towns, and real public health consequences.

Rural Colorado and rural America more broadly voted overwhelmingly for this President and for an agenda that promised they would not be forgotten. They expected Washington to keep its word, not abandon them midway.

H.R. 131 doesn't expand this drinking water project, authorize new construction, increase the Federal share, or create any new entitlement. It doesn't bail out any mismanagement. It simply gives rural communities more time and flexibility to repay the Federal Government. It extends the repayment period and lowers the interest rate in cases of economic hardship. It prevents hundreds of millions of dollars from being stranded mid-construction. It lets communities doing their part and repaying the government finally access clean water.

This bill passed both Houses unanimously. Republicans and Democrats from across the entire country all agreed: This is a project worth completing, not abandoning.

Mr. Speaker, veto overrides are rare, and they should be. However, the Constitution gave Congress this authority for moments exactly like this: when the legislative branch speaks with unity and clarity, and the executive branch says no anyway.

In modern congressional history, it is extraordinarily rare, and perhaps unprecedented, for a President to veto a bill that passed both Chambers unanimously while his party holds unified control of the government. That should give every Member pause.

If Congress cannot keep a clear, longstanding, bipartisan commitment like this, then what message does that send to communities in every State and every district relying on similar commitments? What certainty do they have that our word means anything?

Yesterday, the administration issued a statement opposing this override, claiming it continues failed policies of the past and burdens taxpayers with a local water project. This is not a new water project. It is a federally authorized water system underway for decades with consistent bipartisan congressional support. This exact project was previously celebrated by this President himself. On October 3, 2020, President Trump's Department of the Interior issued a press release titled: ''Trump administration breaks ground on long-awaited Arkansas Valley Conduit to bring safe, clean water to rural Colorado communities.''

Earlier that year, the President visited Colorado and praised the Arkansas Valley Conduit. He said that we got the money to begin construction. His own Secretary of the Interior broke ground on this project.

If the project was worth supporting in a campaign rally and celebrating at a groundbreaking, then surely it is worth finishing. It was the right position then, and it is the right position now.

Mr. Speaker, if a bill that passed unanimously that costs almost nothing and fulfills a 60-year Federal promise and protects public health can be vetoed under these circumstances, then bipartisan work in this institution is at risk.

I ask my colleagues: How would you feel if a project like this in your district that was passed unanimously and fulfilled a decades-long promise was vetoed anyway? That is what these rural communities are facing.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents are watching, and your constituents are watching, to see whether Congress means what it says. This vote is not about defying a President. It is about defending Congress. It is about strengthening this institution and standing for the people who trust us to fight for them.

For those of us who represent the West, this is also about standing together. Western water projects are long-term, complex, and federally driven by necessity. If Congress walks away from a 60-year commitment midproject, then no Western project is truly secure, and no district anywhere in the country can trust that a Federal infrastructure promise will be kept.

I ran for Congress to fight for my district, even when it is difficult, even when it is uncomfortable, and even when the outcome is uncertain. This is one of those moments.

□ 1350

Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues may be feeling pressure today to accept the veto. I get it. However, I would ask every Member to consider the pressure felt by the communities they represent, especially those in rural America who need infrastructure built, who need clean water, and who need Washington to mean what it says.

What does it say to them, to all of our constituents, if this institution makes this kind of commitment and walks away when it matters most?

This override is about finishing what we started, honoring commitments, protecting taxpayer dollars, and standing by rural communities. Yes, it is also about protecting this institution.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge my colleagues to vote to override the veto of H.R. 131.

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

I really, in this moment, could care less about Ms. BOEBERT's politics or Mr. HURD's politics. What I see before us is a piece of legislation that does an awful lot of good for people, a bill that was carefully negotiated, is bipartisan, and is common sense.

It is a water infrastructure bill, and every Member of this House looked past their political differences and did the right thing when we passed this unanimously out of the House of Representatives. That was Congress just doing its job.

If a noncontroversial, bipartisan, good bill like this can be taken hostage and become a weapon for settling political scores, well, it may not be in your State, it may not be in your district, but that could happen and will happen to any of us.

Mr. Speaker, this may seem like a little water infrastructure bill, but this is a bigger moment than that. This is a bit of a Spartacus moment for the Members of this body because any of us could face this, and we are about to find out.

I hope the people of this country are watching. I know history is actually going to be watching what happens here because if Congress is able to override this veto, it is a statement that even in a moment of extreme polarization, dysfunction, and conflict, we were able to get some work done. That would be Congress doing its job. If we fail to override this veto, that would say something much, much more troubling.

I urge my colleagues to do the right thing, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I respect the administration's views on this legislation, and I respect my colleagues from Colorado's passion for their districts and for their State.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The question is, Will the House, on reconsideration, pass the bill, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?

Under the Constitution, the vote must be by the yeas and nays.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings will be postponed.

MICCOSUKEE RESERVED AREA AMENDMENTS ACT—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 2, 2026, the unfinished business is the further consideration of the veto message of the President on the bill (H.R. 504) to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Will the House, on reconsideration, pass the bill, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?

(For veto message, see proceedings of the House of January 2, 2026, at page H6136.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), the ranking member of the House Committee on Natural Resources, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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 the veto message of the President of the United States to the bill H.R. 504.

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, we are here today as President Trump has returned H.R. 504, the Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendments Act, to the House of Representatives without his approval.

H.R. 504, sponsored by Representative GIMENEZ, would amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act, or MRAA, to include the Osceola Camp, a Tribal village within the Everglades, as part of the Miccosukee Reserved Area. It also directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Tribe, to safeguard structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding events.

The Miccosukee Tribe is currently located in the Greater Everglades in southern Florida. Following Federal recognition of the Tribe in 1962, the Miccosukee's northernmost villages within what became Everglades National Park were managed under a special use permit until 1998, when Congress placed that permit framework with the MRAA, authorizing the Tribe's use of the area and noting it as Indian Country.

The original law did not include Osceola Camp. H.R. 504 would include the Osceola Camp in the Miccosukee Reserved Area and formalize a partnership between the Tribe and the Federal Government to address flooding risk in the area.

H.R. 504 passed the House Committee on Natural Resources in June 2025 and the House of Representatives in July 2025.

However, I respect the President's views on this legislation and his commitment to fiscal responsibility, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The Natural Resources Committee is entrusted with working on behalf of Indian Country. While we don't always agree on everything, we have a long history of bipartisan work and a shared commitment to advancing legislation that benefits Tribal communities. H.R. 504 is one clear example of this. It addresses longstanding challenges caused by past Federal policies, and it is an opportunity—I would argue, an obligation—to support the Miccosukee Tribe in their efforts to protect their homelands.

President Trump has undermined that work, vetoing this bill based on unrelated policy disputes and a fundamental misunderstanding of Tribal sovereignty.

H.R. 504 would expand the Miccosukee Reserved Area to include Osceola Camp, which would strengthen the Tribe's ability to self-govern and, importantly, to address serious flooding concerns facing the village. This bipartisan bill is narrow, targeted, and respects Tribal sovereignty.

After reviewing the President's statement regarding his veto, it is very clear that this decision was not limited to the merits of the bill or to any particular policy. Instead, his statement criticizes the Tribe for actions taken to protect the Everglades, their homelands, from environmental risks. It even takes issue with the Tribe's opposition to his administration's unpopular immigration policies.

Moreover, the statement reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of Tribal Nations and the obligations that the United States has to those sovereign governments. Let me be clear: Tribes are not special interests. They are not seeking special treatment. They are sovereign nations with legal and moral responsibilities to protect the well-being of their citizens, their homelands, and the United States has a government-to-government responsibility to work with them. Unrelated policy disagreements should never be used to undermine that relationship.

The Miccosukee Tribe has worked for generations to protect their homelands within the Everglades. H.R. 504 would ensure that a historic Tribal village is protected, while allowing for critical restoration efforts to move forward without displacing the community.

It is pretty straightforward. It is noncontroversial. It was broadly universally bipartisan. It never should have been vetoed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 504. Vote ''yes'' on overriding this veto. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing that I must rise to support this veto override of the Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendments Act.

It is a very commonsense bill, as our unanimous vote in both houses of Congress clearly demonstrated. It is simple. This act would absorb the Osceola Camp into the Miccosukee Reservation and directs the Tribe and Department of the Interior to jointly protect the camp from flooding.

□ 1400

This work is already underway, as we speak, but let's address the erroneous reasons that it was vetoed.

First, it does not appropriate or authorize any new spending. The Congressional Budget Office verified that.

This bill in no way bestows special treatment, as it was alleged in the veto message, because the site wasn't authorized when it was inhabited.

On these points, it appears the President's staff gave him bad advice, bad facts, or both.

The reality is, the Tribe came to the Everglades after being driven from their homes in the early 1800s. As the Miccosukee moved to what is now Everglades National Park, they formed temporary camps on tree islands. The water that flows through our River of Grass was a source of food, water, and a means of transit.

Depot Tiger settled on a tree island at the turn of the 20th century. Her son, John Tiger Poole, was born there and later helped found the Osceola Camp. However, the construction of a new major roadway split their camp, and it dried up the water that they relied upon, forcing the family to move to a different part of their camp.

Family members still live, visit, and protect the land where Depot Tiger's home once stood.

None of these facts are in dispute, as my Republican colleagues, who sponsored and voted for this, well know.

Protecting this land and the Miccosukees' ability to live there must never be sacrificed by party politics or revenge.

This bill was introduced by House and Senate Republicans, backed by the Florida delegation, and approved unanimously. This is hardly a candidate for a veto.

Our Nation made a commitment to the Miccosukee, and hundreds of other Tribes, to protect their lands, resources, and sovereignty. Congress must stand by that commitment and override the President's veto.

The sanctity of Native-American lands is something that is of the utmost importance to Native-American Tribes, and all of us in this country that represent Native-American lands and Native Americans make a commitment regularly that we are going to help protect those rights.

Allowing this veto to stand flies in the face of that, especially because each of us, in both Houses of Congress, lent our votes to this legislation. There are times for vetoes, and I have seen Presidents in both parties issue a veto and then robust and healthy debate plays out on this floor for good reason and Members decide where they want to land, but that is always when we have seen a result that was mixed, where there were people who voted against the bill. No one voted against this bill.

This bill is entirely noncontroversial, and it is so narrowly focused that it makes absolutely no sense other than the interest in vengeance that seems to have emanated in this result.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote to override this inappropriate and unfortunate veto.

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

Mr. Speaker, to state the obvious, this bill has nothing to do with immigration. It is a very important bill, though, about Tribal sovereignty. It is a well-crafted bill. It is bipartisan. It is noncontroversial. Someone in the White House has decided to use it as a hostage to play politics, very petty and personal politics because of score settling.

They have chosen to do that, but that doesn't mean that all of us have to be used as pawns to advance that nastiness. This veto signal sends a terrible message, and it comes after a year of uncertainty in Indian Country, which included significant funding cuts, workforce reductions, and a withdraw of key executive orders that were designed to support Tribes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do the right thing by the Miccosukee Tribe and pass this veto override. Let's ensure that this Tribe continues to have access to the historic Osceola Camp and their homelands remain protected for future generations.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I respect the administration's views on this legislation. I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MORAN). Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Will the House, on reconsideration, pass the bill, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?

Under the Constitution, the vote must be by the yeas and nays.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1430

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FINE) at 2 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Retaining Division A of H.R. 6938;

Retaining Divisions B and C of H.R. 6938;

Passage of H.R. 6938;

Passage of H.R. 504, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding;

Passage of H.R. 131, the objections of the President to the contrary not withstanding; and

Adoption of House Resolution 780.

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

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE; ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT; AND INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the order of the House today, the unfinished business is the vote on retaining Division A of H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on retaining Division A of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 47, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 5]

YEAS—375

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Amo
Amodei (NV)
Ansari
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Balderson
Balint
Barr
Barragán
Barrett
Baumgartner
Beatty
Bell
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Bice
Bilirakis
Bishop
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Bresnahan
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Budzinski
Bynum
Calvert
Carbajal
Carey
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Dexter
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Elfreth
Ellzey
Emmer
Espaillat
Estes
Evans (CO)
Evans (PA)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fields
Figures
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Friedman
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Goldman (TX)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Graves
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harder (CA)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Hayes
Hern (OK)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Ivey
Jack
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Krishnamoorthi
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Mackenzie
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mannion
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McClain
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Messmer
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Min
Moolenaar
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)

Moore (WV)
Moran
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Nehls
Newhouse
Norcross
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar
Onder
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Patronis
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Ruiz
Rulli
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schmidt
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shreve
Simon
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Stutzman
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Timmons
Titus
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Turner (OH)
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Epps
Van Orden
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Wagner
Walberg
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—47

Allen
Bean (FL)
Begich
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Brecheen
Burchett
Burlison
Cammack
Cloud
Clyde
Crane
Crow
Davidson
DeGette
Donalds
Fine
Gill (TX)
Gosar
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Higgins (LA)
Jackson (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Kennedy (UT)
Knott
Massie
McClintock
McCormick
McGuire
Miller (IL)
Mills
Moore (AL)
Neguse
Ogles
Perry
Pettersen
Roy
Schweikert
Self
Spartz
Steube
Tiffany
Tlaib
Van Duyne
Vargas

NOT VOTING—9

Baird
Beyer
Escobar
Hunt
McCaul
Murphy
Norman
Rutherford
Salazar

□ 1457

Messrs. CROW, SCHWEIKERT, MILLS, OGLES, and DAVIDSON changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

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

So the question was decided in the affirmative, and Divison A of the bill was retained.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now put the question on retaining Divisions B and C of the bill.

The question is: Shall Divisions B and C be retained.

Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 977, the yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 419, nays 6, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 6]

YEAS—419

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Amo
Amodei (NV)
Ansari
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Balderson
Balint
Barr
Barragán
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Begich
Bell
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Bishop
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Budzinski
Burchett
Burlison
Bynum
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Carey
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Dexter
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Elfreth
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Espaillat
Estes
Evans (CO)
Evans (PA)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fields
Figures
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Friedman
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gill (TX)
Gillen
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Goldman (TX)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Goodlander
Gosar
Gottheimer
Graves
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harder (CA)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Ivey
Jack
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (TX)
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (NY)
Kennedy (UT)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Krishnamoorthi
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Mackenzie
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mannion
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McClain
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McCormick
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGarvey
McGovern
McGuire
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Messmer
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Min
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Olszewski
Omar
Onder
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Patronis
Pelosi
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Rulli
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schmidt
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shreve
Simon
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Stutzman
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Turner (OH)
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Wagner
Walberg
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—6

Johnson (GA)
Massie
McClintock
Steube
Tlaib
Vargas

NOT VOTING—6

Baird
Beyer
Hunt
McCaul
Murphy
Rutherford

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1503

So the question was decided in the affirmative, and the Divisions B and C of the bill were retained.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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

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

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

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 28, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 7]

YEAS—397

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Amo
Amodei (NV)
Ansari
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon

Balderson
Balint
Barr
Barragán
Barrett
Baumgartner
Beatty
Begich
Bell
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Bishop
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Budzinski
Bynum
Calvert
Carbajal
Carey
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Dexter
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Elfreth
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Espaillat
Estes
Evans (CO)
Evans (PA)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fields
Figures
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Friedman
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Goldman (TX)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Graves
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harder (CA)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Ivey
Jack
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (TX)
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Krishnamoorthi
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Mackenzie
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mannion
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McClain
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McCormick
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGarvey
McGovern
McGuire
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Min
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Nehls
Newhouse
Norcross
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Olszewski
Omar
Onder
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Patronis
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Ruiz
Rulli
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schmidt
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shreve
Simon
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Stutzman
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Timmons
Titus
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Turner (OH)
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Wagner
Walberg
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—28

Bean (FL)
Biggs (AZ)
Burchett
Burlison
Cammack
Crane
Crow
Davidson
Donalds
Fine
Gill (TX)
Gosar
Grothman
Johnson (GA)
Kennedy (UT)
Massie
McClintock
Neguse
Norman
Perry
Pettersen
Roy
Self
Spartz
Steube
Tiffany
Tlaib
Vargas

NOT VOTING—6

Baird
Hunt
McCaul
Mfume
Murphy
Rutherford

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1510

Ms. PETTERSEN, Messrs. MASSIE and GROTHMAN changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mrs. LUNA changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MICCOSUKEE RESERVED AREA AMENDMENTS ACT—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question of whether the House, on reconsideration, will pass the bill (H.R. 504) to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, and for other purposes, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding.

In accord with the Constitution, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 236, nays 188, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 8]

YEAS—236

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Bacon
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Boebert
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Edwards
Elfreth
Escobar
Espaillat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Hurd (CO)
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Joyce (OH)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lawler
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Massie
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Miller-Meeks
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Obernolte
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
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Turner (OH)
Underwood
Valadao
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Womack

NAYS—188

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais

Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
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)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Langworthy
Latta
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mast
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Nehls
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Scalise
Schmidt
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Smith (MO)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Tiffany
Timmons
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—7

Baird
Hill (AR)
Hunt
McCaul
Mfume
Murphy
Rutherford

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1517

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

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the veto of the President was sustained and the bill was not passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The veto message and the bill are referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

The clerk will notify the Senate of the action of the House.

FINISH THE ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT ACT—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question of whether the House, on reconsideration, will pass the bill (H.R. 131) to make certain modifications to the repayment for the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding.

In accord with the Constitution, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 248, nays 177, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 9]

YEAS—248

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

NAYS—177

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Collins
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Graves
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Langworthy
Latta
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Mann
Mast
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Nehls
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Ogles
Onder
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Scalise
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Tiffany
Timmons
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Mace

NOT VOTING—5

Baird
Hunt
McCaul
Murphy
Rutherford

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1523

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

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the veto of the President was sustained and the bill was not passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The veto message and the bill are referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

The Clerk will notify the Senate of the action of the House.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1834, BREAKING THE GRIDLOCK ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 780) providing

for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1834) to advance policy priorities that will break the gridlock, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 202, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 10]

YEAS—224

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Boebert
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Bresnahan
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espaillat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Krishnamoorthi
LaLota
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lawler
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Mackenzie
Magaziner
Mannion
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Miller (OH)
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
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Valadao
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NAYS—202

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
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)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
Langworthy
Latta
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
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
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—5

Baird
Hunt
McCaul
Murphy
Rutherford

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1530

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

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 10, I mistakenly voted YEA when I intended to vote NAY.

SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL EXPLANATORY REGARDING H.R. 6938, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE; ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT; AND INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Pursuant to section 6 of House Resolution 977, the chair of the Committee on Appropriations submitted explanatory material relating to H.R. 6938. The contents of this submission will be published in Book II of the RECORD.

BREAKING THE GRIDLOCK ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 780, the House will proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1834, which the Clerk will report by title.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 780, the amendment in the nature of a substitute, submitted by Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts, and printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of November 12, 2025, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 1834

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF ENHANCED PREMIUM TAX CREDIT.

(a) EXTENSION OF RULES TO INCREASE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE AMOUNTS.—Clause (iii) of section 36B(b)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''THROUGH 2025'' and inserting ''THROUGH 2028'', and

(2) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''before January 1, 2026'' and inserting ''before January 1, 2029''.

(b) EXTENSION OF RULE TO ALLOW CREDIT TO TAXPAYERS WHOSE HOUSEHOLD INCOME EXCEEDS 400 PERCENT OF POVERTY LINE.—Subparagraph (E) of section 36B(c)(1) of such Code is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''THROUGH 2025'' and inserting ''THROUGH 2028'', and

(2) by striking ''before January 1, 2026'' and inserting ''before January 1, 2029''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH).

GENERALLEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to $100 billion worth of bailouts for a broken system that is fueled by Democratic mandates.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to subsidizing insurance plans for wealthy people. Any support for the bill ensures that subsidies go to wealthy families making as much as $600,000 a year.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to using hard-earned taxpayer dollars to bail Democrats out of their own decision—their own decision—to make this COVID-era spending temporary so that they could give Green New Deal tax breaks to the wealthy for electric vehicles and solar panels.

They had the option. They had the option to make it permanent twice, whether it was in the American Rescue Plan or the Inflation Reduction Act. Instead, they wanted to put their resources into their wealthy environmentalists.

Check the math. Nearly half of all Americans get their insurance from their employer, nearly a quarter from Medicaid, and a bit less than that from Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, only 7 percent of the population relies on ObamaCare marketplace plans. This Chamber should be about helping 100 percent of Americans, and lowering the cost of healthcare and premiums, not just 7 percent.

Mr. Speaker, it is shameful that Democrats are only focusing on 7 percent of the population while ignoring the millions of working families who are struggling to afford healthcare.

Since ObamaCare was enacted, premiums have increased by 80 percent. Since ObamaCare was enacted—let me say that again—the premiums have increased by 80 percent. Deductibles and out-of-pocket costs have skyrocketed. Families worry about medical debt—that is, those who still have access to doctors. In fact, 150 rural hospitals have closed since passage of ObamaCare, and small businesses were crushed under the weight of the new mandates.

Not only did Democrats refuse to fix any of this, but they want to make it permanent at a cost of $400 billion. No thanks, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, reverting these tax credits back to the original structure that the Democrats designed means that 93 percent of enrollees will still retain very generous subsidies next year. Mr. Speaker, 60 percent of the enrollees will still have access to a plan at or below $50 a month.

I represent one of the poorest congressional districts in the country, and still, 99.7 percent of my constituents in my district, one of the poorest congressional districts, will be unaffected by this expiration.

This is all about subsidizing the wealthy, so why are we even having this debate? It is because Democrats chose to make these giveaways temporary—not once, but twice, Mr. Speaker—as part of their partisan spending bills. The reason they did so was to shower the rich with Green New Deal subsidies, which they made permanent. We reversed those in the big, beautiful bill.

Mr. Speaker, here is a word you won't hear from Democrats: ''fraud.'' They forced taxpayers to pay up to $27 billion for as many as 6.4 million individuals fraudulently enrolled in the ObamaCare plans. Nearly half of all enrollees—that is, 12 million people—didn't even file one single medical claim, not even a prescription, all year, last year. It sounds like they didn't even know that they had insurance through ObamaCare, but those insurance companies were subsidized, almost half of them, on the exchanges.

□ 1540

If Democrats think that is not a problem, that is pretty scary.

I called on the Government Accountability Office to investigate. They created fictitious ObamaCare applicants with fake documentation, and 100 percent—not some, but 100 percent; not half, but 100 percent—were approved in the first year, and 90 percent are still being subsidized, resulting in checks worth more than $12,000 per month going to insurance companies.

One Social Security number was associated with more than 125 different ObamaCare policies. One Social Secu-rity number was tied to more than 125 policies—waste, fraud, abuse. Apparently, the other side doesn't see that. They don't see the truth. In fact, more than 58,000 dead people were being sub-sidized, according to the Government Accountability Office.

In response, Democrats only brag about higher health insurance enrollment. They are really celebrating.

What they are celebrating is subsidizing insurers for people without a pulse. For Democrats, fraud comes first.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are putting real, living Americans first. Republicans blocked illegal immigrants' access to taxpayer-funded healthcare benefits, then eliminated over $185 billion worth of fraud and waste in the ObamaCare marketplace. For Americans who are eligible, Republicans actually lowered ObamaCare premiums and expanded access to health savings accounts, direct primary care, and telehealth for millions, including ObamaCare enrollees, as part of the Working Families Tax Cuts.

There was $50 billion invested in the healthcare needs of rural communities. The Lower Health Care Premiums for All Americans Act was passed, which also lowered premiums even further, as well as provided more freedom and flexibility for healthcare access and increased competition by negotiating better drug prices for workers.

Mr. Speaker, I will take greater access to affordable healthcare any day over shoveling more tax dollars into Democrats' healthcare fraud schemes. I oppose this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this argument is about universal access. For years, the Republican leadership in this institution has attempted to avert this very moment. For us this is not to be about spiking the football. This is not to be about an end-zone dance. This is about to declare a major victory for the American people.

Despite what I have heard, they have used every maneuver and procedure to prevent the very debate that we are going to have for the next hour. All these years later, they never even had a plan or an alternative.

We can finally choose families, and they can join us today in extending the ACA tax credits and save healthcare for millions of members of the American family. How easily and quickly they did a massive tax cut for the wealthiest amongst us while subsequently arguing that they could deny average men and women an opportunity for health insurance.

So here we are all these years later, as one who helped to write the Affordable Care Act, the ACA is still standing. We will continue to improve it every single year. When I consider now the uninsured enrollment in America is down to 6 percent, it is thanks to the ACA.

If Congress did not do what we are about to do in the next hour, a family of four making $130,000 would see their marketplace premium go from $921 to $1,992. That would be an 18.4 percent increase. Our enhanced credits make sure that nobody would pay more than 8.5 percent of their income for coverage.

Now, Republicans think that people can afford increased premiums by 37 percent, and that is what they are proposing today. They said 2 weeks ago that they had a healthcare plan that they wrote on Friday night. As I noted at the time, it was held together by bubble gum and Elmer's Glue. By the way, Democrats never even got to see it. If they had a healthcare plan alternative, they should have shown it to us.

Let me say this, Mr. Speaker. This is a good day for the American family. This is an important consideration for this institution. Despite repeated denials and efforts to thwart this very moment, in the next hour, my colleagues are going to do for the American family what they said they would do, and that is to extend these tax credits for the ACA.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON).

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, my friend from Massachusetts talked about not seeing the Republican bill. There was a bipartisan provision in there that would lower premiums by 11 percent per the Congressional Budget Office, the nonpartisan budget office. This is a provision that the Democrats all supported. They know we have to make the ObamaCare market work. It doesn't work today. The facts belie that: double premiums, double deductibles, one out of five claims rejected, limited choice. It has failed. That experiment has failed.

The only game in town that has actually lowered costs of healthcare, reduced premiums is what Republicans passed out of the House. There was not a single Democrat vote to join us.

Here is what I can't understand for the life of me, and I have some good friends over there, and I am not mad. I am miffed that Democrats would all talk about affordability in healthcare and bring to this Chamber the idea, the notion that Congress take a COVID-era program that Democrats all designed to expire when COVID was over, that every watchdog group has said is loaded with fraud and waste—as the chairman said, Social Security numbers from tens of thousands of dead people—it is siphoning money out of the taxpayers' pockets, away from the vulnerable, and enriching insurance companies.

There are millions of ineligible people, billions of dollars of fraud, and people are watching what is going on in the country, especially in Minnesota. How could my colleagues across the aisle, in good faith, call this affordable healthcare and stewardship of the sacred treasure of our fellow Americans?

Republicans have a plan. It works. It is not perfect. There are some things Congress could work together on. But for the love of God and country, please, it is intellectually dishonest to tell the American people that this COVID-era, fraud-ridden program is somehow going to make healthcare affordable any more than the underlying bill itself, ObamaCare, which everyone knows hasn't.

I said it the last time, I will say it again: Ronald Reagan was spot on. Government isn't the solution. Government is the problem. This is a case study for that. America needs less mandates, less taxes, less regulations, and people need more freedom, more choices, more competition.

Republicans are willing to work with Democrats, but this is beyond the pale, and it is audacious to call it affordable healthcare. I am amazed. I am surprised. I encourage my colleagues to roundly, soundly stand firm and reject it, and no Republican should ever support this. They didn't support ObamaCare when it was designed. They shouldn't support doubling down on a failed policy, and I encourage them to not begin now.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), the Democratic minority whip, who can stand at that microphone and say the following: Every child in Massachusetts has health insurance and 97 percent of the adults in Massachusetts are covered because of the ObamaCare plan.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from the Commonwealth for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, today, thanks to the persistence of the American people, because millions of constituents have called their Members of Congress, shown up at townhalls, shown up and marched in the streets, because of parents who spoke out for their kids, for doctors who spoke out for their patients, neighbors who mobilized together, today, Congress has a chance to vote for Americans' healthcare.

Today, thanks to the strength and unity of our Democratic Caucus, the House will vote to restore the ACA tax credits, and I will vote to restore the affordable marketplace plans that working people depend on to stay healthy, to live, to survive.

Today, I will vote to prioritize the lives of regular people over the greed of billionaires and start bringing the Republican healthcare crisis to an end.

□ 1550

This vote won't solve every problem the GOP has created. We still have to reverse their cuts to Medicaid and Medicare. We still have to stop the closure of rural hospitals and deal with the maternity health crisis and work together—yes, work together—to create a healthcare system that is affordable and accessible to everyone.

Today, we can begin. Today, the people's House has a chance to stand with and for the people. I hope we have a strong bipartisan majority for this vote and that the Senate will immediately do the same.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN).

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, when your old roof keeps leaking, you can keep adding shingles to it, but eventually you must admit the structure underneath isn't built to weather the storm. Rather than double down on a problem that keeps getting more expensive, it is time sometimes to rethink the foundation. Such is the case with ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, we all remember those promises made when Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law. If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. It turns out that wasn't true. It is also not true the promise made that this ObamaCare will bend the cost curve for healthcare downward. That is not true at all. Premiums for the average ObamaCare plan have skyrocketed much higher than traditional inflation leaving patients with higher costs and fewer choices.

If Americans are just tuning in to C–SPAN, you might assume that Republicans are eliminating the Affordable Care Act or ObamaCare altogether. That is simply not the case.

The premium tax credits were developed during COVID to subsidize Americans making more than 400 percent of the Federal poverty level, including those making up to $600,000. People making up to $600,000 are getting subsidized by the American taxpayers. In northeast Florida, we call people making $600,000 rich, and that is who we are subsidizing with these premium tax credits.

I have also got a news flash for you, Mr. Speaker: COVID is over. We made these premium tax credits during COVID. COVID is over, and these subsidies should be over with it.

ObamaCare will continue for those who need it. Americans making up to 400 percent of the poverty level are still eligible for the tax credits. At this very moment that is still happening. That means a family of four can make up to $128,000 and still qualify for help.

To call this, and I have heard it said a couple of times already, a Republican healthcare crisis is fake news. There is new hope, Mr. Speaker. Instead of throwing more money away, we can have a new day for America to look at health savings accounts, to look at the Lower Healthcare Premiums for All Act that according to the CBO is going to lower premiums for everybody, all Americans across the Nation.

It is time to give more choice and more competition. Those are the only ingredients that are going to make costs lower. We can't keep patching the same roof. Everybody has sticker shock.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everybody, the right answer is to vote ''no'' on extending these horrible tax credits.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), the Democratic leader, whose tactful leadership has brought us to this moment.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts for yielding and for his tremendous leadership on behalf of protecting the healthcare of the American people.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in strong support of this bipartisan effort to protect the healthcare of the American people and ensure that we extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits, to make sure that tens of millions of Americans do not experience dramatically increased premiums, copays, and deductibles.

From the very beginning of this Congress, House Democrats have made it clear that we will find bipartisan common ground with any of our Republican colleagues in order to address the affordability issues that are making life more expensive for everyday Americans, working-class Americans, and middle-class Americans. That has been our commitment from the very beginning.

Today, we are able to take a substantial step forward to address the healthcare crisis that does exist in the United States of America and was made worse by the one big, ugly bill. Medicaid was cut by the largest amount in American history. As a result of the policies that were part of that legislation, hospitals, nursing homes, and community-based health clinics are closing all across America.

We have also seen an extraordinary assault on the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration, on vaccine availability, on public health, and on healthcare of everyday Americans here in the United States of America.

Today, we have an opportunity to push back against that assault and do it in a bipartisan way. That is what the American people have been calling for: Democrats and Republicans working together to address the affordability crisis in this country. It is not a hoax. It is very real.

Housing costs are out of control. Grocery costs are out of control. Electricity bills are out of control. Childcare costs are out of control. Healthcare costs are out of control.

What we do here today will not be the end of the effort that is necessary, but we can begin the effort that is necessary and extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits.

Several things that were mentioned earlier by some of my colleagues are completely and totally inaccurate. The Affordable Care Act tax credits benefit working-class Americans, middle-class Americans, and everyday Americans. That is why we are waging this fight.

We know that over 90 percent of the people who benefit from the tax credits that we are working to protect today make on average $63,000 a year. That is working-class America. That is middle-class America. That is the heartland of America. That is rural America. That is urban America. That is small-town America. That is what we are protecting when we extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits.

This is not a partisan issue for us. This is an American issue.

In fact, we know that the 10 States that will be most adversely impacted by the lapse in the Affordable Care Act tax credits are all, Mr. Speaker, run by Republicans. We are standing up for the American people. We are talking about States like West Virginia, Wyoming, Alaska, Tennessee, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Alabama, South Dakota, and North Dakota will be the States most impacted by the lapse in the Affordable Care Act tax credits.

This is not a partisan issue for us. It is a patriotic one, and we will always defend the healthcare of the American people. That is exactly why.

This is an important moment for everyday Americans. It is what they want to see out of this Congress, the people's House, the Article I branch of government, the House of Representatives, the first amongst equals coming together today, every single House Democrat and at least 10 House Republicans to extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits.

Now, we believe as House Democrats that in this great country of ours you work hard, you play by the rules, you should be able to live a comfortable life, an affordable life, live the good life. You should have a good-paying job, good housing, good education for your children, good healthcare, and a good retirement. That is not too much to ask for in the wealthiest country in the history of the world.

□ 1600

There is a lot of work that needs to be done to make that aspiration, the American Dream, the good life, a reality. Today, we take an important step forward in that regard by extending the Affordable Care Act tax credits.

When we get this done, we can send it over to the Senate, and, hopefully, get it out of that Chamber and to the President's desk. It will be part of our continuing commitment to lower the high cost-of-living, fix our broken healthcare system here in the United States of America, and ensure that in every single part of this country, for working-class America, urban America, rural America, suburban America, exurban America, the heartland of America, and small-town America, we can bring the American Dream to life.

We will protect the healthcare of the American people today, but our commitment doesn't end today. We will protect it tomorrow, this week, next week, this month, this year, and next year. We will protect the healthcare of the American people always and forever, and we will always fight to bring the great American Dream to life.

Vote ''yes'' on extending the Affordable Care Act tax credits.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to point out before I get to my prepared remarks that Leader JEFFRIES just said

that we need to fix our broken healthcare system. It is a healthcare system put into place by the Democrats. It is a healthcare system extended by the Democrats. The proposal today will do nothing to extend anything but the failures of the past. It will not fix the broken system they put in place.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I rise today in opposition to this Democratic discharge petition. It is fiscally irresponsible and fails to address the waste, fraud, and abuse of ObamaCare while ignoring the real problems in our healthcare system and ignoring the fact that these temporary COVID-era enhanced subsidies have done nothing but pad the profits of big insurance companies and drive up the very premiums that they purport to reduce.

Mr. Speaker, let's look at the facts more closely. First, ObamaCare has yet to deliver on the promises made to Americans over a decade ago. Since the ACA was enacted, premiums have increased by roughly 80 percent. Guess what. Ninety percent of that increase has been paid for by the taxpayers.

It is important to note that these premium tax credits are sent directly to insurance companies, not the taxpayers, and it is no secret why. The ACA was written by insurance companies to benefit insurance companies, and it has served to drive up the stock price for those insurance companies by more than 1,000 percent since the ACA came into existence.

Meanwhile, families face out-of-pocket costs exceeding $20,000 a year and a 95-percent increase in their premiums over that same time period. This is hardly a coincidence in a system designed to reward the insurers, not the patient.

Let's not forget that today's proposed extension of these pandemic-era tax credits only relates to the 7 percent of Americans who are actually enrolled in the ACA, not the other 93 percent of Americans who are not participants in the failed ACA exchange. Of those 7 percent, roughly one-half did not even use their coverage once last year. Yet, the Democrats want to pour more money into a failing ACA program at a cost of $400 billion.

Far too often, Mr. Speaker, taxpayers have been left paying the bill for a broken system that lacks proper guardrails and has been grossly mismanaged. The ACA is just another example of this, and we should not spend more money to prop up a failing program, certainly not a COVID-era, temporary program that they put in place and they, the Democrats, set to expire this year.

Waste, fraud, and abuse in this program cannot be ignored. My fellow colleagues have gone over that today in large measure, but today, Congress is being asked to pass a clean 3-year extension and to continue to prop up this madness and to prop up the waste, fraud, and abuse. This cannot stand. The Democratic-backed Big Insurance business model is clear: charge excessive premiums to get excessive profits, deny coverage to patients, and shift costs onto both patients and providers.

This has to end, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this measure.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI). There is no finer leader or person who was more determined to help bring us to this moment and whose fortitude helped to give us the ACA than Speaker Emerita PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to quote him when he said that this is a happy day. I thank Mr. Leader for making it so, and I thank the chairman for making it so and bringing it to the floor. My mouth will breathe an exclamation point to the gentleman's beautiful comments earlier and those of our distinguished leader, Mr. JEFFRIES.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., famously said: ''Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhuman,'' he said, because people can die.

The Affordable Care Act, proudly also known as ObamaCare, is a pillar of health and financial security for America's working families. Today, we vote on Leader JEFFRIES' clear, commonsense, and urgent bill to extend the ACA tax credits signed into law by President Biden so healthcare remains affordable and accessible for the American people.

Every Democrat supports this bill because we believe healthcare is a right for all and not a privilege for the few. No family should be pushed out of coverage, and we welcome our Republican colleagues who will be voting with us today. This makes it a happy day.

As we vote today, let us remember the stories of Americans we have heard across the country. Parents saying: My baby was born with a heart condition costing millions of dollars before the Affordable Care Act. Husbands saying: My wife was diagnosed with breast cancer, and we couldn't afford it. Families saying: Dad had a stroke, and we couldn't handle the cost.

That will not happen anymore because we are protecting these families in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote ''yes'' and support this bill to protect healthcare and the dignity of America's working families.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, Hyde amendment protections need to be added to this bill. Taxpayer funds should not be forced to subsidize the killing of an unborn child by dismemberment or by baby poison pills.

The Hyde amendment was not—I will say it again, was not—included when the ACA was enacted in 2010, nor was it included when President Biden significantly expanded subsidies during COVID.

It has gotten so bad, Mr. Speaker, that, according to a 2025 article by the Kaiser Family Foundation, 12 States, including my own State of New Jersey, absolutely require all plans on the ACA marketplace to cover abortion on demand. We permit abortion until birth in my State, as do many others. That is all covered by ObamaCare.

The House has passed my bill, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, on four separate occasions beginning in 2011. It is pending again in this Congress, but every time it has gone over to the Senate, it got nowhere, sadly.

I remember the day, Mr. Speaker, when my friend and colleague, the author of the amendment, Henry Hyde, first learned that about 1 million children were alive because of his amendment. He was overcome with joy. He had a tear in his eye. I was there when it happened, when he found out that 1 million mothers were spared the agony of post-abortion pain, and 1 million children were alive and well, growing up, going to school, playing sports, dating, marrying, and having kids of their own.

Today, that number is estimated at over 2.6 million children not aborted, all because abortion subsidies have been prohibited by the Hyde amendment in Federal Medicaid programs and other HHS programs.

It is time to add the Hyde amendment to the ACA.

I believe it is time, as well, for all of us to face the harsh reality of what abortion does to children and look beyond the slogans and the surface appeal arguments.

The so-called abortion pill, mifepristone, is baby poison. It kills the unborn child by how? Starving the innocent child to death. That is its operation. They can't get food, so they die. Then, the body of that baby is often flushed down the toilet.

We know, however, now, that mifepristone is extremely dangerous to women. A big study, the biggest study ever done, found that 1 in 10 women experienced serious adverse events.

Mr. Speaker, that is not what you hear from the abortion lobby. You hear about how safe it is. It ain't safe. They suffer things like sepsis, infection, and hemorrhaging, all within about 45 days.

□ 1610

Let me also say to my colleagues, another method of aborting a baby is dismemberment. It tears the child's fragile body to pieces and includes decapitation. Until rendered unconscious or dead by this hideous procedure, the baby feels pain with every cut of the knife.

It is no wonder that the polling shows that the majority of Americans do not want public funding for abortion. Abortion is the polar opposite of healthcare.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, abortion is not healthcare unless one construes the life of an unborn child to be analogous to a tumor to be excised or a disease to be vanquished.

I appeal to my colleagues: Don't ignore or trivialize the battered victim in the womb. Unborn babies need Members of Congress to be their friends and advocates, not powerful adversaries.

Abortion violence must be replaced with compassion and empathy for women and respect for the weakest and most vulnerable.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, our vote today represents hope, the hope of millions to access their family physician, the hope for so many Americans who have wondered how they will be able to afford healthcare, hope that by using an extraordinary measure today in the House, we can address an extraordinary need.

After 70 Republican repeal efforts, after rejecting the amendment I offered last May to retain these credits, and after delaying for months to give us the opportunity to provide this care, we are here today with hope.

Now, the responsibility shifts to the Senate. They need to promptly approve this measure and not attach any weakening provisions such as junk insurance and health savings account tax shelters. Keep it focused on affordability, on providing enrollment periods for those who have already lost their coverage because of enormous premium hikes.

We have heard so much about fraud. The only fraud that has been identified relates to broker fraud that Trump has made worse and Republicans have ignored. The biggest fraud of all would be replacing ObamaCare with Republican nothing care.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Missouri for this time.

As a family practice doctor for more than 25 years, I hear directly from my patients about the skyrocketing cost of insurance and prescription drugs. Americans were promised lower costs, more choices, and better care. More than a decade later, too many families are asking what happened.

Since its passage, the unaffordable care act has created a subsidy-fueled illusion with spiraling costs hidden by taxpayer dollars and deficit spending.

Today, many Americans have insurance on paper but still cannot afford to use it. Plans often come with deductibles of several thousand dollars, meaning families pay out of pocket for most routine care. Insurance that cannot be used when people are sick is not real security. It is an illusion.

Let's look at the facts. Healthcare costs have skyrocketed since ObamaCare went into effect. The ACA promised to lower healthcare premiums by up to $2,500 per family per year, but since ObamaCare went into effect, premiums have nearly tripled and deductibles have nearly doubled. The cost of coverage for a family of 4 has increased by more than $10,000.

The benchmark ACA silver plan cost $346 a month in 2014. In 2026, the same exact plan costs $625 a month. The benchmark ACA silver plan deductible was $2,425 in 2014. In 2026, the average deductible will be $5,304, a 119 percent increase. That means that before your health insurance even kicks in, you have to incur $5,304 in out-of-pocket costs.

Such deductibles leave families effectively self-funding their care despite being insured. A policy that you can't afford when you are sick is not a real solution, only an illusion of coverage, leaving individuals functionally uninsured.

Compounding these design failures are serious fraud and enforcement breakdowns within the system itself. A 2024 GAO investigation found that fake identities were approved for ObamaCare subsidies at a 100 percent rate. Often remaining enrolled despite missing or falsified documentation, these ObamaCare subsidies continued for these fraudulent applications. Taxpayers are left footing the bill as reused Social Security numbers, subsidies paid on behalf of deceased individuals, and billions in unreconciled payments expose a system unable to protect public funds.

To be clear, expanding access to health insurance and protecting people with preexisting conditions are worthy goals, but good intentions do not excuse bad results.

Mr. Speaker, faced with these affordability problems, what have my Democratic colleagues proposed? Their answer has been more taxpayer subsidies to paper over ObamaCare's problems. Rather than address the root causes of high premiums, they want to pour ever-larger subsidies to insurance companies to mask the broken system.

Extending subsidies without reform is just paying more for a broken system. I am not going to vote to promote a broken ObamaCare system. If health insurance only looks affordable when Washington pumps in billions of temporary subsidies, the law itself is not affordable. That structure is the real problem that we need to fix. I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, House Democrats have fought for months to save Americans' healthcare. That led to four Republicans working with us to bring this bill to the floor today. Yesterday, nine Republicans voted with us to bring this tax credit extension up. Today, it is 11. They know that letting these tax credits expire will hurt the people that they represent as well.

Congressional Republicans set the stage to price 4 million Americans out of healthcare plans that they need. Democrats are fighting to bring your costs down. If you take away the credits that millions of Americans depend on to afford coverage, families will be forced into junk plans that don't cover their needs or will have no coverage at all. When they get sick or hurt, it will cost even more.

This is a good day for Americans. It is a great day for Americans. Vote ''yes'' on this bill to protect healthcare for the people that we represent.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY).

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I agree with points that are being made on both sides. The fundamental point of our side is undeniably true, which is that our healthcare system is broken and costs continue to spiral out of control.

However, it is also true that suddenly withdrawing premium support from 22 million Americans is going to force those folks into a terrible dilemma: either paying hundreds or thousands of dollars more, so they face hard tradeoffs for their families, losing their insurance altogether in a way that will impact the employer-based market of 150 million Americans, or working less in order to remain eligible in a way that will reduce their discretionary income as well as be bad for our economy as a whole.

We need a solution to this, but this bill is obviously not a solution. Everyone knows that. It is a political exercise that has been engineered by the minority leader at the expense of pursuing an actual solution.

Now, once again, it is falling on the Senate to do the real policymaking, but I am heartened that they seem to be close to a deal that roughly mirrors the compromise bipartisan bill that I have offered with the gentleman from California (Mr. LICCARDO) that does a temporary extension with reforms and cost controls to provide runway, so then we can begin the real hard work of fixing our healthcare system in this country.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the leader of the Ways and Means Committee and rise in strong support of this legislation.

We have heard an awful lot of talk about subsidies over there. Let's cut right to the chase. It is about subsidies. You care about subsidies for billionaires, and you are willing to do it on the backs of the American people.

You would rather see them—thank God for the people who are standing up on your side. They deserve the Profile

in Courage award because they are able to stand up to a President who would rather see 15 million people lose insurance and another 20 million see their prices double. Thank the Republicans on that side for profiles in courage.

Vote your conscience. Vote your constituents. This is not about politics. It is about people.

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

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

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

□ 1620

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in Illinois, there are 465,000 people who depend on the Affordable Care Act to acquire health insurance. For the past several years, the majority of them have used enhanced Federal tax credits to lower the cost.

In my district alone, 19,000, or 57 percent, will see the cost of their policy go up $696, without the Federal tax credits.

In Austin, Mary will pay an additional $300 per month. On the North Side, Emily will pay an additional $150 a month, raising her cost to $600. Beginning January 1, Rebecca will pay $796 a month.

This is totally unacceptable. All of these are too high. Let's make healthcare available to the American people. Let's pass today, not tomorrow, not the next day, the Federal tax credits.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SÁNCHEZ).

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the many working families who rely on the ACA tax credits.

Speaker JOHNSON should have let us vote on this bill at the end of last year, but instead of bringing down the cost of healthcare, groceries, or housing, Republicans are focused on protecting President Trump while he invades foreign countries, builds golden ballrooms, and renames monuments to himself, all while families in my district watch their healthcare premiums double.

I will remind everyone: Republicans already kicked 15 million people off their healthcare to pay for tax cuts for billionaires.

I urge my Republican colleagues now to do the right thing and to vote on behalf of their constituents' interests. Vote to extend the ACA tax credits and lower costs for America's families.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I remind this body that the reason why these COVID-era tax credits expired is because the Democrats focused all their resources on helping their wealthy environmentalists with permanent tax credits for electric vehicles and solar panels.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of restoring the Affordable Care Act tax credits and lowering healthcare costs for millions of Americans.

As of January 1, more than 400,000 Alabamians faced higher premiums because Republicans in this body let the ACA tax credits expire. That is on top of the nearly $1 trillion in cuts that Republicans made to healthcare earlier this year.

Today's vote represents one more chance for Republicans to do the right thing, reverse their disastrous policies, and join Democrats in making healthcare more affordable.

Let's make no mistake: This vote would not have taken place had it not been for the relentless efforts of House Democrats and our leader, HAKEEM JEFFRIES. I urge my Republican colleagues to vote ''yes'' to restore the ACA credits and lower healthcare costs. In the words of Dr. King: ''The time is always right to do what is right.''

Mr. Speaker, let us restore the ACA tax credits.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a bombshell GAO report documenting evidence of widespread fraud, with billions of dollars going to fraudulent enrollees, including as many as 58,000 dead people.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE,
Washington, DC, December 3, 2025.

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Preliminary Results from Ongoing Review Suggest Fraud Risks in the Advance Premium Tax Credit Persist

Hon. BRETT GUTHRIE,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives.
Hon. JIM JORDAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives.
Hon. JASON SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) provides premium tax credits to those who purchase private health insurance plans and meet certain income and other requirements. Individuals may have the federal government pay this credit to their health insurance issuers in advance on their behalf, known as the advance premium tax credit (APTC), which lowers their monthly premium payments.

Millions of consumers have purchased health insurance plans through the marketplaces established under PPACA. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is responsible for maintaining the federal Marketplace and overseeing state-based marketplaces. Under PPACA, states may elect to operate their own state-based marketplace or to use the federal Marketplace. These marketplaces determine eligibility for APTC, based in part on income, and allow individuals to compare and choose among insurance plans offered by participating private health care coverage issuers. CMS estimated it paid nearly $124 billion in APTC for about 19.5 million enrollees for plan year 2024.

Consumers can enroll in health insurance coverage through a marketplace independently or with assistance, such as from an insurance agent or broker. As discussed later in this report, agents and brokers can help a consumer apply for coverage, including for related financial assistance, and enroll in a plan. Assistance from an agent or broker is of no cost to a consumer. Rather, agents and brokers are allowed to receive compensation directly from health insurance issuers in accordance with agreements with those issuers and any applicable state requirements.

Indictments from December 2024 and February 2025 highlight concerns about agent and broker practices in the federal Marketplace. Specifically, the indictments allege that bad actors enrolled consumers in insurance through the federal Marketplace by falsifying information on their applications. Additionally, according to CMS, the agency received approximately 275,000 complaints between January and August 2024 that consumers were enrolled in a plan or had their plan changed without their consent. Such practices can result in wasteful federal spending on APTC for enrollees who are not eligible. Further, such practices can result in harm and unexpected costs for consumers. These can include loss of access to medical providers and medications, higher copayments and deductibles, or repayment of APTC if income or other eligibility was misrepresented.

We previously reported that APTC is at risk of fraud. For example, in September 2016, we found that federal and state marketplaces approved coverage for our fictitious applicants. Nearly all of these fictitious applicants remained covered after we sent fictitious documents or no documents to resolve issues with our applications. Further, in July 2017, we found that CMS did not design processes to verify eligibility for APTC, including preventing duplicate coverage.

You asked us to review issues related to fraud risk management in APTC. This report is based on preliminary results and analyses from that ongoing work. Specifically, this report addresses preliminary results from our

1. covert testing of federal Marketplace enrollment controls for plan years 2024 and 2025,
2. analyses of federal Marketplace enrollment data for plan years 2023 and 2024, and
3. evaluation of CMS's fraud risk assessment and antifraud strategy for APTC.

To perform covert testing of federal Marketplace enrollment controls, we created 20 fictitious identities and submitted applications for individual health care coverage in the federal Marketplace. We submitted applications for four of these fictitious identities in October 2024 for coverage through December 2024, which was the remainder of that plan year. We pursued coverage for plan year 2025 for all 20 fictitious identities, including the four identities for which we already submitted applications. Our covert testing for plan year 2025 is ongoing, since the plan year is not yet complete. As a result, we will describe additional details of the 2025 applications in a future report.

Our covert testing included applications submitted independently through HealthCare.gov, which is the federal Marketplace's website, and applications submitted with assistance from an insurance agent or broker. For all our applicant scenarios, we sought to act as an ordinary consumer would in attempting to make a successful application. For example, if, during online applications, we were directed to make phone calls to complete the process, we acted as instructed.

For applications for plan year 2024, our covert tests included fictitious applicants

who provided invalid (i.e., never issued) Social Security numbers (SSN). Additionally, we stated income at a level eligible to obtain APTC. As appropriate, we used publicly available information to construct our applications for coverage and subsidies. We also used publicly available hardware, software, and materials to produce counterfeit documents that we submitted, if appropriate for our testing, when instructed to do so. We then observed the outcomes of the document submissions, such as any approvals received or requests to provide additional supporting documentation. The results of our covert testing, while illustrative of potential enrollment control weaknesses, cannot be generalized to the overall enrollment population.

To examine federal Marketplace enrollment for plan years 2023 and 2024, we obtained and analyzed federal Marketplace enrollment and payment data, including APTC information, from CMS. We also matched enrollee SSNs in the data to two additional data sources: (1) Social Security Administration's (SSA) full death file, a database containing records of death that have been reported to SSA, as of November 2024 and (2) April 2025 data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on APTC reconciliation from tax forms filed for tax year 2023. We assessed the reliability of all data sets by performing electronic tests to determine the completeness and accuracy of key fields. We also reviewed agency documentation and interviewed knowledgeable agency officials about the reliability of the data. Overall, we found that the data were reliable for our purposes.

To examine CMS's fraud risk assessment and antifraud strategy for APTC, we reviewed documentation of CMS's policies and fraud risk management activities related to APTC. This included CMS's 2018 fraud risk assessment for APTC. Additionally, we interviewed agency officials about CMS's fraud risk management activities in this program. We reviewed relevant reports from GAO and HHS's Office of the Inspector General. We evaluated information from relevant documentation and interviews of agency officials against relevant leading practices in GAO's *A Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs* (Fraud Risk Framework).

To support all three objectives, we interviewed CMS officials and representatives from seven stakeholder organizations that represent agents and brokers, state insurance regulators, researchers, and one of the entities that CMS approved to host a nonmarketplace website where consumers can apply for and enroll in a plan offered through the federal Marketplace.

The ongoing work upon which this report is based is being conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our preliminary findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. Additionally, our related investigative work is being conducted in accordance with standards prescribed by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

Background

APTC ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT PROCESSES

APTC Eligibility

To qualify for a premium tax credit, individuals must be enrolled in a qualified health plan offered through a marketplace and meet certain criteria. These tax credits can be paid in advance through APTC.

The amount of the premium tax credit varies based on household income and the cost of a benchmark plan. The credit limits what the consumer would pay for that plan to be no more than a certain percentage of their household income. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 made temporary changes to premium tax credits by expanding eligibility to higher-income individuals and increasing premium tax credits for lower-income individuals for tax years 2021 and 2022. For example, the law increased the premium tax credit amounts for eligible individuals and families, resulting in access to plans with no premium contributions for those earning 100 to 150 percent of the federal poverty level. It also expanded eligibility for premium tax credits to include certain individuals and families with incomes at or above 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Public Law 117–169—commonly known as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022—extended these provisions through the end of tax year 2025.

In 2013, CMS developed the Data Services Hub (Hub) to help verify applicant eligibility in an automated manner. To do so, the Hub matches applicant information, such as SSN and estimated income, against trusted data sources. These sources include records from SSA and IRS. In the federal Marketplace, the system generates an inconsistency when data matching processes are not able to verify applicant information against the Hub's trusted sources. When an inconsistency is generated, applicants are instructed to provide documentation to support information on their applications that cannot be verified by the Hub's data matching.

Marketplaces and Enrollment Pathways

States, along with the District of Columbia, may elect to rely on the federal Marketplace or operate their own health insurance marketplace.

The federal Marketplace offers multiple pathways to enroll in health insurance coverage and receive APTC. Consumers in states that use the federal Marketplace may enroll in coverage through the pathway known as HealthCare.gov or an enhanced direct enrollment (EDE) pathway, among others.

Role of Agents and Brokers

Consumers seeking to obtain health insurance through the federal Marketplace may receive assistance from agents and brokers who help them apply for coverage, including related financial assistance, and enroll in a health plan. In return, agents and brokers receive payment (commissions or salaries) from the issuers of the health plans. Agents and brokers must be licensed in the state in which they sell plans and registered with CMS to sell plans through the federal Marketplace. According to CMS, most enrollments in the federal Marketplace are assisted by an agent or broker through the EDE and direct enrollment pathways.

CMS is responsible for oversight of agents and brokers in the federal Marketplace and ensuring that they comply with federal rules. Agents and brokers are required to, among other things, obtain and document consumers' consent before assisting them with applying for and enrolling in coverage through the federal Marketplace. For example, consumer consent is required before the agent or broker can

collect or use any personally identifiable information, such as name, date of birth, and SSN;

help a consumer apply for coverage or financial assistance by completing an eligibility application on their behalf; and

actively enroll a consumer in a plan offered through the federal Marketplace.

After a consumer has applied or is enrolled, the agent or broker can also update a consumer's eligibility application or plan selection on their behalf, if the initial consent authorized the agent or broker to do so, or if they obtained subsequent consent for any new actions. Agents and brokers are required to make documentation of consumer consent available to CMS upon request in response to monitoring, audit, and enforcement actions.

Fraud Risk Management

The objective of fraud risk management is to ensure program integrity by continuously and strategically mitigating both the likelihood and effects of fraud, while also facilitating a program's mission. The Fraud Risk Framework provides a comprehensive set of leading practices that serve as a guide for agency managers to use when developing efforts to combat fraud in a strategic, risk-based manner. As depicted in figure 2, the framework organizes the leading practices within four components: (1) Commit, (2) Assess, (3) Design and Implement, and (4) Evaluate and Adapt.

In June 2016, the Fraud Reduction and Data Analytics Act of 2015 (FRDAA) required the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to establish guidelines for federal agencies to create controls to identify and assess fraud risks to design and implement antifraud control activities. The act further required OMB to incorporate the leading practices from the Fraud Risk Framework in the guidelines. The Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 repealed FRDAA but maintained the requirement for OMB to provide guidelines to agencies in implementing the Fraud Risk Framework.

In its 2016 Circular No. A–123 guidelines, OMB directed agencies to adhere to the Fraud Risk Framework's leading practices. In October 2022, OMB issued a Controller Alert reminding agencies that they must establish financial and administrative controls to identify and assess fraud risks. In addition, the alert reminded agencies that they should adhere to the leading practices in the Fraud Risk Framework as part of their efforts to effectively design, implement, and operate an internal control system that addresses fraud risks.

The Federal Marketplace Approved Subsidized Coverage for Nearly All of Our Fictitious Applicants in Plan Years 2024 and 2025, Suggesting Weaknesses Persist

Our covert testing of enrollment controls in the federal Marketplace suggests weaknesses have persisted since our tests in plan years 2015 through 2016. All four of our fictitious applications received subsidized coverage through the federal Marketplace in late 2024. Additionally, although our work is ongoing, as of September 2025 18 of our 20 fictitious applications for plan year 2025 were receiving subsidized coverage. We will continue to monitor the status of these applications during plan year 2025.

ALL FOUR OF OUR FICTITIOUS APPLICANTS RECEIVED SUBSIDIZED COVERAGE IN LATE 2024

To test enrollment controls, we developed and submitted four fictitious applications to obtain insurance coverage with APTC through the federal Marketplace. We applied for coverage for these four applicants in October 2024. We submitted the applications outside of the open enrollment period, using a special enrollment period for low-income applicants. In two cases, we applied for coverage directly through HealthCare.gov. In the other two cases, we applied via telephone with assistance from an insurance broker. The brokers that assisted us used EDE systems to submit our applications.

The federal Marketplace approved fully subsidized insurance coverage for all four of our fictitious applicants for November through December 2024. The combined total amount of APTC paid to insurance companies for all four fictitious enrollees was about $2,350 per month. While our fictitious

enrollees are not generalizable to the universe of enrollees, they suggest weaknesses in enrollment controls—such as identity proofing and income verification—in the federal Marketplace through both HealthCare.gov and EDE systems.

The results of our covert testing for plan year 2024 are generally consistent with results of similar testing we conducted for plan years 2014 through 2016.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE).

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my unwavering support for this extension of the enhanced ACA tax credits.

For the last year, my colleagues and I have fought to keep these enhanced tax credits. While this vote is later than it should have been, it is not too late to do what is right for the American people and for my constituents like Gerry, who has already seen a 60-percent increase in his premiums; Steve, whose plan went up by over 40 percent; and Mitch, who is looking at a 420-percent increase for him and his wife.

Republicans and the Trump administration promised to bring down prices. Instead, they have made healthcare a luxury that only some can afford.

I believe everyone should have affordable, quality, accessible healthcare. Because of that, I will be voting in favor of this legislation and supporting the extension of the enhanced ACA tax credits.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS).

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here this afternoon to talk about what is so important to all of us, and that is healthcare, not just health insurance.

A clean, 3-year extension brought by the minority would send $110 billion directly to insurance companies.

As the chairman just mentioned, a recent GAO report showed that 23 out of 24 fraudulent enrollees were approved and received taxpayer subsidies directly to insurance companies. The GAO even reported that they were not required to provide documentation, such as Social Security numbers or income verification. It was money sent directly to insurance companies from taxpayers.

Democrats said healthcare would be affordable, yet since the implementation of this bad idea, premiums are up 80 percent. At the same time, nearly 20 percent of the individual market claims are denied by insurance companies.

In 2024, 87 percent of the revenue made by insurance companies selling ACA exchange claims came from taxpayer dollars.

To quote an article from The Wall Street Journal, Democrats sold ObamaCare on the false pretenses that it would make healthcare affordable. Let me say that again: false pretenses. Extending the subsidies would perpetuate that fraud.

We passed a bill before Christmas that would reduce costs by 11 percent, and that was from the CBO. The CBO said that, and we are not exactly the biggest fans of that unique organization. Our plan would actually fight fraud, which was highlighted in the GAO report.

Finally, we would actually give choice to individuals as opposed to this one-size-fits-all debacle. We want healthcare, not a plan to simply fund insurance companies.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, 1 week ago, Republicans skyrocketed healthcare costs for 22 million Americans. They chose to let the ACA tax credits expire, even though there was bipartisan support to extend them.

Now, families are seeing premiums jump by hundreds, even thousands, of dollars a month. That is utterly devastating and was entirely avoidable.

Middle-class families are being forced to cancel coverage. People with cancer are going uninsured. Small business owners are being told to pay 34 percent more, or $40,000 a year, or go without care.

Republicans knew this would happen, and they did it anyway. Now, we have a chance to fix it. Democrats have a clean, 3-year extension of these tax credits on the floor today with bipartisan support.

Let's make sure families get the help they need. We must vote ''yes'' on this bill.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, every day, more Americans are being hurt by the Republican healthcare crisis. Tax credits that help working people afford healthcare are vanishing, and Americans are watching billionaires get huge tax cuts while the cost of living goes up.

My Republican friends knew that refusing to renew these tax credits would cause healthcare costs to skyrocket.

□ 1630

Mr. Speaker, they decided to cancel work for 2 months and simply ignored the affordability problem. President Trump even called it a hoax.

Democrats put forward this bill to help the American people. Thanks to a few sensible colleagues on the other side, we were able to force a vote on it.

While Trump continues his self-dealing corruption and growing fondness for attacking foreign countries, his administration is lawlessly killing and lying about the death of an unarmed woman in Minneapolis.

Republican leadership in Congress had to be forced to even allow a vote on this bill. Democrats here are focused on a bill to lower costs for tens of millions of Americans and prevent many from losing healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, we speak about life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We can't be free, it is hard to be happy, and lives are cut short with no healthcare.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER).

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly and proudly support Leader JEFFRIES' discharge petition to extend the ACA premium subsidies.

Just 8 days ago, President Trump and the Republican Congress let the ACA subsidies expire. Consequently, rather than working on their new year's resolution, 22 million hardworking Americans are forced to decide what sacrifices they need to make to afford their insurance or whether they need to sacrifice their families' healthcare.

That is why today is a happy day. We are one step closer to helping millions of Americans afford healthcare. Getting to this day wasn't easy, but Democrats stayed united and stood firm. After fighting for months, we are joined by Republican colleagues who recognize that we have a responsibility to help ensure Americans can afford to provide healthcare for their families.

Mr. Speaker, it is our job to bring down the cost for Americans. It is our job to make life better for Americans. It is our job to ensure that every family has access to affordable and quality care. Let's do our job. Let's extend the ACA credits. I urge my colleagues to support the discharge petition.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA).

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, for the past year we have been talking about the damage done by not extending tax credits for the Affordable Care Act. Now this year, no longer is it theory. It is fact. It is no longer talk. It is pain.

The fact is 20 million people are feeling the pain with their healthcare costs going up. Millions more are losing health insurance. In my district, tens of thousands are going to be paying more for healthcare.

Today, the fact is that we can do our jobs and, rather than take healthcare away, we can actually help fix it. I commend all of my Democratic colleagues and, yes, even a few on the Republican side that signed the discharge petition and will vote for this bill today, a day in a week that has been absolutely hectic.

Rather than constantly responding to the craziness from this administration, by voting ''yes,'' Congress can finally focus on the substance of fixing healthcare. The fact is this bill is a short-term fix for extending tax credits. It is also a vehicle for our Senate

colleagues to use so that we in Congress can provide a long-term fix to provide people with affordable and accessible healthcare.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD).

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about being on the right side of history. I have taken the time to listen directly to the people of Nevada's Fourth District and all across my great State. They have shared their stories, their concerns, and their fears about their healthcare.

I am talking about people like Richard and his wife who have worked to do everything right. They budgeted. They made sacrifices. Yet, today, they are paying $1,200 a month for health insurance, up from $280 a month just a month ago because vital healthcare lifelines were allowed to expire.

Richard told me that they can identify places to make cuts in their lives, but what worries him is what they will be forced to give up. That includes fewer groceries, fewer essentials, and fewer visits with family.

Mr. Speaker, I get it. Some in this Chamber want to make this about politics. The reality is this is life and death. It is life and death for the 15 million Americans who are at risk of losing healthcare, while Republicans found the time and the money to give tax cuts to billionaires but no time to give relief to middle-class families.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Leader JEFFRIES and Democrats. I call on my Republican colleagues to join us, and let's be on the right side of history.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 10½ minutes remaining.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI).

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, everyone here knows that affordability and the affordability of healthcare is the top concern of Americans today. Failure to extend these tax credits will cause health insurance premiums to skyrocket all across our land.

In my district, Mr. Speaker, if you utilize the premium tax credits, a family of four making $130,000 has to pay 8½ percent of their income for health insurance premiums, or about $10,000 or $11,000 a year. If we refuse to act, their bill will go to $30,000 a year, or $1,500 more per month. That is crazy. They won't even buy their insurance. As a result, it will reduce the risk pool, which will cause everyone's premiums in our country to go up.

That is why for months the Problem Solvers Caucus has been working across the aisle, both here in the House and the Senate, to find bipartisan solutions to this very real affordability crisis.

Mr. Speaker, let's deliver a huge victory for the American people. Let's overcome the partisan toxicity of Washington, D.C. Let's get Democrats and Republicans, Members of the House and the Senate, to work together to serve the needs of the American people. I urge all of my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in defense of affordable healthcare for all Americans, even though my own constituents are not afforded the same benefits as Americans living in the 50 States. We are not part of the exchange. We have no SSI. We have caps on Medicaid in jurisdictions, unlike elsewhere.

If my colleagues need a clear illustration of what happens when Affordable Care Act benefits are taken away, look to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, which are excluded from those. Our healthcare system is in crisis. Hospitals operate under Medicare formulas from the 1980s with chronic shortages of supplies, medication, equipment, and staff.

Patients bring sheets and diapers to the hospital. Doctors pool their money to pay vendors. Hospital funding gaps exceed $34 million. More than 3,000 people have lost Medicaid. Puerto Rico's capped Medicaid funding forced reliance on borrowing and debt, which contributed to their 2017 bankruptcy.

The failure to extend enhanced premium tax credits has doubled healthcare costs for 20 million Americans. My colleagues don't want the healthcare system we have. Pass this legislation.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the ranking member of the Committee on Education and Workforce.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill to extend the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits through a clean, 3-year extension.

Last year, the Republicans blocked the extension of these credits in the big, ugly bill. With the expiration of the tax credits last month, the health premium costs have skyrocketed, causing millions to lose their coverage.

When more people lose coverage, costs go up for everyone. Uninsured patients often delay seeing a doctor and end up needing more costly care at the emergency room. When there are more uninsured, hospitals, especially in rural areas, face financial hardships and may be forced to close. In other words, those unpaid bills do not disappear. They are shifted onto everybody else, and everyone suffers.

Today, Congress can step in to address the sharp premium increases and provide stability for working families across the country. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to support affordable healthcare.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ).

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is about damned time that this bill is actually going to get a vote. Here is why. The Republicans in the summer passed their One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which I am glad they are not trying to rebrand anymore. It cut Medicaid by almost $1 trillion. It took away food stamps. Then they refused to extend the ACA subsidies that would help ACA tax credits, that would help people in their own States.

That is what the Democrat majority next year is going to do. We will continue fighting for our own people throughout the country. It doesn't matter if a constituent is in a red State or a blue State, if someone is hurting because of the Republican majority this year. Donald Trump has taken away healthcare. He has taken away food stamps. He has taken away opportunities. We are going to make sure that we reverse all that.

The first step is these ACA tax credits because it is going to help working families. The party in the majority now said they were going to lower the cost of living, but they failed. Now we are going to step up.

□ 1640

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD).

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill to extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits and to put an end to the Republican healthcare crisis.

This Republican majority wasted all of 2025 by refusing to extend the tax credits in time to prevent the premium hikes that families across the country are facing right now. Costs are outrageous. House Democrats had to use a discharge petition to force them to do the right thing and finally hold this vote.

We have heard a lot of confusing lies from the majority today. Mr. Speaker, the truth is that the ACA tax credits from my legislation work. They are incredibly popular, yet Republicans chose to let them expire on December 31.

Today, we have a chance to fix their mistake, lower costs, and protect care for millions of Americans. I urge a ''yes'' vote.

I thank Leader JEFFRIES, Mr. NEAL, Speaker PELOSI, and Brandon Casey for working with me on this.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. SALINAS).

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass this legislation to prevent families' healthcare costs from skyrocketing.

I will share just a few messages from my hardworking constituents who will be impacted.

Kelly from Salem wrote: ''My policy is going to increase from $40 to $191. I will have no wiggle room in my budget, no room for emergencies.''

Rachel from Amity says that her plan will increase from $511 to $1,328 per month. She wrote: ''We will probably choose to only insure our child. We cannot afford 25 percent of our income going to health insurance.''

Janice from Salem said that her monthly costs will go from $465 to $1,100. ''I will go without health insurance if I can't bring it way down to no more than $500 a month. I am 5 years away from retirement.''

Mr. Speaker, these are just three stories from about 16,000 in my district, and there are millions just like these across our country. Our constituents are counting on this body to lower their costs and save their healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, I urge an ''aye'' vote.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI).

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of extension of the ACA tax credits.

I met Shadene Butchart in Chicago. She has ALS. Since the ACA tax credits have expired, her health insurance premium consumes the entirety of her husband's Social Security check. She will not be able to afford any health insurance to cover this incredibly distressing disease.

I rise strongly in support, and I urge my colleagues to support it, as well.

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

May I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 4 minutes remaining.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is too bad that we had to play this out to the anxiety and consternation of the American people. Think of what this might be like if you didn't know a month ago whether or not your children were going to have health insurance. Think of the anguish that you might feel proceeding into the holidays while not knowing whether or not that child would be able to complete the doctor's appointment that you had made for them because you didn't have health insurance.

I didn't hear the other side complaining about keeping 26-year-olds on their parents' health insurance. How about the idea that, in the ACA, we were able to abolish preexisting conditions being routinely used to deny the opportunity to access even primary care for millions and millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I call attention to this because I have watched over these years how the ACA has not only become more popular, but the American people have come to expect the benefits of the ACA.

This argument for those of us who were here and participated at the time was not really complex at all. The argument was that we would proceed on the basis of the notion of universal access and that you wouldn't have to worry that if you went to the emergency room, you somehow might be turned away because you had not been able to pay another bill.

We don't get a chance on this Earth to predict when we are going to get sick. Those are the basic actuarial realities of what insurance is about. By way of example, we don't get to buy homeowners' insurance after the house has burned down. We don't get to buy life insurance after we die.

The idea of what we did here was to spread the notion of risk, an entirely reasonable consequence, authored by former President Obama and, by the way, the steadfast determination at the time of Speaker PELOSI.

This was negotiated across the board with all members of the healthcare system, and we came up with a reasonable solution that we continue to build upon.

Mr. Speaker, I will point out a couple of pretty important statistics: 4 years straight of record enrollment in the Affordable Care Act, and 24.3 million Americans have now signed up.

That is what we had in mind. When you look back at these enhanced premium tax credits, we keep hearing the other side say that there are billionaires and millionaires who are driving the benefit. JCT has said that nobody over $500,000 is getting this benefit. We are open to these conversations as we go forward, as well. Yet, only 38 percent of their tax cuts inure to the benefit of people at the lower end of the economic spectrum.

By ending these enhanced tax credits, we will stop the Republican assault on the ACA. They have repeatedly said that they want to work with us, but there has been no effort on the Republican side to work with us on expanding and extending these tax credits.

There has been no concerted effort from our Republican colleagues to really put on a piece of legislation, a tax bill, that stands up under the magnifying glass of critical analysis. It is patchwork. It is announced every time we get near some cliff in the debate that somehow they have a healthcare plan. We haven't seen it yet.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to close by saying the same words that I opened with: This is a most significant day. This is a happy day for the American people.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I will remind the body that the reason why these enhanced subsidies are expiring is because the Democrats are the only ones in this Chamber who voted for them to expire on December 31. Apparently, they regret that vote because they focused most of their dollars on making permanent environmental tax policy in the Green New Deal.

Mr. Speaker, they are the only ones who have voted to take away these subsidies. It is laughable, Mr. Speaker, when you hear Members on the other side say that the Republicans created this healthcare crisis.

Guess what. It was the Democrats who wrote the Affordable Care Act that is being debated on the floor right now. They are upset because, as of December 31, it reverted back to the Affordable Care Act, which they have championed, what they passed, not Republicans, Democrats.

Mr. Speaker, the healthcare crisis is clearly created by the Democrats.

We have highlighted the fraud and waste within the exchanges. More than half of the people on the exchanges did not even file one medical claim last year, but those insurance companies were being subsidized.

□ 1650

I want to remind the American people that not $1 goes to them. It all goes to the big health insurance companies that have been doing very well, while premiums for every single American have been rising for the last decade and a half.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I urge this body to vote ''no.''

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 780, 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.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 230, nays 196, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 11]

YEAS—230

Adams	Casar	Davis (IL)
Aguilar	Case	Davis (NC)
Amo	Casten	De La Cruz
Ansari	Castor (FL)	Dean (PA)
Auchincloss	Castro (TX)	DeGette
Balint	Cherfilus-McCormick	DeLauro
Barragán	Chu	DelBene
Beatty	Cisneros	Deluzio
Bell	Clark (MA)	DeSaulnier
Bera	Clarke (NY)	Dexter
Beyer	Cleaver	Dingell
Bishop	Clyburn	Doggett
Bonamici	Cohen	Elfreth
Boyle (PA)	Conaway	Escobar
Bresnahan	Correa	Espaillat
Brown	Costa	Evans (PA)
Brownley	Courtney	Fields
Budzinski	Craig	Figures
Bynum	Crockett	Fitzpatrick
Carbajal	Crow	Fletcher
Carey	Cuellar	Foster
Carson	Davids (KS)	Foushee
Carter (LA)		Frankel, Lois

Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garbarino
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
Hurd (CO)
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Joyce (OH)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
LaLota
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lawler
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Mackenzie
Magaziner
Mannion
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Miller (OH)
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Nunn (IA)
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
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Valadao
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Wittman

NAYS—196

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
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
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
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
Langworthy
Latta
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
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
Obernolte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—5

Baird
Hunt
McCaul
Murphy
Rutherford

□ 1713

Messrs. CRAWFORD and SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 1600, H.R. 1601, AND H.R. 670

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 1600, the Crimea Annexation Non-Recognition Act; H.R. 1601, the Defending Ukraine's Territorial Integrity Act; and H.R. 670, the Lady Liberty Act, bills originally introduced by Representative Connolly of Virginia, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR CONGRESSMAN RICHARD T. ''DICK'' SCHULZE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we rise today in memory of Congressman Richard T. ''Dick'' Schulze, who died on December 23 at the age of 96.

Congressman Schulze represented the Philadelphia suburbs from 1975 to 1993 in the people's House. He was the driving force behind designating historic Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, a national park.

Dick was the ranking member of the House Ways and Means Committee and twice chaired the Republican Study Committee. He also served as chairman of the National Prayer Breakfast. President Ronald Reagan appointed Congressman Schulze to the Presidential Advisory Committee on Federalism, an honor that Dick deeply valued.

Dick's lifelong interest in conservation and wildlife issues led him to found the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and Foundation in 1989. President George H.W. Bush would later appoint him to serve on the National Fish and Wildlife Board.

Mr. Speaker, for 18 distinguished years, Congressman Schulze served in the House of Representatives. He was known for being a fair-minded, commonsense legislator who worked with Members on both sides of the aisle.

Funeral services will take place on Saturday in Malvern, Pennsylvania. Our thoughts are with his wife of 33 years, Nancy, his four children, and all of his family.

May God bless Congressman Dick Schulze.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would ask all Members and those in the gallery to rise for a moment of silence.

□ 1720

NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize January as National Blood Donor Month.

Since its inception in 1970, National Blood Donor Month recognizes the millions of Americans who help save lives by donating blood. Statistics show that every two seconds, someone in this country needs blood.

On average, one in seven hospital patients need blood, and approximately 29,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the United States.

Over the last 50 years, public awareness for blood donation has increased. Now approximately 13.6 million volunteers donate blood annually.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, more than 5,000 blood drives were held in 2025, according to the Red Cross. I am encouraged to see constituents ready to roll up their sleeves and help those in need. In fact, one of the most challenging times of the year to collect blood donations is in the winter months.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all Americans will take the time to consider donating blood this month. It is important to know that one blood donation can save lives.

SOCIAL SECURITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

(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, 74 million Americans depend on Social Security, but because of the Trump administration's actions, customer service has completely collapsed. The agency faces 6 million backlogged cases, 12 million delayed field-office transactions, and some of the worst wait times in history.

Why is this happening? It is because the Trump administration pushed out 7,000 Social Security employees. That is 12 percent of their workforce. Offices were reorganized overnight, hiring was frozen, and thousands of workers were reassigned.

This has real-life consequences for my constituents, like a 75-year-old stroke victim who hasn't received his check for months because he can't drive or use a computer, or an immigrant who may lose his job because a name correction appointment is weeks away, or the retiree who waited hours just to schedule an appointment on the phone.

Social Security is not a political experiment. It is a promise. The American people paid into the system and earned these benefits. They shouldn't have to fight their own government to receive them.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 6646

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOLDMAN) as cosponsor of H.R. 6646.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING SONNY MORRIS ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sonny Morris, a dedicated public servant who is retiring after 40 years on the Winder City Council.

First elected in 1985 and taking office in January of 1986, Councilman Morris has spent four decades serving the people of Winder, Georgia, with consistency, humility, and a deep commitment to his community.

Through periods of growth and change, he has remained a steady voice for residents and a trusted leader in local government. Councilman Morris has approached public service with a clear focus on doing what is right for his city.

His long tenure reflects not only the confidence placed in him by voters but also his willingness to listen, to collaborate, and to show up year after year for the people he represents.

Serving as grand marshal of the 2025 Winder Christmas Parade was a fitting way for the community to say thank you. I was honored to participate in that parade and to meet Mr. Morris.

Winder is stronger because of Sonny Morris, and his legacy of service will be felt for years to come.

DELAYED WILDFIRE RESPONSE EFFORTS

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, early last year, the Flat fire burned over 23,000 acres of land in central Oregon, destroying homes and forcing thousands of people to evacuate.

Our historic fire crews were eventually able to contain the fire, but they were unnecessarily delayed because someone was flying a drone in the area, and it punctured a hole in the plane.

Our historic fire crews cannot afford this delay. It is not just happening in Oregon. There has been an increase in drones interfering with fire responses across the country. We know that a quick response is critical to containing wildfire and saving homes and lives. That is why I introduced the Wildfire Aerial Response Safety Act along with Congressmen Neguse, Crane, and Ciscomani.

As Representatives from States with dangerous wildfire seasons, we understand how important it is to address this issue and that it should not be partisan. I am calling on the House to take up our bill to prevent unnecessary delays to wildfire response efforts.

CONGRATULATING MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BOBCATS

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

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I have risen before the House several times to recognize the historic rivalry between the Montana State University Bobcats and the University of Montana Grizzlies, but today I rise with enormous pride to honor the Montana State University Bobcats for their historic FCS National Championship victory in Nashville.

The Cats left it all on the field. They played with grit, heart, and determination, carrying the weight of a State that believed in them. From blocked kicks and dramatic momentum swings to a fourth-quarter comeback and the first overtime finish in FCS title game history, this contest delivered everything that makes college football unforgettable.

This win marked Montana State's first national championship in 41 years, ending a drought that stretched back to 1984. With Montana programs reaching the championship stage in four of the last five seasons, it was only fitting that the trophy finally returned to the home of the Treasure State.

The young men in blue and gold made Montana proud. Their victory belongs not only to this university but to an entire State.

Mr. President, if you are watching, we would love to see them in the White House. Go, Cats, go.

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

REPORTING GANG ACTIVITY

(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 reintroduce the bipartisan Gang Activity Reporting Act with the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON), my fellow appropriator.

This legislation has an urgent purpose: to give law enforcement the accurate, comprehensive data they need to combat gang violence and to keep our communities safe.

From 2021 to 2024, law enforcement agencies reported more than 69,000 incidents of gang activity nationwide. Over half involved violent crime. Yet, today, Federal gang data remains fragmented, inconsistent, and incomplete.

That gap puts officers at risk and leaves communities, especially in rural America, without the tools needed to respond effectively. Our bill would require the Attorney General to submit an annual report to Congress on gang activity investigations and prosecutions.

While recent FBI data show violent crime trending downward, we know progress does not mean the work is all done. This legislation strengthens public safety, supports law enforcement, and helps protect families from Ohio to Iowa, and coast to coast.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to please support this critical Gang Activity Reporting Act.

□ 1730

PRAYING FOR ZARIEA PATRICK OF HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the resilience of Harrison High School senior Zariea Patrick.

In 2023, during Zariea's sophomore year, she and her Harrison classmates were playing basketball when Zariea took a hard elbow to the side of her head as she went for a layup, leaving her with a concussion.

As her symptoms worsened, an MRI at the hospital confirmed a tumor lodged in the right side of Zariea's brain. What followed were regular trips to the hospital for chemotherapy, which took a terrible toll on her physical well-being.

In the spring of 2024, they believed that the tumor showed improvement. Unfortunately, she recently learned that she would have to start chemotherapy all over again. Despite this, her perseverance and her bright smile continue to light up the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in praying for Zariea during her battle with this tumor.

DELIVERING ON COMMITMENTS TO OREGON'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, in my first year in Congress, I made a simple commitment to my district: to listen and to get things done.

This week, I am proud to share that I am delivering on that commitment. I secured over $6 million in Community Project Funding for seven transformative community-led initiatives across the district in Portland, Gresham, Sandy, and Multnomah County.

These investments will help prevent youth violence, modernize emergency response systems, strengthen wastewater infrastructure, expand behavioral healthcare, and protect the clean water our communities depend on.

Each project came directly from local leaders working to solve urgent issues on the ground, and I fought to make sure every single one received funding.

This is what government should be: responsive, collaborative, and focused on our people delivering results for them and our families.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of this progress, and I am just getting started for the people of Oregon's Third.

FRAUD IN MINNESOTA

(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, I met with a lot of angry constituents over the last 2 weeks. They are angry about how expensive America has become. They are angry, in large part, because they realize one simple truth: The Somali pirates are not in the Horn of Africa anymore. They are right here in our country, and their captain is Tim Walz.

While my constituents suffer today, 81 percent of Somali families are on welfare. Nine billion dollars was stolen from child nutrition, housing, and autism services in Minnesota, largely through Feeding Our Future, a program that theoretically opened more than 250 sites and was supposed to be feeding 91 million meals. It was not doing that.

There was a Medicaid program, the Early Intensive Developmental and Behavioral Intervention program, where the Federal Government was paying 64 percent and fake autism treatment firms were created.

Our constituents are suffering. Before we ask them to continue to suffer, we owe it to them to root out everyone who was involved in this fraud and hold everyone accountable, and that is exactly what I intend to do.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF BILL HARRIS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of our Nation's most effective and determined advocates for children and families: the singular Bill Harris, who dedicated his life to this cause.

From founding KidsPac, a political action group dedicated to promoting public investments for children, to enacting the legislation that created The National Child Traumatic Stress Network in 2000, funded at $10 million that has now grown to being a nearly $100 million initiative, Bill was a passionate leader, a persuasive advocate, and he did not suffer fools.

He was never satisfied with symbolic action or minor gestures. He pushed for systemic change and substantive legislation. Together, we were able to expand the child tax credit in 2003 to cover more low-income families.

The Wall Street Journal called these families ''the lucky duckies,'' and in that spirit, Bill gifted me a set of rubber duckies that remain in my office today.

Our proudest achievement—and I say ours because it was a team effort—was the expanded monthly child tax credit that was signed into law in 2021 as part of the American Rescue Plan.

In 2021, child poverty was nearly cut in half, hunger by a quarter, and it provided economic security to middle-class and working families.

While many may never have heard of Bill Harris, it was his tenacity and his doing, and we will secure its future in his name. We have much to do. We will do it with his spirit.

RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

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

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, a simple principle should guide us: where we live should not determine the quality of healthcare that we can get, but for too many Hoosiers, especially in our rural communities, this isn't the reality.

That is why the Working Families Tax Cut Act matters. Through the new Rural Health Transformation Program, Indiana is receiving $207 million in first-year funding, the first of 5 years of support, to strengthen rural healthcare statewide.

This funding will support hospitals and strengthen emergency care for Hoosiers who can get that care close to home. For communities from Connersville to Richmond and across Rush, Shelby, and Henry Counties, this means quality care closer, shorter drives for appointments, faster response times when minutes count, especially for our seniors, veterans, and working families.

This is the right kind of investment, helping our rural communities stay healthy without raising taxes, without growing bureaucracy, and without leaving Hoosiers behind.

CHAMPION OF THE WEEK: CONRAD PIERO

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Conrad Piero as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

On December 18, Conrad, a loss prevention specialist at a Walmart in Canton, Ohio, was working in the store when a man being held for allegedly shoplifting pulled a gun on a Canton police officer who was present and attempting to question and detain the suspect.

The man pointed the gun at the officer and pulled the trigger, but thankfully, the weapon malfunctioned and did not discharge. In a remarkable act of bravery, Conrad immediately stepped in to pull the gun away from the suspect as he tried to point and shoot at the officer for a second time.

Both the Canton Police Department and Walmart said that Conrad went above and beyond in his service to our community, and I could not agree more.

What could have been a terrible and tragic situation went without anyone being harmed through his remarkable act of courage. It is average citizens doing remarkable things just like this that help make our community the birthplace of champions. Conrad is certainly a champion in his own right, and he has made Canton and Ohio's 13th Congressional District proud.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere gratitude to Conrad Piero for his heroic actions and congratulate him on being named champion of the week.

CALIFORNIA IS THE MOST POPULAR STATE TO LEAVE

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

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, the Governor of my State, Gavin Newsom, gave his state of the State address in which he declared that California leads the Nation. Now, the Governor isn't wrong. As the residents of our State know all too well, California does lead the Nation.

California leads the Nation in fraud. California leads the Nation in unemployment. California leads the Nation in homelessness. California leads the Nation in poverty. California leads the Nation in illiteracy. California leads the Nation in gas prices. California leads the Nation in electricity prices. California leads the Nation in housing prices. California leads the Nation in debt and deficits. Just this week, we learned that for the sixth straight year, California leads the Nation in outbound U-Haul rentals. The greatest State in the country has become the most popular State to leave.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the true state of our State during this Governor's tenure.

□ 1740

HONORING GOVERNOR JIM HUNT

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Governor Jim Hunt, a giant in North Carolina history who sadly passed last month. Governor Hunt leaves behind an extraordinary legacy as a fighter for education, economic development, equality, innovation, and so much more. He was the engine for positive progress in our State.

Hunt was known nationally as the Education Governor. He worked relentlessly to ensure that every North Carolinian had access to high-quality and public education and every teacher earned a decent salary.

Governor Hunt was a visionary who pushed the economy in North Carolina into the modern era, propelling us from economic stagnation to global leadership in technology and innovation.

Personally, he was a mentor to me. I will carry his legacy with me forever. North Carolina is a better place because of Jim Hunt.

HONORING PAM MOLL

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

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a valued member of my team, Pam Moll, who retired last week after an extraordinary career serving North Dakotans. Pam served as my constituent services director. During my predecessor, Kelly Armstrong's tenure, she had the same role.

For 7 years, she has been a steady and trusted presence for veterans seeking answers, seniors seeking help, and families simply trying to be heard. Pam is the kind of public servant most Americans never see but whose work touches countless lives.

She understood that behind every case file and every form is a real person, and she never lost sight of that. Her legacy is not just measured in years of service but in the countless lives she helped improve.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of North Dakota, I thank Pam and wish her the very best in this next chapter.

REMOVING PFAS FROM OUR ENVIRONMENT

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, PFAS are everywhere, and they are endangering Michiganders' lives. PFAS, as we know, are toxic forever chemicals that persist in the environment, contaminate the water we drink, and accumulate in the body. Sadly, Michigan is ground zero for PFAS pollution.

I am proud to have worked across the aisle to deliver results for Metro Detroit and Michigan in this regard, but we must do more. That is why today I am introducing the PROTECT Act. It is bipartisan legislation that takes urgently needed steps to remove PFAS from our environment and prevent future contamination in the air we breathe.

By listing PFAS as hazardous air pollutants, this bill sets the foundation for strong, science-based standards that will reduce emissions. The PROTECT Act also holds major polluters responsible for the cleanup of these poisons, delivering real transparency and accountability to affected communities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my bipartisan cosponsors from Michigan and across the country for joining me in this important effort. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

FIXING THE IMMIGRATION CRISIS

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I attended a hearing today in the Judiciary Committee. There was some confusion in the committee about what we should be doing to enforce our immigration laws and who is at fault for the mess we have in Minneapolis.

There are some people who are apparently under the impression we should only enforce our immigration laws if the people who came here illegally commit another crime. If we think about it for 2 seconds, that is completely ridiculous.

Right now, every year in this country, about 850,000 new citizens are naturalized citizens. When I was a child, that was under 200,000. That is without taking into account people who become citizens because of birthright citizenship, which is not even intended under our Constitution.

We must not fall for the idea that all a person has to do is sneak across the border and hang around here and not commit a felony and, therefore, they come in here.

I feel so sorry for our great President Trump. He was left with such a mess when Joe Biden let in 10 million people, and he is now honor bound to remove them from this country. That is why we have a mess in Minneapolis.

CELEBRATING SOUTH OAK CLIFF HIGH SCHOOL AND DESOTO HIGH SCHOOL

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with immense pride to celebrate two exceptional football teams from Texas' very own 30th Congressional District for their championship wins this season. They are South Oak Cliff High School and DeSoto High School.

This win comes as no surprise to those of us who call the district home. These young men showed up, put in the work, and, once again, proved that if we are looking for champions, all eyes should be on Texas–30.

I am proud of each of these students' commitment, as well as every faculty member and parent who supported them along the way. Their dedication, commitment, and passion made these wins possible.

I anticipate celebrating the many successes yet to come. Celebrate big, keep striving for greatness, and continue standing out.

Go Bears and go Eagles.

Mr. Speaker, I will not yield back. I will say something real quick about this ICE situation.

The reason we have a mess as it relates to ICE has nothing to do with President Biden. We need to accept responsibility for what is going on, and it is the mess of this administration.

HOLDING ICE ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday ICE murdered an American citizen. Renee Good was a wife and a mother who has now become ICE's latest victim. To those at DHS and in this Chamber who have created and rewarded a culture of murder, I ask the same question that God asked Cain:

What have you done? You have slain your sister who gave you no offense. The voice of her innocent blood cries out from the ground where it was spilled, where you try to cover and hide. But we saw what was done.

What kind of monster shoots an unarmed, fleeing woman in the head? What kind of monster watches the video of that crime and chooses to lie to the American people as they defend the murderer and defame the victim? How do we prevent ourselves from descending to their monstrous depths?

Mr. Speaker, I will tell my colleagues how. We prosecute the murderer with

the due process he denied Renee and demand accountability up the entire chain of command. Our job is not to bear their sins. Our job is to make sure this never ever happens again.

□ 1750

RECOGNIZING GEORGE HINCKLEY

(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, it is my honor to recognize George Hinckley on his work in founding Smart Community STEM Camp.

This camp is a youth program that teaches kids coding and how to fly and operate drones, provides mentorship, and brings communities together.

As camp director, George encourages young Virginians who are interested in pursuing technology-based careers as their pathway to success.

George's dedication to STEM education is contributing to the future of learning and exposes students to diverse opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, George's leadership and unwavering commitment to this program are truly deserving of this recognition. I am honored to congratulate him on this well-earned moment and recognize him as this week's Constituent of the Week.

I congratulate and thank George for all that he does for our students.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the House floor with a heavy heart for the family and the community of Renee Nicole Good.

My heart is heavy and not just because of the unabashed and violent killing that happened last night by an ICE agent in Minneapolis, but because I am also sad for our country, to see the Vice President of the United States and officials impugn a young woman who leaves behind her community and an orphaned child.

This is not our country. Shame on you. To those of you who are continuing to provide cover for this lawless, unconstitutional, abusive, and violent administration, shame on you.

I will be joining to file Articles of Impeachment against Secretary Noem. Enough is enough.

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

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE HONORABLE DOUG LAMALFA

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. MOORE of Utah was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened and honored at the same time to be able to host, alongside my California colleagues, a special hour dedicated to the memory of Congressman Doug LaMalfa from California.

As I looked at some of my notes here of the amazing things that he had accomplished and who he was, I realized that we are going to hear that over the next hour.

The thing that my team and I were reflecting on earlier today, and all I wanted to share as we kick off this memorial to an amazing man, was that, as vice chair, I get to, every week, host an evening of floor time for my colleagues on a myriad of topics. Doug LaMalfa was here every single time. Every time we needed him to be here, he was here, but he was here whether we asked him or not. Most times, he was the only one.

Yet tonight, when I asked my colleagues if they wanted to share a message on Doug, the reverse: It is a packed house.

That is all I wanted to share, to think about the legacy that he has left and the importance that he has to so many of our colleagues. He was always here for me, and we are all here today for his family. They are hopefully able to take some comfort and solace in his memory as we share this.

We have a lot of folks who want to share a message, and we are going to kick it right off. I am just going to go around the room and start calling on people as we move forward.

We are going to first hear, of course, from the California delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, the sudden passing of our close friend and colleague, Doug LaMalfa, has caused both shock and sadness throughout the entire House of Representatives. We lost a friend and a colleague. His northern Californian constituents lost their tireless advocate in the House.

Most tragically, his family lost a husband, a father, and a grandfather.

Doug was a proud family man. He and his wife, Jill, have four beautiful children. He just recently became a grandfather.

Doug was a fourth-generation rice farmer and a contributor to our State's important role of producing the food that sustains America. His experience as a farmer provided the foundation for his future as a legislator, both in Sacramento and here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, it comes as no surprise that in 2024, Doug was unanimously elected to serve as the chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus, one of the largest congressional membership groups on Capitol Hill, focusing on rural policy and issues that affect the West and beyond.

Doug left an indelible mark on this institution and the people whom he got to know along the way. For those who knew him, they understood his unique love of nicknames, movie quotes, and NASCAR. They understood his dislike of food waste, smartphones, and ketchup on hot dogs.

Doug's sense of humor, collegial manner, and expertise will be sorely missed. While he is no longer with us, Doug's significant contributions to agricultural and rural policies will endure long after his passing.

I will very much miss my friend and my colleague. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Jill; the entire LaMalfa family; his friends; and his staff.

God bless you, Doug.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), a distinguished colleague and very close friend of Mr. LaMalfa.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the Romans had a saying: ''Time is fleeting, remember death''; ''Tempus fugit, memento mori.'' It reminds us that life is not a gift. It is just a loan, and when it comes due, all that matters is what we have given to others.

Doug LaMalfa was the kindest and most sincere person I have encountered in more than 40 years of public service. He passionately defended the working men and women of the rural community where he was born and raised and grew up, but he always did it with a good-natured smile and a quiet, respectful manner.

Just 3 weeks ago, on December 15, I took my seat on an early Washington-bound flight from Sacramento, about eight rows behind Doug.

When I looked up, he was standing there in the aisle with an outstretched hand. He leaned over, and he quietly said to me: TOM, I know this is a hard day for you, and I want you to know that my prayers are with you and Lori.

You see, that was the fourth anniversary of my dear wife Lori's death, and how he knew that, remembered it, and offered such warm comfort on such a cold morning tells you what a truly caring and wonderful man he was. And now he is gone, for time is fleeting.

Yet, death can't take the kindnesses and memories that he gave us all, or the wisdom, common sense, and achievements that he gave our country. Our Nation, our State, and our community have all suffered an irreplaceable loss, and rural America has lost its most tireless and effective advocate. Most of all, we have lost a good man, a very good man.

To his family, I can only say that you are not alone in your grief. Your community and your country grieve with you.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO).

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, fellow farmer, and colleague, Congressman Doug LaMalfa.

I have known Doug for about 16 years, going back to our time together in the State legislature. From day one, his commitment to the people of northern California, especially those in agricultural communities, was clear.

In Congress, Doug was one of the fiercest advocates for wildfire mitigation, disaster recovery, California water issues, and farmers and ranchers who keep this country fed.

As chairman of the Western Caucus, he fought tirelessly for domestic energy production, public land access, and rural communities that way too often get overlooked.

Beyond his lasting legacy as a public official, Doug was my friend. We served together in the State legislature, and one year, on my birthday, he stopped by my office, not with a card but with a bag of rice and just a little Post-it Note that said: Happy birthday.

I brought that bag home, gave it to my mom, and she made Portuguese rice pudding for him, and I brought it back. The next week, he brought me another bag of rice, and still to this day brought up that he wanted more. Doug just had one of those senses of humor that you loved.

Doug was a friend to all and someone you could always count on for leadership, loyalty, and just a good laugh. He will be deeply missed in the Halls of Congress.

My prayers are with his wife, Jill, his children, and all of his family and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this is going to be a special hour, thanks to the gentleman from California.

Mr. Speaker, I yield time to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a very heavy heart to honor our colleague Doug LaMalfa.

Doug was larger than life, but what I will remember most is how he lived big in the small moments with warmth, attention to detail, and genuine kindness.

Doug was the only Member of Congress who ever called me by my Korean name, Kim Young Oak. He didn't have to remember it. He never needed to do that, but that small, thoughtful gesture meant the world to me and spoke volumes about who Doug was.

□ 1800

Doug was a strong, conservative leader who served with a deep love for our country and brought the heartland to Washington, not the other way around.

As a fourth-generation rice farmer, he never forgot who he worked for—farmers, families, and rural communities who were too often ignored by Washington.

He will be missed. We will all miss him. My heart is with his family, his staff, and all who are mourning this tremendous loss.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. (English translation of the statements made in Korean is as follows:)

Young Oak Kim Sister
Thank you!
You did well!
You did well!
Gim Yeong-ok uiwon-nim
Gamsahamnida
Sugohasyeosseumnida
Sugohasyeosseumnida Take that, Doug.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with an incredibly heavy heart to honor the life of my friend, Congressman Doug LaMalfa.

Doug was one of the most effective Members of this Chamber. He was deeply passionate about issues that affected his constituents in northern California.

As most of the Members of this Chamber know, we all have little silos where people come to us for advice. I always could count on Doug to give me the straight scoop on anything related to water, agriculture, or rural America. That is why we elected him as the chairman of the Western Caucus 2 years ago, and he did a phenomenal job in that role. I will miss his service there.

I will also miss the man that he was. He was an incredibly decent man, a man of exceptionally high moral character. Everyone that knew Doug would remark on his authenticity. When you met Doug, what you saw is what you got. He was a man of deep kindness, never had a cruel or unkind word for anyone in the years that I knew him. He was a man of incredible humility, and anyone in this Chamber knows that we could use some more of that in here.

Above all, Mr. Speaker, I will miss my friend. I will miss our conversations about cars. He was a car guy; I am a car guy. I would tease him every summer when we came back into session because he was restoring a De Tomaso Pantera, and I would ask him: Doug, what progress did you make on the Pantera this summer? He would hang his head and say: Nothing.

On this playing Galaga with him, a little known fact about Doug LaMalfa, he was a fierce competitor at Galaga. Above all, I will miss our conversations.

I am honored to be here joining my colleagues in saying farewell to Doug and to honor his life. Godspeed to my friend, Doug. We will miss him.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. FONG).

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend and colleague, Doug LaMalfa.

Doug was a steadfast champion of rural California and for the issues that matter most to millions of Americans across the West, starting in the California legislature to the Halls of Congress.

He fought for water storage and forest management. He fought for energy abundance. He fought for the farmer. He fought for common sense.

I had the privilege of serving alongside him on the Committee for Transportation and Infrastructure and as a fellow member of the Western Caucus during his time as chairman. He would always greet me with a big smile by the nickname ''The Fongressman.''

Over the years, I was fortunate to be mentored by Doug. He was a great role model and friend. His guidance, leadership, and example left a lasting impact on me and on so many others who had the honor of working with him.

Doug will be remembered for his deep love for his family, his faith and core principles, his unwavering dedication to his community, his humility, and his enduring legacy as a leader and lawmaker.

I am personally grateful for his mentorship and know he will be profoundly missed by all who knew him.

I certainly will vow to honor Doug's memory by continuing to champion the values that we both share that unite California's Central Valley to the rural communities like Doug's in northern California.

I will continue fighting for rural priorities in Congress just as Doug did.

Amanda and I are praying for his wife, Jill; his family and loved ones; and his staff during this difficult time. His absence leaves a void that will never truly be filled.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY).

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, Doug LaMalfa was my neighbor. Our districts bordered one another. This was true during my time in the State legislature as well.

The region of our State that he represented is an area where people often feel like their voices are not heard in the corridors of power, in places like Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

Doug LaMalfa made it his mission to make sure that their voices were heard. He used every opportunity he had to make sure their voices were heard, but he didn't just speak for the communities that he represented. He advocated, and he used every policy tool available to see that their values were reflected in policy here. He was a leader in our delegation and in the whole Chamber on issues like water, forest management, and agriculture, and that leadership, of course, culminated in his chairmanship of the Western Caucus, the second largest caucus in the entire House of Representatives.

I know we are all still so shocked and in grief over his loss, but Doug LaMalfa's legacy in the North State will be felt for generations to come.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona

(Mr. BIGGS), the area also known as southwestern-ish California.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of my friend and colleague, Congressman Doug LaMalfa.

As you know, Doug was a happy warrior who cared immensely about his country, his State, and the people he served. A few years ago, he took time out of his busy schedule to travel with me to Arizona to better understand the border crisis and the serious impact it was having on my State as well as his own. Doug was always willing to listen, learn, and engage on the issues that matter most. He was the most curious man.

I thoroughly enjoyed working with him on a wide range of policies and challenges that uniquely affect the West and the hardworking communities we both represent.

Doug was a true friend. He will be deeply missed in this Congress and beyond. My team and I continue to pray for Doug, his family, and for all who loved him during this particularly difficult time.

May God bless Doug LaMalfa's memory and may he rest in peace.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, a lot can be said about my friend and colleague, my Western Caucus chair, but today was a special day for us. We had lunch today as California members, and Doug paid for it because every week somebody sponsors it. His death was so sudden that it literally had been prepaid. It arrived, and we sat there thinking of the person who had the best joke every week, who had a constant, positive sense of humor, even about dire times.

We talked not long ago about how much he got done during the shutdown and what it was like to actually meet with his constituents multiple days in a row, day after day. That was Doug LaMalfa—a farmer, a family man, but most importantly, somebody that could always find the positive and the funny about whatever we were doing.

We are a body of 431 right now. At our best, we are a body of 435. It is the one that we are missing that can make a difference, and that was Doug. He will be missed for a very long time by all of us.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, we will continue on to the great State of California with bipartisan voices in support and in remembering Mr. LaMalfa.

I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, there is mourning across the aisle and across the State of California. I chair the California Democratic delegation, and we are deeply saddened by the loss of Doug LaMalfa. It was a pleasure to serve with Doug since his election in 2013.

He was a man who cared so deeply for the communities that he represented in California's First District. As has been said, he is a fourth-generation rice farmer. He was one of the strongest voices in this body for rural America because he knew firsthand the struggles that our agricultural sectors were facing.

He and I worked very closely together on the bipartisan Farm Workforce Modernization Act which would provide stabilization for farmworkers, farmers, and the ag sector, and he added so much because he really knew how farming worked and what would work and what wouldn't work, and he was a collaborator.

We also introduced together the bipartisan Utility Resilience and Reliability Act that really was commonsense safety standards to minimize power outages.

□ 1810

Now, Doug and I didn't agree on everything. I am a proud Democrat. He was a proud Republican, but he was always approachable, and he was a colleague with whom you could disagree without being disagreeable. It is a quality that Members should strive to emulate here.

He was a good man, friendly, with a sense of humor, a gentle giant. Our deepest condolences are with his wife, Jill; their children; and his staff. It always hurts to lose a friend and a colleague, but I know that Doug's legacy will be remembered by all of us and the Californians he so proudly served and served with.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), a gentleman on the Natural Resources Committee, a committee that Mr. LaMalfa cared so much about.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, there were few people in the Congress that tangled with Doug LaMalfa more than me. There is probably some competition for that honor among House Democrats, but I was certainly right up there.

Yet, I can tell you as we honor Doug today, I know plenty of people who disagreed with him, but I don't know anyone that disliked him. When you hear these qualities about his authenticity, his warm sense of humor, just how relatable he was, that is all very, very true.

I go back almost 20 years with Doug because we were in the State legislature together. A lot has been said about his sense of humor, which is also very, very true. I want to just share something that I always think of with Doug because it speaks to the type of humor which is really, I think, something that tells you about the man. There are plenty of people who have a great sense of humor at other people's expense. Doug LaMalfa had a very gentle and disarming sense of humor.

One of our colleagues together in the State assembly was our former colleague and the current mayor of Los Angeles, Karen Bass. I will always remember how Doug used to crack her and me up by calling her Bassomatic. That was the nickname. His staffers back here are far too young to remember the ''Saturday Night Live'' skit in which Dan Aykroyd puts a bass in a blender and makes this gross smoothie and drinks it. It was funny, and that is the kind of thing that Doug would pull up spontaneously and crack everyone up. I loved that.

I will tell you, Karen Bass loved it too. She liked it so much that she went up to Doug's district when she became speaker of the assembly, and I remember he just not only welcomed her there—this is a person he had very little in common with, a southern California urban African-American member that voted together with him almost never, but Doug gave her the VIP tour of his farm and of the Sacramento Valley and rice country. He got her up in a combine and had her do things that I am sure she will never forget. I think he loved every minute of that.

That is how I am going remember Doug. He was a great guy. I am certainly thinking and sending best wishes to his family and everyone who loved him.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. The list is very long of individuals on this side of the aisle that like to tangle with the ranking member himself as well but also very much like him. Thank you for those awesome words.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), my colleague on the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding and I thank him especially for holding this Special Order hour for someone who we are all going to miss. He was a really great guy.

I am honored to be able to reflect a little bit on the life and the service of an extremely dedicated Member of Congress, Doug LaMalfa.

I served northern California alongside Doug from the day that he was sworn in to this body. His area was an area that I represented when I was in the State senate. In Congress, we represented neighboring regions of our State. We shared many of the same challenges and worked together on issues that matter deeply to the people that we both served.

I was proud to work with him on bipartisan efforts to support our farmers and ranchers, to strengthen wildfire prevention, to build Sites Reservoir, and to address the growing home insurance crisis facing families across all of northern California.

He and I worked together to deliver over $500 million in tax relief to fire victims in our district that lost their homes then had to sue in order to get the financial relief to rebuild their homes only to find out that they were going to be taxed on that money that they got in the suit, which wasn't in itself enough to even rebuild their homes. He was caring, and he was a terrific fighter for the folks that we worked for in delivering this.

He believed in practical solutions, and I always respected and appreciated his collaboration on the issues important to our constituents.

I am saddened by the loss of my longtime colleague and friend. Jan and I extend our deepest condolences and keep Doug's wife, Jill; their children; their grandchild; and his devoted staff in our prayers during this very difficult time. I thank the gentleman again for hosting this Special Order hour.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time to do what is fitting and appropriate, and that is, honor the life of our colleague, a life well lived, a Member of the House of Representatives who did such a good job on behalf of his constituents who he represented faithfully since coming to Congress in 2013.

Doug and I knew each other before then. We had interactions on a number of issues that we were mutually passionate about beginning with rural California and people who live in rural areas, which both reflected his and my background.

He, perhaps, represented if not the, one of the largest congressional districts by geography in California, a lot of northern and eastern California. A lot of my colleagues when they think about California they think of Los Angeles or the Bay Area, but we have parts of California where the communities are a white spot in the middle of a major highway or, you know, are 400, 600 people.

Doug was a Member's Member and a Representative who believed that his entire constituency was his passion. He would go to some of those remote areas to indicate and to listen on how he could be a better Representative and make their views known here in our Nation's Capital.

I served with him the entire time that I have been on the House Agriculture Committee, three different farm bill reauthorizations, and he was always willing to meet halfway. Of course, we understood the ag issues affecting California, and he was very proud, very proud to represent the upper Sacramento River Valley and all the wonderful people there.

When disaster struck his district with the wildfires, he was among the first to be there with the challenges of some of the floods in Lake Oroville and Yuba areas. He was there. He reminds us why we serve: not only the passion, but the desire always to put our constituents first and to help people. Let that be a role model for all of us.

Doug, we miss you. Doug had a life well lived. He was a person who cared passionately about our country and about the people's House. May you rest in peace. I give my condolences to your wife and your family. I thank all of you for giving us an opportunity to serve with our friend, Doug LaMalfa.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI), our final Californian for the evening.

□ 1820

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I look at the photo and say, Doug, for 12 years, you and I represented the Sacramento River. We developed a friendship based upon the working part, but mostly upon sharing, sharing things. We would get on the airplane to fly to Washington, and you had your seat all the time. We said hello and talked about what was coming and then going home. It was a friendship that was deep and meaningful. There was plenty of work to do.

The Sacramento River is the most important river in California after the Colorado. It was yours. You had the upper, and I had the lower part of it. Together, we worked to protect the river, to protect the farmers, and to protect the flow of water. It is good work, and you did a good job. You were good at representing your district and representing the very complex issues.

I remember standing on one of the levees, and you were talking about your rice field. I said, Doug, let me talk about my cows in my fields. He said, Okay, you go ahead, but I am going to go first.

You shared your knowledge with me and with others. You were good. You were really good at the work you did for your people. You were a quality Representative.

I miss you. I miss the work that we did together on the Sacramento River Valley and all the issues that we had. It is a long list, and it would take another hour to go through them all.

I miss you, and Patti misses you because she would get up from her seat and go back to your seat, which you always had on that plane, and the two of you would talk and share.

I know your family misses you. I know your constituents miss you. Doug LaMalfa, you are going to be remembered by those of us who have had the honor of working with you.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), who is a close friend and colleague on the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, this week started off very difficult with losing Representative LaMalfa. I had the privilege of serving with him for 7 years on the Natural Resources Committee. He also chaired the Western Caucus this past year. He did a wonderful job.

He was that gentle giant, Mr. Speaker, that you could always count on. He was a person of reason, but as you got to know Doug, Mr. Speaker, he was an even better person. He was a humble, Christian, faithful person.

Mr. Speaker, we need more of that in this body, especially now.

We know that Doug is with his Savior. We know that his Savior chose this time earlier this week, but Doug is resting in eternity with Almighty God, his Savior, Jesus Christ.

To his wife, Jill, I thank her for allowing him to serve not only in the California Legislature but here in this body. I thank her for allowing him to travel, as Mr. GARAMENDI just said, all that way to and from the great State of California. After those long trips, he would come in, and you knew on Monday or Tuesday nights, the start of the session, when he would come in here wearing some tattered clothes. He was a little bit disheveled, but he had had a long day.

He was here for the people of his district, and he left a legacy that we all should cherish, honor, and remember.

That is why we are here today, Mr. Speaker. We are honoring Doug. He always had a nickname for every one of us.

Doug, I know you are resting in peace for eternity, but I thank you for serving this great Nation. I thank you for serving the great State of California in the way you did. You left a legacy. You helped all of us become better Representatives.

To Jill, our thoughts and prayers are with her and her four children. God bless you and take care of your family.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HURD).

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, our colleague Doug LaMalfa passed away on Monday, and I want to take just a minute—he would have liked that—to honor him the best way that I know how: plainly.

Doug believed that we should speak clearly, not in jargon. He had a whiteboard in his office labeled unacceptable words, and he meant it. The words ''stakeholders,'' ''empower,'' and ''equity'' were banned. He thought government should sound more like the people it serves. He hated what I called LaMalfa-isms, overcomplicated government explanations for simple things, like saying that the transportation infrastructure is undergoing a temporary operational suspension pending structural optimization instead of just saying that the bridge is closed for repairs.

Doug loved this institution. He loved the West. He loved 1-minute speeches. I will miss his humor, his directness, and the clarity he brought to a town that too often hides behind big words. May he rest in peace.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST).

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of my friend Doug LaMalfa, whom I would refer to as the gentle giant.

Doug was known by all for his love of agriculture and the great outdoors. As chairman of the Western Caucus and as a California Republican, he was a rare breed on Capitol Hill. His time will always be remembered for his love of this great Republic, a government that he believed in, the Founding Fathers, and the principles of government of the

people, by the people, and for the people.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is a Scripture in the Old Testament that captures the impact that Doug had on the lives of his friends and colleagues. It is Proverbs 27:17. It says: ''As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.''

Doug made all those who knew him better people, and his impact will live on long after his passing. I know he will be missed by all, and my prayers are with his family and friends.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA).

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I chuckled when Ken mentioned pet peeves and names. We need to add quinoa and potatoes to that list. He definitely didn't like those. For the record, my nickname was Barracuda, so figure that one out.

God works in mysterious ways. In the face of disaster, I found a friend in Doug. Doug and I didn't agree on a lot of things, but we always showed up for each other. We cosponsored bills, worked on disaster funding and rural health, and traded a lot of jabs and took funny pictures of each other in our Agriculture Committee hearings. I gave him Spam musubis, and he brought me my favorite lemon almonds from Oroville.

I will never forget November 8, 2023. Doug stood here on this floor, and he marked 5 years since the Camp fire. I was marking 3 months since the Lahaina fire in Maui. He came up to me and gave me a hug after, and he said: We are going to get through this together.

I believed him. I still do. He gave me hope.

Doug and I are two very different people. It would have been the most unlikely of friendships, except that he was one of the kindest, most gentle, and genuine people I have ever met.

I don't know about you, Mr. Speaker, but the House floor feels a little less warm and a bit empty without Doug, but maybe I just miss my friend.

To his wife, Jill, and the LaMalfa ''family''; ''family,'' our prayers, our aloha, and our love are with you.

May you rest in aloha, my friend, until we meet again.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mahalo to the gentlewoman from Hawaii. That is ''thank you'' for the stenographers who need clarification on the foreign languages today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN).

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, this Chamber lost a kind friend, loving husband, proud father, and tireless advocate for rural America and the Western United States.

Doug LaMalfa brought joy and sincerity into the Halls of Congress every single day and fought for the good of northern California.

I first met Doug in freshman orientation. Of course, he was a more senior Member than I was, but we go to leadership elections, and because ''LaMalfa'' was near ''Mann'' in the alphabet, I sat right behind Doug, who quickly introduced himself to me, found out I was from Kansas, and spent 3 minutes digging through his phone to find pictures of a road trip that he took in one of his classic cars right through Kansas. Seven minutes later, I walked away from Doug very aware of all the stops that he had made in my great State. From that moment on, I was always the Mann from Kansas.

During our time together on the House Agriculture Committee, Doug routinely brought the priorities of farmers and ranchers in his district directly into committee hearings and roundtables. His multigenerational family farm grounded him and his beliefs, making him an even better advocate for the abundant agricultural producers of California's First District.

Audrey and I are praying for Doug's loved ones as they grieve through this tragedy.

Psalm 34:18 says: ''The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.'' It is our prayer that Doug's family, friends, and team would feel that closeness as they honor, and we all honor, his life and legacy.

□ 1830

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Doug was one of the first friends that I made when I joined the Agriculture Committee back in 2021.

I soon learned that we had a lot in common. We are both fourth-generation family farmers with a shared love for the land which we call home. Doug was also one of the first Members to join my Congressional Family Caucus and was a strong advocate for parents and children.

One of my funny memories was somehow we were having a conversation about what we would do if we had to bug out of D.C., and he offered to give me a ride in his classic Cadillac—I guess he had it here—and give me a ride to Illinois, as he headed to California.

I was deeply saddened to hear of his passing. Mr. Speaker, because Doug accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior, he is now in the presence of the Lord.

I am praying for his wife, Jill, and their children. May they receive comfort from Revelation 21:4 and the promise that: ''He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.''

We thank Doug for his friendship, and we will carry on with the work that he started. He will be missed.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding and for arranging this Special Order.

It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor my friend and colleague, Representative Doug LaMalfa. He was a true champion for rural America and a staunch supporter of our Nation's farmers.

I often describe Doug as a gentle giant. You will hear others say that. He was tall and broad enough for me to assume I better not mess with this guy. His impact on Washington is just as giant. However, I suspect many of us will remember his gentle side the most.

Members of this body, including myself, often counted on Doug's lighthearted comments, for his moments of levity. Doug always handled himself the way we would all aspire to. He spoke calmly, with conviction, and with his constituents top of mind.

Representative LaMalfa fought hard for the issues that mattered to California's First Congressional District and for farmers, broadly, across our country. As an eighth-generation Tennessee farmer, I found it easy to relate to Doug, a proud fourth-generation rice farmer.

Throughout our service on the House Ag Committee, I appreciated having a partner with similar perspective and values as we worked to set ag policy. I learned quickly to trust his instincts. I will miss that.

Doug and I were avid competitors. I will miss that as well. Long before I served with him on the Ag Committee, I came to consider him a very worthy opponent, and I will miss those days very dearly as I move forward.

I will close by extending my condolences to his family, including his wife and children. While Doug will be missed here, I can only imagine how he will be missed at home. We will be praying for them in the days ahead.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. ROSE and Mr. LaMalfa shared that rivalry with our vice chair time, and I thank him for spending time with us tonight.

On to the great island of Guam, I yield to the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN).

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Congressman Doug LaMalfa, a dedicated public servant who spent his career standing up for rural America and the communities he called home.

A fourth-generation rice farmer from northern California, he brought a deep understanding of hard work, responsibility, and service into public life. Those values guided him as he served in the California State Assembly, the State senate, and later in the United States House of Representatives.

In Congress, he was a strong and respected voice for agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities. His colleagues recognized that commitment when he was unanimously elected chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus.

I had the honor of working alongside him as a colleague and a friend on the Natural Resources Committee, where his connection to the land and the people he represented was always clear.

His work strengthened rural communities and left a lasting mark on policies that affect them.

My thoughts are with his loved ones and the people of northern California. May we honor his memory by continuing the work he cared so deeply about.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE).

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. MOORE doing this Special Order this evening. It is truly an honor and a privilege for me to join my colleagues in honoring the life and the legacy of our good friend, Doug LaMalfa.

Throughout my time in Congress, I worked hand in hand with Doug on the many issues that face the American West. He had a love for his work. He had an understanding as a fellow farmer in the value of the rural way of life, and he fought to protect all of those things.

When I stepped down as chairman of the Western Caucus, Doug was the clear choice to take the gavel. He was elected unanimously to lead the caucus into its next chapter. Truly, Congress and the people of California's First Congressional District have lost a true advocate for the issues that we all face.

Mr. Speaker, Doug was much more than a colleague. Doug was a dear friend. He had a kind soul and a sincere love for all of the people in his life, as you have heard this evening. While Doug may have towered over you, as you shook his big hand, you were never small in his eyes. He was humble, generous, a loyal friend, and liked by everyone he met.

I am going to miss Doug's big grin, as he always greeted me as Lieutenant Dan. Joan and I are going to truly miss Doug. We send our deepest condolences to his wife, Jill, and their four kids during this incredibly difficult time. I thank and ask all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in honoring the great work that Doug accomplished over the years.

May we preserve his legacy. May we be more like him, and may he rest in peace.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. I yield now to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, when we heard that Doug passed away, I asked several people the same question. They all agreed overwhelmingly: If something were to happen to this institution and only 10 of us survived and we had to build it up from scratch, Doug would be one of the 10 people we would want to start out with and maybe one of the top five or maybe even the top one, but everybody around here knows what a special guy Doug LaMalfa was.

I used to have a lot of discussion with him around this time back in the parlor, talking about the bills today, how to vote on this or that. As a politician, you can't resist it when you decide how to vote on something, what is the politically right thing to do, what politically will help me get reelected.

I never heard Doug talk that way. Doug always talked about the right policy, doing the right thing, and then selling it back home, which was one of the reasons why I think he was so special.

Another thing that was so special, in all the conversations I had with him, I never remember him saying anything negative about anybody. I say a lot of negative things about people, so I am really jealous of a guy like Doug LaMalfa who manages never to say anything bad about anybody.

One final thing, the other thing I know about Doug is we met every Thursday morning in a Bible study known as Capitol Ministries, which is really a Bible study for the erudite Christian, men of deep faith. I will tell you, Doug—a lot of people talk about it—was just such a good Christian. So in any event, a great Christian, a great Congressman, I will never forget Doug LaMalfa.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and my colleague, Congressman Doug LaMalfa.

Doug was always a steady voice for his district and a principled Member of this House. He was serious about policy, direct in his approach, and deeply committed to the people he represented, but anyone who has worked alongside Doug also knows he had quite a sense of humor.

I learned that early on. Doug and I both did a lot of 1 minutes. He used to intentionally leave this speaking podium raised up to above my head to remind me of how short I was and how tall he was.

However, that small moment says a lot about Doug. Doug worked hard. He took his job seriously, and he still found room for good-natured humor and friendship.

Tonight, we thank Congressman LaMalfa for his service, his leadership, and the many moments he shared with all of us.

□ 1840

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Utah (Ms. MALOY).

Ms. MALOY. Mr. Speaker, it is hard not to smile when I stand here and talk about Doug LaMalfa, even on this really difficult week because Doug always made me smile.

From the beginning, he made me feel like I was really special, and I have learned this week that that is maybe the least special thing about me because everybody here felt like they were Doug LaMalfa's best friend.

The night I was sworn in as a Member of Congress, I started getting texts on my phone from a number I didn't recognize. They were pictures of me being sworn in from an angle that looked suspiciously like the House floor, which is against the rules.

I promised him I would never tell anyone where I got those pictures, so I am not going to tell you, but I still don't know how he had my number the minute I got sworn in.

He has never missed a chance to get me to sing Utah's State song with him whether we are in an airport or on the House floor or walking through the tunnels. He never failed to accompany that with jokes from ''My Cousin Vinny'' about the ''youts.''

I hope that hearing all of these memories and all of these stories that people have of Doug will comfort his family, his staff, and everybody else who is missing him at this difficult time because, even though I am smiling, I am deeply mourning for my friend, Doug LaMalfa.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ).

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Doug LaMalfa, my good friend. His office is right across from mine and his district is right across from mine in California from Oregon. This meant we worked together over and over again on issues involving water to try to save it from the grasp of misguided environmentalists.

He was a great friend and an incredible advocate for his district. He did his very best for his constituents. He never gave up. He focused on wolves, water, forests, and fire. May my good friend find solace in Heaven and may his family find comfort in knowing he was a man of integrity, faith, and truly deserving of our honor and our deepest respect.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER).

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my colleagues this evening to honor a dear friend, Congressman Doug LaMalfa. Being from the great State of Idaho, the land of famous potatoes, I am the one the good Congressman referred to as ''Mr. Potato Head.'' I had the privilege of working with Doug on the pressing issues facing the West and America's rural communities.

There are no adequate words to express my sorrow upon learning of his passing, but his legacy and spirit lives on. My prayers are with his wife, Jill, and the entire LaMalfa family during this time of unimaginable grief.

Mr. Speaker, from Mr. Potato Head to that rice farmer from California, here is my final: Way to go, Idaho. God bless.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, obviously like all of us here, I am here to pay tribute to our dear departed friend, Doug LaMalfa.

I first got to know Doug before I ever met him because I had so many Indian

Tribes from California calling me, saying that we have got this great guy running for the House of Representatives who we know from the State legislature in California. He cares about who we are, represents our interests, and understands the trust responsibility. American Indians, Native Americans, had no better friend in the House of Representatives than Doug LaMalfa. Then as I got to know him as a person in addition to a political figure, I understood why people were so attracted to him: the sheer decency of the man, the sheer authenticity of the man, and, frankly, the happy warrior style that he approached every single issue with.

I don't think I have ever been so shocked in my life when I learned that we had lost him because I knew he was coming back to fight the good fight for the things in which he believed, the State which he loved, and the institution which he cherished.

I will add my voice to the many voices tonight that remind America that we lost a great American, we lost a great Californian, and we lost a great human being.

My prayers are with Jill and the family. My thoughts are with his constituents because they lost somebody who each and every day came to this floor determined to advance their interest, to protect their values, and to make this country stronger and better.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss Doug LaMalfa, but I will miss what he stands for and what he fought for and how he represented those things more than anything else.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today like every other person with a heavy heart to honor the life of my dear friend and colleague, the gentleman, the giant from California, Doug LaMalfa.

Doug was a devoted public servant, a fierce advocate for rural America and the West, and a man who deeply loved his country and the people that he was honored to represent.

As a lifelong resident of northern California, he understood the land, the communities, and the values of his district in a way that cannot be taught, only lived.

He fought tirelessly for the farmers, the ranchers, and the communities too often ignored by the coastal elites, and he did so with candor and conviction and a sense of humor that made even the hardest days feel better.

Doug was more than a colleague. He was a friend. He was a brother. His leadership, his wisdom, and his heart for service will be deeply missed. Doug's legacy of faith and service and love endures.

Lord, accept this gentle giant, this dedicated giant, Doug LaMalfa. May his family have the goodwill to know that he lies in your comfort.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, boy, do I have many stories that I could tell, but I will not. No one cared more for the people of California and for America than Doug. As a fourth-generation rice farmer, he was the true embodiment of the steward of the land and a great steward of common sense, too, I might add.

He understood the needs of rural America and had such a genuine desire to serve the people who lived there. Doug and I worked closely on many issues, but one of my fondest memories was hosting him in North Carolina for an agriculture roundtable. He engaged with my constituents, speaking their language, and truly listening to their concerns.

Doug LaMalfa stood tall, both literally and figuratively, for the people who feed this country. To know Doug was an honor and a privilege. His absence will have a profound void in this Chamber. This body and the Nation will miss him deeply.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers are with his wife, Jill; his children; his grandchildren; the entire LaMalfa family, including his great staff. I thank them for sharing him with us in service to our country.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE).

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute of our friend and colleague, Doug LaMalfa.

When I arrived in Congress in 2015, I noticed a large man with long hair. He was a big man, but the biggest thing about Doug LaMalfa was his heart.

As Secretary, I got the opportunity to tour his district that had been devastated by wildfires. I walked with him and looked at the devastation, the despair of people losing their lives and everything they had, and Doug knew them by name.

He cared. He cared about every Member of this institution, but, more importantly, he cared about the people he represented. He cared about their life, their values, and represented them as well or better than anyone that has ever served in this great body.

Mr. Speaker, today, we mark the passing but also the privilege of knowing a great man. It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that we all learn from Doug LaMalfa and understand that we represent the people. We give prayer to his family, but take solace to know that Doug is with his maker.

□ 1850

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS).

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, as with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I stand before my colleagues with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and esteemed colleague, Doug LaMalfa.

Doug's sudden passing this week leaves a void not only in this Chamber but in the hearts of all who knew him. To a person, a testament from everyone who has crossed his path would be this: What a really good man.

As a Member of the Western Caucus, I witnessed firsthand Doug's fierce advocacy for farmers, ranchers, and hardworking families who form the backbone of our Nation. It was inspiring.

On the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I saw the same tenacious commitment to his beloved State of California as he championed water rights and fought for the conservative values at the very core of our American culture.

Doug was a steadfast warrior for the country and State he loved. He will be sorely missed. His faith, grit, and authenticity have inspired us all. Rest assured, we will continue to carry on the torch that Doug championed so well.

We know where Doug is at this moment. Our prayers are with him, with Jill, and with his family. Rest in peace. May God bless him.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER).

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise this evening with my colleagues to honor Doug LaMalfa in the joint remembrance of his life. He was one of this body's best Members.

Doug was a dear friend whom I will miss. He was a talented and trusted colleague who was serious about his work, representing his constituents as he was constantly seeking to move policy that helped them and our Nation.

Doug was a rice farmer, an occupation that he loved and that in many respects was foundational to his work ethic, his love of the land, and his love of the people and rural communities.

More than anything else, he was a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. I will miss Doug and our weekly Thursday morning Bible studies.

I will miss his humbleness, his even temper, his humor, and his presence in this body. I will miss hearing him call me Francis Gary Powers after the U.S. spy plane pilot who was shot down over Russia and captured in the 1960s.

My wife, Ann, and I are praying for God to comfort Doug's wife, Jill; his children; his family; his staff; and all who, like those who have gathered in this Chamber this evening, knew and loved Doug LaMalfa.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to share a few words about my dear friend, Congressman Doug LaMalfa.

Doug was a husband, a father, and a fourth-generation rice farmer. He dedicated more than 20 years to public service, both in this House and in the California State Legislature.

Doug was a giant in both stature and character. After meeting Doug, you couldn't help being struck by his kindness and gentle manner. He had a reputation as an affable colleague, a principled legislator, a fierce advocate for

rural America, and one heck of a muscle car driver, which I experienced firsthand. All of them rang true.

Doug was an expert on farming, forestry, and water issues. He chaired the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Forestry and Horticulture, and he was chairman of the Western Caucus.

We traveled the country together, coast to coast, north to south, meeting with men and women who feed this great country. They are memories I will always treasure. He was supposed to be with me in Pennsylvania this weekend. His presence will be sorely missed.

In a town full of self-important figures, Doug was authentically normal. I will certainly miss his wisdom, his sense of humor, and incredible friendship. I turned the tables on Doug when it came to nicknames. I affectionately named him the ''Governor of Jefferson,'' and he eagerly accepted that.

Doug was a man of great faith, and I find comfort in knowing he was welcomed into the arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Rest easy, Brother. We will take it from here.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) has expired.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, On January 5th, our dear friend and colleague, Doug LaMalfa, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 65. A lifelong resident of Northern California, Doug was a fierce fighter for the people he represented and for his state's vast and beautiful natural resources.

Representing one of California's largest districts, Doug never hesitated to drive hundreds of miles to meet a handful of constituents. He drew no distinctions between those living in the more remote corners of his district and those in the big city. Doug believed everyone deserved to have their representation and voice heard in Congress. It's that spirit of duty and selfless service that made him so admired among his friends and colleagues, and which made him one of the most respected people in this institution.

Doug became a close friend of mine during my tenure as Vice Chairman of the House Republican Conference, where my weekly responsibility was to recruit other Members to help me amplify the House Republican message on the House Floor. Even in late night sessions and on days when others had left town early, Doug was always faithful to show up, eager to speak to the greatness of this country and about our tireless work to improve the lives of the people he represented. For that commitment, his kindness, his optimism and faith, and his sense of humor, I and all of my many Republican colleagues will miss Doug dearly. He was in every sense a giant among us.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, as a Member from California, I yield to my colleague from the great State of Utah, Congressman BLAKE MOORE, so they can continue honoring Congressman Doug LaMalfa.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, sincere appreciation to the Congresswoman. I thank her very much. That is a great way to honor Doug.

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT).

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say Doug was a kind and gentle giant. He was firm and fair. He was wise, and he was funny.

I remember one day in the Agriculture Committee when he spoke for 5 minutes. He spoke so long that he finally remembered that he forgot to leave people any time to answer his questions. It was a pretty funny moment for the committee. He laughed about it, and he didn't make that mistake again.

Mr. Speaker, I will say this about him. He was 100 percent American. When the local sheriff's department asked for help with people who knew how to operate diesel equipment, Doug showed up. Doug is the one. He is the Member of Congress that we saw on camera, getting on a bulldozer, saying: I love the smell of diesel power in the afternoon. It smells like victory.

Mr. Speaker, Doug LaMalfa and only Doug LaMalfa.

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Dakota (Mrs. FEDORCHAK.)

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be here today as a freshman Member. I didn't know Doug long, but I met him on one of our first days in the orientation sessions and the planning sessions for Congress. He was warm. He was friendly. He was helpful to a new freshman who didn't know much.

From there, I learned how fun he was. He loved to play with my last name, ''Fedorchak.'' He used to say: ''How much wood could a Fedorchak chuck if a Fedorchak could chuck wood?''

It always made me laugh. I also learned quickly that not only was he fun but he was thoughtful, he was pragmatic, and he was a really, really good thinker. I turned to him on issues that I found to be difficult. I wanted to get his thoughts on them.

He was a strong conservative. He was warm, kind, and principled. In my mind, he was exactly the kind of leader that Americans want. He is going to be dearly missed. I feel robbed that I didn't get to work with him more, and I will keep him and his family in my prayers.

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of symbolism that is happening at this point. I appreciate the bipartisanship. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time. It is a reflection of what really should happen around this place. We should love and help each other and try to find common ground. It is a great representation of how Doug LaMalfa served.

He was a man of the people. He served his people well. He was a man of the land. He loved his land. He loved his rice. He would talk about it with me and everybody else here regularly. He also loved people sufficiently to give them nicknames.

My nickname had something to do with the villain in ''Ocean's Twelve.'' I was the ''Night Fox.'' I don't know if I agree with that characterization. He was the guy that did a break dance across a laser dance floor to steal things. Maybe some around here would think that is the kind of person that I am. I knew it was all in good taste and good fun. Doug game nicknames to everybody.

Mr. Speaker, I will point out the last thing about Doug is that he loved his country. He knew that on the top the Capitol rotunda was a statue called the Statue of Freedom. Doug served not only his people but he served his God. He certainly loved both. In serving his country, he understood he was serving freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that I, as well as all of us, can live up to Doug's standard of service, his love for people, and his love for God.

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, to close, I again thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RIVAS) for yielding a few more minutes to finish out these thoughts in Doug's memory.

Mr. Speaker, I will wanted to give a quick closing message to his wife, Jill, and his four children: Kyle, Allison, Sophia, and Natalie.

I get an hour every week to do these floor messages. I am lucky to get five Members to come. I try to fill up 20 minutes, 15 of which your dad would actually take. He would go on and on. I would try to get him to wrap up so I could go to dinner. He was always there for me.

Tonight, we ran over time with the amount of people who wanted to come and take time out of their very busy schedules to come and share a brief message. They sat for an hour to spend 60 seconds to reflect on your dad and your husband.

I hope you can take from that some sense of appreciation and connection that we all have with your dad and what an amazing man he is.

□ 1900

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, my condolences to the family of former Congressman Doug LaMalfa.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be here on the floor today to lead this important discussion with my Congressional Progressive Caucus colleagues about protecting healthcare for millions of Americans.

Earlier today, the House voted to pass Democratic Leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES' bill to extend the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits for 3 more years. I thank Leader Jeffries for his relentless leadership to make today's vote a reality.

House Democrats have been fighting for months to save these critical tax credits and for years to protect the Affordable Care Act from Republicans' constant attacks.

The ACA tax credits are the reason that record numbers of Americans have health insurance today. The ACA tax credits lower monthly premiums and make coverage realistic for working families, small business owners, seniors not yet eligible for Medicare, and people who fall through the cracks of employer-based insurance.

Because of these tax credits, people can go to the doctor before a problem becomes an emergency. They can manage chronic conditions. They can live with dignity instead of fear of bankruptcy.

Democrats did not give up on the American people, unlike many Republicans, who chose to let these tax credits expire 1 week ago. That is right. When the ball dropped in Times Square on New Year's Eve, millions of Americans saw their healthcare premiums rise. That is a direct result of the healthcare crisis that Republicans created through their inaction on Americans' most pressing concerns.

Over the past year, instead of working on meaningful solutions to lower the cost of groceries, lower the cost of housing, or protect healthcare, Republicans chose to rename the Gulf of Mexico, redefine what a showerhead is, rename The Kennedy Center, look into annexing Greenland, and regulate fridges and gas stoves.

Yet, in all seriousness, there are real problems that our country is facing. ICE is terrorizing communities across the country, and yesterday, masked agents murdered Renee Nicole Good in broad daylight in Minnesota. Trump is entertaining entering another war with Venezuela. Vaccines are being rolled back, which will make students and communities sicker. Americans are struggling to afford basic goods.

Speaking of affordability, we are in the middle of an affordability crisis that Republicans refused to address. Republicans chose to shut down the government instead of extending the ACA tax credits to help Americans afford healthcare.

During the longest shutdown in government history, my colleagues and I heard from our constituents about how Republicans' inaction to extend the ACA tax credits would impact them. I hand-delivered several of these stories from my freshman colleagues to Speaker JOHNSON so that he could see how his shutdown was creating hardship for Americans from California to New Hampshire, Washington, and everywhere in between.

In my district, the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles, nearly 31,000 people would have seen their healthcare costs rise if the ACA tax credits expired, and nearly 11,000 people would have lost access to healthcare entirely.

Additionally, a 60-year-old couple in my district earning nearly $83,000 per year would have seen their annual premiums rise by nearly $14,000, and a family of four earning nearly $130,000 a year would have seen their annual premiums rise by over $6,000. This is just in my district.

Republicans were willing to let this happen to Americans across the country, regardless of political affiliation.

I am proud to have voted with my colleagues to pass Leader JEFFRIES' bill to extend the ACA tax credits and protect healthcare, but our work is not done. The Senate needs to take up this bill immediately so that Americans don't have to worry about their premiums skyrocketing. In the richest country on Earth, no one should have to worry about choosing between paying for groceries, making rent, or having healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. RANDALL), my cohost for tonight's Special Order hour and my friend and fellow freshman classmate from the beautiful State of Washington.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be here together on the House floor today to lead a conversation about how we fix our broken healthcare system.

Across our country, working families are feeling the pain of rising costs from every direction. Donald Trump and congressional Republicans have failed the American people. They promised to lower costs. Instead, costs keep going up. Housing is more expensive. Electricity bills are through the roof. Childcare costs keep rising.

Now, Republican leadership, who love to extend tax breaks for billionaires, are making things worse by, for months, refusing to extend the Affordable Care Act's tax credits for regular people. These tax credits, which expired on December 31, could have been continued had Republicans not skipped every opportunity to prevent it, but they chose to walk away from the negotiating table.

Let's be clear about why these tax credits exist. They were created because the U.S. has the most expensive healthcare system in the world, and without help, millions of working families are simply unable to afford coverage.

This was never a handout. It was a lifeline. Yet, because Republicans refused to act before December 31, millions of Americans have faced skyrocketing healthcare costs.

In my district, I hear from neighbors every day about how devastating it has been to lose these tax credits. Right now, families who rely on the ACA in Washington's Sixth are facing an average increase of $1,500 a month in healthcare costs. That is some people's rent, three car payments. That strips the ability to put anything away in savings.

Even if you are on private insurance, monthly costs are estimated to rise across the board by 21 percent in Washington because of the overall strain on our system. When healthy people are priced out of insurance, costs go up for everyone else. That is just math.

This Republican-created crisis will price out an estimated 80,000 Washingtonians from coverage, and that doesn't even include the millions more in Washington and across the country who are losing care because of the cuts to Medicaid and Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, who is being hit hardest when these tax credits disappear? Women who are already struggling with restrictions to reproductive care, who make less money than men do, and who are on the front lines of growing childcare crises.

Who else will be impacted? LGBTQ Americans, who are more likely to rely on the ACA because of lower incomes and employment discrimination, on top of this administration rapidly stripping away access to their lifesaving care and protections.

Families really struggling to get by, living paycheck to paycheck, are more likely to work jobs without employer-provided benefits, making the ACA their only real option for coverage.

I want to make this clear: Republican leadership let tax credits expire in order to pay for tax breaks for billionaires. They didn't make an abstract budget decision. They decided that their wealthy and well-connected donors deserved the very best that this country has to offer while condemning everyday Americans to lose health insurance and to have to wait until they are sick enough to end up in the emergency room.

I will say what we all know: We don't have a genuine healthcare system in this country. We have a sick care system, a system where people are forced to delay care until a problem becomes a crisis, a system where chronic conditions go unmanaged or managed with unprescribed medication, a system where cancers are caught later when treatment is more expensive and outcomes are worse, and a system where more people die.

One thing drove me to public service and has continued to drive me: Everyone deserves access to healthcare. That is why, in the State legislature, I worked every day to protect and expand access to care, passing laws to expand postpartum Medicaid so that new

parents received the care that they needed after childbirth, establishing a universal healthcare commission, removing barriers to behavioral health and dental care, and lowering prescription drug prices.

I have seen the way families thrive when access to care is expanded and the devastation that follows when it is taken away. While families are worried about whether they can afford insulin, inhalers, or mental health care, Republican leadership chose inaction. They found time to give tax breaks to corporations but not to protect healthcare for working people before tax credits expired.

That tells you everything you need to know about Republican leadership priorities.

President Trump says that he has concepts of a plan and has been making empty promises for a decade, but the American people don't need concepts. We need affordable healthcare now.

I am very glad that 17 of my Republican colleagues joined Democrats today in doing the right thing by voting to extend the ACA tax credits for 3 more years to protect access to affordable healthcare. I hope that my colleagues in the Senate follow suit by passing this bill immediately, but I also know that it is not enough.

We need a universal healthcare system, a system where you can go to the doctor, receive the care you need, and walk out without worrying about what other bills you will have to skip to afford it.

We need a system where losing a job doesn't mean losing your healthcare and where starting a business doesn't mean risking your life in addition to your livelihood.

We need a system where no one lies awake at night wondering if they will be able to afford insulin, whether they will be able to afford it if their kid breaks their arm, or whether they will be able to afford it if their spouse has a pregnancy complication or a cancer diagnosis.

It is not radical. It is not unrealistic. It is humanity.

The United States, arguably the wealthiest country in the world, doesn't have a universal healthcare system like every advanced nation in the world does. It is time for our Nation's leaders to stop making excuses. It is time for us to find real solutions that put the American people first.

□ 1910

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman yielding and thank both Congresswoman LUZ RIVAS of California and Congresswoman EMILY RANDALL of Washington State for hosting us with this Special Order hour. I know with them being two freshmen Congresswomen, and I know at least one other freshman Congresswoman that will be joining in the discussion, that it just reflects the tremendous amount of talent and passion to make a difference in this freshman class. We are so blessed to have them in the Caucus. It is so important to witness the efforts that the two congresswomen hosting us have made in regard to accessibility and affordability. It is most appreciated.

After months of pushing, Democrats succeeded in forcing a vote to extend ACA subsidies that offer lifesaving healthcare benefits to millions of families. That extension passed the House just hours ago, but the fight isn't over to secure these benefits and meaningfully lower costs for Americans. The Senate must act at once to restore these benefits and ease the burden of rising costs for people like Mekhiya, one of my constituents from New York's 20th Congressional District.

Mekhiya was born and raised in Schenectady, New York. She recently turned 26 and was bumped off of her parents' health insurance plan. She made the smart and responsible choice to switch to an ACA plan. Because Republicans let vital ACA subsidies lapse last year, she no longer knows how she will afford coverage. This is at a time when she and her wife are thinking about starting a family together.

So often I hear the reaction from those on the right saying: Just get a job. Well, Mekhiya already works at a job, in fact two jobs; one for her local school district and one as a manager at McDonald's. All told, between both jobs, she works some 16 hours a day. Neither position offers affordable or comprehensive enough healthcare, so an ACA plan is her only real option.

In this, the richest country in the world, the richest country in the history of the world, this is simply unacceptable. No one should be spending nearly all of their waking hours working multiple jobs and still unable to afford basic healthcare coverage for themselves and their family members. Yet this is the painful reality for millions of Americans.

Faced with this impossible scenario, Mekhiya said that she may try to work even more hours to make ends meet, but there are simply not enough hours in the day to work much more than she already does.

We have the chance here in Congress to ease the immense burden being carried by Mekhiya and the tens of millions more seeing a spike in healthcare premiums. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to do right by families and act without delay to lower healthcare and help working family people breathe a little easier.

Make no mistake, the fight to lower costs is far from over. We have got to put our foot on the gas when it comes to driving down those healthcare costs and making life much more affordable for the American people.

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, indeed, it is a great State because we have great freshmen Representatives. I thank them for this Special Order hour and the opportunity to really talk about a critical issue for our constituents in California and really all across America.

If we go back to the beginning of the Trump administration and we think about the various issues that he has put forth and the burdens that he has placed on America, one of the most important is in the big, ugly bill. If you take a look at the big, ugly bill and you get into the details, well, there are the enhanced tax credits for the Affordable Care Act, and we will talk about that in a few moments; but also in the big, ugly bill is the big problem coming up at the end of this 2026 year.

They have put in place a dismantling of the Medicaid program. They pushed it off until after the election, but the facts of the matter are those impacts are already being recognized across the healthcare system. It is going to affect every American and particularly those that are relying on Medicare.

Now, if we talk about what the issue is today—and thank goodness, the Democratic leadership in this House put forth an opportunity to solve one of the most critical problems that face Americans right now, and that is the expiration of the Affordable Care Act tax credits. That has happened. Today, on this floor, there was a vote. Fortunately, the House of Representatives, led by the Democrats and a handful of Republicans, pushed forward an extension, a 3-year extension of the Affordable Care Act subsidies which will be exceedingly important.

The Affordable Care Act enhanced premium credits expired. They expired last year at the end of the year, and 4 million Americans immediately faced a problem. The expiration of these tax credits not only raised the cost for individuals in the marketplace, but it also raised the healthcare costs all across America because it rippled down into all aspects of the healthcare system, the insurance, and the operations at hospitals and clinics. These harmful impacts won't stop at the Affordable Care Act insurance premiums. Those costs are now across the system.

Let me level with the American people. The Republican healthcare crisis will make the American people wait longer for healthcare. It will make Americans pay more for worse healthcare systems. And for people who live in rural, as well as urban areas, your clinics and your hospitals are shut down. Why? Because the Republicans have been after a challenge dating back to the 1960s when the Medicare program was put in place to eliminate the government's operations there.

There is still time to avoid this crisis, and today, this House, led by the Democrats, took action to solve at least one of the major pieces of that, the Affordable Care Act enhanced premium tax credits. It is up to the Senate Republicans now.

Hello, where are you, Senate Republicans? Are you paying attention? It is in your House. You have the opportunity to save this system, Senate Republicans. I know that Senate Democrats are already on board. They want to do this. Let's get this done.

So let's challenge the Senate Republicans, see where they stand. We know where a whole lot of our Republican colleagues in the House of Representatives stand. They did not stand with Americans. They didn't stand with those people in your districts, in my district, that are going to lose their Affordable Care Act insurance premiums.

We have got work to do. This isn't the end of this healthcare crisis. This is just one more step along the way to try to find some way to overcome the terrible burden that the Trump administration and the Republicans have placed on Americans as they go about trying to provide healthcare coverage for themselves, for their families, and for their communities.

We met that challenge today. The Democrats here in the House of Representatives met that challenge today, and we forced through a 3-year extension of the Affordable Care Act insurance premium subsidies. We are thankful that many, and a handful of Republicans, stood with us in this.

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), my colleague and friend and the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my California colleague for yielding to me and thank Congresswoman RIVAS for co-hosting, and I thank Congresswoman EMILY RANDALL from Washington for also co-hosting this important Congressional Progressive Caucus Special Order hour.

Now, we are here because this heretofore do-nothing Republican Congress has let 22 million Americans get priced out of their healthcare.

I learned of a coffeehouse owner in Riverside, a good friend of mine, whose health insurance went from $600 a month to $1,100 a month. We are here because my Republican colleagues think our national budget is too tight to ensure that our seniors and families can afford healthcare, but it is flush enough with enough cash to fund escapades in Venezuela and billions of new spending on ICE and giving billionaires permanent tax cuts.

We are here because Democrats are the ones that are keeping healthcare front and center for this body. Republicans wish we would stop talking about this, that we would stop bringing it up, but we will not stop because healthcare is vital. It is essential to every American.

□ 1920

It was the Democrats that forced this do-nothing Congress to actually act. Neither Speaker JOHNSON nor President Trump wanted to make healthcare more affordable, so we took it upon ourselves to pass a 3-year extension of these vital tax credits, 3 years that match with the remaining 3 years of this Presidency.

Mr. Speaker, 17 Republicans joined us to actually lower costs and to make health insurance affordable. Now, I am sure the President will have in his mind that he should target for retribution these 17 Republicans for defying him, for defying the orthodoxy of the Republican leadership. He can choose to lead with fear, to be more concerned about Venezuelan oil or how many more people he can deport or how much more he can enrich himself, or he can use his considerable influence and power over Republicans, over Senate Republicans.

We saw the reach of his power today as Republicans unanimously voted for water projects for poor people in Colorado and for a Native American Tribe in Florida, reversed themselves and sustained his veto. They voted for these two measures before. That is how immense his influence is. The question is: Will he get seven Republicans to do something right for the American people and lower healthcare costs, and will he use his influence to help Americans lower healthcare costs for all Americans or will he act in retribution? He can lower healthcare costs for all by expanding the pool of insureds.

The fight is not over. We still have to get through the Senate, but the key to all this is President Trump. Will he demand that the Senate pass a 3-year extension of this bill, 3-year extension of healthcare tax credits? That is the big question.

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of Arizona (Mrs. GRIJALVA).

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives Rivas and Randall for leading on this very urgent healthcare issue.

Millions of Americans who depend on the Affordable Care Act are selecting their plans right now, and what they are seeing are healthcare options that they cannot afford due to Republicans' refusal to extend premium assistance.

I am here today speaking on behalf of my constituents in southern Arizona and those throughout the Nation. I am here for the parents that are going through their monthly budget trying to figure out what they can give up just to be able to pay for these premiums. I am speaking for those who have the horrible feeling in the pit of their stomachs because they know the risk of being uninsured, being one hospital visit away from bankruptcy.

My Republican colleagues and, certainly, Donald Trump might not understand this, but health insurance is not a luxury. It is a necessity.

The facts are clear. Republicans paid for their trillion-dollar tax giveaway for the wealthy by cutting healthcare, plain and simple.

Over 10 million people will lose their Medicaid, and now millions more could lose their health coverage because they can't afford their premiums.

Mr. Speaker, 22 million people, including 400,000 Arizonans with marketplace coverage, are already seeing their healthcare premiums skyrocket. These cuts mean the closure of rural hospitals in Arizona, job losses in our healthcare sector, higher healthcare costs for those with private insurance, and the overall stress to an already stretched thin healthcare system.

The State of Arizona has estimated the impact of Medicaid cuts alone to be $34 billion over the next 10 years.

For every $1 billion tax cut there is an estimated loss of 36,000 jobs across multiple industries. While the economic impacts will be devastating throughout the State, the most immediate impact will be on those going without needed healthcare.

Already a community health center in my district is feeling the impact of the healthcare cuts. In 2025, they saw significant cuts in their Ryan White part B funding.

Due to these cuts, some positions had to be eliminated and workflows realigned, including the loss of medical case management and treatment adherence support.

The impacts are real. For instance, a 29-year-old woman was diagnosed with HIV during her pregnancy. She is a mom of two young kids, 7 and 1 years old. She has struggled with mental illness, depression, and cognitive delay. Because she lacks daily adherence support for her lifesaving Valley fever medication, she has been hospitalized three times due to sepsis related to the condition.

Another 18-year-old with HIV who works as a landscaper has not been able to get back on his medication due to the loss of insurance. His employer does not provide insurance, and he makes too much money to qualify for Medicaid. Now the health center team is trying to get support from pharmaceutical companies for this individual.

These are the types of stories of real people that simply want to live their lives. Illness and disease do not discriminate, neither should Congress. Americans have had enough of cutting programs that Americans need for basic survival, enough of the attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, enough Republicans' skyrocketing costs.

It is up to Donald Trump and the Republican Party to decide if they will join Democrats to restore these tax credits or whether they will keep making life unaffordable for hardworking Americans. I urge the Senate to act immediately and take up the premium extension bill passed by the House.

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of Oregon (Ms. HOYLE).

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. This has been a week. We invaded Venezuela; threatened to invade Greenland; put Cuba, Mexico, and Colombia on notice that they could be next; had the administration and many of my

colleagues, who know better because they were here, try and rewrite the history of what happened on January 6; and an ICE agent shot and killed a woman in Minnesota, and DHS immediately blamed the victim with no pretense of wanting to find out what the facts were. An hour ago we just had two more people shot by an ICE agent in Portland, Oregon.

These are dark times, and it is really easy to get bogged down in the negative, but today, something really good happened. Mr. Speaker, today, 17 Republicans joined Democrats to override the Speaker's attempt to stifle the will of this body to vote to extend subsidies for the Affordable Care Act for 3 years.

My district is just over 17,000 square miles. It is mostly rural with rural hospitals hanging on by a thread. Some of them have just 15 percent commercial payer mix. Without the Affordable Care Act subsidies, we will have more uninsured people, and these hospitals could go under.

Prior to being in Congress, I worked at the United Way before the Affordable Care Act working on healthcare access, and my county had a 21 percent uninsured rate. We have a lot of farmers, small business people. We have people that couldn't afford insurance. Now our uninsured rate is just under 8 percent. That is because of the subsidies.

I have had people call me. One woman called and said she was paying $87 a month. She now will have to pay over $1,000 a month, and she can't afford her medication or the treatment that keeps her alive. I have people, small business people in my district, that are calling to say this is the first time they have ever had to go without insurance.

The fact of the matter is this is the right policy.

Now, if people want to talk about how to deliver quality, affordable, appropriate healthcare with less money going to hedge fund-owned medical practices or to insurance companies, I would love to work with my colleagues on that. We have a Medicare for All bill that anybody can get on. That is what we should be moving toward.

The bottom line is this: I remember when my mother, who was working as a contractor because her job got shipped offshore, didn't have insurance and she badly broke her leg, lost her home, went bankrupt, lost everything, and had to start over.

□ 1930

Many people in this country will lose everything. This is the right thing to do for right now, and then we should work together and be responsible as Congress to lower the cost of healthcare, take out the middleman, decrease the price of pharmaceuticals, and make sure that people have access to healthcare wherever they are in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do that, and I encourage the Senate to take up this bill and get it done so that we can actually do what we got sent here to do, which is the work of the people.

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of Arizona (Ms. ANSARI).

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives Rivas and Randall for hosting this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I represent Phoenix, Glendale, and Guadalupe, communities where families are working hard every single day to stay afloat. Across this country, including throughout Arizona, millions of families are struggling to afford basic healthcare. With costs rising on everything that they need to live, housing, food, and childcare, they have been through enough.

The ACA enhanced premium tax credits were a lifeline for these families, but Republican inaction allowed these tax credits to expire on December 31 because they don't care about regular people.

The consequences were immediate. For many families in Arizona, ACA marketplace premiums have already more than doubled as a result of Republican negligence. That means parents are skipping doctors' appointments for their babies, seniors are reconsidering prescriptions, and families are facing the very real possibility of going uninsured.

Take Cricket, for example, a constituent in my district. At 63, Cricket is self-employed and not yet eligible for Medicare. She has relied on ACA coverage for 8 years, paying $350 a month.

Last year, she suffered a head injury that required emergency care, and ACA kept her bill around $1,000 instead of $10,000, saving her from potential bankruptcy. She fears rising premiums. The ACA is her lifeline, and without it, she could lose her home and everything else that she has built.

Today, the House of Representatives finally voted to extend these enhanced premium tax credits for 3 years. Despite 17 Republicans standing up to Donald Trump and to their own leadership, I want to point out that not a single Republican from Arizona's delegation chose to put their constituents first and extend the lifesaving subsidies. That is egregious, and that is unacceptable.

There is still so much more work to do, even after today's passage in this House. We must apply pressure to the United States Senate to pass a clean 3-year extension of these ACA tax credits.

Arizonans cannot afford any more delays. Let's be clear: Extending these tax credits is necessary, but it is certainly not enough. We need to pass Medicare for All. We are the richest country in the world, and we pay more for healthcare per person than any other developed nation.

On average, we spend at least double per person as countries like the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and Japan spend on healthcare, so we should be the healthiest. We are not. We are 48th in the world for life expectancy.

Do you know, Mr. Speaker, what most of the countries doing better and paying less than us have in common? They have universal healthcare. Americans' physical and financial health depend on us doing the same.

It is time to take real action to bring down healthcare costs for Arizonans and for people all across the United States. That means Medicare for All before more Americans lose their healthcare or go into medical debt.

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of New York (Mr. GOLDMAN).

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California and Representative RANDALL for hosting this Special Order.

Seven days ago, the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits expired. For years, these credits allowed millions of Americans to afford health insurance that they would otherwise not be able to get. For tens of millions of others, these tax credits drastically lowered premiums—for some families, by as much as thousands of dollars. They gave working families essential relief amidst an ongoing cost-of-living crisis that Donald Trump has only made worse.

Without these tax credits, an estimated 5 million Americans will lose their insurance as a result of higher premium costs.

Today, House Democrats successfully forced this body to vote to extend those tax credits so that those 5 million Americans can hold on to their health insurance with a 3-year extension of these premium tax credits, and it passed this body.

Now, this bill goes to the Senate, which must pass it in order to save health insurance for millions of Americans.

In my State of New York alone, more than 140,000 people relied on the tax credits. These credits also supported an additional 1.7 million New Yorkers who would probably otherwise not be able to afford health insurance.

One constituent of mine who lives in public housing and holds a good job told me that without these tax credits, her monthly premiums have gone from $450 to more than $1,000, which she simply cannot afford. She is in her sixties and will be left with no health insurance.

It is not just those eligible for the tax credits who will suffer. That is because when people lose coverage, they don't stop getting sick. They delay preventative care. They skip prescriptions. They end up in emergency rooms. Emergency rooms become overrun, and care gets worse and more delayed. Costs rise for everyone, and all outcomes suffer.

Because of months of inaction by Donald Trump and congressional Republicans, those tax credits have expired and will be gone without this legislation that we passed today. This is nothing short of a crisis, and it is a crisis created entirely by the President of the United States and his Republican Party.

Let me say this clearly to the American people. If you cannot afford health insurance anymore, you have one person and one party to blame: Donald Trump and the Republican Party. It is the same party that cut taxes for billionaires and cut Medicaid for working-class Americans.

Mr. Speaker, you can count on one thing at all times with this Republican Party: They will always choose billionaires over babies.

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WIED). The gentlewoman from California has 16 minutes remaining.

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues who participated in this Special Order hour on the ACA tax credits. The Affordable Care Act tax credits are why our country has a record-high number of insured people.

Like many of my colleagues who today shared stories of their constituents and how this will impact them and their daily lives, I also have heard many stories from my own constituents. This includes Angel from San Fernando. Angel's husband is self-employed, and she works part time. Because of the ACA, they can have reliable healthcare that covers her husband's preexisting conditions. Angel is dreading the update that will make healthcare more costly. They will have to make it work, but it will come at an extreme hardship. Angel and her husband are two of the over 31,000 people in my district who will see their healthcare costs rise if the ACA tax credits are not extended.

Another constituent from North Hollywood said that their costs will more than double. They write: ''My husband and I are already scraping by, living paycheck to paycheck each month. Rent and groceries are both harder to pay for. I also have two kids who are on Medi-Cal.'' Families of four like this woman's will be forced to pay over $6,000 more this year if the ACA tax credits are not extended.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure Congresswoman RANDALL has heard hundreds of stories from her constituents, too, and would like to share some with us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington for the purpose of a colloquy.

Ms. RANDALL. The gentlewoman is right. I think all of us have been receiving stories, texts, emails, and phone calls from neighbors, friends, families, and constituents around the country who are impacted by rising healthcare costs because of the decisions that Republican leadership has made.

□ 1940

It is certainly not just my district. We know that in central Washington and Washington's Fourth District, a family of four earning $66,000 a year is seeing annual premium increases of $2,651.

In Louisiana's Fourth District, we are seeing a family of four that is earning $66,000 have the same increase.

In Texas, a 60-year-old couple earning $85,600 a year would see their premiums increase 333 percent, $20,466.

The numbers can sometimes feel abstract, right? What are those numbers? They are people.

Amanda in Bremerton told us that for her family, the ACA credits were the only way that she could afford healthcare. If they lose the discount with the ACA, they wouldn't be able to have healthcare, period. Her family members won't be able to afford the medications that they need to help keep them alive.

Healthcare should be affordable for all citizens in the United States. Amanda is worried that they will possibly lose their home if they get sick and have to go to a doctor.

Andrea from Tacoma works for a California-based company. The insurance that they offer would cost her $1,000 a month, which is out of her budget, but obtaining insurance through the Washington marketplace, with ACA tax credits, allowed her to purchase it for just $300 a month, less than a third of what her employer-sponsored coverage would be. She still struggles to make this payment.

If she can no longer afford healthcare, Andrea is going to feel the impact significantly. She makes just too much money to receive Apple Health, our version of Medicaid. She is pregnant. She will be swimming in medical debt. She says she is the only one who provides for her and her children.

Our neighbors deserve better, and they deserve us to keep fighting, not just for this ACA tax credit extension, which we will continue to put pressure on the Senate to pass, but also for a system that meets our needs nationwide.

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman RANDALL for sharing those stories. We are hearing these stories from all over the country, not just blue States, but also red States, everywhere.

The Affordable Care Act tax credits keep healthcare affordable for all Americans. If the Senate does not act immediately, constituents like Stephen from Van Nuys will bear that burden. Stephen and his wife are both independent contractors who pay for their own health insurance. In 2026, they are facing a monthly increase of over $1,000 a month each. This is absolutely unacceptable in the United States.

Before I close, I thank Congresswoman RANDALL for joining me for tonight's discussion and would like to yield to her for any closing remarks she may have.

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman RIVAS.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, this comes down to a simple question: Who is Congress fighting for? Right now, Republican leadership is offering Americans higher healthcare costs, less coverage, and more uncertainty.

By refusing to extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits before they expired last month, they made healthcare costs more expensive for working families when people are already stretched thin.

I have heard from families across my district who are forgoing coverage this year because of the absurd premium increases.

A small business owner in Bremerton said that her new monthly premium for her family of three would be more than her mortgage, costing $35,000 a year. She is now being forced to look for a new job that includes health benefits and told us it is very likely she will have to sell her home in order to pay for insurance.

If the Senate doesn't pass the 3-year ACA extension immediately, families will be locked into these higher prices for 2026, and they will lose coverage. People will delay care, skip prescriptions, or avoid seeing a doctor, not because they don't need it, but because they can't afford it. That is not a healthcare system that works.

Healthcare is a human right, and your ability to get it shouldn't depend on how much you earn, where you live, or whether your employer offers coverage. No one should have to choose between paying rent and seeing a doctor or between putting food on the table and buying a prescription.

The ACA tax credits exist because Congress recognized a simple truth. Without them, millions of Americans would be priced out of care. These credits make coverage possible for seniors who are not yet eligible for Medicare, for small business owners, and gig workers, for families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to absorb soaring premiums. Allowing these tax credits to expire was a choice, and it was the wrong one.

Americans are being screwed by this administration. Tariffs are screwing our farmers and raising prices. Trump is killing energy projects that raise our utility bills, and Republicans screwed around with our health insurance by refusing to extend the ACA tax credits.

Congress has a real opportunity right now to take action: to lower costs, to protect coverage, and to improve the health of people across the country. Extending the ACA tax credits will keep families insured, reduce financial strain, and prevent avoidable deaths.

This is a moment for leadership, a moment to put people over politics. Republicans in the Senate must act to extend these tax credits. We must make it clear that in this country access to healthcare is not a privilege; it is a right worth protecting.

I am glad to be a partner in this fight with Representative RIVAS and all of my other Democratic colleagues who spoke on the floor tonight.

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman RANDALL and thanks again to my other colleagues who spoke tonight.

Today's vote will help keep healthcare affordable for millions of Americans, but our work isn't done. The Senate needs to pass this bill immediately, and then we need to get back to work on progressive and equitable solutions that leave no family behind.

Families are still facing high costs for housing, childcare, groceries, and other everyday necessities. House Democrats and the Congressional Progressive Caucus will continue to stand with the American people to protect their healthcare against Republicans' attacks and keep the American Dream attainable for all.

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.

CONGRESS IS A MATH-FREE ZONE

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I was actually going to come here and do some things on demographics and some things that are optimistic, but I actually think we should first jump into the fact that we work in a math-free zone.

If you listen to the people coming behind the microphones, particularly today, it is as if they have read none of the CBO reports, none of the HHS reports, or the other things, particularly in regard to the ACA, which are subsidies. They are subsidies on top of subsidies to insurance companies.

Did you read the reports? Last year, 41 percent of those subsidies on subsidies of the people that had the enhanced subsidies paid no premium, so they had no skin in the game, which is not what we were promised when ObamaCare came into existence a dozen years ago.

We actually showed an economic report. I did entire floor speeches on it showing that only a third of that $35 billion, $40 billion a year subsidy on top of the subsidies actually goes to healthcare.

We also showed that a third of the folks never made a claim because now we are finding rampant fraud of people who were signed up because if they don't have a premium to pay, they had brokers signing them up, and they had no idea they had coverage.

Where is the passion to actually deal with the fact that particularly the left—and I have got to blame my brothers and sisters on the Republican side, we have done the same. We have turned healthcare into financial engineering, instead of having it be about the cost, access, and delivery of having our brothers and sisters get healthier.

Is it you have sold your soul to the insurance companies? Remember, the ACA model is an insurance company model. You promised them rates of return, you promised them a market, so this is 7 percent of the healthcare market, and 94 percent of that 7 percent gets a subsidy.

Let's actually do math because you have been listening to—oh, yeah, there has been actually no math today as people talked about subsidies on top of subsidies. The CBO report that updated yesterday—and I can do this off the top of my head—basically said the 3 years cost $80 billion.

The reason it is lower than my $105 billion is because they made an assumption that this year, if the Senate were to pass these, that there will be a delayed sign-up, so there will be half a year or so where people—but if they did a claw back, the actual number on these subsidies is about $105 billion.

Okay. Even if you do the CBO's number of $80 billion for 3 years of subsidies on top of subsidies, and then you put in the 10 years of interest, you know, because of the interest window, this costs $111 billion.

□ 1950

Understand what the left is telling you. They are basically saying they don't give a damn about healthcare. It is financing. If we wanted to change the price of healthcare, we would actually be looking at the innovations that are going on and start to legalize them, but there are too many damn lobbyists walking up and down our hallways here trying to stop us.

Look, here is an article from 2 days ago. Bless the State of Utah. If you are like me—I have hypertension. Can you imagine that? I have had it since I was a teenager. I take a calcium inhibitor. It lowers my blood pressure. Hopefully, I don't pop an aneurysm, but every 90 days, I have to pick up the phone to renew a doctor's prescription or go visit the doctor, even though it is the same prescription I have had for decades.

Utah just created AI that will take my data and renew my prescription. It will save a fortune for the people of Utah—cost, access, not subsidies.

Stanford medical reviewed basically being able to use certain wearables. Their new AI model predicts disease risk as you sleep from over 100 health conditions. They take some data as you are sleeping off your wearables, and boom, basically you are wearing a medical lab. Except the problem is, it is not allowed to prescribe. That would be illegal because that would require us to actually do things, modernize access to healthcare, use the technology to crash—oh, we can't use technology to crash the price. It would really annoy a whole bunch of the lobbyists. People are lined up at our doors. People would show up at our fundraisers.

OpenAI chat health to connect data from health apps medical records—there is a revolution coming where we as people of America can stay dramatically healthier.

Why aren't we doing the discussion of what to do to lower the price of healthcare instead of having debates of another $100 billion that goes on the very credit cards of the people who get—the insurance companies that get the subsidy that only as—our model is 38 percent of that subsidy actually ends up going into healthcare. We are still trying to figure out where the hell the rest of the money went.

Have we lost our minds? Why is it so much easier to just keep borrowing money and borrowing money and borrowing money and say: I am giving you something, but I am putting it on your credit card. It is like we are engaging in a level of financial lunacy here.

Now, let's actually go on to the even more difficult part of this discussion. I am doing this because I want us to start to have a benchmark. If there is anyone out there listening that has ever had to tolerate—because I have been doing these for a decade, and I am just exhausted. I am frustrated. I am angry.

My brothers and sisters here, Democrat and Republican, I like most of these people, and I am crushed. I am just absolutely intellectually, emotionally, even physically crushed at the inability to tell the truth. We don't want to tell the truth because our constituents get pissed off at us when we walk them through the math. The constituents look back and say, so you have been lying or the politicians have been lying to us for decades. The answer is yes, but it is not Democratic. It is not Republican. Much of the crisis that we are facing is demographic.

I am not going to explain all of this chart, but I am basically going to tell you, if you look at the financial lines on this chart, Mr. Speaker, it basically says, in 3 years, over half the money this Federal Government spends will go to those 65 and up. In 3 years, half the money we spend will go to those 65 and up.

Now, I need you to work through something with me. I have already presented the Moody's Analytics report that is saying, in 8 years from now, 30 percent of our spending, 30 percent of tax collections, will go just to interest. You are now seeing, in 3 years, the majority of our spending will actually go to benefits here. We have a math problem. Today, we have fewer 18 year olds than we had 20 years ago, but we have double the number of 65 year olds.

We can sit here and blame each other, but it is just demographics. It is happening over the entire industrialized world, but we are not allowed to actually have an honest discussion about it because the moment you say something, the other side is writing political commercials to rip your face off

because you told the truth about math and demographics.

It is real simple. Mr. Speaker, you are going to run for U.S. Senate. In your next term, the Medicare trust fund is empty. The Social Security trust fund is empty. It takes that first year, 2033, to just cover that shortfall that is over $638 billion. If you don't fix it, you double senior poverty. You double the number of baby boomers who will live on the street, and everyone's Social Security check has a 24 percent cut.

How many people have you heard this week get behind the microphones and say maybe we should actually start to adopt technology, modernization, deal with the reality of our fiscal cliff that is coming? Instead, I watch a parade of my brothers and sisters here say: I have an idea. It costs more money, but it is a really good idea. Let's just put it on the credit card.

It is out of order, but I will get to it. I am going to say it a couple of times because I did a presentation of a report from I think it is the Massachusetts or Boston economic council, freaky smart professors. If you use a 6 percent discount rate, which you can argue something lower, but sometimes you have to talk about math. A child born today, you need 104 percent of that child's lifetime income, so more money than they make in their entire lifetime, just to cover Federal pension benefits, Social Security, Medicare, military, Federal employees, and railroad retirement.

Does anyone care? Does anyone care? What is wrong with this place? The immorality that the next generation will be poorer than us—but we are not allowed to say that because, let's be honest, people want more stuff. If we keep giving them more stuff, they vote for us. They might even contribute.

Look, let's just continue to do some of the basic demographics. From 2004 to 2024, you see this one line here, those are 18-year-olds. Somewhat similar, but now you start to get to 2035 and start to understand, without immigration, you have a world where you functionally have more 65-year-olds than you have 18-year-olds.

We are having debates right now. There is a report out that—now, it is not adjusted for self-deports—saying that the United States had about 400,000 as a first snapshot growth in 2025. We have another report that says the United States had zero population growth last year. We have another report that says the United States will have zero population growth this year.

□ 2000

Mr. Speaker, are we going to tell the truth about math? You want our Social Security. You earned it. You deserve it. You want our Medicare. You earned it. You deserve it. In 7 years, both of those trust funds are empty.

What are we going to do? The argument is we will just borrow more money because, God forbid, we have any conversation about the cost of delivering healthcare. That will upset someone's business model or bureaucracy's model. It is hard to read.

The basic point was trying to show we are having terrific economic growth. I will show some slides here. With our GDP growth, some of the tax policies and some of the regulatory policies adopted in the last year are working.

Our problems are spending. Almost all the spending growth is interest because we are refinancing. We have $30 trillion out there we have to bring to market over the next few years. I think this year refinance was going to be about $11 trillion. That is bonds, notes, and paper that come due, plus another $2 trillion probably in virgin. That is new issuances. They are subject to the higher interest rates today than we had 5 years ago.

That is why our interest coverage costs have gotten so much more expensive. That is why if we do total interest from last year—the interest we also pay back to the trust funds from the money we borrowed from the trust funds—we spent $1.2 trillion on interest last year. Interest was the second biggest expense in this government last year, and it is getting worse.

What happens when we produce economic growth? We see this in red here. Our debt projections are actually every bit as bad as last year. That means for every dollar we take in, in tax receipts—remember that our tax as a percentage of GDP is basically back to the mean that it has been for decades. For every dollar we take in, we will spend $1.43. That is $1 in and $1.43 out. How long can we carry that on, Mr. Speaker? Yet, you start looking at where we are demographically.

What frustrates me is this is just what we are. There is not a magic: Well, we will suddenly have more children. Really?

This is happening all over the industrialized world. We have countries that buy you a house on your third or fourth child, and it didn't increase fertility rates. Yet our pension systems were designed on four or five workers.

Remember that Social Security and Medicare are pay as you go. We had a benefit of building reserves when the baby boomers were in the labor force. They ultimately were designed as pay as you go.

I have been in a 50–50 district for years. The political consultants lose their minds. They tell me I am not allowed to talk about the truth in math, but no one here wants to go near it, not even the people in 20-point or 30-point partisan districts. Will anyone here help us plan for the future?

This future is coming fast. We have economists now say we have functionally 3 years before we get in the interest cycle back and forth. I will try to explain that one of these days.

You have to understand when we hit in—what was that? In 2020, we had 2.7 workers per Social Security retiree. We are actually getting to the point over here where we think we are down to 2.3. In the coming decades, it is even less. So you and your spouse, you and your partner, functionally have your own retired person. It is just to understand the basic economics of the math.

Then we have the brain trusts who say we will just borrow the money each year. Did they hear the math? In 2033, the year the trust funds are empty, it is well over $600 billion. You are going to borrow basically half. That is 40 percent equal to what is the—well, actually almost 60 percent equal to today's defense budget. We will just throw that on the credit card. The next year it is bigger, and the next year it is bigger.

There are good things happening. The GDP numbers, which means the baseline economic growth numbers, are remarkably healthy. There is huge investment going on right now in technology that could actually boost productivity. Therefore, it will boost wages.

Where is the unified theory here? We are going to do another reconciliation where we are going to tell the markets that we will start limiting the spending so we get lower interest rates and so we can have more market growth. People can afford houses, all the input. Instead, you have a government that for every dollar we spend, we have to borrow another 43 cents. This is insane.

I was going to try to walk through some things I consider really hopeful. These are the contributions to GDP growth. Many of these contributions in the GDP growth, if we can get our policies and our regulatory designed properly, we can get some pops and productivity. Pops and productivity means pops in people's wages and pops in tax collections.

We have to get all the stars aligned at the right time. I just don't see us doing that because somehow it is not part of our lexicon. I will do presentations. We have too many people, particularly even on my side, who say things that aren't mathematically true. We hear something, and we repeat it. The customs duties, tariffs, are helpful. It is not as much money as so many people think.

Mr. Speaker, I am blessed to chair the Joint Economic Committee. I am number four on Ways and Means. I chair the Oversight Committee. I am the guy running a bunch of committees and am responsible for a number of these really uncomfortable investigations. I am blessed to have a staff that is a hell of a lot smarter than I would ever have hoped to have been at their age.

We start to work out charts like this. I am going to make some people mad. As a matter of fact, I am not even going to bother with that one. I will walk us through the straight number.

We are still vetting the number because we are doing predictions. All of this could mean nothing if the Supreme Court tomorrow changes its rules on the President's authority to

do the enhanced tariffs—let's just call them that—and whatever authorities the President may have to supplement those tariffs.

We have to understand our latest articles that we are looking at saying, for 2026, $215 billion of what we call customs receipts—tariffs—the baseline, if there had been no changes, it would have been $84 billion. Mr. Speaker, is everyone working with me on this? That means there was $131 billion of new tariff money coming into the budget this fiscal year.

If we pull out our calculator, so far in the first quarter of this fiscal year, we have been borrowing $8 billion a day. We are hoping it actually comes back to the mean of being about $6 billion. Let's do $131 billion divided by 8. We functionally are covering 2 weeks of borrowing. It is helpful. It is not a solution.

Yet I will do the speech. I ask anyone who is watching if they have some suggestions of how I can actually start to break through because I am exhausted. Then I will watch someone come up. I am sitting in my office, and I am watching the floor. On occasion, I will pull out my calculator. I am just enraged because of the mathematical lying that goes on behind these microphones over and over. This is the survival of our Republic.

Let's actually do something that is semi-optimistic here. Let's look at waste and fraud. I had a meeting with a wonderful woman the other day. She actually is involved in our county party. She is really smart and absolutely lovely. I hope I misheard her. She seemed to believe that if we just didn't have that fraud in Minnesota, we could have covered a whole bunch of our national debt. She was genuinely concerned. It sounds like she was trying to quote what she actually thought she heard on cable news.

□ 2010

Mr. Speaker, I had to walk her through saying, okay, here is the best projection. Remember, some of this fraud may have happened over a decade. We are still getting all the numbers. There have already been a number of prosecutions, ''Minneapolis woman pleads guilty in $250 million Feeding Our Future fraud scheme.'' She stole $250 million. There are a number of these articles that I have here, but you still have to do the math.

The fraud, just to give you an idea of the scale of our Nation's borrowing, is only a couple of days of borrowing. How do I help people understand the perspective of the scale and the fact that everything that we as Members of Congress vote on is borrowed?

If you told me today that I have to balance the budget, I can do it. Every part of government has to be shut down—no Park Service, no Congress, no EPA, no FDA. Everything that is discretionary is gone. Today, my math is that several hundred billion dollars of mandatory spending have to be gone. We are borrowing so damned much money now that we have to borrow money just to cover our Medicare obligations.

Do we understand? What if I came to you tomorrow and said that I can end most of the fraud in the IRS and the government and the SNAPs and all of these subsidies, like welfare and nutrition support programs?

We have actually had a bill for 6 or 7 years to use AI to audit the Pentagon. The Pentagon, I think, last year was its ninth audit. It failed. It could not pass an audit.

The same technology that we wanted to use to audit the Pentagon, it turns out that all of these programs, you just put that in the back end. Instead of doing the pay-and-chase model that, for some reason, the left seems to embrace, why let the fraud money ever go out the door?

I want to give you a simple example. How many of you have a credit card? How many of you have ever gone to a place where you have never purchased from before, and you stick your credit card in because I am going to buy some fishing tackle or whatever the hell you are buying, and suddenly, you get this text message saying: Is this you? Can you put in your PIN? Can you put in your code?

That technology has been around for a decade. If the credit card companies now have even more advanced AI to know that someone isn't you, that it is fraud, and that the data on your application and other things are fraud, you are telling me that we put billions and billions at risk trying to help our brothers and sisters, only to later find out that we have been financing scammers.

I have a passion for dealing with the long-run debt of this country. How do I convince the American people that we are going to have to do hard things when they are able to point and say that you haven't taken care of the filth and the stealing from our society, from our taxpayers? How do I get them to trust me when I still have scam artists robbing them?

Mr. Speaker, we have proposal after proposal to use technology to stop the scamming. Will it ever get a hearing here?

There almost seems to be a war to stop us from using technology because—I actually can't give you an honest answer. We know that, for years, I have been trying to fix technology at the IRS, and the IRS union loses its mind thinking: You are trying to get rid of us.

When we have been doing the audit at the Pentagon, the unionized auditors come and want to have meetings with me. They are concerned that we are trying to get rid of their jobs. I am just trying to protect the American taxpayers, but the technology already exists in the private sector. It is time we adopt it.

On healthcare, I just want to give this as an example. Utah, a couple of days ago, announced that they are going to allow AI as a pilot program in Utah to prescribe. It is for the renewal of your prescriptions. As I was talking about before, my calcium inhibitor, my hypertension medicine, the same one I have had for decades, I could plug in my data to the AI, and it would order my prescription, and it would be sent to me. It functionally has almost no cost.

We have dozens of examples that I have brought to the floor here over the last—actually, dozens and dozens of examples that I have brought to the floor here over the years, showing how we could crash the price of healthcare instead of doing the scam of let's just keep subsidizing the subsidy and the insurance companies. How about we change the accessibility and use technology to make it less expensive?

We are actually working on a thought experiment—and this will be the end—a crazy thought experiment. President Trump and the White House actually get a lot of credit, though we worked on this for years. Glutides, GLP–1s, I believe by the end of this month, one of the tablet versions will be available for $149 a month.

If obesity is responsible for 47 percent of U.S. healthcare spending, according to the Milken study, what would happen in our society, particularly where we have States where technically over half of their populations are considered obese? What would happen if access to the drug and, hopefully, nutrition and all the other things that need to go with it—but just do this thought experiment with me. The lobbyists weren't able to stop access to the glutides.

You might be on the cusp of a revolution of people who are morbidly obese, who have multiple chronic conditions, and who are losing their feet are about to get healthier.

Let's actually start accepting the technology, thinking creatively. With that, Mr. Speaker, we might be able to do some amazing things out there.

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

REFLECTING ON IMPACT OF ILLEGAL ACTION IN VENEZUELA

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I prayed, and thanks to God for saving the lives of every single one of our precious soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and intelligence officers who were deployed secretly to Venezuela by the President of the United States without consent of Congress.

Importantly, this operation was planned and executed in violation of the United States Constitution, Article I, Section 9, Clause 7: ''No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law.'' That clause also requires publication of all publicly expended money, funds.

None of that came to Congress, even in some of the most sequestered private meetings—nothing, no information, no support.

This military operation expended billions upon billions of U.S. taxpayer funds. The prior speaker, Congressman SCHWEIKERT, talked about the deficit going up. Well, where did the money that was not appropriated come from?

No one could be more grateful than I that our valiant combat teams all came home safely. Without question, because of funds that have been provided over the years, their readiness and performance resulted in their safe return. However, the commanding officials who are responsible for their deployment have not responded to requests by Congress to report from which accounts the money was withdrawn—billions and billions of dollars, for almost 6 months—for the deployment and actions in the Gulf and Atlantic theater.

The Trump administration has failed to account for the funds that they have expended. Commanding officers and administration appointees have withdrawn billions and billions of dollars from the U.S. Treasury, from our taxpayers, without legal authority, as constitutionally required. For this, the executive branch and those who are in charge must be held accountable. That day will come.

□ 2020

The draw down of billions of Federal taxpayer dollars to conduct these military operations has been expended without a vote of Congress, nor even a notification. I can attest the administration has failed, despite two requests I have made in public and private meetings with the highest level of Department of Defense officials and this administration, to provide the Committee on Appropriations of both Chambers of Congress the details of which accounts were drawn down and how much will it be to carry out these costly continuing operations. Tonight, for a third time, I place on the public record asking the U.S. Department of Defense: What funds have been expended in years 2025 and are being expended currently, and from which specific accounts, and are projected to be expended from which accounts in this year of 2026 in the Venezuelan operations.

Billions and billions and billions of taxpayer dollars have been spent and are being spent in the Gulf and Atlantic theater for these operations since midyear last year. Secretary of State Rubio has claimed the Venezuelan invasion was not a military operation. Do you believe that? He calls it a law enforcement action. Really? Did these funds flow from the Department of Justice? Congress doesn't know. Thousands upon thousands of America's finest have been positioned and missed holidays and family days on dozens of battleships, some lifted in the air and then dispatched to ground action. This operation was much more than a law enforcement action. It was an action of war and regime change in another nation.

This country is powerful enough to do almost everything, but you can't violate the Constitution. That is different.

Can Secretaries Hegseth and Rubio give us examples of other so-called law enforcement actions that have cost U.S. taxpayers billions and billions of dollars? Moreover, this Presidential administration has not legally appropriated a single dollar. Rather, it appears billions and billions of dollars have been expended, some might say illegally transferred and some might say stolen, from other Department of Defense accounts or from executive accounts or from other Federal agencies to conduct these costly Venezuelan operations. From where? So now the simple question: How much did it cost to capture the dictator of Venezuela, Maduro, and his wife?

I ask, Mr. President, how much money and exactly from which accounts? Give me the specific numbers and accounting titles from which billions and billions of America's taxpayer funds were transferred. These shorted accounts are going to have to be refinanced. How and when?

Secretary Hegseth, Secretary Rubio and perhaps OMB Director Russell Vought, their chief budget manager, it is your sworn constitutional duty to provide the American people which Defense or other Federal department and agency accounts have been shorted because you transferred untold billions of dollars to depose Venezuela's dictator Maduro and his wife.

Do you know that our own citizens can't get through to the Social Security office because you have cut the staffing back so much? Do you have any idea what is actually happening at the local level in this country? No one in this Chamber is a fan of Maduro, and the people of Venezuela have a humongous, difficult task of building their country forward now, but why behave deceitfully when you swore an oath to the Constitution of the United States.

Now, based on President Trump's press conference this past weekend, it seems that this lengthy and costly deployment of U.S. military into the Gulf and the Atlantic aims to reclaim very dirty crude oil deposits with out-of-date refineries in Venezuela. How many refineries are there? One? Who formerly owned them? Is it only the former Chevron facility? What is the business plan going forward, starting with how are we going to reimburse the accounts that were raided here?

For the sake of the American people who are footing the big bill for all of this, here is an idea. What if Congress considers a taxpayer recovery fee on every Venezuelan or American energy company that will benefit from the heroism of America's military. How about putting some of that money into military housing, which is a disgrace.

Let's refund it back to our taxpayers in the form of an energy rebate to help them pay their rising utility bills. That is, Congress could mandate that any company that draws up Venezuelan dirty crude oil for their corporate coffers should instead be required to share in the cost of the operation and rebate any profit to the hard-working American taxpayers. The military operations amount to billions of dollars, so any energy company benefiting from the heroism of our military should pay an energy tax refund to U.S. taxpayers. Think about it.

U.S. energy prices are rising and even doubling across Ohio, our Buckeye State, and many other localities across our country due to the rise of data centers. Meanwhile, this administration is cutting off funds for modern energy systems. Wouldn't such a rebate not only be sensible but welcome and impactful for America's households that are seeing rising energy bills every month and rising water utility bills?

Historically, the human lust for crude oil—and Venezuela's crude is very dirty—is legendary. It is a subject about which the American people are going to become even more keenly aware. Why? Because the blood of war and the quest for dirty crude oil are tightly bound. Far too many members of our military have lost their lives to defend the interests of dirty crude. That isn't always in the headlines, but underneath, that is exactly what it is. The Saudi oil kingdom is but one example of the bondage of blood and oil to military dictatorships and war. To gain a sense of it, I recommend a book, ''Sleeping With the Devil'' by Robert Baer. You will learn a lot about blood and war and the sacrifice of the people in our military of this country over several generations.

Over the last three-quarters of a century in particular, the rush and fixation for crude has become a very costly cause of U.S. war deaths across our military forces. Thousands upon thousands of our war dead have been sacrificed in such conflicts for which I will now put figures on the RECORD.

Over the last century, time and again, in war after war, excepting for World War II, but for the China-Burma-India theater, our most precious U.S. military has rendered hundreds of thousands of selfless Americans, men and women, who have been ordered to battle and sacrificed their lives to gain access to the world's crude oil deposits.

The time for foreign oil conquests should be over. Frankly, America must not live in the past. We must keep inventing. We can't go back. We have got to go forward. Our energy future is right here at home. Over the last 50 years, new American energy sources have been invented. All exist in our homeland, with more to come. I am just so proud of the inventiveness of the American people. The discovery of natural gas in the Utica and Marcellus shale deposits at the border in Ohio

and Pennsylvania is absolutely enormous, the largest on our entire continent. We are seeing whole communities changed and revitalized because of this. That was only made possible by the Department of Energy's invention of fracking technology since President Jimmy Carter first founded the Department when he was President of the United States in the 1970s. Ohio's nuclear industrialized north is being positioned to grow through fundamental modernization. That can't come soon enough for me. We have got to replace our 50-year-old nuclear power plants across this country.

Our objective must be to make America energy independent here at home in perpetuity. Our military has gone to war too many times in the last century to engage in wars in oil-rich places.

How President Trump is going to run Venezuela remains a mystery. My concern remains how much is this going to cost the taxpayers of our country. He has already expended billions, without the approval of Congress, to decapitate the corrupt leaders of Venezuela; but the White House can't even tell Congress how much has been expended, nor which accounts their budget director, Russell Vought, moved money out of to cover the billions and billions spent on this Venezuelan operation.

□ 2030

What this administration is carrying out is in clear violation of the appropriations authority of Congress. It is undermining our Constitution under Article I. That is the beginning of the Constitution. I recommend every American go back and look. It puts everyone in danger when you don't follow the law.

Operating dilapidated oil platforms in Venezuela is really not the President's job. That is what he says he is going to do. Now, the President does have responsibility for America's security, and so does Congress, to assure our energy independence, but he is shortchanging many programs across the Federal establishment that would make energy independence in perpetuity a reality.

Our energy portfolio domestically must be balanced and comprehensive, a truly all-of-the-above strategy in order that there be competition not reliance on dirty crude. That day should be over. That means continuing progress on renewable energy systems like modern nuclear, green hydrogen, fusion, biofuels, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal, and capturing thermal waste heat. Though the President does not like wind power, in some remote and coastal locations they do make sense.

The administration's Venezuela obsession is going to prove to be, I am sad to say, very expensive. Whatever happens will also take time. Forces of sabotage may lurk in an impoverished nation of over 30 million people, and its institutions are run down. Is the Trump administration assuming the task of nation building? That could add billions and even trillions to our debt.

When I asked Secretary Hegseth how many billions of dollars the Venezuelan operation had cost us in the United States to date, I asked where the unappropriated funds had come from. He rather dismissively blew me off and stated: From the general accounts. Mr. Speaker, there is no such thing. I asked that he identify the specific accounts at the Department of Defense from which he diverted funds to pay for this operation. He did not reply.

For example, I have been told military housing has been shorted to spend billions on military action. Secretary Hegseth then had a second thought. He said: Call my office. I asked him directly with whom in his office should I speak, and he replied: Anyone. Mr. Speaker, I am from the working class town of Toledo, Ohio. We understand a dodge when we hear one. I then reasked the question yesterday in a bipartisan convening here in the Congress: From which accounts, Mr. Secretary, were funds diverted to pay for the billions of dollars being expended in the Gulf and Atlantic theater. Again, he dodged and refused to answer.

The Secretary of State calls this Venezuelan deployment ''a law enforcement action.'' I have never seen—and please anyone listening to this, if you have seen a law enforcement action that has cost multiple billions of dollars, please let me know. Call my office.

The briefings we received before Christmas were hollow, and as we know now, totally misleading. The bipartisan briefing yesterday described the operation but not the costs.

Again I ask: Name the accounts exactly from which billions of dollars have been diverted to pay all the expenses of this major continuing military operation? Is the administration going to hire mercenaries in the next several months? If so, exactly from which accounts and which companies?

I would prefer any funds be rebated to our American people for the rapidly rising costs of energy because of the emergence of AI and data centers. The operation executed by our military that the administration has just perpetrated is not a law enforcement action by any stretch of reasonable consideration. It is an act of war and occupation.

Are funds being taken from our nuclear Navy shipbuilding program which is already 2 years behind schedule? Are funds being subtracted from cybersecurity accounts that are so essential to national security and our future? What about military housing, which I mentioned for servicemembers and their families all across this country and world, or how about the healthcare of those who have served in theater?

I can guarantee this: There aren't enough people at the Veterans Administration to answer the phones when our vets call in and ask for appointments because they are being shorted on doctors and nurses. The thousands of people they need to hire that Elon Musk erased from Federal employment, that is un-American.

The American people have an absolute right to know account by account how much this U.S.-Venezuela military oil operation has cost over the last several months. Rebuilding Venezuela is not the top priority for the people of the district I represent in northwestern Ohio.

While we observe billions being spent in Latin America for oil, the Trump administration has just canceled millions of dollars to Ohio manufacturers who were hoping to make their operations more energy efficient to compete with China and other countries around the world who compete so unfairly.

Those projects to manufacturing companies in Ohio have been halted by the administration over the course of the last year and then just again before the holidays. The U.S. Department of Commerce, for example, canceled all Federal assistance for manufacturing extension long relied upon in Ohio and across our country, especially in manufacturing areas that were depleted after the passage of NAFTA to help spur business extensions for small- and medium-sized manufacturers.

When we get the tax refunds from oil that is going to be spent in Venezuela, let's help some of these companies that need to build the future for our communities.

The question must be asked: Why does the administration expend billions for capturing dirty, defunct crude refineries in a foreign country, rather than investing in the future of American companies right here at home?

The American people deserve an answer. This is not a small amount of money. They deserve transparency by the Trump administration.

I lived through the first Arab oil embargo of this country as our people endured the great harm it caused. Our Nation should not be funding recovery of defunct, dirty crude oil companies in foreign nations, rather, investment is needed here not just in our northwestern Ohio district but nationwide to modernize and advance modern energy systems.

Our grid needs modernization across our Nation. Why? The poor condition of the existing grid and the recent doubling of electric bills across our region due to a surge of data centers consumes massive amounts of power. Our grid is old. All over the country we must focus on building new energy systems at the cutting edge of American technology. Dirty Venezuelan crude is not the answer. We can't live in the past.

America needs investment in new, diversified energy platforms, in green hydrogen, in modern nuclear. I know our young people will do this. I just know they are going to grow into this, in natural gas applications and advanced biofuels, more powerful thin film energy arrays, including solar, thermal heat recovery, fusion, advanced batteries. Our region has oil refineries

whose platforms have been made cleaner. They need help in dealing with RINs inside our own Nation. Why not help them?

Nuclear power plants in our region of Ohio are over a half century old. We don't need old nuclear, we need modern, safer nuclear. We need the President's help to modernize Ohio's Nuclear North with a new grid. Our industrial corridor produces heavy truck and car platforms, steel, strategic metals, cryogenic hydrogen, biofuels, renewable fuels, natural gas, advanced solar, and nuclear power. I would like the President to take as much money as he just spent in the Gulf on this Venezuelan operation and modernize the electric grid across the Great Lakes region that I represent. There is enough money in that to cover other areas of the country.

America should be excelling in new grid replacement and creating jobs, but guess what, Mr. Speaker, we are very, very far behind.

The people of my region work in manufacturing. They work in steel. They work in strategic materials. We prefer not to import steel here. We make it. We build cars. We prefer not to import. We build tanks. We can't import our defense industry base. We must build it. That is what we do. Our region operates among the top 10 finest National Guard F–16 Fighter Wings in this whole Nation. Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago our, pilots flew the first biofueled F–16 aircraft out of a major base in our country.

□ 2040

We grow crops for biofuels right where we live, and those fuels went into those planes. We don't import it.

Our military is looking for more renewable fuels. The American people and our military need domestic energy investment in our country, not Venezuela. We need jobs here, not in penny-wage havens.

It is clear that the President deployed the U.S. Navy to the Gulf and the Atlantic to take over Venezuela's oil industry. Both China and Vladimir Putin's close relations with Venezuela have been a regional concern, but we don't need to take over old, broken-down former platforms for oil to block Putin. We just place further financial sanctions on Russia, which could happen in this House Chamber with two more Members signing discharge petition No. 8 at the Clerk's desk in this Chamber. We need only two more signatures to get it across the finish line to put more sanctions on Russia. That would make a big difference.

President John F. Kennedy, a Navy man and the only President ever awarded the Purple Heart, understood exactly what to do when faced with the Cuban Missile Crisis perpetrated by Communist Russia one-half century ago. He blockaded the region.

This country has the strongest defense ever known to humankind. We can protect ourselves if we are smart enough to do it, but we can't do it without investments in this country to make our companies stronger.

The President of the United States should not seek to run foreign countries' oil companies.

What is morally troubling is that the President sought $1 billion in campaign donations from major oil and gas interests. He should reflect on our Nation learning a hard, painful lesson from our decades-long presence in long conflicts that dragged on. Tutoring other governments to make them work is a deep, dangerous, and expensive hole that is being dug by this administration. The American people don't want to go down this path anymore.

Our primary job must be to defend our country against all enemies, foreign and domestic. That means being strong inside our own borders. It means abiding by the rule of law and our Constitution. We had best focus on the future right here in the USA, abide by our country and the rule of law, and strengthen our ties with other proven democracies of the world. That alliance is our insurance in war. America must not be sucked down into unstable situations.

The lingering challenge of our own future energy security here at home is real. The solution demands the brilliance of invention inside our own borders, and we must never tie our future to imports or foreign crude.

The good news is that our citizens and inventors have been busy inventing our new energy future inside our borders right here at home.

Mr. President, if your staff allows you to watch this speech, I personally invite you to join me with members of our American energy team. We will show you the new energy future that is developing right here inside our own Nation. They have you captured down there in Mar-a-Lago. There is a lot bigger country to see.

Our nuclear Navy is the best in the world. Their work matters. They are behind. We need your help. We are on the horizon of advanced nuclear. We need your help.

Our farmers, too, have figured out how to grow a range of biofuels. One-half of their crop now goes into fuel. Come. Meet them. Your tariffs limit their global reach, even as their role in new energy fuels is huge.

Our water and wastewater utilities are beginning to capture vast amounts of geo-power in a way prior generations have never even imagined possible. Building materials inventors are creating more energy-efficient windows, better siding and materials for construction, better roofing, and better batteries. So many power options like green hydrogen await on the horizon.

Why would any wise leader handcuff their nation to imported and dirty foreign crude dependency?

I have devoted a major share of my career to helping America regain its energy independence in perpetuity across all sectors of energy. That keeps it competitive.

Our domestic deposits of oil and natural gas must be used judiciously. We are now the largest exporter of oil in the world. We will not be the last generation, however, to populate this country, and we cannot live in the past. We must live in the future.

In the last century, and even this one, America often headed to war for oil interests. Our soldiers fought unending battles in godforsaken places anchored to dirty crude. We even had to pass legislation here in Congress that began in my district to create the toxic exposure fund, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, to allow treatment for the toxins our vets who fought in the Middle East and Vietnam endured as their health failed. No member of our military should ever die for dirty crude.

Folks, what a pity it would be if the Trump Presidency went down in history as taking American progress backward on energy independence. That hangs in the balance.

Just in my lifetime, here is a summary of U.S. military personnel who died in foreign conflicts where crude oil interests underpinned the surface warfare. I say no more.

World War II, in the 1940s, during World War II, our Uncle Tony was deployed by the Office of Strategic Services, or OSS, to the China-Burma-India theater. He served as an Army parachutist and truck driver—he was so brave—under command of General Vinegar Joe Stilwell. Fighting off Japanese regulars in bitter combat, our uncle was part of an elite unit building the Burma Road. His dangerous mission helped stop the flow of oil to Japan from the surrounding oil-rich East Asian deep-sea crude oil deposits. Again, control of oil was central to warfare. Today, the former Burma Road that he helped build is a major corridor for China's Belt and Road Initiative. Pay attention, folks, to oil.

In the Korean war, 1950 to 1953, we lost 36,000 U.S. troops, 36,000 U.S. war dead. It was the second most deadly war of the Cold War, which was undeclared by a gutless Congress involved in the North Korean People's Army that invaded South Korea in an attack along the 38th parallel, the dividing line between Communist North Korea and the Democratic Republic of South Korea. Again, the war occurred along the Korean Peninsula, which still remains divided but which accesses oil from multiple fields along the eastern rims of both nations. Today, South Korea does not produce oil, but it has the fifth largest refining capacity in the world after the U.S., China, Russia, and India.

In Vietnam, over 58,280 conscripted U.S. troops died near the Chinese border in an undeclared war by another gutless Congress. More than 60,000 more Vietnam veterans died when they returned home by their own hand.

Mr. Speaker, they were and are America's patriots, drafted and sent to that horrible war

by Democratic President Lyndon Johnson from the oil rich State of Texas. Thousands of conscripted U.S. soldiers were unloaded off ships to fight in that undeclared conflict. Many deboarded vessels, as they viewed and reported huge oil derricks operating in the South China Sea ringing the coasts of Vietnam, and adjacent countries. Many came home from that confusing deployment wondering what they had fought for and against. Records indicate oil drilling in the South China waters continues until today. Oil and gas companies in Vietnam made huge profits in 2025.

Kuwait Gulf War—1991—147 U.S. War Dead:

About a decade later came the Gulf War. U.S. troops were deployed to save the Royal Kingdom's dirty crude oil for the monarchy of Kuwait. Republican President George Herbert Walker Bush of Texas was buddies with the Saudi Family and its lobbyists and the Kuwaiti and Saudi royalty. Together they mobilized the U.S. military and other nations to push neighboring Iraqi despot Saddam Hussein back into Kuwait's border. Hussein's objective was to steal from Kuwait's crude oil fields which extended across the adjoining borders of Kuwait and Iraq. The Coalition of the Willing Forces rolled back Saddam's forces inside his own borders. When I landed in Kuwait during the Iraq War that came two decades later, I entered the headquarters complex of the U.S. military command. It was huge. It looked like a massive Mission Control for a U.S. space launch. Video screens, hundreds of employees, and a full color, smiling portrait of former President and oil man George Bush Senior—probably 5 feet by 6 feet plastered on the wall of the secure entryway. So, another U.S. President also from Texas supported another crude, dirty oil kingdom war in the complex Middle East political array of undemocratic states.

2001—Iraq War—U.S. War dead—3,481:

Saudi religious dissidents snuck into the U.S. under the tutelage of Saudi religious zealot Osama bin Laden—they highjacked four airplanes and flew those planes into New York City's tallest buildings—the World Trade Towers—the first foreign attack on U.S. soil in American history. Another plane hit the Pentagon and a fourth headed for Washington, DC crashed near Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

In New York City, the demise of the World Trade Center occurred with the first plane crashing into its North tower above the 80th floor. That impact brought down the Cantor Fitzgerald trading company whose President is Howard Lutnick (who today serves as the U.S. Secretary of Commerce). That firm handled Wall Street's major oil trader called e-bond's from the Middle East through its New York World Trade Center offices by denominating them in dollars. It also ran a London Office. Had the London office not existed on 9–11, it is likely the U.S. financial bond markets would have collapsed that day. Chaos would have reigned across our entire financial markets.

By way of history, Ronald Reagan who had served as President from 1981 through 1989—importantly with oil man George Bush Senior of Texas as his Vice President—had negotiated an agreement during his Presidency with the Saudis to dollar denominate all its oil revenue trades, bringing enormous financial benefit to the U.S. financial markets. Moreover, it is important to follow the footsteps of Richard ''Dick'' Cheney, then Secretary of Defense, and late Vice President during the George Bush II Presidency from 2001 to 2009. When he left his position as U.S. Secretary of Defense for George Bush I, he worked for Haliburton company whose purpose is earning money off drilling, and refining dirty crude oil from everywhere in the world. Oil is not liberty. But its presence has impacted liberty throughout modern history. Osama bin Laden was intelligent. He understood the finances of Middle East oil interests. I believe he knew exactly how Cantor Fitzgerald and U.S. bond markets were directly tied to the Middle East kingdoms' stability, and U.S. markets.

History demonstrates our nation has rewarded tens of thousands of American lives for dirty crude oil interests. We should not be sending our sons and daughters to die in Venezuelan jungles so oil companies can squeeze wealth out of that sovereign nation to pad their profit margins, and fill the pockets and bank accounts of the influential president's billionaire buddies, or presidents and financial interests whose top priority is not the American people, nor liberty.

To remain strong and energy independent in perpetuity, the United States of America must continue its steady progress in building competitive modern energy systems forward here in our homeland. May God bless America.

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

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

N O T I C E

Incomplete record of House proceedings except for concluding business that follows.
The Explanatory Statement regarding H.R. 6938 will be continued in Book II.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, January 9, 2026, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–2603. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Home Mortgage Disclosure (Regulation C) Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold [Billing Code: 4810-AM-P] received January 6, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2604. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold [Billing Code: 4810-AM-P] received January 6, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2605. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age; Missing Participants Mortality Assumption, received January 5, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

EC–2606. A letter from the Supervisory, Program Analyst, Office of Economic and Analytics/Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Auction of Advanced Wireless Services (AWS-3) Licenses Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments, and Other Procedures for Auction 113, Bidding Scheduled to Begin June 2, 2026 [AU Docket No.: 25-117] received January 7, 2026, 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–2607. A letter from the Acting Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Delete, Delete, Delete [ET Docket No.: 25-133] received January 5, 2026, 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–2608. A letter from the Acting Branch Supervisor, Regulatory Management Branch, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Ohio; 2015 Ozone Moderate Reasonably Available Control Technology [EPA-R05-OAR-2022-0352; EPA-R05-OAR-2023-0093; FRL-9995-02-R5] received January 5, 2026, 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–2609. A letter from the Acting Branch Supervisor, Regulatory Management Branch, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Extension of the State Implementation Plan Due Date for the Regional Haze Third Implementation Period [EPA-HQ-OAR-2023-0262; FRL-12160-02-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AW41) received January 5, 2026, 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–2610. A letter from the Acting Branch Supervisor, Regulatory Management Branch, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Michigan and Minnesota; Revision to Taconite Federal Implementation Plan [EPA-R05-OAR-2024-0215; FRL-12351-02-R5] received January 5, 2026, 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–2611. A letter from the Acting Branch Supervisor, Regulatory Management Branch, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Revision; California; Placer County Air Pollution Control District; New Source Review [EPA-R09-OAR-2024-0620; FRL-12530-03-R9] received January 5, 2026, 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–2612. A letter from the Acting Branch Supervisor, Regulatory Management Branch, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2025-0300; FRL-12832-02-R9] received January 5, 2026, 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–2613. A letter from the Acting Branch Supervisor, Regulatory Management Branch, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Utah; Northern Wasatch Front; 2015 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Boundary Expansion and Applicability of Certain Clean Air Act Requirements [EPA-R08-OAR-2025-0001; FRL-12971-02-R8] received January 5, 2026, 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–2614. A letter from the Acting Branch Supervisor, Regulatory Management Branch, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS; Michigan State Board Requirements; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule [EPA-R05-OAR-2019-0215; FRL-13010-03-R5] received January 5, 2026, 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–2615. A letter from the Supervisory, Program Analyst, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Wireless Emergency Alerts [PS Docket No.: 15-91] Amendments to Part 11 of the Commission's Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System [PS Docket No.: 15-94] received January 5, 2026, 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–2616. A letter from the Supervisory, Program Analyst, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Numbering Policies for Modern Communications [WC Docket No.: 13-97] Telephone Number Requirements for IP-Enabled Service Providers [WC Docket No.: 07-243] Implementation of TRACED Act Section 6(a) —— Knowledge of Customers by Entities with Access to Numbering Resources [WC Docket No.: 20-67] received January 5, 2026, 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–2617. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Exemption for Defense Trade and Cooperation Among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States [Public Notice: 12799] (RIN: 1400-AF84) received January 5, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 178. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out activities to suppress wildfires, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 119–429, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 179. A bill to direct the Secretary concerned to coordinate with impacted parties when conducting a forest management activity, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 119–430, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2250. A bill to reauthorize the National Landslide Preparedness Act, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 119–431, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 435. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide direct hire authority to appoint individuals to Federal wildland firefighting and firefighting support positions in the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes (Rept. 119–432, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1110. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to develop and implement a strategy to increase opportunities to utilize livestock grazing as a means of wildfire risk reduction, with amendments (Rept. 119–433, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2405. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out activities to provide for white oak restoration, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 119–434, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 839. A bill to prohibit the implementation of a Land Protection Plan for Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge, with an amendment (Rept. 119–435). 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. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 6974. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security to permit additional accrediting organizations to approve specialized MA plans for special needs individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. WIED, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6975. A bill to subject aliens convicted of fraud to deportation and to bestow concurrent jurisdiction to revoke the citizenship of any naturalized United States citizen convicted of fraud on any court that enters such a conviction; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CISNEROS (for himself, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. GRAVES):

H.R. 6976. A bill to amend laws relating to duty performed by members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Oversight and Government Reform, Agriculture, Small Business, Financial Services, the Judiciary, Education and Workforce, Veterans' Affairs, Ways and Means, Homeland Security, 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 Ms. DEXTER (for herself and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 6977. A bill to provide for the periodic issuance of up-to-date clinical guidance on addressing the health effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FINSTAD:

H.R. 6978. A bill to direct the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to conduct a review of certain approved immigration benefit requests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 6979. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for youth sports, to establish a grant program for recreational youth sports, and for other purposes; 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 Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI (for himself and Mr. CASTRO of Texas):

H.R. 6980. A bill to prohibit the availability of Federal funds for certain United States assertions with respect to Venezuela, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 6981. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to further develop and support the adoption of a voluntary streamlined permitting and inspection process for authorities having jurisdiction over the permitting of qualifying distributed energy systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MACE (for herself and Mr. FINE):

H.R. 6982. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for reporting requirements for certain grantees for grants to combat violence against women; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CASAR):

H.R. 6983. A bill to require data centers to generate electricity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CASAR):

H.R. 6984. A bill to require reports on the effects of data centers on air quality and water quality, and on electricity consumption by data centers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio (for himself and Mr. HORSFORD):

H.R. 6985. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the rules for wagering losses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself, Ms. CHU, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. POCAN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 6986. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to exclude from income, for the purpose of determining eligibility and benefits, increased income received from cost of living adjustments made under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act, section 3(a)(1) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231b(a)(1)), or section 5312 of title 38 of the United States Code, and income received from supplementary payments received under section 1616 of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. ROY, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. HUNT, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, and Mr. GILL of Texas):

H.R. 6987. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify the definition of ''public charge'' and ''likely at any time to become a public charge,'' to establish requirements for affidavits of support and public charge bonds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 6988. A bill to require a strategy for the expanded use of Trade Transparency Units; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. STANSBURY (for herself and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin):

H.R. 6989. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out activities to establish, expand, and sustain a public health nursing workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. SCHOLTEN, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H.R. 6990. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue a final rule adding as a class all perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom to the list of hazardous air pollutants under section 112(b) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412(b)), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE:

H.R. 6991. A bill to impose additional duties on goods imported into the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.J. Res. 138. A joint resolution expressing support for the designation of the second Saturday of January as ''National Desert Day''; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. LIEU, Mr. AMO, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BELL, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CROW, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. DEXTER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ELFRETH, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. FIGURES, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. GILLEN, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIMES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HOYER, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MCDONALD RIVET, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MENG, Mr. MIN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POCAN, Ms. POU, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. RIVAS, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRAN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. WALKINSHAW, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WHITESIDES, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RYAN, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GRAY, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. LATIMER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MFUME, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. RILEY of New York, Mr. LICCARDO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. CLYBURN):

H. Con. Res. 69. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 15th Anniversary of the January 8, 2011, Tucson, Arizona, shooting and honoring the survivors, victims, and former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, a gun violence survivor, and one of the Nation's most influential voices of courage in the fight to end gun violence; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MORELLE:

H. Res. 982. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6039) to advance commonsense priorities; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself and Mr. LIEU):

H. Res. 983. A resolution recognizing the 30th anniversary of the first flight of the F/A-18 E1 Super Hornet from Lambert Field in St. Louis, Missouri, and the 30 years of service of the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet to the United States Navy and to allies of the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolutions.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 6974.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 , Section 8

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 6975.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. CISNEROS:

H.R. 6976.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. DEXTER:

H.R. 6977.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. FINSTAD:

H.R. 6978.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 6979.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:

H.R. 6980.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 6981.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Congress with the power to ''lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises'' in order to ''provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States.''

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 6982.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

H.R. 6983.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 , Clause 8

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

H.R. 6984.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Clause 8

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio:
H.R. 6985.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation persuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.
By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin:
H.R. 6986.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. NEHLS:
H.R. 6987.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.
By Mr. PFLUGER:
H.R. 6988.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
By Ms. STANSBURY:
H.R. 6989.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Ms. STEVENS:
H.R. 6990.
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. VAN DUYNE:
H.R. 6991.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Art. 1 Sec. 8
By Mr. RUIZ:
H.J. Res. 138.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 18: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 262: Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 491: Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 500: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 507: Ms. MALOY.
H.R. 722: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 743: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 759: Mr. KEAN.
H.R. 923: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 926: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 1065: Mr. WALKINSHAW.
H.R. 1076: Mr. FIGURES.
H.R. 1254: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 1330: Mr. DOGGETT and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 1421: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 1465: Mr. MESSMER.
H.R. 1494: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 1551: Ms. FEDORCHAK.
H.R. 1564: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
H.R. 1616: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 1659: Mr. BRESNAHAN.
H.R. 1661: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 1988: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 1992: Mr. KEAN.
H.R. 2120: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 2231: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 2368: Ms. SIMON, Mr. MANNION, and Ms. MORRISON.
H.R. 2477: Mr. FEENSTRA.
H.R. 2487: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 2668: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 2680: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 2711: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 2741: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 2818: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 2837: Mr. BELL.
H.R. 2853: Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 2859: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 2948: Ms. SIMON and Ms. PLASKETT.
H.R. 3115: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3220: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 3277: Ms. STEVENS and Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 3436: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3497: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3532: Ms. RANDALL.
H.R. 3543: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 3562: Ms. TENNEY and Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 3569: Ms. MATSUI and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
H.R. 3656: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 3694: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 3723: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 3757: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 3810: Mr. GOODEN.
H.R. 3821: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 3988: Mr. MIN.
H.R. 4206: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 4299: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4304: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 4307: Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 4317: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 4456: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 4487: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 4516: Mr. BELL.
H.R. 4606: Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 4662: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 4669: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 4710: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4755: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4979: Mr. MANNION.
H.R. 4980: Mr. MANNION.
H.R. 4981: Mr. MANNION.
H.R. 5031: Mr. FEENSTRA and Mr. MCGUIRE.
H.R. 5122: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 5162: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 5221: Mr. KEAN.
H.R. 5282: Mr. MANNION, Mr. LAWLER, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 5366: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 5412: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 5434: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Ms. RIVAS.
H.R. 5438: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. BARR, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, and Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 5461: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 5490: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
H.R. 5514: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 5575: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 5653: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ELFRETH, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. LIEU, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CASTEN, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5867: Mr. CARSON and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 5945: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 5960: Mr. CASE and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 5967: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 5973: Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 6053: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 6123: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6164: Mr. TRAN, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. BERA.
H.R. 6179: Mr. OLSZEWSKI.
H.R. 6255: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 6275: Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 6349: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 6356: Mr. MFUME and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 6359: Mr. MCGUIRE.
H.R. 6385: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 6391: Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. CASE, and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H.R. 6426: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 6440: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 6448: Mr. BACON and Mr. BEGICH.
H.R. 6454: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 6520: Mr. ALFORD.
H.R. 6528: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 6529: Mrs. HAYES and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 6532: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 6574: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 6582: Mr. MCGUIRE.
H.R. 6601: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6621: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 6624: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 6660: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 6722: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 6731: Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. NORCROSS, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 6766: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 6769: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 6789: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 6810: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 6839: Mr. BISHOP and Ms. RANDALL.
H.R. 6840: Mr. LATIMER.
H.R. 6857: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 6875: Mr. DAVIDSON and Mr. KEAN.
H.R. 6876: Mr. ROSE.
H.R. 6881: Mr. BABIN and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 6887: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 6890: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 6900: Mr. COSTA, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 6972: Mr. MCGUIRE.
H. Con. Res. 68: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. RYAN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. CROW, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HIMES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. OMAR, Ms. ANSARI, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MIN, Ms. BALINT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. JACOBS, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. AMO, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. BELL, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. SIMON, Ms. DEXTER, Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. IVEY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CORREA, Mr. WALKINSHAW, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. RANDALL, and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H. Res. 116: Ms. TOKUDA.
H. Res. 168: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SOTO, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H. Res. 578: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H. Res. 929: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H. Res. 934: Mr. MAST and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H. Res. 956: Mr. MOSKOWITZ and Mr. BELL.
H. Res. 967: Mr. SELF.
H. Res. 973: Mr. PALLONE.

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. 6646: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *119th* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 172 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026 *No. 5*

Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, January 7, 2026)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of recess, 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.

Eternal Father, You are the source and strength of our lives. Great is Your faithfulness. We thank You today for our lawmakers who embraced the calling to serve You by serving our Nation and world. Bless them with divine insights as they grapple with complexities that require difficult choices. May they make it their ultimate goal to serve You by striving to do what is best for the building of Your Kingdom in a chaotic world. Lord, guide us all, for we are pilgrims in this land. We are weak, but You are mighty. Guide us with Your powerful hands.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, tomorrow, January 9, is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. For 365 days a year, but especially tomorrow, we offer our gratitude to our country's men and women. When you meet one of them, you should say: Thank you for your work. Thank you for keeping the peace.

With President Trump's support, law enforcement nationwide is making America safer. This year, violent crime is down 12 percent and murders across our major cities are down 20 percent. Record amounts of dangerous drugs like fentanyl, meth, cocaine, and heroin have been seized and, thankfully, are off our streets due to the hard work of law enforcement's very courageous work. I am proud to back the blue. I am also grateful for their work to maintain the peace.

As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee this year, I have continued my work to support law enforcement in Iowa but also nationwide. In that role, I worked with Senate Republicans and the White House as part of the Working Families Tax Cut law signed by the President on July 4, securing historic support for the Byrne JAG and COPS Programs for local police as well as efforts to combat drug trafficking.

Additionally, four bipartisan bills the Judiciary Committee passed during Police Week in May became law with the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act. These new laws will expand access to Federal support for law enforcement and their families and help State and local law enforcement combat online child exploitation.

The National Defense Authorization Act also expanded counterdrone authorities for State and local law enforcement agencies using language that was based on legislation that I worked on in a bipartisan way with the senior Senator from Michigan.

We should all look forward, but I want you to know that I look forward to working further with my colleagues this year to support police in a bipartisan way. We are very fortunate that this type of legislation is mostly bipartisan in the Congress.

To all those who have selflessly answered the call to keep our communities safe, I say thank you. May God bless you and may God protect you as you go about your work of protecting the American people.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, at the start of this week, I said that the Senate would be focusing on government funding this month. We have a January 30 deadline to get the job done and avoid another government shutdown. We have already passed one package of three appropriations bills that was signed into law in November. Now we need to finish our work.

Later today, the House is expected to consider another package of three bills: Commerce, Justice, and Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environmental appropriations.

These three bills were crafted with bipartisan input from both the House and the Senate. The Trump administration supports this package. I expect we will see robust bipartisan support for these bills in today's House vote.

This three-bill package advances some important priorities. It funds programs that support law enforcement,

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promotes public safety in communities across America, invests in critical infrastructure projects, and it supports efforts to unleash American energy to provide affordable energy supply to the American people.

There is one more thing about this package that is significant. It spends less money than a continuing resolution. That is right. This bill spends less taxpayer money than if we passed another CR or continuing resolution to fund these Agencies. That is not an accident. That is what we can accomplish when we make appropriations a priority, when we put in the work, make tough choices, and put it up for a vote.

Appropriations is one of our core responsibilities, but it hasn't always been treated like the priority that it is. In too many cases in the past, massive omnibus bills were being written behind closed doors. That is not how I want to do things. When I became majority leader, I made it clear that I wanted appropriations to get the attention that it deserves, and we made some solid progress on this front in this Congress. We considered appropriations bills through regular order and passed three Senate appropriations bills before the August work period, something that hadn't been done going back to 2018.

We should be considering bills through regular order, a process that allows all Senators an opportunity to make their voice and the voices of their constituents heard. It is not just a better process; it creates a better product too.

When we receive this next package from the House, there is no reason that we can't take it up and pass it quickly here in the Senate. As I said, this bill was written with input from both parties in both the House and the Senate. It has the backing of the Trump administration. It advances a number of important priorities, and it actually spends less than if we just expended Biden-era spending levels for these same Agencies.

Once we finish this package, we have more work to do. Appropriators are working to finish the remaining bills for fiscal year 2026. One of those is the Defense appropriations bill—which is an especially important priority—to ensure that our military has the funding and certainty it needs to maintain and modernize its capability, support Americans serving in uniform, and protect our national security.

We don't have time to waste. It will require cooperation to ensure we can keep making progress as the end of the month approaches. I want to be clear that January 30 means January 30. We can't afford another extension. As soon as we finish, work will begin on the next appropriations cycle, starting with the President's budget request for fiscal year 2027.

We have done a lot of good work on appropriations this past year. I want to thank our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, especially Chair COLLINS, for their hard work throughout the year. This work isn't easy, but it is important, and it is a responsibility we need to take seriously. I know they all do. Let's get fiscal year 2026 funding done and keep up the progress as we begin the process for fiscal year 2027.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VENEZUELA

Mr. REED. Mr. President, for 4 months, my Democratic colleagues and I have come to the floor to warn against President Trump's military operations in South and Central America. We pointed out that his boat-strike campaign was strategically incoherent, legally questionable, and, ultimately, not about narcotrafficking at all. We have argued that the administration's shifting legal justifications, refusal to give Congress straight answers, and, in particular, the failure of the Department of Defense to provide information to Congress, which is required by law—all of these things—together with a massive military buildup, pointed toward something larger than narcotrafficking. Indeed, we warned that these actions were always directed at the government and economy of Venezuela.

That campaign has now culminated in a military raid on Caracas, the capture of Nicolas Maduro and his wife, and President Trump's extraordinary declaration that the United States will ''run'' Venezuela and seize control of its oil reserves.

Let me be very clear about something, at the outset: Nicolas Maduro is a brutal dictator who has destroyed Venezuela's economy, crushed democratic opposition, and fostered widespread corruption. He will not be missed. But this operation was not designed to restore peace in Venezuela or protect America from the ravages of drugs. Indeed, this operation is not about democracy. It is not about the suffering of the Venezuelan people. It is not even about narcotrafficking, despite the administration's killing more than 100 people in its strikes on alleged drug boats. In the President's own words, this campaign is simply about seizing Venezuela's oil and profiting from it.

The people of Venezuela have suffered extraordinary hardship under the Maduro regime. They have voted in multiple elections for new leadership and have been denied their choice through fraud and repression. After everything they have endured, the people of Venezuela deserve to choose what happens next in their country. They do not deserve to have their future dictated by President Trump, Secretary Rubio, or anyone else in Washington.

Yet that is precisely what this administration plans to do. The plan presented by the White House is to simply force the remnants of the Maduro regime to grant the United States exclusive access to Venezuelan oil or face the consequences of a blockade. That is it. That is the plan.

Not in the plan: positive change for the people of Venezuela. There is no framework for elections or democratic transition, no serious assessment of the rival political factions inside Venezuela—factions that have been waiting for precisely this moment to seize power.

I have seen no contingency plan for what happens when China, Russia, Iran, or Cuba—nations with deep economic interests in Venezuela—decide to block or back proxy groups in a country we have just destabilized, nor have I heard any proposal for the next steps for countering narcotrafficking.

The administration's goals are aspirational at best, and aspirations are not enough when the stakes involve war and the future of millions of people.

One of the first lessons I learned as an Army officer is that hope is not a plan. Over my career, both in uniform and in the Congress, I have seen the United States hope that its military interventions abroad would succeed. I have seen regime changes, nation-building efforts, and elaborate reconstruction schemes launched with confident predictions of success, only to have them collapse when encountered with the reality on the ground.

And the reality is this: When we rely on the U.S. military as our primary tool of foreign engagement, we generally set ourselves up for failure. We have persistently misunderstood and misjudged the cultures, histories, and politics of the nations in which we have intervened because we assume military might is enough. We imagine outcomes that align with our military and economic objectives but are surprised when those outcomes fail. We consistently fail to plan for the ''day after.''

Unless the Trump administration gets serious, Venezuela will be no exception.

This isn't about our military capabilities. We have the most formidable fighting force the world has ever seen, and I am proud and, frankly, not surprised that all elements of our military worked together to successfully execute such a dangerous and difficult mission in Caracas. The skill, professionalism, and courage are beyond question of these men and women.

But military capability is not the same as strategic wisdom. The ability to achieve tactical objectives does not guarantee beneficial long-term outcomes, and executing a successful raid does not constitute a plan for governing a nation of 28 million people.

Congress exists to provide oversight and scrutiny of the executive branch, not to cheer from the sidelines. I commend our servicemen for their performance last weekend, but I am deeply concerned about the Trump administration's lack of serious planning for the next phase. That is why this War Powers Resolution is necessary.

The Constitution vests the power to authorize war in Congress, not the President. President Trump has claimed this was just a law enforcement mission. That is absurd. No matter how he describes it, the President waged war on a foreign nation without authorization, without notification to Congress, and without any explanation to the American people about what this operation will cost or what success will look like. This is a profound constitutional failure, and it must be corrected.

I hope I am wrong about these dangers ahead. I hope this administration is right, and the transition in Venezuela proceeds smoothly. I hope that the Venezuelan people embrace this outcome and see their lives improve quickly. I hope the violent factions in Venezuela choose peace over conflict. I hope the economic recovery for the people of Venezuela justifies this enormous gamble. But as I said before, hope is not enough, and history suggests we should prepare for a far more difficult reality.

The question before us is whether Congress will fulfill its constitutional duty or whether we will abdicate our responsibility and allow this President to commit American military resources, credibility, and, potentially, American lives to an open-ended entanglement without authorization or accountability.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

VENEZUELA

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, for months, the Trump administration claimed that its campaign of blowing up boats in the Caribbean was about stopping drugs like deadly fentanyl coming to the United States—never mind that fentanyl doesn't really come from Venezuela; it comes from precursors made in China and is predominantly smuggled in through Mexico; never mind that there are well-established, well-practiced operations for interdicting the drugs and apprehending alleged drug traffickers, not killing them; never mind that we don't even have clarity on what was on these boats or who was on these boats and where they were headed. No. Even as the U.S. military amassed unprecedented military firepower off the coast of Caracas that included multiple warships, thousands of troops, and the largest aircraft carrier ever put to sea, the administration still claimed this was about drug boats.

You heard the administration say that time and time again to the public and to Congress until last weekend when the objective became clear: This was about Venezuela's oil, and if we could have that, we would leave the drug-running regime in place, albeit with its No. 2 corrupt leader instead of its No. 1, Nicolas Maduro.

The rightful leadership of Venezuela, Maria Corina Machado and her election surrogate Edmundo Gonzalez—the ones who won the last election there—would have no place, no role in the new government because this was no more about democracy than it was about drugs. It was about oil.

Just yesterday, the Secretary of Energy said that the United States intended to maintain significant control over Venezuela's oil industry, including by overseeing the sale of the country's production indefinitely—indefinitely—and Donald Trump has promised to use the revenue from these oil sales to create a fund that he would control. He is literally meeting with oil executives on Friday to try to divide up the spoils of this military campaign.

Now, some of my colleagues may believe that using the U.S. military to depose Nicolas Maduro and seize Venezuela's oil is well worth the risk to our troops and the danger of our becoming mired down in that country. I disagree, but if that were the case, let them seek an authorization from Congress to do so.

We have so many urgent problems that need addressing here at home with life being barely affordable for millions of Americans and the cost of living rising—with people struggling to cover the rent, with families barely able to afford the cost of groceries, to say nothing of the skyrocketing healthcare costs. But now, instead of putting Americans first, we are stepping into a foreign nation and promising to run it for the foreseeable future. An administration that had promised to end foreign wars has begun a new one. A President who had decried the use of force for regime change or to engage in nation building has just committed our country to both.

No doubt Russia and China see opportunity in this American about-face, with Russia to indict Ukrainian leaders and to seize them and with China to do the same in Taiwan. We are not only at risk of reestablishing the idea that might makes right and military conquest is acceptable in your sphere of influence, but there is the very real prospect of destabilizing a world order post-World War II that has made us safer and more prosperous.

Now, when it comes to Congress's role in checking this President, in asserting its war powers given to us by our Founders and the Framers of our Constitution, if we do not assert this power, we will lose it and not just to constrain this President but any President and for all time. The American people have said clearly and repeatedly they do not want us dragged into new foreign wars, especially wars of our own making, and we have the power to make good on that instruction. We are a coequal branch of government and the only branch endowed with the power of the purse and the power to declare war or to refuse to do so.

But if we do not assert these powers, if we don't stand up not just for our branch of government but for the American people, there is no telling and no stopping what comes next because the administration has made it clear that Venezuela is the opening salvo. Will it be Cuba next or Colombia or Mexico or Greenland, for crying out loud?

This is the moment when we need to stand up and exercise our powers as part of the government that is closest to the people to make it clear that no President can commit our military forces absent an attack on our country or imminent threat of an invasion without the approval of Congress and certainly not to help industry chase new profits or revenue in oil or minerals around the globe. We have a duty to our constituents, to our Constitution, and to posterity. Let us uphold it. Vote yes on the resolution.

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. RISCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VENEZUELA

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, fellow Senators, we are about to vote on a War Powers Resolution, which is becoming common around here—and way too common, as a matter a fact.

But I think the first thing we ought to talk about is what we are actually doing here, from a 30,000-foot standpoint, as far as what the resolution actually says. As usual, there is a lot of setup in here, but there are 2½ lines that say what we are trying to do here—not we, but what the other side is trying to do here.

It says:

> Congress hereby directs the President to terminate the use of the United States Armed Forces for hostilities within or against Venezuela.

Let me say that again: We are directing ''the President to terminate the use of . . . Armed Forces for hostilities within or against Venezuela.''

There isn't anybody that has any information that the President is using Armed Forces against Venezuela. He did for about 47 minutes this last weekend, but he is not in the process of doing this. And the resolution says that he should stop it. He is not doing it.

Now, if the resolution were drawn to say, ''Mr. President, you can't do this

anymore,'' that would actually have some effect or attempt to have some effect. It would be unconstitutional, unenforceable. But to tell him not to do something or to stop doing something he is not doing is nonsense.

The effect of this is to slap the President of the United States in the face. That is the only effect that this vote can have. It can have no practical effect because it is trying to stop something that isn't going on.

So we are again here considering this War Powers Resolution to remove the troops from a foreign country where they do not exist. The War Powers Act was created as a way to address the continuing deployment of U.S. forces into hostilities—or in hostilities.

There is no continuing deployment of U.S. troop forces in hostilities. The War Powers Act was never designed to remove the President's article II right to defend the United States, its interests, or its citizens; nor, indeed, could the War Powers Act do that because the Constitution absolutely directs the President of the United States to use the military might of the United States to protect it.

Indeed, the constitutional power was given to the President. We cannot change that. It is the power that he has. This vote and similar votes before it are an abuse of the War Powers Act. There are no U.S. military forces in Venezuela.

The United States conducted a limited operation to remove an indicted narcoterrorist, Nicolas Maduro, from Venezuela and brought him to the United States to face justice for his crimes.

Now, was this a good thing to do? Well, of course, it was a good thing to do. Indeed, Democrats themselves have said that it was a good thing to do.

I want to read from three different Democrats who told us that this was a good thing to do. I am not going to name them. They can step up and take credit if they want to. These are three different Democrats.

The first one said:

Obviously, we know Maduro and his cronies do not want to go quietly into the night, but the United States needs to work with its partners and allies in the region to ratchet up pressure.

This was a Senator on August 2, 2024.

The same Senator says, after Maduro was removed:

It is an illegal act of war to replace Maduro.

Another Senator said—and this was back in 2019:

If Trump cared about consistency, he would make the realist case for intervention in Venezuela (getting rid of Maduro is good for the United States).

This Senator called for intervention in Venezuela. Do you know what he says now, after the invasion?

The invasion of Venezuela has nothing to do with American security. Venezuela is not a security threat to the U.S.

That is what he says today.

Now, one of my favorites, this Senator said—and this was on February 5, 2020:

And the President brags about his Venezuela policy. Give us a break. He hasn't brought an end to the Maduro regime. The Maduro regime is more powerful today and more entrenched today than it was when the President began.

Well, the President changed that. He removed Maduro. Do you know what that same Senator says today?

This is reckless. And the American people are just, this morning, in fear of what's going to happen here.

That was January 4, 2026.

This is the height of hypocrisy. The purpose of this resolution is to slap the President in the face. It will do nothing that it purports to do because it can't stop something that isn't going on right now.

In addition, the President's actions in Venezuela are consistent with other Presidents' efforts to protect the American people from threats in our own backyard.

President George H. W. Bush authorized limited military operations to arrest Panama's Manuel Noriega and bring him to the United States to stand trial for drug-related charges, just as President Trump has done with Maduro. In that case, President Bush deployed more than 9,000 troops, and they fought for 2 weeks on the ground in Panama before they got their hands on Noriega. At that time, both Republican and Democrat leaders of the Senate praised this move.

Compare that to what happened here. There were only about 200 troops involved, and they were engaged for 47 minutes. And yet, all of a sudden, this is a horrendous problem.

When you are in the business of flying drugs into the United States—drugs that kill our children and hurt our country and destabilize our hemisphere—in violation of U.S. law, and when you invite Russia, China, and Iran to set up shop right in our backyard and do the things that they are doing, there is going to be a price to pay. Maduro is paying that price today.

But unlike the former President, President Trump demonstrated he is a man of action. He was decisive and did what he promised the American people he would do, and that is to keep them safe.

Now, Democrats are reversing their position on Maduro's removal to criticize the President.

The President's decision was the right call. Let's acknowledge that fact. Let's celebrate that fact. Let's resolve that the President of the United States is to be commended for what he did.

My fellow Senators, vote no on this resolution. This is nothing more than a slap in the face to the President of the United States. It cannot accomplish something that does not exist.

I yield the floor.

VENEZUELA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to make just a few brief observations ahead of the vote on Senator KAINE's War Powers Resolution.

The War Powers Act is not the law I would have written, and there are reasonable questions about its constitutionality. But it has been the law now for over 50 years. And it is important to remember what it was designed to prevent—and, even more importantly, what it wasn't.

Back in 1973, the goal was preventing another Vietnam. The idea was to impose guardrails against the large-scale, indefinite commitment of U.S. troops abroad. And in shutting that door, the law very intentionally reaffirmed our Founders' decision to leave another door open.

The law grants presidents clear authority for the limited use of military force. And of the many occasions over the years when colleagues on both sides of the aisle have invoked the War Powers Act to condemn such limited use of military force—by Presidents of both parties—I can't recall a single one in which Congress managed to change the facts and artificially constrain the Commander in Chief's authority.

This time is no different. The President was well within this authority in his decision to bring Nicolas Maduro to justice. How do we know? A number of ways:

First, plain statute: Notification of Congress within 48? Check. Withdrawal within 60 days? Try 60 minutes.

What is more, recent history provides clear precedent from Presidents of both parties. What authority did this operation exceed that President Obama or President Reagan did not exceed in operations in Libya? Or President Clinton in Kosovo? What makes this time different than President Biden's strikes in Syria or Yemen? Certainly, there is little daylight between the legality of this operation and the one President H.W. Bush undertook to apprehend Manuel Noriega in Panama.

You don't have to agree with a President's approach to national security policy to acknowledge his compliance with the law and his constitutional authority for the use of force, which makes the invocation of the War Powers Act such a tired and blunt instrument. For my part, I have consistently opposed resolutions like these aimed at constraining Presidents' constitutional authority. And I have done it on behalf of Presidents of both parties.

I am old enough to remember when, during President Obama's feckless dealings with Iran, no less than the future Democratic leader insisted that, ''We should never take the military option off the table''.

But every one of our colleagues remembers last summer when the frequent fliers of the War Powers Resolution reached yet again for their favorite tool after the President's decision to degrade Iran's nuclear program without putting a single American boot on the ground.

Of course, there are serious questions at hand to which the Senate and the American people should expect serious answers from the Commander in Chief.

The President's authorities to conduct military operations may be wide and well-established, but they incur a responsibility to situate decisive actions in broader, longer-term strategy.

Maduro is an authoritarian thug. He reduced a once-prosperous neighbor of America to an impoverished vassal of Cuba, Russia, Iran, and China. He profited from the flow of lethal drugs to America. He spat in the face of Venezuelan voters. And, until very recently, he slept in peace while they starved.

A Western Hemisphere without him or his ilk in power serves America's interests. But clearly, Venezuela and the hemisphere have a ways to go.

To the extent that our colleagues are concerned about the mechanisms and timeline of a transition to democratically elected Venezuelan leaders, I share their curiosity. If they want to know more about the President's longer-term strategy to stabilize Venezuela and the Western Hemisphere, so do I.

Suffice it to say that whatever the objective, whatever the strategy, America is well-served when its Presidents secure enduring bipartisan support for their foreign policies. President Obama ignored Congress in pursuing a reckless and bad nuclear deal with Iran. Unsurprisingly, that deal did not endure.

Successfully returning Venezuela to its role of stable, prosperous, democratic neighbor is a noble goal, but an ambitious one. It doesn't come without risk. And it is worth making the clear case to the country.

I appreciate the administration's willingness to brief Senators on the sensitive details of a tactical victory. But they owe it to the American people—and, frankly, the long-suffering people of Venezuela—to lay out the path to strategic success in much greater detail.

If the aim is to reestablish American primacy in its near abroad, great. If the idea is to evict enemies who hate America from a valuable foothold in our region, onward.

A stable Venezuela, led by duly elected Venezuelans, will leave Americans safer and more secure. The administration should explain how that end goal will be achieved.

In the meantime, I will oppose the Kaine resolution and would urge my colleagues to do the same.

VENEZUELA

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the War Powers Resolution before the Senate regarding recent U.S. actions related to Venezuela. This is a serious and consequential matter that goes to the heart of Congress' constitutional responsibility to authorize sustained military engagements, define the limits of executive authority, and protect the long-term interests of both the United States and the Venezuelan people.

Nicolas Maduro is a narcoterrorist and international drug trafficker whose actions led to the addiction and deaths of many Americans. He was an illegitimate dictator who held power through stolen elections and horrific violence against the people of Venezuela. The Biden administration imposed a $25 million bounty for his arrest and extradition to the United States. He was indicted twice in Federal court and should stand trial in the United States.

With Maduro rightfully captured, the circumstances have now changed. While I support the operation to seize Nicolas Maduro, which was extraordinary in its precision and complexity, I do not support committing additional U.S. forces or entering into any long-term military involvement in Venezuela or Greenland without specific congressional authorization.

The resolution I have supported today does not include any language related to the removal operation. Rather, it reaffirms Congress' ability to authorize or limit any future sustained military activity in Venezuela, while preserving the President's inherent article II authority to defend the United States from an armed attack or imminent threat. I believe invoking the War Powers Act at this moment is necessary, given the President's comments about the possibility of ''boots on the ground'' and a sustained engagement ''running'' Venezuela, with which I do not agree.

What happens now matters greatly, both in terms of accountability for Maduro and the future of the Venezuelan people. The long-term success of this operation will depend on Venezuelans having the opportunity to run Venezuela, with the support of international and private sector partners.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

VENEZUELA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I want to thank Senator KAINE for his great leadership on this issue, Senator SCHIFF, and Senator PAUL for working with me on this resolution.

If there was ever a moment for the Senate to find its voice, it is now. The Senate must act to stop Donald Trump's folly.

Today, the Senate must assert the authority given to it in the Constitution on matters of war and peace. We must send Donald Trump a clear message on behalf of the American people: No more endless wars.

If any of my colleagues—if any of the American people—doubted what Trump was up to, here is what he said last night to the New York Times.

They asked him: How long are we going to stay in Venezuela—a month, 6 months, a year?

Donald Trump said:

I would say much longer.

Donald Trump is ready for an endless war in Venezuela and Lord knows where else. The American people are not. The American people want us to focus on the No. 1 issue they face: rising costs. They can't afford the things they need—the affordability crisis.

And, instead, Donald Trump and too many of our Republican colleagues are saying: Let us spend our treasure and maybe even American lives on Venezuela and other areas far afield.

How can the American people watch this and not just groan and grimace and ache and fear? When America has tried to do this kind of nation building, these kinds of regime replacements in the past, it has led to the American people paying the price in treasure and in blood.

So now we have the opportunity to stop. We are very close. We urge our Republican colleagues to join us. Tell the American people you want to focus on what they care about: the cost of groceries, the cost of healthcare, the cost of electricity and other goods.

The contrast between what is happening in the House and Senate today is glaring. In the House, there will be, from what I am told, a good number of Republicans who will join in saying: Extend the tax credits for 3 years.

Leader THUNE has even refused to put that on the floor.

But what is happening here? The ability, the strength, the constitutional authority of the Congress to say: No. No endless wars. No sending all our money down to Venezuela and Lord knows what other countries.

Again, just look at this, my Republican colleagues. Here is what Trump said on oversight of Venezuela.

They asked him:

A year? Longer?

He says:

I would say much longer.

How many of you want to see us bogged down in Venezuela for a whole bunch of years? If you don't want to see that, if you want to see us focused on the costs the American people are facing and reduce them, vote with us.

Vote yes on this very important resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

VENEZUELA

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I have spoken before; so I am going to be very brief. And then I am going to call up the business of the Senate, this War Powers Resolution.

Two points. In the aftermath of the briefing yesterday, I have had good conversations with colleagues, and many of them have asked me about the distinction between the execution of a valid arrest warrant and a larger military operation.

I want to state very clearly that I do not challenge, nor does this resolution

challenge, the execution of a valid arrest warrant against Nicolas Maduro. That valid arrest warrant bringing him to justice in the United States will be good for America and good for Venezuela. We do not challenge that.

In fact, under the War Powers Resolution, I am not even sure that the execution of an arrest warrant, even if accompanied by a military escort, would rise to the level of hostilities that would allow such a challenge, and I certainly wouldn't be calling it up for a vote on the floor.

But this is obviously bigger than the initiation of an arrest warrant.

From the beginning, on September 2, the striking of Venezuelan boats in open waters, the amassing of naval assets around Venezuela, the President's authorization of covert activities, the seizure of ships, the coordinated attack of 150 aircraft that not only extracted President Maduro and his wife but also bombed sites around the country—this is bigger than an arrest warrant.

More than 200 enemies have been killed. U.S. troops have been injured. Two are still hospitalized. And now we understand, after the hearing yesterday and what has been made public, that this will go on for a long period of time. The seizure of oil, the dictation of terms about elections and the politics of Venezuela will go on for years.

This is not an attack on the arrest warrant, but it is merely a statement that, going forward, U.S. troops should not be used in hostilities in Venezuela without a vote of Congress, as the Constitution requires.

The second point I will make is this: We are all humans in this place, and one of the things we try to do is minimize votes that we might regret. It is impossible to eliminate those.

We are humans, and we cast thousands of votes even in a single term in the Senate. There will be some we might look back on and feel like: Oh, maybe we should have done this differently.

The most likely vote where regret would be most painful is a vote on matters of war.

And I just want to assure my colleagues: Here is something I can guarantee you. No one has ever regretted—no one has ever regretted—a vote that just says: Mr. President, before you send our sons and daughters to war, come to Congress. That is a vote that no one has ever regretted, and no one will ever regret.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DIRECTING THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES WITHIN OR AGAINST VENEZUELA THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS—Motion to Discharge

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, pursuant to section 601(b) of the International Security Assistance and Arms Control Act of 1976, I move to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations from further consideration of S.J. Res. 98, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Venezuela that have not been authorized by Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to discharge from the Committee on Foreign Relations, S.J. Res. 98, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Venezuela that have not been authorized by Congress.

VOTE ON MOTION TO DISCHARGE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge S.J. Res. 98.

Mr. WICKER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 5 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Collins	Luján	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Fetterman	Murray	Welch
Gallego	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Paul	Young
Hawley	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	

NAYS—47

Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Boozman	Hoeven	Ricketts
Britt	Husted	Risch
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	McCormick	Wicker
Fischer	Moody	

NOT VOTING—1

Daines

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The joint resolution will be placed on the calendar.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Alexander C. Van Hook, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

MINNESOTA

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, with me today is Mr. Nick Ayers, a colleague from my office.

I want to talk about a serious subject. I want to talk about welfare fraud, taxpayer money.

Now, I want to make it clear that I love Minnesota—I love Minnesota—but I do not like people, whether they live in Minnesota or elsewhere, who steal money from the poor. There ought to be a special place in Hell for them. By now, unless you are still living in your parents' basement, playing video games, you know that there has been massive welfare fraud in Minnesota. It is staggering. It is stunning. It is astounding. It may rise to the level of $9 billion of taxpayer money meant for the poor—$9 billion.

It is an uncomfortable truth that, at this juncture, most of that fraud appears to be centered in the community of Minneapolis among people of Somali ancestry. Some have said and suggested that it is racist to say that. Facts are not racist. What I just said is just a fact. So far, there have been 90 people charged, most of whom are of Somali descent. That is just a fact. There are over 100,000 people of Somali ancestry in Minnesota—most of them in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area—and the vast majority of them vote in a bloc, as is their right, and the vast majority of them vote in a bloc for Democratic candidates, as is their right. Some will say Kennedy is being a racist for pointing that out. Let me say it again: Facts are not racist. They are facts. It has already come out at some of the trials, and not all of the folks being charged are of Somali ancestry—I want to make that very clear—but most of them are. Again, it is just a fact.

I apologize for my voice.

Let me explain what this thievery—this industrial-scale fraud—was just about. It was centered around Medicaid.

As the Presiding Officer knows, Medicaid is a Federal program administered by the States—we put up most of the money—to provide health coverage for poor people, for pregnant women, for children, and for disabled people. President Obama, through ObamaCare, extended Medicaid to some of the folks in the middle class, but, still, the main purpose of Medicaid is to help poor

folks and disabled folks because, in America, we help our friends.

You know, I was looking at a number the other day. In the last 50 years, the American economy has grown 142 percent over the last 50 years. The American economy has grown 142 percent over the last 50 years. It is a pretty extraordinary number. Welfare spending in America has grown 765 percent. So I get a little upset when some people say: Well, you know, the American people are selfish. We spend over $1 trillion a year helping our neighbors who are less fortunate than us, mostly the poor. In our country—I have said this before—if you are hungry, we will feed you. If you are homeless, we will house you. If you are too poor to be sick, we will pay for your doctor. Other countries let their fellow citizens die in a ditch. We don't do that in America. The American people have stepped up to the plate.

So, when people steal this money—this $1 trillion-plus a year that we spend in helping our neighbors—when people steal that money, it offends me. When they steal from the poor and they steal from the American taxpayer, it offends me equally.

As for the folks in Minnesota and elsewhere who stole this money, who took a giant whiz—a giant Great Dane whiz—down the leg of every taxpayer and poor person in America, every one of them ought to go to jail. It looks like, so far, there are four probes.

Let me just say the Federal Government puts up most of the money for Medicaid, not all of it. In some cases, the Federal Government puts up as little as 50 percent. In some cases, 90 percent of the money being spent on Medicaid comes from Federal taxpayers. We designed the rules at the Federal level. We put up most of the money, but the States are supposed to implement the program, and they are supposed to combat fraud, but many of them don't. The GAO says, of that $1 trillion I talked about that the American people spend on welfare, as much as a quarter of a trillion, maybe more—$250 billion or more—is stolen, and it has got to stop.

I am going to talk about a solution in a moment, but let me tell you what was happening in Minnesota.

One of the things Medicaid does, along with the Food Stamp Program, is to feed people, particularly children. So what these thieves in Minnesota were doing is they were setting up these fictitious corporations and applying to Gov. Tim Walz' Medicaid office for money to distribute to the poor. Gov. Tim Walz' welfare office would give them hundreds of millions of dollars. Of course, the thieves running these fictitious corporations sucked it up like a Hoover Deluxe.

Then these fictitious corporations would go to restaurants in the community—many of them in the Somali community—and say: Here is the deal. I want you to fill out a report saying you fed all of these poor people. Of course, you are not feeding anybody. Just lie and give me the report and I will give you a percentage of the money that I am stealing from the American taxpayers and the people of Minnesota.

That is what they did, but they didn't just limit it to food. It was industrial-scale fraud.

Next, they moved to healthcare. Some formed fictitious corporations, companies, saying: We are going to deliver—I said healthcare; I meant childcare—to poor people, homeless people.

So the fictitious companies run by these thieves would go to Governor Walz' agencies and say: Give us a bunch of money. We are going to house homeless people.

Governor Walz would give them the money, and these thieves sucked it up like a Hoover Deluxe.

Then they went to a bunch of folks in the community and said: Henceforth, you are in the housing business, and you need to fill out a report. It is a lie. Fill out a report saying you are providing housing for a bunch of people—of course, they weren't—and then we, the thieves who got the money from Governor Walz, will kick you back a little bit of the money.

Did they stop there? No.

They moved into—I just described housing. Then they moved into childcare. Under Medicaid, you can use money to provide childcare.

So the thieves formed a bunch of new fictitious companies and went to Governor Walz and his agencies and said: Give us a bunch of welfare money, Medicaid money, to give childcare to folks who are poor.

Then the thieves running the fictitious company went to families—many of them in the Somali community—and said: Do you have a child who is autistic? If so, we want to sign him up.

But if some of the families said: No, we don't have a child who is autistic, the thieves said: Don't worry about it. Lie. Tell us you have a child who is autistic. Whether your child is autistic or not, we are not going to provide any services for your children, but we will kick you back some of the money.

It is disgusting. So it was in childcare, housing, autism, food—$9 billion and climbing.

Now, Governor Walz—in fact, I probably shouldn't repeat this, but I read something on the internet the other day. Somebody made an observation, and I don't want to paint too broad a brush because there are some fine childcare services in Minnesota as there are elsewhere, but the person on social media asked a question: How do you know if you have discovered one of these fictitious childcare services?

Well, you go there, and no one is inside, but the owner pulls up in a Lamborghini.

And that is what happened.

The people who were stealing the money directly from Governor Walz and then giving it to the folks who were helping them—the restaurants that were creating fictitious lists of people they fed and autistic children they were helping who weren't autistic—they took the money, too, and all of them had a big old party. They bought cars. They bought jewelry. They took expensive vacations. They sent money back to Somalia.

There is an investigation going on right now—I am not saying it is true—that some of the money might have gone to terrorist organizations in Somalia. This is American taxpayer money these people were taking out of the mouths of poor people.

Governor Walz—I know nothing about this man; it is news to me—said: In fact, I am taking some bold steps.

He said: First, I am not going to run for a third term.

I guess he needs more time—I hope he uses the time to prepare his defense because he has got a lot to defend here. He knew what was going on. In fact, one of the lawyers representing one of the thieves in this case said that many of the people—this was their excuse. He said that many of the people involved in the stealing thought that the State was OK with it. That is what he said. Here is his quote:

> No one was doing anything about the red flags.

Red flags were everywhere. Nobody in State government, he said, was doing anything about the red flags.

It was like someone was stealing money from the cookie jar and they kept refilling it.

The State knew.

(Mr. HAGERTY assumed the Chair.)

And at one point, Governor Walz and some of his agencies said: Whoa, you know, maybe we ought to put a stop to this.

And they backed off. They said: No more money for a while.

Well, fresh hell broke loose. Do you know what happened? The largest, most powerful, fictitious company, run mostly by people of Somali ancestry, sent an email to the Minnesota State government, and they said that the State agency that was failing to promptly approve new applications and give us new money from ''minority-owned businesses''—it was going to result in a lawsuit featuring accusations of racism that would be sprawled across the news.

If you don't give us our money, we are going to call you a racist.

They did it. It has all come out in evidence at trial. In fact, someone by the name of Kayseh Magan—he is one of the good guys. He is a Somali American who used to work as a fraud investigator in the attorney general's office, who, by the way, was just as involved as Governor Walz in turning a blind eye to all this. He says—and he said it in the newspaper—that elected officials, and particularly those who are part of the State's Democratic-led administration, were reluctant to take more assertive action in response to the allegations.

Why? Here is the quote.

> There is a perception that forcefully tackling this issue might cause political backlash among the Somali community, which is a core voting bloc [for Democrats].

And he is among the few among many prominent figures in the Somali community who is speaking out against the fraud.

In fact, at one point, a bunch of State employees—I don't remember how many, but they posted a letter publicly on social media saying: Governor Walz and the attorney general knew about this all the time, and we told them. We warned them early on.

And you know what they did? They just stood there sucking on their teeth. They did nothing.

So you know what the State employees did? They went to the U.S. attorney. They went to the U.S. attorney, and the U.S. attorney jumped all over this and said: This is obvious fraud. And that is how all this got started.

Now, what do we do about it? Well, first, I don't think that the only place this is happening is Minnesota, and, certainly, there are people involved in welfare fraud besides the few Somali Americans in Minnesota. And I mentioned the Somali Americans because it is just a fact. I mean, it is a fact in the trial of these disputes, the politics of it and everything else, in the litigation. I think it is happening in various degrees all over America.

Let me say it again. We are spending a trillion dollars a year of American taxpayer money to help poor people, provide welfare, and the GAO estimates that at least $250 billion is being stolen every year.

We took some baby steps in the One Big Beautiful Bill, as the Presiding Officer knows. We tightened up eligibility requirements. We are requiring States to check twice a year to make sure people don't lie when they sign up for Medicaid or for food stamps or for housing assistance. We have implemented a work requirement.

But we need to do more. We need to do more. And that is why we need to do another reconciliation bill.

Now, I hope I am wrong when I say this. I hope I am wrong. I invite my Democratic colleagues in the Senate—I love them all—to come forward and help us. But I just know politics, and the Presiding Officer does too. A lot of them are going to be reluctant.

But we don't need their assistance. We can pass a welfare security bill with all Republican votes. If I could do it on my own, I would introduce the bill tomorrow. I would go and look at every single State and every single country and look for the best practices on presenting welfare fraud. I would cross-access a list of people who sign up for welfare to their tax records, if they have any. Sometimes, people lie. In Louisiana, we have caught people making a quarter of a million dollars a year getting Medicaid. But you have to check. Apparently, nobody was checking in Minnesota, and I don't think they are alone.

If it were up to me, I am drafting that bill now. I will look at every State, every country, and adopt the best practices. And my bill can be ready in 2 weeks, but I can't do a thing about getting it passed because I don't have the authority to bring it to the floor of the Senate. I don't. Only the majority leader can agree to bring a bill to be considered by the Senate. Those are the rules. If I were King for a day, I would change it in a nanosecond. I think every Senator ought to be able to bring his bills to the floor. And that is not a criticism of my good friend JOHN THUNE or my good friend MITCH MCCONNELL or my friend CHUCK SCHUMER. They are just following the rules. I would change them.

But we need to do another reconciliation bill to fix the welfare system and stop the stealing—stop the stealing. And we can do it with all Republican votes.

So, please, Senator THUNE—pretty please, as I have said before. I am saying this. I will beg. I will get down on my knees. JOHN, please bring another reconciliation bill. We can do so much, but we can start with fixing welfare fraud. Please, JOHN. Please let us do the bill.

I don't want to end on a negative note. I might have hurt my back going down. I don't want to end on a negative note. I love this country. I just think America is the greatest country in all of human history; I do.

And the whole world knows it. Everybody wants to come here. When is the last time you heard of somebody trying to sneak into China? No, they want to come to America. And I believe, as much as I am standing here, that the future of this country can be better than the present or our past. It can be. I have always believed that we are only as good as our dreams; we are only as valuable as our children.

But I am not going to bubble-wrap it. We have $30-plus trillion worth of debt, and we have people stealing from poor people and laughing about it—and politicians participating in it. And Washington has to do its part to fix this. But the water is not going to clear up for America—the water is not going to clear up for America until we get the pigs out of the creek. Let's go get the pigs out of the creek.

Please, Senator THUNE, please, let us do another reconciliation bill. Please, lead with welfare reform. We can do it. You can do it. I know you can.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, Republicans ran this past election year to make America safer and more prosperous. Now, we are a year into this, and people are seeing that the comprehensive economic plan that the Republicans have put into place is working for them.

This year, going forward, Americans are going to see even more money in their pockets, and that is thanks to the Working Families Tax Cut law. The average American taxpayer will see a significant cut this year in their taxes, which is a direct effect of the law. Families in every single State in the Nation are feeling relief.

Now, key parts of this tax law went into effect just on January 1, and they are going to make life much more affordable for American families. Republicans increased the child tax credit to $2,200 per child, and they made it permanent. And it is per child every year. That means for a couple in Cody, WY, with two children: $4,400 a year. That is money to help buy groceries, to help with education, and it helps with that child's activities.

Republicans also raised the limit in the dependent care flexible spending accounts. We raised it to $7,500 from $5,000. So a working mother in Casper, WY, can now set aside $7,500, pretax, for childcare. Senator KATIE BRITT of Alabama championed that, really pushed it through, and worked very hard.

Additionally, Republicans are doing things Congress has never done before. We have now created a guaranteed savings account for every American child. Every child born between 2025 and 2028 will receive a $1,000 investment account. So a child born in Sheridan, WY, will now start life with $1,000 already invested in their future. Senator TED CRUZ had this innovative idea.

Additionally, the Working Families Tax Cut law protects family farms, ranchers, and small business owners. This is vital to my home State of Wyoming and for other rural States. For years, farmers and ranchers told me the same thing: The death tax makes it nearly impossible to pass their family operations on to the next generation. Republicans delivered permanent death tax relief for family farmers, for ranchers, and for small business owners. Now, ranchers in Wheatland, WY, or Worland or Torrington or Gillette can now pass their land on—and their livelihood—to that next generation and avoid these crushing death taxes from Washington, DC.

Every Democrat in the Senate voted against the bill—every single one of them. They want the government to come in and confiscate small businesses and farms and ranches. That is not what Republicans stand for, and that is not what we did. If Democrats had their way, taxes would be going up this year by $4 trillion. Democrats supported and probably continue to support the largest tax increase in American history because that is the way they voted.

When Republicans proposed legislation to crack down on waste, fraud,

abuse, and corruption in Medicaid and food stamps and government social programs, every Democrat in the Senate voted no. They must love the corruption—which brings us to Minnesota.

Yesterday, Congress exposed worrying new information about the vast extent of the massive fraud and corruption in the State of Minnesota. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, who was the Democrat Vice Presidential nominee in 2024, and his attorney general, Keith Ellison, who was the deputy chair of the Democratic National Committee, are presiding over one of the most outrageous fraud scandals in recent memory. Manipulative criminals have stolen billions of dollars from Federal programs—billions meant to help vulnerable Americans.

Republicans voted to put more money in people's pockets. That is not what the Democrats wanted. No. They voted to raise taxes and voted to protect the kind of fraud being exposed in Minnesota today, the kind of fraud that Democrat-elected officials refuse to see and refuse to stop.

The working families tax cuts are part of the broader economic agenda that is already working, and the numbers prove it. Today, the world's most successful companies are investing in this country—$10 trillion in America. Record investment is driving private sector job growth. It is driving innovation. It is driving opportunity.

The proof is that the economy grew 4.3 percent in the third quarter. That is the strongest economic growth in 2 years. Core inflation cooled in November to 2.6 percent. Gasoline is now less than $3 per gallon in most of the country. In Casper, WY, it was $1.91. Forecasters predict prices are going to continue to fall. Real wages are on track to grow over by $1,000 this year.

All of these successes happened because Republicans are committed to American prosperity. We cut taxes. We eliminated wasteful Washington spending. We rolled back burdensome regulations. We unleashed American energy. This is a 180-degree turnaround from the past 4 years under Joe Biden and the Democrats. Under Joe Biden and the Democrats, prices rose by over 20 percent in 4 years. Democrats will now go down in history as the party of high prices, high taxes, and open borders.

As Americans celebrate the 250th anniversary of our Nation, we can be confident—confident—that our country is safer, is stronger, and more prosperous. And with the Working Families Tax Cuts, Republicans are making sure that that prosperity continues into the future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3229

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, here is a fact that Donald Trump seems to not understand or care about: families in Nevada and all across this country being squeezed—being squeezed—by high costs. Nevadans are struggling to afford even the most basic things from groceries to rent to healthcare.

This isn't just in Nevada. All across the country, housing costs are up; healthcare costs are up. Even the most basic, unavoidable expenses like electricity have even gotten more expensive. But if you ask Donald Trump, he says affordability—and I am going to quote here—is a ''hoax.'' It is a ''con job by the Democrats.'' He even said—and I am going to quote again—''prices are coming down tremendously . . . inflation is stopped.''

I am going to ask everybody here at home today: Do you think affordability is a hoax? Do you feel like prices are going down? Don't listen to Trump. Just take one look at your grocery bill this week. It is clear he isn't paying attention to hard-working people because the price of your groceries has done nothing but skyrocket.

Donald Trump, he ran for President on lowering prices. Since he got into office nearly a year ago, Americans have spent on average well over $1,000 more because of Trump's cost-raising tariffs. He was supposed to lower prices on day one. Well, we are a lot further than day one.

I want to be clear about what these tariffs really are. They are an additional tax on hard-working families, and they increase prices across the board. Just look at housing. Due to Trump's tariff taxes, the price of construction materials, appliances, and furniture have skyrocketed, gone through the roof. When you raise the cost of lumber, steel, and other materials builders rely on to build new homes, you slow down construction. And when supply can't keep up with demand, prices go up. That is not just ideology; that is simple economics.

Similarly, Trump's self-imposed taxes have increased your costs at the grocery store. You are paying more for the essentials you rely on most: coffee, produce, meat, so much more. Trump and his billionaire buddies, who probably haven't gone grocery shopping for themselves in years, don't care about the price of groceries. Well, they might not care about paying more, but seniors on fixed incomes do; parents trying to feed their kids do; workers whose paychecks aren't keeping up do. They are the ones being hurt by these reckless tariffs. So Donald Trump may not care, but everyone else I know cares—and it matters.

That is why I introduced my No Tariffs on Groceries Act. This bill, it is simple—simple. It would exempt your groceries from Trump's tariffs, meaning the costs won't be raised because of the tariffs. So it is time that Congress reasserts its authority over trade and pushes back against Trump's cost-raising tariffs.

I know a few things: Groceries are not a luxury; food should never be a bargaining chip; and working families should not be collateral damage in Trump's reckless trade wars. This hits everyone at the kitchen table. Every person needs to eat. You shouldn't be collateral damage in Trump's reckless trade wars. Let's prove this Chamber can still act on the issues that are most important to American families at their kitchen table. If they care about that and they want to lower costs for everybody, let's pass my bill right now.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 3229 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the Rosen substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read 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 Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I rise in opposition to S. 3229, the No Tariffs on Groceries Act of 2025.

The reason groceries are so expensive is because during the last administration, inflation got totally out of control. We all know the grocery prices went up then. That is when the inflation rates were in double digits. I think at one point, they got over 20 percent.

Where is the inflation rate today? My colleagues on the other side would like to try to duck the fact that the reason grocery prices are so high is because of the inflation that was caused under President Biden's administration when we blew the top off of growth and the prices. Today, the inflation rate is at 2.7 percent, close to the Federal Reserve's target for our economy. That is just a fact that we have to recognize and deal with.

Now, this bill seeks to exempt articles of food from the President's IEEPA tariffs. I agree with my colleagues that tariffs generally should be targeted as much as possible to avoid harm to Americans. We also should consider more exemptions to harms arising from potential unintended consequences, including exemptions for unavailable natural resources.

The administration agrees. In November, the administration excluded a number of food items from the reciprocal, India, and Brazil IEEPA tariffs. By all accounts, the administration is working to identify similar exemptions in other active trade negotiations. I strongly encourage the President to pursue productive courses of engagement with U.S. stakeholders in doing so, but voting for one-off exemptions on the Senate floor in isolation of a larger negotiating strategy and broader stakeholder concerns like this bill S. 3229 asks us to do now, does not facilitate a predictable process for our negotiators or for any broader segment of stakeholder engagement.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, food should never be a bargaining chip. People's kitchen tables, their refrigerators should never be a bargaining chip. This is not a partisan issue, feeding people in the United States. We should not be mixing natural resources with the essential things that we need like food.

Are my Republican colleagues—if they want to lower prices, they can start—they can start—by this one small act of letting this bill go through. They can help me lower prices right here, right now. I am very disappointed. This bill would lower prices at the grocery store for hard-working families all across America. And by stopping it from passing, you and your Republican colleagues—well, I am afraid you are telling the American people that their kitchen table isn't your priority and that Washington Republicans would rather bow to Trump than pass legislation to lower at least one section of grocery prices and make food more affordable for their constituents.

Again, this isn't partisan. People in my State and yours are being crushed by rising costs. Washington Republicans have the power to do a little something about it, but they choose not to. So if you really want to do what is right by your constituents, if you want to do right by kitchen tables across this country, Republicans would stand up to Trump, stand up against these reckless tariffs on food, and support my legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

MINNESOTA ICE SHOOTING

Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, tomorrow is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, and it was my intention to come to the floor today and talk about some great officers and celebrate the men and women that put their lives on the line to protect us every day. Indeed, I encourage every American across this great Nation to do just that, say thank you for signing up courageously for an often thankless job. But in light of recent events, I feel I must address a more pressing issue.

The horrific situation that occurred yesterday morning in Minnesota is tragic. Radical protestors intending to run over Federal immigration officers with cars, that cannot happen. In fact, protestors that show up with intent to harass or obstruct or impede or aggressively approach or violently assault officers, it cannot happen.

When they are doing their jobs, it is a precarious, often dangerous, situation. I can tell you that firsthand as the wife of a law enforcement officer. I beg anyone thinking about participating in this kind of behavior to think twice for all involved.

They must be given space to focus. It is a very dangerous situation in some of these missions and law enforcement activities. That is why I introduced the Halo Act back in November because, as I saw the threats of political violence, of threats against our law enforcement officers were rapidly increasing, I knew that we had to do something. And so I introduced the Halo Act so that one of these events wouldn't occur.

I don't know how officers are able to do their jobs with people impeding them and getting in their faces as they are trying to focus on executing their duties.

It is deeply troubling to hear the anti-law enforcement rhetoric being used by so many when it comes to Federal officers simply trying to show up and do the jobs that we, as a nation, hired them to do.

And what happened yesterday in terms of folks showing up with the intent to obstruct officers, that is not an isolated incident. It is part of this broader pattern of coordinated efforts, encouraged by elected politicians who keep increasing their rhetoric and almost encouraging—let me just take the ''almost'' out, encouraging people to get in the way of law enforcement officers trying to do their job, knowing how dangerous that is, not only dangerous for law enforcement officers but for those who show up and try to impede their efforts.

Elected Democrat officials right now are using radical rhetoric and encouraging people in their cities and their States to harass and obstruct officers. Many of them are even using taxpayer funds to help speak out and coordinate. According to the Department of Homeland Security, assaults on police are up 1,300 percent, death threats on police up 8,000 percent.

This alarming trend threatens public safety and the rule of law—the rule of law—and the expectation that we would support the men and women who uphold it. That is what is attracting people from around the United States of America to my home State, the great free State of Florida, because we support them. We protect our officers. In fact, we introduced legislation and passed legislation to give them a safety zone, a buffer zone to do their jobs and do them safely.

The Halo Act, which I introduced 2 months ago, will ensure that Federal officers can perform their duties without fear of intimidation, interference, or violence. The legislation would make it illegal for anyone, after being asked, told to stand back, to knowingly come within 25 feet of an officer who is doing their job if their intent is to interfere with the officer's work or threaten them with physical harm.

It is modeled after a law in Florida, and we know it will work. It will provide the necessary buffer zone to allow officers to focus on the execution of their duties, and that is what is safe for everyone.

Essentially, the bill would institute the zones and keep the officers safe. It would also make sure that this buffer zone or safety zone is there to protect others.

I implore my colleagues to join in this mission, in this proposed legislation, and cosponsor the Halo Act. It is obvious we must act now to protect these officers that protect us. And we must send a message that targeted attacks, interference with the duties of officers, threat, harm, violence against law enforcement must end. We owe it to our communities. We owe it to the brave people that sign up for these jobs to strengthen the protections around them.

Ahead of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, we have to acknowledge that without the men and women that put on that badge every day, this would not be the country that we know. It is a fragile line between order and chaos, and the people that sign up to stand on that line, come what may, need to be protected, and this act would do just that.

I urge my colleagues to join me and support the Halo Act to have our officers' back, to ensure our communities are safe and that they can do their jobs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

WHISTLEBLOWERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I believe whistleblowing in the Federal Government should be protected and encouraged. People in the executive branch of government that work in there every day want the Federal Government to enforce the laws the way they are written and spend money according to that law.

And when they see something that is not right in government, they have a responsibility to blow the whistle and tell somebody and, hopefully, they work with the immediate superiors, but a lot of times they don't get any respect for the shortcomings of government that they expose.

Eventually, they come to Congress and at that point are covered by whistleblower protection legislation, and if we want to continue the good work that whistleblowers do to expose wrongdoing in government, particularly fraud, waste, and abuse, we should make sure that the whistleblower laws are faithfully followed.

One aspect of whistleblower protection is to make sure that everybody in government knows about whistleblowers and the protection that they can receive.

One aspect of that is what we call anti-gag rules that need to be followed. So I am here to speak about my efforts to ensure that the Federal Government complies with all whistleblower laws. Unfortunately, the government has made efforts to gag whistleblowers before they can make legally protected disclosures, including to Congress.

The illegal conduct has happened no matter which political party controls the executive branch of government. That is why I spearheaded successful efforts to get what is called anti-gag provisions enacted.

I worked for decades to make it the law. And I have worked to ensure that

both Republican and Democratic administrations comply with that law.

Congress has a constitutional responsibility to ensure the laws it passes are followed. In eighth grade civics or high school government classes, our students study about the checks and balances of government. Congress not only has a responsibility to pass the laws, they have a responsibility to make sure that the executive branch executes those laws as well.

We have not found that followed in practice for these anti-gag provisions. The anti-gag provision requires all Federal Agency nondisclosure policies, forms, or agreements to notify employees of their right to blow the whistle to Congress, to an inspector general, or to the Office of Special Counsel. Appropriations laws also prohibit Federal funds from being used to enforce noncompliant agreements.

Nevertheless, Federal Agencies, amazingly, still violate the anti-gag provisions. That failure not only has a chilling effect that discourages whistleblowers, it also happens to be illegal. I have conducted longstanding oversight to ensure that Federal Agencies comply with this law, and I have held them accountable when they failed to do so.

For example, 2013, I asked 15 executive branch departments about the inclusion of the anti-gag provision in their nondisclosure agreements.

At the time, only the Department of Treasury, out of those 15 executive branch Departments, was in full compliance. I forwarded my findings to the Office of Special Counsel, and in 2018, they issued updated guidance to all executive branch Departments about including anti-gag provisions in their nondisclosure policies and agreements.

In March of 2024, I wrote to 74 inspectors general requesting they check on their parent Agencies' compliance with the anti-gag provisions. To date, here are my findings from what I wrote to those 74 inspectors general: 45 inspectors general reported they completed their review. Of those 45, 6 inspectors general reported their parent Agency was in full compliance. Of that 45, 22 inspectors general said their parent Agency made updates to comply with the law, and 6 said that those corrective actions are ongoing.

So positive changes have been made. Whistleblowers are better off because these Agencies are doing what they can to comply with the nondisclosure gag rules.

But there are outstanding responses, and therefore more work must be done. This Senator intends to ride herd on the government about making sure that whistleblowers are protected and get rid of gag policies.

One example from my investigation, 10 inspectors general reported their parent Agency agreed to make changes but had yet to implement them. Another seven of the inspectors general who conducted a review responded that their parent Agency was noncompliant, but they didn't say if their Agency agreed to update their policies. Another seven inspectors generals responded that they were taking the requests under consideration or planning to conduct a future review.

It is a no-brainer that they ought to take that review, and I am asking them: What is the hesitation? So I have a responsibility to follow up with them.

Another eight inspectors general responded that the anti-gag law didn't apply to their Agency. So I am looking into their position that they took in response to my letter and ensure that their point that they aren't covered by the anti-gag law is correct.

Fourteen inspectors general gave the stiff arm to those of us in Congress, ignoring what we asked for them to do, and, as a result, they failed to provide a substantive response, which included inspectors general for the Central Intelligence Agency and the Export-Import Bank.

That failure to respond is a disgrace. Inspectors general ought to be the tip of the spear when it comes to transparency in government. Transparency and accountability are not a partisan issue. Federal Agencies can't conceal their wrongdoing behind illegal nondisclosure policies and related actions.

Whistleblowers are critical to exposing waste, fraud, and abuse within government. Government officials at the top don't know everything that is going on below them. That is why whistleblowers ought to be listened to. They benefit the government carrying out its constitutional responsibilities, and it surely benefits the taxpayers.

I encourage my Republican and Democrat colleagues to join in my efforts to ensure all administrations, whether Republican or Democrat, comply with whistleblower laws.

Rest assured, my oversight will continue and so will my fight for whistleblowers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

VENEZUELA

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am beyond outraged that President Trump would commit such a brazen act of war as he has done in Venezuela with absolutely no notice, except to the oil companies and newspapers they leaked it to. No consultation with Congress, no legitimate justification for these unauthorized strikes, nor any kind of serious long-term strategy.

It is unquestionably an act of war to invade a foreign nation, kidnap a foreign leader—even a dictator—and leave dozens of bodies, including civilians, behind.

Would my colleagues still nod their heads and go along with it if a country tried to do this to American leaders? Of course not. So we should stop playing dumb. Trump can't just say magic words and pretend this wasn't a major military operation.

This is the U.S. Congress, and we have a constitutional role to be a check on the President. Only Congress can declare war, and Congress did not authorize the use of force against Venezuela.

Now, I opposed the war in Iraq from the outset. And the parallels to what President Trump has kicked off in Venezuela are glaring. And I absolutely will not support any large-scale military conflict in Venezuela or a dangerous and expansive occupation.

We have a President ignoring the problems that he has caused in our own country, all to start a war no one asked for, with no legitimate justification, no concern for the servicemembers who are being put in harm's way, and absolutely no long-term strategy.

Seriously, the only thing that was clear after the briefing yesterday is that Trump has no serious plan. First, Trump was just bombing alleged drug boats. Then Trump was just seizing oil shipments. And the next thing you know, this administration is sending the military to abduct a foreign leader.

So I have to ask: What is next and where is next? How far is this going to go? Because it is clear that this is not over, not when Trump keeps saying he will run the country.

What is Trump's plan to run Venezuela exactly? How long are we going to be there? How many of our people is he going to send? Who is even in charge? And how are we paying for this?

There are no serious answers. The only thing we do know is why Trump is doing this—for oil—because this clearly is not about ending tyranny and establishing a democracy since Trump outright dismissed any possibility of helping the opposition party to build a true democracy. And it is clearly not about drug trafficking. After all, not even a month before this, President Trump pardoned the former President of Honduras who was convicted of the same crime. But the real reason—it is so painfully obvious—this was always about the oil.

Why? Well, it is pretty simple. Trump keeps saying it. He literally said:

> The difference between Iraq and this is that Bush didn't keep the oil. We're going to keep the oil.

That was the President. Is this ''America First''? Of course not. It is ''Big Oil Barons First.'' It is ''Billionaires First.'' It is ''Trump First.'' First to rake in profits, mind you, not first to put themselves in harm's way.

And you can bet when Trump says he is not worried about boots on the ground, it is because he is not talking about his boots. He is not talking about his kids. He is talking about yours.

Congress cannot stand by and shrug our shoulders. We have a constitutional responsibility here. It is important that a majority of Senators voted to rein in this President's reckless actions. But if we want to put an end to this warmongering, we need to keep pressing until we have a veto-proof majority. Today's vote is not the end of the line. So I urge all my colleagues to join us in asserting our authority and continuing to send President Trump a simple message: No American boots on the ground. No trading blood for oil. No war.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to use a prop during my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NUTRITIONAL GUIDELINES

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I am so excited to be here today. I am going to talk about one of my favorite—favorite—topics, eating. But my mouth is a little dry here, so I want to take a moment and enjoy some whole milk.

You know, I am not the only one that loves eating. America loves eating. If I can share a story with my fellow Senators, I always thought that I was my grandma's favorite grandchild, and I thought it was because I was always the one that was the first to raise my hands for seconds. Now, I don't know if I was her favorite, but certainly I was one of her favorites.

The interesting thing was, we couldn't gain weight, though. Despite eating seconds and an active lifestyle, nobody gained weight. We were all in a good weight area.

And what did we eat? We ate real food. What did that real food look like? Well, we had whole milk for breakfast and for lunch and for supper. We had bacon and eggs in the morning. For lunch, we would have one of the other proteins: turkey or chicken or ham—but vegetables from our garden. That was it. Fresh vegetables, and we had, I think, four or five different fruit trees: a pear tree, a peach tree, several others. So we would have fresh fruits as well. And then for dinner—we called it supper—beef was the main dish always, but still with more fresh fruits, maybe some potatoes, some new potatoes. And, yes, we put bacon in the new potatoes, but all my grandparents lived a long healthy life on those diets as well.

You know, on a Saturday night—I don't want to forget. Once or twice a month, on a Saturday night, we would finish work early, at 7 or 8 p.m., and we would make homemade ice cream with that cream that we had from our own dairy herd.

And then the other piece that people forget about is we had canned food—not in a metal can, but they were in bottles. And what that canned food did is it was easier to digest. That fresh taste was locked into it.

And, very simply, real food tastes better. I would hardly recognize the taste of some of the fruits and vegetables today. When I was growing up on our family farm, the strawberries melted in your mouth. The green beans, potatoes all had a very fresh taste. The cantaloupe, the watermelon—you would have thought they were adding sugar to it.

But today's world, unfortunately, we eat from a box. We eat from a sack, and that is not real food. We did not have any of these ultraprocessed foods in my diet growing up.

Now, I would like to talk a little bit more about eating, about eating real food, and share the new nutritional guidelines released yesterday by USDA, HHS, and FDA. Guess what their advice is. Their advice is to eat real food, the same food that I was raised on.

Now, what I am excited about is—look, America was so hungry, so hungry for a new food pyramid that we flipped it. We flipped the food pyramid, and we made a triangle out of it.

The big emphasis here is common sense and eating real food. And the big winner is going to be American families. It is going to be our youth, especially where we are seeing an epidemic.

And I just want to give a shoutout to President Trump's leadership, to Secretary Kennedy, to Secretary Rollins, to FDA Director Dr. Makary, Dr. Oz at CMS, and Dr. Jay Bhattacharya at NIH for providing the real science—and all the people that worked so hard to put together these nutritional guidelines.

And for all you naysayers out here, the science is never settled. I don't absolutely agree with everything on this pyramid as a physician, but these are incredible guidelines and huge steps in the right direction. And, again, use a little common sense as you go forward.

For too long, we overcomplicated nutrition. We buried families in confusing charts, changing rules, and special-interest science. And while all of this was happening, America got sicker.

Ninety percent of American dollars—healthcare dollars—are being spent on chronic diseases. Seventy percent of Americans have a chronic disease. A third of our children are prediabetic or diabetic. We simply can't continue to live in that direction.

We were being told the last 20, 30 years to eat food from factories rather than foods from the farm. And these ultraprocessed foods were marketed as healthy. Well, people followed the advice in good faith, and they got sicker rather than healthier.

Real food is food you recognize when you see it. Most of the time, it is not coming from a box. It is not in a bag. Sometimes, it is in a can; sometimes, it is not. You have to be careful. You have to look at the can.

Did they add sugar to it? Did they add salt to it? Then I would probably turn away from it.

It is fresh or frozen. Real food—healthy food—is fresh or frozen.

I am so glad that the SNAP program is now going to require all the grocery stores to double the amount of opportunities of choices that you are going to have from this real food selection.

Real food is protein. It is whole grains, and it is healthy fat. The previous pyramid probably required that 50 percent of your calories come from carbohydrates. We know that was probably a big mistake. Instead, we are going to push more proteins.

People say: What is the new guideline talking about?

It is that same diet I was raised on back at our farm. It is the same food your grandparents and my parents—my mom—made for us.

Look, long before we knew what MAHA moms were, my grandmothers were MAHA grandmothers, and my mother was a MAHA mom. And my wife was cooking MAHA food, as well. They seldom opened a box. If you are opening a box to cook, think twice about it.

Another good option, as we discussed what the new guidelines are, is putting water back where it belongs. I would argue water, whole milk—those are your one-two drink alternatives, and certainly not sugary sodas. We all should be drinking more water. If you want to drink something besides water, I would suggest whole milk. A big point about whole milk to me is it satisfies one's appetite longer. You drink a sugary soda, and you are hungry again in 10 minutes. Your sugar is bouncing up and down. But milk has protein in it, and it is going to satisfy your hunger for longer, not to mention that it is full of protein, vitamins, and minerals.

Let's take a look at this graph, our ''Eat Real Food'' graph, the new dietary guidelines. I think it is interesting. The foods down here aren't necessarily bad, but you should maybe eat less of them and more of these. As you go up the triangle, these are the more healthy foods.

This is real simple. Down in the bottom of this, it looks like we have whole grains. We have oatmeal and whole grain wheat from Kansas to make bread. Then I believe this is rice and beans and nuts and bananas—more nuts, seafood, butter. Butter is another one of those full-fat foods derived from whole milk.

Then we have a bunch of fruit. We have more seafood and yogurt, another milk product, as well.

And, of course, there are your vegetables grown in the garden. Here are some frozen vegetables. Frozen vegetables are cheaper but really close to the nutritional value of fresh out of the garden.

It looks like chicken and turkey. You probably have made those. The guidelines here are for a protein source. The cheeses—cheese is a great healthy source of food for you. And, of course, there is the American hamburger. Americans can't get along without hamburger.

This is my favorite one. This is absolutely my favorite one. I am going to call this a T-bone steak. Most of you know that a T-bone steak not only has a bone in it, but on one side, of course, is the KC strip. That is a Kansas City strip. Some mistakenly call it a New York strip, but this is actually a KC strip, as well. And on this side, there is a little bit more of a flavorless type of meat. I like this KC strip here.

So, again, the whole concept is what? It is to eat some of these, but more of these and a lot of these—basically, substituting more protein for less carbohydrates.

We spend a lot of time here on the floor talking about healthcare reform. But this is the biggest day in healthcare reform we are going to see

in America. We are spending $5 trillion a year—my friends across the aisle are quick to point out that America is getting sicker and that we are spending more and more money on healthcare. Yes, we have all sorts of new toys and new treatments available and new drugs out there, but if you want me to impact the true cost of healthcare—whether you are getting your insurance through your workplace, whether you are on ObamaCare, or if you are on Medicaid or Medicare—if you want me to save the Federal Government's budget, we need to fix the cost of healthcare. Getting back on a truly healthy, ''eating real food'' type of diet will impact more than any type of legislation that will ever be done up here.

This nutrition needs to go back to the center of our healthcare. Eating healthy food should be at the center of our healthcare reforms, not necessarily all these policies that we are arguing about.

Yes, we can keep throwing money at it. Yes, we can start giving our youth the latest GLP–1 drug. And rather than giving them a healthy diet, we can start treating them with a drug and give them all some type of drug addiction.

This new nutritional guideline is a win for our youth. I am especially excited to see what we are going to do in the SNAP programs as well. When we get food at our senior centers, I think there are more healthy choices out there.

We have to think of ways to make it more affordable and things the Federal Government can do to help make these nutrients more affordable as well. I just can't emphasize enough that the best medicine in the world is a healthy diet. This is what making America healthy again looks like. It is all going to start with nutrition.

I can't help but add that Americans probably need to do a little bit more walking and get outside a little bit more as well.

Again, I will finish up and say I am ecstatic that the Trump administration has taken this bold, decisive action and is breaking with decades of failed thinking. We are finally putting America on a realistic path to a healthier living that puts eating real food at the center. This is a huge win for the American families and the farmers who grow the best medicine in the world.

Look, eating real food delivers real results. Let's make America healthy again.

I have to do just one more thing. Even ice cream is healthy when eaten in small amounts. I want to add my favorite sweet out here and say it is OK to have a little ice cream. We need to have a lot more protein.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

FINISH THE ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT ACT

Mr. BENNET. Last week, President Trump vetoed H.R. 131, the Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act, a bill that passed both Chambers of Congress unanimously with broad bipartisan support. The President did not veto this bill for any substantive objection. He did so out of a desire to punish the State that he believes didn't support him politically.

In my opinion, this is the last reason any President should make a decision about anything. An election is one thing, but once we hold office, we have a responsibility to represent every American, regardless of their political party, regardless of their politics.

The President's veto will inflict real harm on people in my State by denying 50,000 Coloradans living in tiny rural towns across the Arkansas River Valley and southeastern Colorado access to clean, affordable drinking water. Those farmers and ranchers have been forced to rely on unsafe, carcinogenic water for generations, despite the Federal Government's six-decade-old commitment to fix their water infrastructure.

The Arkansas Valley Conduit is the final unfinished piece of a water delivery project that Congress authorized in 1962, 2 years before I was even born. The conduit would wind its way for 130 miles, from Pueblo, CO, to the State line, traversing farming communities that had to rely on bottled water or prohibitively expensive water treatment.

This area covers a quarter of the land mass of Colorado. It is sprinkled with small towns and populated with small business owners and farmers and ranchers who are dedicated to a rural way of life, who have been fighting—generation after generation after generation—to try to bring this clean water to their valley but are living in fear that they or their children are delivering poisonous water.

There are probably not a lot of Senators here who aren't confident that the water that is consumed by their children or their grandchildren—the water that is consumed in their neighborhoods or part of their State—isn't safe. That, I think, would be a reasonable expectation in the richest country in the world.

Yet the inability of us to be able to finish this project—this joint project—has made it impossible for the hard-working people in southeastern Colorado to have the benefit—a benefit that other people just take for granted because they live maybe closer to a city or in a wealthier area than where the people in the Arkansas Valley live.

For 64 years, Coloradans have been relying on Washington to fulfill its promise to build on their efforts—they have been a big part of this in southeastern Colorado—to build on their efforts to deliver clean drinking water. The effort to complete the conduit has always been a partnership between the Federal and local government, driven by the leadership of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

In the face of rising costs and materials and labor, once again, southeastern Coloradans, just as the generations before them have, came together to put forward an inventive solution to lower costs by changing the project's financing, with no increase at all to the Federal obligation here.

The House passed the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act last July, and the Senate passed it just 3 weeks ago, with the support of every single Member of Congress—every Member of the House, every Member of the Senate. There is almost nothing that ever gets through with that kind of universal bipartisan support.

Republicans and Democrats, under the leadership of Representatives LAUREN BOEBERT and JEFF HURD, my colleagues from Colorado, and Senator HICKENLOOPER, my colleague here in the U.S. Senate, we all worked together to ensure that rural Colorado would finally have access to clean drinking water, something every American should reasonably expect. And the folks in southeastern Colorado deserve it just as much as anybody else does.

Instead, when it got to his desk, President Trump used his first Presidential veto of his second term to deny Coloradans what should be a fundamental right as an American.

Article I of the Constitution explicitly provides Congress with the power to override a Presidential veto. Although overrides should only be used when necessary, they are essential when both Chambers of Congress have spoken clearly and spoken unanimously. There are very few places in the Constitution where the Founders actually themselves wrote about having a supermajority vote in the Chambers of Congress, and this is one of those things, because while they believed that a veto override should be rare, they believed that it was an essential part of this branch of the Federal Government exercising its oversight when a President does something like veto the Arkansas Valley Conduit, which is wildly out of step with what the people that we represent want all across this country.

If Congress allows this veto to stand, we set a troubling precedent. It would mean that noncontroversial, bipartisan bills that pass without objection can be rejected for reasons wholly unrelated to the substance and be weaponized politically.

It is no secret—and I am sorry to come to this floor to have to say this—that President Trump is, at the moment, engaged in a political vendetta against the State of Colorado. I don't think any President should be engaged in a vendetta against any State—obviously, least of all, the State that I represent. But what I worry about more than anything is that this is going to become a normal practice around here, which it hasn't been until now, where Presidents reward the States that support them and punish the States that haven't politically.

That is not how we should run this democracy. That is not how the Founders of this country wrote the Constitution. They didn't even think there would be political parties. They felt that it was very important for Congress to be able to be the backstop at a moment when, for whatever reason, a President made a decision that didn't serve the American people properly or well.

If we can't overcome this veto, I think it would say that no bill is safe and that the efforts of every single elected Member of Congress would now be at risk to one person's view and one person's decision.

Later today, I am pleased to say the House is considering whether to override the President's veto. They are putting it on the floor of the House.

I congratulate the work of Congresswoman BOEBERT and Congressman HURD and the rest of the Colorado House delegation to work with the Speaker to get this on the floor of the House. It is absolutely critical for the people of Colorado that Congress act, that we support, once again, the Arkansas Valley Conduit, which we have unanimously.

Next week, this bill will come over to the Senate floor. I urge every single Member of the Senate to do what you did the last time, which is to support with your vote the 50,000 farmers and ranchers in southeastern Colorado who need the benefit of this clean water.

They are not asking, by the way, for a handout here. They have done their part, generation, after generation, after generation, to keep this project alive. They have done their part to get a unanimous vote in the House of Representatives and on the floor of this Senate to be able to keep their faith with their children and their grandchildren. The least we can do in this Senate is to uphold the work that they have done and also the Constitution of the United States of America.

I hope every person in this room will use this as an opportunity to stand with the people in southeastern Colorado; to stand with our Constitution; and to make sure that we all—all—take seriously the legislative responsibility we have as an independent branch of government.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

VENEZUELA

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise today because the United States, once again, stands on the brink of a dangerous and unnecessary war, one that neither the American people nor the elected representatives whom they sent here to Washington have authorized and one that risks yet another endless conflict that will drain our coffers and cost American lives.

President Trump took military action against Venezuela without the express consent of Congress. The Constitution is clear: The power to declare war belongs to the people through their elected Representatives in Congress. That authority is not optional; it is not symbolic. It is actually a pillar of democratic accountability when it comes to matters of war and peace, to life and death.

The Senate has now spoken with a clear bipartisan voice: Trump must end his dangerous and illegal military action in Venezuela now. This Senate must speak with a bipartisan voice, especially if there is no prior congressional authorization. It must stop today.

If the Trump administration believes military force against Venezuela is necessary, the Constitution provides a clear and lawful path forward: go to Congress and make the case to the American people. If President Trump cannot make that case, then he has no business launching military strikes, killing civilians, and putting American servicemembers in harm's way.

Even after yesterday's classified briefing from ''Secretary of War Crimes'' Pete Hegseth, we all left with far more questions than answers: What will this unending occupation cost the American people? Why did the administration, led by Secretary Rubio, lie about regime change? Which is next: Greenland? Cuba? Colombia? Mexico?

But one answer is perfectly clear: the answer to the question of why Trump and Rubio did this. It is obvious. This is not a war for the Venezuelan people. It is not a war for democracy. This is an illegal war for oil. It is a coup for crude on behalf of big oil companies in our country. It is just like ''The Godfather Part I.'' Trump made Venezuela an offer it couldn't refuse. Capturing Maduro is the head in the bed. We are holding their country hostage for the foreseeable future until Venezuela gives up its resources. We are stealing their oil at gunpoint.

Trump told Big Oil CEOs that he would help them if they paid his campaign $1 billion just a year ago, and he has already given them countless tax breaks and nearly unlimited access to our public lands and waters, killing wind, killing solar, killing all-electric vehicles, killing anything that gets in the way of the agenda of the oil and natural gas industry in our country, and now—now—he is giving them Venezuela. We know he told oil execs before and after the invasion about his plans for Venezuela, not Members of Congress and not the American people.

He said to the oil companies: Get ready. Something is going to happen.

So the oil companies knew, but the American people did not. The President would not brief the U.S. Senate before the invasion. Secretary Rubio said that you can't trust the U.S. Senate, but they trusted oil companies to know; that they should get ready and that something was going to happen. On top of that, he is promising these very same oil companies that stand to get rich by selling the oil that they will get reimbursed by the American taxpayers whom they already charge through the nose for their products.

This war is not for the American people. It is for oil CEOs to profit off of instead of the American people. Chevron's stock? It is up. Americans' stock? It is down. Their bill will be paid by everyday Americans during the days to come as Trump tries to get us in a new war without end.

The Trump administration must immediately halt further military strikes in Venezuela, whether it is at sea or on land, and come to Congress if it believes force is justified. If President Trump cannot make his case to the American people and our elected representatives, then he has no business using military force and putting American servicemembers in harm's way.

So it is absolutely imperative that the Members of the U.S. Senate go on record. We are going to uphold our constitutional obligation before we commit our military to further operations in Venezuela. We must put them on record before they commit our military in Greenland. We must put them on record on the Republican side before our troops—our military—are committed in Cuba or in Colombia or in Mexico. This body must go on record. We must reclaim our constitutional prerogatives that are built into article I of the U.S. Constitution. That is the job which we must do, and that is what the American people expect from us.

Mr. President, I want to thank Dan Ohlstein for all of the great service which he has given to our country.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote that was scheduled for 1:45 be moved up to 1:30, right now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON VAN HOOK NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Van Hook nomination?

Mr. WARNER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 6 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Britt	Collins
Barrasso	Budd	Cornyn
Blackburn	Capito	Cotton
Boozman	Cassidy	Crapo

Cruz	Justice	Murkowski
Curtis	Kaine	Paul
Durbin	Kennedy	Ricketts
Ernst	King	Risch
Fischer	Klobuchar	Rounds
Graham	Lankford	Schmitt
Grassley	Lee	Shaheen
Hagerty	Lummis	Sheehy
Hassan	Marshall	Sullivan
Hawley	McConnell	Thune
Hoeven	McCormick	Tillis
Husted	Moody	Welch
Hyde-Smith	Moreno	Young
Johnson	Mullin	

NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Baldwin	Hirono	Schatz
Bennet	Kelly	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Luján	Slotkin
Booker	Markey	Smith
Cantwell	Merkley	Van Hollen
Coons	Murphy	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warnock
Duckworth	Ossoff	Warren
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gallego	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—7

Cramer	Scott (FL)	Wicker
Daines	Scott (SC)	
Moran	Tuberville	

The nomination was confirmed.

(Mr. MORENO assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. SULLIVAN assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

GREENLAND

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, as we are starting this new year, there is certainly no shortage of issues to be talking about. You and I have been engaged in fruitful discussions, I believe, about how we address health coverage for millions of Americans that are looking at dramatically higher costs, in many cases, and recognizing that there is a pretty short window here in front of us. In fact, for many, it feels like that window is already closed. We have work to do on that account.

We certainly have work to do on the appropriations bills for fiscal year 2026. We have got a looming deadline of January 30 that is fast approaching. And I think it is good news that we will be able to begin that process to advance this next minibus, these three bills—my Interior subcommittee appropriations as well as CJS, and Energy and Water—be able to advance those.

But then we have to get moving on the fiscal year 2027 cycle. We are already, technically, behind on that. So we have got efforts there.

We obviously need to do more when it comes to the situation around the world.

We just had a vote on a motion to discharge a War Powers Resolution as it relates to Venezuela. We need to strengthen sanctions on Russia, which continues to prosecute this awful war against Ukraine. We need to do more.

We need to work together to reach a bipartisan agreement on permitting reform. We seem to make good forward progress and then take a few steps back. But we need that to build out the infrastructure that this country needs.

We know we all need to tackle the affordability issues that impact all of us, whether they relate to the costs of goods or housing.

There is a lot that we have to do here, but there is one thing that we should not be doing, one thing that we should not be spending our time doing, and that is an effort—any effort—that would seek to annex Greenland, whether it is taking it by force, taking it by coercion, taking it by pressure or threat, or, really, in fairness, any related method. It is not an issue that I would have ever expected to raise here on the floor of the Senate.

In my time here in the Senate, over the past two decades, I have immersed myself in all things Arctic. I have strong relationships with friends across the Arctic and in Greenland, specifically. I have been the cochair of the Arctic Parliamentarians Conference for years now, and my cochair is a strong Greenlandic woman, who I just spoke with this morning about the situation and the rhetoric that is coming out of Washington, DC, directed toward her country.

It is an issue that is not necessarily new to Congress—the U.S. interest in Greenland. In fairness, there have been discussions prior to the first Trump administration. It was actually back in 1867. This was when the United States bought Alaska from Russia and, apparently, at that time, Seward made some inquiries. Seward was Secretary of the Interior at the time. He made some inquiries about Greenland, but the Congress wasn't interested in doing anything about it.

And then, in the Taft administration, there was a land swap that was proposed. This was back in 1910. It was rejected by Denmark. And then, apparently, there was actually a formal offer made back in 1946, at the outset of the Cold War, in the Truman administration, where there was actually an outright offer—$100 million, as I understand it, in gold—to buy Denmark. That is what it was reported as.

That was, again, rejected by Denmark.

But it was at this time where we moved from the discussion about how do we take or how do we buy or how do we trade into one that was based on a relationship and shared mutual interests and national security, and working with Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark to ensure that military assets could be based at Thule, at the time—now called Pituffik—Air Base Station.

Again, these are discussions that have been had in the past—but in the very, very distant past—until just recently, when, again, we have seen comments coming out of the administration and really stepped up in this past week or so.

It is one thing to have a discussion. It is one thing to have a conversation. But, instead, what we are hearing is some pretty aggressive rhetoric from the Trump administration and some members of Congress. There are statements that we are seeing that are suggesting that not only is a taking by force or coercion or other related method not only an option but perhaps a priority. And that, as a priority for the United States to take Greenland, military action is an option. And that, to me, is profoundly, profoundly troubling.

I think most of us want to be able to just not only quiet that but make clear that is not only not going to happen, but it is an option that has been taken off the table. I wish that I could say we have received that kind of reassurance, but to date, we haven't. We haven't had that assurance.

To be fair, the Secretary of State has recently stated that we are not talking about military intervention, so much as seeking to purchase. Again, in order to purchase something, you have to have a willing buyer and a willing seller. Greenland has made it very, very clear and Denmark has made it very clear that Greenland is not for sale.

As I speak with those whom I have established relationships with across the Arctic and, more specifically, in Greenland, they are sharing with me their concern, their deep anxiety about what is going on. What is it that the United States is asking for?

Think about the 57,000 people who reside in Greenland. That is the total population of this massive, massive island—57,000 people. But those 57,000 people are their own autonomous country. They have been striving for independence and control of their own future for years. Greenland's Prime Minister made a point very clearly recently. He said that ''threats, pressures and talk of annexation have no place between friends'' and that Greenland's future must be decided by its own people.

We need to take that message seriously. We need to respect the will and the wishes of the people of Greenland. Greenland's future must be decided by its own people.

It is also deeply unsettling if you live in Denmark, which administers defense and foreign policy for Greenland, as a mostly autonomous territory. So those who are not Greenlanders but who live in Denmark are justifiably disturbed and unsettled.

It is deeply unsettling, if you understand the immense value of NATO—of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization—and how one cofounding member taking land from another shatters this crucial alliance forever. We have seen that in statements coming from our NATO allies.

Frankly, this should be unsettling for all of us because, bluntly, there is no need to treat longstanding allies with such a brutal lack of respect. And that is what I believe it is, a lack of respect.

We are not talking to the people of Greenland. We are talking over them.

We are talking about them. But we are not talking to them. That is what you do with your friends. That is what you do with your allies.

The people of Greenland are watching us, and the United States is not exactly winning them over by treating them like serfs in a feudal estate. The administration's approach is not improving relationships. It is alienating Greenland. It is alienating Denmark. It is alienating many of our friends and allies in Europe. And it sets the worst possible example for Russia and China and others.

This is coming into focus in the wake of the arrest and extradition of Nicolas Maduro. We get that. We get that. But Greenland is not Venezuela. It is not Venezuela. It is not a narcostate that is run by an illegitimate dictator. It is not an area where we have seen the economy wrecked by a dictator.

Greenland's Prime Minister has rejected any comparison to Venezuela and has emphasized that Greenland is a peaceful democracy. It is not a territory to be pressured, to be threatened.

There is no case, legally or otherwise, for U.S. military intervention in Greenland. Greenland has been not only a partner but a faithful partner. They have been an ally and a friend to the United States, dating back to World War II. At that time, it played a pivotal role in the Allied victory.

To this day, they continue to be that staunch ally. As I mentioned, they have been hosting the Pituffik Space Base and allowing the United States to have not only an important presence there but an invaluable presence. Any colleagues who have had the opportunity to visit the U.S. assets that we have there at Pituffik understand that strategic geography and the level of cooperation that we have seen now for decades.

I was in Greenland just a couple of months ago. I had an opportunity to meet with the new Greenlandic President, and he wanted to know—he said: What is it that the United States wants? What are they seeking? There is this talk about U.S. wanting Greenland. What does it mean? What do they want? Is it critical minerals? Is it more from a national security perspective? Because if that is what you are seeking, we are not only willing to talk; we are anxious to talk. We want to have that discussion with our friend and our ally. We don't want to cut that off. We encourage it.

We have seen how Greenland has encouraged that. The way that they have provided the access, again, to our military for decades, we should be thankful for that. We should appreciate it. We should recognize what we have there and, again, that Greenland and Denmark are willing to give more. They have said as much. Denmark's Prime Minister has suggested that a larger U.S. military presence in Greenland—if that is what we are looking for, let's talk about it.

And we could pursue that as we pursue other areas of cooperation. Whether it has to do with trade or tourism or the other economic ties that bind, that is what we should be doing, but we are not doing it.

Instead, at least publicly, the Trump administration is focused on acquisition, on ownership, even though every one of our strategic goals can be accomplished with Greenland as our partner, rather than a possession.

I would hope that the Trump administration realizes that the United States' taking control of Greenland, especially by military force—which, again, I can't even wrap my head around that one—what harm that would bring to our national security and our international relationships.

This is the 21st century. This is where the United States is supposed to set the example for the rules-based global order, not be the exception to it. And that includes respecting the sovereignty of others.

If we do the wrong thing in Greenland, we will not—we will not—end up with a more secure Arctic. For those of us who have been focused on the Arctic for decades, that is what we have been pushing for. It was this area of peace. We used to call it a ''zone of peace.'' Then Russia fouled all that up. But it still is an area where, again, we have prioritized the security, and we have done so in a way that is collaborative and cooperative. If we lose the people of Greenland, we will lose partners in Denmark and across Europe. We will destroy—we will destroy—our strongest international alliance, and that is NATO, and that gives Russia and China exactly—exactly—what they are looking for.

Now, there may be some new forms of partnership. I am talking about dialogue and trade relationships, but there may be other forms of partnerships that might make sense in 2026. There has been some suggestion of a joint Compact of Free Association that accounts for both Greenland and Denmark's interests. That is one proposal, and I think it is worthy of consideration if folks are interested in that, but we can't force it on them. We need to have both Greenland and Denmark at the table. We would need to treat them both with the respect that they deserve, and it would have to be their choice—their choice—to enter freely into any such accord, and that type of an accord, I might add, would require congressional ratification. So we would have involvement and engagement with that as well.

It should go without saying, but how we talk to our friends and allies matters a great deal, and our approach to Greenland and then, by extension, to Denmark is severely lacking right now. In early 2024, Greenland released their Arctic strategy to guide its foreign security and defense policy for the next decade. The title of that document—the title of their Arctic strategy—is ''Greenland in the World—Nothing about us without us.'' I hear that phrase ''Nothing about us without us'' all the time from my fellow Parliamentarian in Greenland. We would do well to remember that—to remember that real people live in Greenland; that real people are watching the U.S.'s actions and deciding whether or not they want to have much of anything to do with us going forward. We need to be making sure that that is a firm yes instead of a no.

Greenland is an amazing place. It is a beautiful place. Again, I have had an opportunity to visit it multiple times. It reminds me of Alaska, my home State. It is extraordinarily beautiful in so many ways. It is also, like Alaska, very geostrategic. It is a resource-rich area just like my State of Alaska. We have cultural connections thanks to the Inuit people, who migrated from Alaska to Greenland centuries ago. We see that. We see that in the art, and we hear that in the language, where there are shared and common words.

But, unlike Alaska, Greenland is not part of America, and we can't simply take it because we want to. To do so would be a colossal mistake. It would end NATO. It would be a gift to Russia and China and all autocratic nations that lust after new territory and want it to justify their own provocations. Again, it is not necessary. It is not necessary given the decades-long, still-strong partnership that we have with Greenland—again, a country that is willing to work with us diplomatically, militarily, and otherwise.

I am proud of the Alaskans who have really worked to enhance the relationship between my State—the State that causes the United States to be called an arctic nation—and the country of Greenland. We have been working to forge relationships with the people. We have been focused on shared economic interests, whether it be tourism, whether it be trade, whether it be sharing best practices regarding indigenous governance structures or in the collaboration that we are seeing going on with arts and cultures. It is just exactly what we should be doing, which is building these relationships—building these relationships instead of sending out provocative messages that unsettle and disarm everything.

Again, we have got a lot ahead of us in 2026. Greenland—taking Greenland or buying Greenland—should not be on that list. It should not be an obsession at the highest levels of this administration.

I urge—I urge—a reset in how we are conducting these discussions. Let's be respectful of one another. Let's have dialogue. Let's have cooperation. Let's have partnership. Let's take a different tack to secure this relationship with Greenland, recognizing that they are an ally and not an asset and not appropriate for any—any—sort of forced annexation or action.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

DIRECTING THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL TO PROMINENTLY DISPLAY, IN A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE LOCATION IN THE SENATE WING OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL, A PLAQUE HONORING THE MEMBERS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONDING ON JANUARY 6, 2021, UNTIL THE PLAQUE CAN BE PLACED IN ITS PERMANENT LOCATION

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, 5 years and 2 days ago, the Capitol Police protected us as a team stormed the Capitol. Many other forces came and defended the Capitol as well. It was more than just stopping folks headed toward the Capitol to try to interrupt the counting of votes; it was protecting the peaceful transfer of power, which goes to the heart of the Republic.

In 2022, we passed a law saying we would put up this plaque to recognize the valiant efforts of the police officers, but the plaque has not gone up yet; so I am here to team up with my colleague from North Carolina in order to have a strategy to make sure that we do get this plaque up until the House and Senate can reach an agreement.

Therefore, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 580.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 580) directing the Architect of the Capitol to prominently display, in a publicly accessible location in the Senate wing of the United States Capitol, a plaque honoring the members of law enforcement responding on January 6, 2021, until the plaque can be placed in its permanent location.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble 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 resolution (S. Res. 580) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I yield to my colleague from North Carolina.

I will have some comments following his comments. We also have the Democratic lead on the Rules Committee here who would like to weigh in on the importance of this action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I came to the floor on January 6 to make sure that we conveyed our undying gratitude to everybody who played a role.

Senator MERKLEY and I were here in the Chamber, and what we saw there was a parliamentary staff being focused on the job, not worried about themselves but worried about getting the ballots that we were certifying into safekeeping. We saw the Sergeant at Arms' staff do an extraordinary job of marshaling people around and getting them out of the building. We saw the Capitol Police spirit us away from this Chamber, over to the Hart Building, and secure us—literally—without any risk of any of us being harmed.

Having said that, we walked by several Capitol Police officers who were injured. They had been hit. They had been crushed in doors. You know all of the reports. Yet they did their jobs that day. So, when I heard that, apparently, the law that we passed to recognize them and to place this plaque had a technical implementation problem, I went about seeing how we could clarify things, and I found out that my colleague from Oregon Senator MERKLEY had a similar concern. So we are two folks who came together to say: Let's provide some clarity here.

The one thing I will tell you is that this is the plaque, but according to the Capitol Architect, the technical problem that, apparently, the House identified, which I think they can cure fairly quickly if they think it is a concern, is that the plaque was to include a list of all of the individual law enforcement officers who came to the Capitol on that day. This plaque actually has the names of the various law enforcement agencies, but the reality is, there is a digital component to this, which I understand, once it is implemented, will have a list of each and every person who answered the call.

I think it is good that we actually have all of the agencies here because you will see how many people came here—again, I will close on this—to be a part of withstanding what I would consider to be one of the most significant stress tests for this institution since it was founded.

Just keep in mind that we came here. We heard thousands of people storm this Capitol. People died. Police officers were injured, hospitalized. One died shortly after January 6. A lot of people said that was a dark day for democracy. I would leave with you this: It was a great day for democracy because of the law enforcement officers—the people who kept us safe—because do you know what we did when we were confronted with thousands of thugs storming this building? We took a brief recess. We got ourselves together. The Capitol was secured. Then, before we left this compound, we came back and completed our constitutional duty to certify the election. If that is not a good example of parliamentary staff, cloakroom staff, the Sergeant at Arms, and Capitol Police being a part of helping us withstand the greatest threat to this great institution—we owe them our eternal gratitude, and this Nation is stronger because of it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, it was an extraordinary moment to be sitting here in this Chamber and seeing a member of the staff's team run down the aisle to the podium, speak quietly to the Vice President, have the Vice President immediately gavel down the session and depart through the side door; then to see police officers from the Capitol Police immediately engaged, working to lock the doors, protect this Chamber; and whole teams set up to ensure the safety of the Members of the Senate, with the same thing happening over on the House side.

Then, within a few hours, as my colleague from North Carolina has pointed out, the Capitol was secured, but in the process, 170 police officers in defending the Capitol were injured, and as a consequence of the attack on that day, 5 died.

So it was no small movement. It was not a peaceful protest outside but a storming of the Capitol, with some brutal assaults on folks within, on the police officers within. It is so important that we fulfill the vision of the 2022 law and get this plaque up to honor those police officers.

What this resolution is saying is that we in the Senate will put it up here, in a publicly available space, until a deal can be reached with the House of Representatives to display it. Both Chambers have to agree on that, but this is to put it up here in the Senate in a place where the public can see it. That we can do here on our own, and we intend to do it. That is the right thing to do.

It was a shocking thing to me this week because, simultaneous with discovering that this plaque had been stashed away in a room—out of sight somewhere—and that there wasn't an agreement to display it, I also saw the White House's posting, saying that it was a fiction that the Capitol was assaulted and that it was just a peaceful protest outside.

It is so important we be honest with the American people about what happened. It is so important that we recognize those who defended our democratic Republic on that day. It is so important that people know that we came back as Senators and House Members and finished our work that day for the peaceful transfer of power, which is essential to the future of our democratic Republic, and that we succeed in that every 4 years.

We have all taken an oath to the Constitution, and that is one of the most important functions to preserve in the Constitution—the integrity of the ballot box, which is the beating heart of a democratic republic—and the subsequent peaceful transfer of power.

Mr. TILLIS. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. MERKLEY. I will yield, yes.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, the one thing I would like to say to Senator MERKLEY—and that is why I should bring notes when I come down to the

floor—is that I also want to thank the Republican leader Senator THUNE because he has agreed that we will be able to display this until the final location is in place, and I appreciate his help in doing that.

Mr. MERKLEY. I am so glad my colleague mentioned that because, for us to take action here, we have to have bipartisan work, including the leadership on both sides of the aisle.

So while neither my colleague from North Carolina nor I are in the leadership of our—at least I am not, but we worked with our leadership to make this happen. So this is an example of bipartisan cooperation on a very important point.

So with that, unless my colleague from North Carolina has more to share, I am going to yield to my colleague from California and thank him and his leadership on the Rules Committee as we worked to get to this point, with a bipartisan partnership, to get this plaque honoring the police officers from many groups—most, of course, the Capitol Police, but several other groups—that came to defend the Capitol and make sure they know how much we appreciate what their sacrifice was to defend democracy on that day 5 years and 2 days ago.

I yield to my colleague from California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I want to thank Senators MERKLEY and TILLIS for their bipartisan cooperation in honoring the law enforcement officers who responded on January 6, 5 years ago. I also want to thank them both for their comments on Tuesday, 2 days ago, recognizing the fifth anniversary of the attack on the Capitol.

As Senator MERKLEY mentioned, I am the ranking member on the Rules Committee, which has jurisdiction on this issue, and I can attest, having been here for the votes on the original action, that there was bipartisan and bicameral agreement on this plaque and bipartisan, bicameral agreement on its intended location following the enactment of the law.

Now, for the last several years, many people have been confused by the delay in mounting it as planned and directed by Congress. Many even believe that the Speaker of the House never intended to follow the law and honor these law enforcement officers who bravely defended the Capitol and our democracy that day.

I know that sounds a little cynical, but as Senator MERKLEY mentioned, you have to understand that part of the context here is the White House's new website that says that the Capitol Police were the ones who deliberately escalated the situation on January 6, in their attempt to rewrite the history of that day. That dishonors the officers—not just the members of the Capitol Police but all the law enforcement agencies—that responded on that eventful day.

So I am more than just personally pleased to see this resolution move forward and that the Senate's bipartisan commitment to real history is strong.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Senator from Alaska.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OPERATION MIDWAY BLITZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on December 23, the Supreme Court issued an order in Trump v. Illinois that checks this President and his authoritarian tendencies.

The Court rejected the Trump administration's request to stay a temporary restraining order issued by U.S. District Judge April Perry, which had blocked Trump's unnecessary deployment of the National Guard in Chicago.

In that unsigned order, the majority of the Supreme Court wrote, ''The Government has failed to identify a source of authority that would allow the military to execute the laws in Illinois.''

This is good news, and we should recognize the significance of this moment: Even the Supreme Court's conservative supermajority refused to greenlight the President of the United States' blatantly unlawful overreach.

Our government is supposed to help Americans—not go to war with them. The administration's deployment of the National Guard was dangerous political theater intended to sow fear and escalate the President's mass deportation campaign, not to reduce crime.

The President's false rhetoric about Chicago being ''overrun'' with chaos was clearly a pretext to intimidate our city and normalize the deployment of soldiers on our streets.

To protect civil liberties and civilian rule—pillars of democracy—our country has long upheld the norm that the military does not police our cities.

The Supreme Court recognized that, in this country, the circumstances where the military may be used to execute the laws are exceptional and thankfully acted as a check on this President, at least at this preliminary stage.

The cost of this National Guard operation has already been enormous. The operations, maintenance, and personnel costs for federalizing the 500 National Guard soldiers for deployment in Illinois reached an estimated $20 million in a 2-month span.

That comes out to more than $300,000 per day.

That bears repeating: $20 million and 500 Guard personnel away for weeks on end from their families, their jobs, their communities . . . not performing any missions, but simply used by the President to threaten a reign of terror in the city of Chicago. It is unconscionable.

As of today, these troops are finally, slowly demobilizing and getting ready to head home. But unfortunately, the presence of militarized immigration operations is likely to continue in Chicago and around the country, along with the egregious use of excessive force by these Federal immigration agents.

Just yesterday, an ICE agent shot and killed a woman in Minneapolis. The video of the shooting is horrific and contradicts the self-defense narrative that DHS has attempted to spin. Minnesota officials have rightfully promised a full, fair, and expeditious investigation. DHS Secretary Kristi Noem has dodged testifying under oath before the Senate Judiciary Committee for months. What happened in Minneapolis yesterday was an unacceptable tragedy. She must testify before the Judiciary Committee, immediately.

Meanwhile, across the country, camouflaged and masked Federal immigration agents continue to deploy Black Hawk helicopters, armored vehicles, and a variety of chemical agents, including near schools, playgrounds, apartment buildings, and churches.

And the Department of Homeland Security refuses to provide information about the costs of these dangerous operations in Illinois. The Chicago Tribune estimated that these militarized immigration operations cost at least $40 million over a 10-week period.

In the wake of these operations, families are afraid to leave their homes, parents are scared to walk their children to school, and workers and vendors fear being pulled from the streets and detained simply for the way they look or the language they speak.

The Trump administration has repeatedly justified these militarized raids as necessary to target the ''worst of the worst.'' But the facts tell a different story, one that I have laid out repeatedly on this floor.

In one instance, on a list of 614 detainees submitted to a Federal court, the administration identified criminal histories for just 16 of the detainees. That shakes out to less than 3 percent of arrestees.

And people with no prior criminal backgrounds, including legal residents and U.S. citizens, were swept up.

As the President flirts with future military deployments and continues his militarized immigration raids, we know his campaign of terror will not stop at Chicago.

And while he failed in his attempt to use Chicago as ''training grounds'' for military forces, the scale and tactics of Operation Midway Blitz have given him a blueprint for similar operations

across the country, including in Minneapolis this week.

So I ask my Republican colleagues, Will you denounce this President's use of troops in our communities before a city you represent becomes the administration's next ''training grounds''?

I will continue to speak out and conduct oversight of this President, and I hope my Republican colleagues will join me in that effort.

REMEMBERING WILLIAM ''BILL'' HARRIS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, politicians live in a world of advocates. The rich and powerful engage effective people to represent them. Those less fortunate strive to keep up in the world of politics. It was 1982 as I, first-time congressional candidate, received a questionnaire from the Children's Defense Fund. My first thought was: Is this for real? Helping kids is the right thing to do, but who would make the most vulnerable people in America their ''cause''? Enter Bill Harris.

Bill was born on March 11, 1940, in Saint Paul, MN, to Irving and Rosetta Harris. While they moved around frequently in his youth, his family eventually settled in the Chicago suburb of Highland Park. Bill's father Irving was one of the most amazing people I have ever met, and anyone who knew him would understand how Bill developed a passion for advancing the interests of children. Across the United States, Irving invested in charities and institutions that supported childhood development. He helped create the Yale Child Study Center at Yale University, the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Public Policy Studies, which bears his name, and the Erikson Institute for Advanced Studies in Child Development. He worked tirelessly for the rights of all children and was so proud that Bill ended up working for children as well.

After graduating from Highland Park High School, Bill left the North Shore to attend Wesleyan University in Connecticut, where he graduated in 1961. He went on to work at Janus Films in New York, where his interest in childhood development programs blossomed. In his position he had the opportunity to work with Fordham University to create novel media programs for underserved youth. In this position, he founded a newsgathering team, a radio station, and a newspaper all made for and run by children. In bringing new media to impoverished areas, Bill gave children more than just a job, he gave them a chance to advocate for themselves and their interests. Bill would end up writing his doctoral thesis at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on his work, and it would continue to leave a deep impression on his life.

And in his work, Bill received his life's greatest blessing. While organizing a film festival at the Lincoln Center, Bill met his wife Robie. She had submitted an entry to the festival titled ''Child's Eye View,'' which documented her work teaching underserved children. The two felt an instant bond over their passion for childhood development, and they soon married in 1969. Their relationship flourished for 55 years, with both advocating for vulnerable children throughout their union.

After Bill completed his doctorate, he reflected on his work with children and how he could make more of an impact. At the time, nearly every large corporation and labor union in America had an organization devoted to fundraising and advancing its priorities in government, except for children. Bill set out to change this. He felt that children were a public good, whose needs were far greater than what private companies or philanthropy alone could protect. Only the government possessed the power and responsibility to adequately address the best interests of children.

In 1981, Bill formed Kidspac to raise money to back politicians who supported evidence-based policies for children and families. Since its inception, Bill and Kidspac remained at the forefront of the major childhood welfare reforms of the past 40 years. Bill's efforts led to the creation of Early Head Start under the Clinton administration; he pushed Congress to change the Child Tax Credit to be fully refundable so the poorest families would be able receive its benefits; and he helped establish the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative to treat the mental health impacts of childhood trauma. In the years since, I have been honored to help carry that torch and double the funding for this critical program to improve our knowledge and expand services for children who are exposed to trauma. Bill was relentless in pursuit of his mission to push politicians to advance the best, most evidence-based practices that would support children.

In his work, Bill was not content with only assisting children at home. He advocated for international HIV and AIDS relief funding long before the establishment of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief under the Bush administration. I had the great fortune of traveling with Bill to Sub-Saharan Africa to examine the effects of international investment in the region, and one memory of our trip stands out to me. Shortly after we arrived in Africa, I learned that the airline had lost my luggage. When I told Bill, he did not hesitate to offer me access to his wardrobe. He was ready to give me the shirt off his back. That was the kind of person Bill was.

Bill never stopped advocating for children, and he did so without an ounce of vanity or desire for personal recognition. His passion was born out of a true sense of altruism that could not be tainted or subdued. Although Bill is no longer with us, his legacy lives on through his children David and Ben. David worked together with Bill to support the expansion of the Child Tax Credit, and he serves as executive director at the Children's Research and Education Institute, a nonprofit organization that Bill founded to educate policymakers and the public about the policies that best serve children. Ben worked for many years as a clinical professor at the Psychological Center at the City College of New York, where he provided therapeutic services in the same neighborhoods that his father made children's news programs five decades prior. Today, he continues to work in clinical psychology. Loretta and I send our deepest condolences to David and Ben; their wives Emily and Hilary; Bill's sister Virginia Polsky; and Bill's grandchildren Ella, Rosie, Sam, and Daisy.

Bill was an optimist. He believed that there was no limit to what a child could achieve if they received the right support from their families and their country. With no ego or agenda, Bill gave his life to providing children with that support. His work has left a permanent mark on America's children, families, and politics. He will be dearly missed. Bill Harris was truly one of the good guys.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CAROLINE NILSSON TROY

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Caroline Nilsson Troy on her well-deserved retirement after more than 31 years of dedicated service to the Gem State and the students, staff, faculty, and alumni at the University of Idaho.

Caroline's deep Idaho roots have shaped her public service. A fifth-generation Idahoan, Caroline grew up in Genesse, a community built on values that define the Gem State: hard work, tending the land, and Vandal pride. After graduating from the University of Idaho, she applied the lessons learned on her family's farm and ranch to the U of I's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. There, Caroline helped develop and raise funding for educational programs that set students on the path to success.

In 2014, Caroline was elected to the Idaho House of Representatives. Over the course of four terms, she sponsored more than 100 bills and resolutions aimed at strengthening small businesses, timber, and agriculture and was a key voice in the responsible use of taxpayer dollars. Caroline remained a tireless advocate for education and her alma mater, opening doors to internships and jobs for Vandals interested in public service.

Following her time in elected office, Caroline returned home to the University of Idaho as the special assistant to the president for State and governmental relations. In this role, Caroline made a positive impact on countless lives, especially for students and families across north Idaho. I am confident

that her legacy of kindness and integrity will inspire generations to come.

It is with great pride that I recognize Caroline Nilssan Troy for her outstanding contributions to the Gem State. Thank you, Caroline, for your many years of service and commitment to making Idaho the best place to live, work, and raise a family.●

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

At 1:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 978. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Doug LaMalfa, a Representative from the State of California.

At 4:06 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6938. An act making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Foreign Relations, by motion, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1546a, and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 98. Joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Venezuela that have not been authorized by Congress.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

January 8 (Legislative Day January 7), 2026

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 6938. An act making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2418. A communication from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to action on a nomination for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of First Vice President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2419. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, with respect to the Western Balkans; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2420. A communication from the Management Analyst, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Public Land Order for Withdrawal of Federal Lands; Cook, Lake, and Saint Louis Counties, Minnesota'' (PLO7917) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2421. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Ohio; 2015 Ozone Reasonably Available Control Technology'' (FRL No. 9995–02–R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2422. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Extension of the State Implementation Plan Due Date for the Regional Haze Third Implementation Period'' ((RIN2060–AW41) (FRL No. 12160–02–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2423. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Michigan and Minnesota; Revision to Taconite Federal Implementation Plan'' (FRL No. 12351–02–R5)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2424. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Revision; California; Placer County Air Pollution Control District; New Source Review'' (FRL No. 12530–03–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2425. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; California; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District'' (FRL No. 12832–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2426. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Utah; Northern Wastch Front; 2015 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Boundary Expansion and Applicability of Certain Clean Air Act Requirements'' (FRL No. 12971–02–R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2427. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS; Michigan State Board Requirements; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule'' (FRL No. 13010–03–R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2428. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category-Deadline Extensions'' ((RIN2040–AG54) (FRL No. 8794.3–04–OW)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2429. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Oklahoma'' (FRL No. 12761–02–R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2430. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Colorado; Revisions to Colorado Procedural Rules and Common Provisions Regulation'' (FRL No. 13050–02–R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2431. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''New Source Performance Standards; Delegation of Authority to Oklahoma'' (FRL No. 12826–02–R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2432. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Louisiana'' (FRL No. 12688–02–R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2433. A communication from the Acting Branch Supervisor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval: Arizona: Infrastructure Requirements for the 2012 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard'' (FRL No. 11747–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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 Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3596. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the earned income threshold for the refundable child tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3597. A bill to reauthorize the National Quantum Initiative Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3598. A bill to provide for the periodic issuance of up-to-date clinical guidance on addressing the health effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. 3599. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to establish a public health insurance option, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SLOTKIN:

S. 3600. A bill to require the President to declare a national housing emergency and invoke the Defense Production Act to incentivize residential housing production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 3601. A bill to authorize a grant program to support institutions of higher education in hiring veterans as campus security, to prohibit Federal funding for Equity Assistance Centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 3602. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify the definitions of ''public charge'' and ''likely at any time to become a public charge,'' to establish requirements for affidavits of support and public charge bonds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 3603. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to improve the cost of living adjustment exclusion from income under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3604. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out activities to establish, expand, and sustain a public health nursing workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 3605. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a portion of general business credit carryforwards to be transferred by certain taxpayers affected by federally declared disasters and other incidents; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 3606. A bill to subject aliens convicted of fraud to deportation and to bestow concurrent jurisdiction to revoke the citizenship of any naturalized United States citizen convicted of fraud on any court that enters such a conviction; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 3607. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for expanded coverage of services furnished by genetic counselors under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 3608. A bill to require a strategy for the expanded use of Trade Transparency Units; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 3609. A bill to establish a community protection and wildfire resilience grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BANKS:

S. 3610. A bill to prohibit the provision of United States financial assistance to any entity that is controlled by an agent of a covered foreign principal; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BUDD, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SCHMITT, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 576. A resolution commending the United States military action in Venezuela; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. Res. 577. A resolution observing the 1-year anniversary of the 2025 Southern California wildfires; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 578. A resolution congratulating the University of Washington men's soccer team on winning the 2025 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1 Men's Soccer National Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 579. A resolution affirming the importance of the Social Security program to the people of the United States and expressing the sense of the Senate that Social Security must be preserved, protected, and strengthened for current and future generations; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. Res. 580. A resolution directing the Architect of the Capitol to prominently display, in a publicly accessible location in the Senate wing of the United States Capitol, a plaque honoring the members of law enforcement responding on January 6, 2021, until the plaque can be placed in its permanent location; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KIM, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KAINE, Mr. REED, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COONS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Con. Res. 25. A concurrent resolution recognizing the 15th anniversary of the January 8, 2011, Tucson, Arizona, shooting and honoring the survivors and victims, including former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, a gun violence survivor and one of the most influential voices of courage in the United States in the fight to end gun violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 121

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 121, a bill to extend the statute of limitations for violations relating to pandemic-era programs to be 10 years.

S. 128

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 128, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 276

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 276, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and improve health savings accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 405

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 405, a bill to modify eligibility requirements for amateur sports governing organizations.

S. 749

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 749, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend increased dependency and indemnity compensation paid to surviving spouses of veterans who die from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, regardless of how long the veterans had such disease prior to death, and for other purposes.

S. 1021

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the Senator from

New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1021, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to establish a dairy nutrition incentive program, and for other purposes.

S. 1124

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1124, a bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit the Federal reserve banks from offering certain products or services directly to an individual, to prohibit the use of central bank currency for monetary policy, and for other purposes.

S. 1157

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1157, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a review to evaluate the status of research on lung cancer in women and underserved populations, and for other purposes.

S. 1748

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1748, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 1763

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1763, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the 7-year recovery period for motorsports entertainment complexes.

S. 2061

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2061, a bill to require the Interagency Working Group on Toxic Exposure to conduct research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of descendants of individuals exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2378

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2378, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish funds for investments in aviation security checkpoint technology, and for other purposes.

S. 2827

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2827, a bill to amend the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination based on source of income, veteran status, or military status.

S. 2949

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2949, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the coinsurance requirement for certain colorectal cancer screening tests furnished under the Medicare program.

S. 2994

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2994, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to clarify that a State may not use an individual's failure to vote as the basis for initiating the procedures provided under such Act for the removal of the individual from the official list of registered voters in the State on the grounds that the individual has changed residence, and for other purposes.

S. 3023

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3023, a bill to limit liability for certain entities storing child sexual abuse material for law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 3292

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3292, a bill to support research about the impact of digital communication platforms on society by providing privacy-protected, secure pathways for independent research on data held by large internet companies.

S. 3410

At the request of Mr. KIM, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3410, a bill to establish Federal agency technology and artificial intelligence talent teams to improve competitive service hiring practices, and for other purposes.

S. 3492

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 3492, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the intellectually disabled, and inpatient rehabilitation facilities to permit essential caregivers access during any period in which regular visitation is restricted.

S. 3583

At the request of Mr. HUSTED, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3583, a bill to establish a pilot program in which States may use consolidated funds, through Upward Mobility Grants, for antipoverty programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3589

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3589, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide students with disabilities and their families with access to critical information needed to select the right college and succeed once enrolled.

S.J. RES. 98

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 98, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Venezuela that have not been authorized by Congress.

S. RES. 61

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 61, a resolution expressing support for the continued value of arms control agreements and negotiated constraints on Russian and Chinese strategic nuclear forces.

AMENDMENT NO. 4056

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4056 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 3607. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for expanded coverage of services furnished by genetic counselors under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 3607

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 ''Access to Genetic Counselor Services Act of 2026''.

SEC. 2. MEDICARE COVERAGE OF GENETIC COUNSELING SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended—

(1) in subsection (s)(2)—

(A) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (II);

(B) by adding ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (JJ); and

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

''(KK) covered genetic counseling services (as defined in subsection (nnn)(1));''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''Covered Genetic Counseling Services

''(nnn)(1) The term 'covered genetic counseling services' means genetic counseling services furnished on or after January 1, 2027,

by a genetic counselor (as defined in paragraph (2)) and such services and supplies furnished as an incident to the provision of such services which the genetic counselor is legally authorized to perform under State law (or the State regulatory mechanism provided by State law) as would otherwise be covered if furnished by a physician (or as incident to a physician's service).

''(2) The term 'genetic counselor' means an individual who—

''(A) is licensed as a genetic counselor by the State in which the individual furnishes genetic counseling services; or

''(B) in the case of an individual practicing in a State that does not license genetic counselors, is certified by the American Board of Genetic Counseling and meets such other criteria as the Secretary establishes.''.

(b) BALANCE BILLING.—Section 1842(b)(18)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(18)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(ix) A genetic counselor (as defined in section 1861(nnn)(2)).''.

(c) PAYMENT.—Section 1833(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and (HH)'' and inserting ''(HH)''; and

(2) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: '', and (II) with respect to covered genetic counseling services (as defined in section 1861(nnn)(1)), the amount paid shall be equal to 80 percent of the lesser of (i) the actual charge for the services or (ii) 85 percent of the fee schedule amount provided under section 1848 that would have applied had the genetic counseling services been furnished by a physician''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1862(a)(14) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395(y)(a)(14)) is amended by inserting ''covered genetic counseling services,'' after ''qualified psychologist services,''.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments made by this section shall not be construed as preventing physicians and health care providers other than genetic counselors from billing for genetic counseling services under the Medicare program which are otherwise covered under such program.

(f) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement the amendments made by this section by interim final rule with comment period.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 3609. A bill to establish a community protection and wildfire resilience grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan Community Protection and Wildfire Resilience Act. This crucial piece of legislation would help local communities defend themselves from the growing and pressing danger of wildfires.

This bill would empower communities to implement science-based methods for mitigating wildfire damage and provide funding to design and implement new Community Protection and Wildfire Resilience Plans with community members, first responders, and relevant State agencies.

Today, is the 1-year anniversary of the devastating Eaton and Palisades fires in Los Angeles that taught us all that not all wildfires are forest fires and as such Federal preparedness efforts need to be improved and streamlined to ensure that we better prepared when the next natural disaster strikes. We increasingly see wildfires in the wildland urban interface, and we must do more to prepare and harden our communities. As the countless fires in my State and across the West have shown us, we need to increase Federal support for communities to mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

The Community Protection and Wildfire Resilience Act would work towards this goal by establishing guidelines for communities to conceptualize new Community Protection and Wildfire Resilience Plans, CPWRP, that are developed in coordination with community members, first responders, and relevant State agencies.

This bill will achieve this through improving early detection technology, public outreach and education, alerts and warnings, evacuation planning, evacuation execution, and access for first responders; addressing vulnerable populations, including the elderly and those with disabilities; hardening critical infrastructure and homes; applying community-scale defensible space across contiguous areas; building local capacity to implement and oversee the plan; deploying distributed energy resources; implementing strategic land use planning; educating community members; and coordinating with existing wildfire plans like a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Aside from this, the bill will provide grants for at-risk communities, complete a report on existing programs to protect communities from wildfires, and it will allow for structure hardening that will help build more fire resilient communities.

I would like to thank my colleague Senator SHEEHY for being a great partner here in the Senate to advance and put forth commonsense wildfire legislation that will help Western States and the country become better equipped to respond to increasing wildfires. I also want to express my appreciation to Representatives HUFFMAN and OBERNOLTE for leading this effort on the House side.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this bill this Congress to ensure that communities are better equipped to meet the growing threat of fires.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 576—COMMENDING THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACTION IN VENEZUELA

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BUDD, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SCHMITT, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 576

Whereas, on January 3, 2026, the United States military executed a flawless, large-scale operation across Caracas, Venezuela, resulting in the successful capture of narco-terrorist Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores;

Whereas that operation, codenamed Operation Absolute Resolve, was the culmination of months of planning, intelligence gathering, and joint military cooperation, demonstrating exceptional strategic execution and timing;

Whereas the raid effectively removed indicted cartel leader Nicolás Maduro from power without prolonged occupation, allowing United States forces to withdraw after achieving the objective with no American lives lost;

Whereas Maduro and Flores were transported to the United States to face long-standing Federal charges, including narco-terrorism conspiracy, cocaine importation conspiracy, and possession of machine guns and destructive devices;

Whereas the people of Venezuela, because of the bold and strong action of the United States administration, now have a path to liberty and prosperity first laid out by the brave Venezuelan opposition led by Edmundo Gonzalez, the duly elected President of Venezuela, and María Corina Machado; and

Whereas President Trump, his administration, and the United States military are to be commended for their bold leadership, strategic vision, and unwavering commitment to justice and protecting the American people by executing the operation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends Operation Absolute Resolve for its precision, efficiency, and role in addressing longstanding regional instability in Latin America; and

(2) emphasizes that this bold action will pave the way for democratic transitions in Venezuela and promote regional stability in the Western Hemisphere.

SENATE RESOLUTION 577—OBSERVING THE 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE 2025 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 577

Whereas a series of wildfires, exacerbated by extreme Santa Ana winds and dry conditions, broke out in Los Angeles County and its adjacent counties on January 7, 2025;

Whereas the wildfires burned nearly 60,000 acres across the region, killed 31 people, destroyed over 16,000 structures, and displaced over 200,000 Southern Californians;

Whereas the 2 largest fires, the Palisades Fire in the Pacific Palisades and the Eaton Fire in Altadena, burned a combined 37,000 acres and destroyed over 16,000 structures;

Whereas the wildfires devastated homes, schools, businesses, places of worship, and entire neighborhoods;

Whereas the wildfires caused losses that make it one of the costliest natural disasters in the history of the United States;

Whereas more than 7,500 firefighting emergency personnel were deployed to fight the unprecedented fires;

Whereas firefighters and first responders from across California, from the United States Navy and the United States Forest Service, from departments in Oregon, Washington, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Montana, Texas, Canada, Mexico, and from 12

Tribal nations mobilized to respond to the fires;

Whereas the firefighters and first responders risked life and limb to preserve and protect lives and property;

Whereas hundreds of volunteers worked tirelessly to tend to those who had lost their homes or loved ones;

Whereas individuals across the United States and around the world expressed their support and sorrow for those affected by the fires;

Whereas, 1 year later, the rebuilding process in the Pacific Palisades, Altadena, and other communities across Southern California continues; and

Whereas continued coordination between Federal, State, and local authorities is required to ensure that those affected by the fires obtain the relief and support they need: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors and remembers those who lost their lives in the wildfires;

(2) recognizes and commends the bravery and selflessness of the first responders who risked their lives to respond and extinguish the wildfires; and

(3) affirms its commitment to helping Southern California communities continue to rebuild.

SENATE RESOLUTION 578—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON MEN'S SOCCER TEAM ON WINNING THE 2025 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION 1 MEN'S SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 578

Whereas, on December 15, 2025, the University of Washington Huskies men's soccer team (the ''Washington Huskies'') secured a 3–2 overtime win against No. 15 seed North Carolina State to win the national championship before an estimated 10,000 fans;

Whereas this win marks the first national title in program history;

Whereas, during the 2025 playoffs, the Washington Huskies defeated the Oregon State Beavers, the Southern Methodist University Mustangs, the Stanford Cardinal, the Maryland Terrapins, and the Furman Paladins, before defeating the North Carolina State Wolfpack in the championship game to win the College Cup;

Whereas Zach Ramsey and Joe Dale scored the 2 goals during regulation time and Harrison ''Harry'' Bertos scored the winning goal for the Washington Huskies during overtime in the championship game;

Whereas every member of the Washington Huskies men's soccer team contributed to the successful 2025 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I National Championship season and the championship match;

Whereas the coaches and staff of the Washington Huskies men's soccer team played a vital role in the success of the Washington Huskies during the 2025 season;

Whereas the Washington Huskies overcame a 3-game losing streak at the end of the regular season to win all 6 of their NCAA tournament games away from home, becoming the first team to win 6 road matches in the tournament; and

Whereas the Washington Huskies showed immense strength, resilience, and teamwork to win the national championship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Washington men's soccer team for an incredible season and for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1 Men's Soccer National Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the team's success; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Jamie Clark, head coach;

(B) Patrick Chun, athletic director; and

(C) Dr. Robert J. Jones, president of the University of Washington.

SENATE RESOLUTION 579—AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT SOCIAL SECURITY MUST BE PRESERVED, PROTECTED, AND STRENGTHENED FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 579

Whereas, on August 14, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) into law, establishing a foundational commitment by the United States to provide economic security for its senior citizens;

Whereas the Social Security program has served as the cornerstone of retirement security for generations of individuals in the United States, providing vital retirement, disability, and survivor benefits to millions;

Whereas the Social Security program has successfully paid scheduled benefits throughout its 90-year history, delivering on the promise earned by workers in the United States and their families through a lifetime of contributions;

Whereas the Social Security program remains the primary source of income for millions of seniors, individuals with disabilities, and surviving family members, and its continued strength is vital to the economic well-being of the United States;

Whereas the Social Security program faces significant long-term financial challenges that require thoughtful and responsible action to ensure its continued stability and effectiveness;

Whereas preserving and strengthening the Social Security program is a bipartisan responsibility that requires cooperation and leadership from policymakers; and

Whereas increased public awareness, education, and dialogue are essential to ensure that the Social Security program remains strong and solvent for current and future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its bipartisan commitment to preserving and protecting the Social Security program for current and future generations;

(2) affirms that an automatic, across-the-board cut in benefits would disrupt the retirement security of tens of millions of people in the United States and must be avoided; and

(3) calls upon Members of Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to develop and enact legislation that ensures the long-term solvency of the Social Security program and protects seniors, individuals with disabilities, and families in the United States for generations to come.

SENATE RESOLUTION 580—DIRECTING THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL TO PROMINENTLY DISPLAY, IN A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE LOCATION IN THE SENATE WING OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL, A PLAQUE HONORING THE MEMBERS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONDING ON JANUARY 6, 2021, UNTIL THE PLAQUE CAN BE PLACED IN ITS PERMANENT LOCATION

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 580

Whereas the United States owes its deepest gratitude to those officers of the United States Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, as well as officers from other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and protective entities, who valiantly protected the United States Capitol, Members of Congress, and staff on January 6, 2021;

Whereas section 214 of division I of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (2 U.S.C. 2131 note prec.; 136 Stat. 527) directed that a plaque be placed on the western front of the United States Capitol to honor the extraordinary individuals who bravely protected and defended this symbol of democracy on January 6, 2021; and

Whereas their heroism should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Architect of the Capitol shall prominently display the plaque produced pursuant to section 214 of division I of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (2 U.S.C. 2131 note prec.; 136 Stat. 527) in a publicly accessible location in the Senate wing of the United States Capitol until such time as the plaque can be placed at a permanent location on the western front of the United States Capitol.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25—RECOGNIZING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JANUARY 8, 2011, TUCSON, ARIZONA, SHOOTING AND HONORING THE SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS, INCLUDING FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN GABBY GIFFORDS, A GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVOR AND ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL VOICES OF COURAGE IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE FIGHT TO END GUN VIOLENCE

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KIM, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KAINE, Mr. REED, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COONS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. CORTEZ

MASTO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 25

Whereas, on January 8, 2011, a tragic act of gun violence occurred in Tucson, Arizona, during a ''Congress on Your Corner'' event hosted by Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, resulting in the deaths of 6 individuals and the injury of 13 others, including Congresswoman Giffords;

Whereas among those killed were Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona John Roll, Gabriel ''Gabe'' Zimmerman (a congressional staff member to Congresswoman Gabby Giffords and the first known congressional staffer killed while serving), Dorothy ''Dot'' Morris, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and 9-year-old Christina-Taylor Green;

Whereas Ron Barber, who was serving as District Director to Congresswoman Gabby Giffords at the time of the attack and later became a Member of the House of Representatives, was critically injured while performing his public duties, and has since demonstrated extraordinary resilience and continued commitment to public service;

Whereas Pamela Simon, a congressional staff member dedicated to supporting the work of Congresswoman Gabby Giffords and the constituents of the 8th district of Arizona, was also injured in the attack and continues to exemplify perseverance as a survivor and advocate;

Whereas the attack shocked the United States, underscoring the dangers of political violence and the importance of civility, empathy, and respect in American democracy;

Whereas the people of Tucson and the State of Arizona came together with resilience, compassion, and unity after the attack, inspiring the nation with their strength in the face of tragedy;

Whereas former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords has, in the years since the attack, become a champion of courage and perseverance, dedicating her recovery and her voice to preventing gun violence and promoting civility in public life; and

Whereas countless people of the United States, community organizations, law enforcement officers, and first responders have worked in the years since the attack to honor the victims through acts of service, advocacy, and civic engagement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) honors the memory of the 6 individuals whose lives were lost on January 8, 2011, and expresses continued support for all survivors and families affected by the tragedy;

(2) recognizes the courage and leadership of former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords and her ongoing work to promote civility, bipartisanship, and solutions to prevent gun violence;

(3) commends the people of Tucson and first responders for their strength, compassion, and heroism in responding to the attack; and

(4) reaffirms its dedication to promoting a respectful dialogue, condemning political violence and hate, and maintaining the core principles of peaceful self-governance.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Daniel Ohlstein, a fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the rest of this month.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 577, S. Res. 578, and S. Res. 579.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; the preambles be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 577, S. Res. 578, and S. Res. 579) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 6938

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6938) making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I move to adjourn until 4:27 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:26 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 4:27 p.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING COLORADO STATE REPRESENTATIVE SHANNON BIRD

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colorado State Representative Shannon Bird for her public service.

Throughout her time in the legislature, Representative Bird has worked tirelessly to fight for all individuals. She served on the Joint Budget Committee for 6 years, serving as vice chair and later chairwoman, ensuring that corporate loopholes were closed while still protecting small businesses. Representative Bird has been a champion for affordable housing, passing legislation to lower the cost of housing and offer more Coloradans the ability to own a home.

Though Representative Bird and I held different positions during my time in the State Legislature, we collaborated to cut through the red tape surrounding professional licensing and keep Colorado one of the best places to work. She is my colleague, my friend, a mother, and a steadfast advocate for her community.

Representative Bird has been serving the Westminster community for decades, starting as a city council member, serving as board chair of the Five Star Education Foundation, and as citizen chair for a school district's bond campaign. Representative Bird spent countless hours volunteering in students' classrooms, which led to her co-founding the Adams 12 Community Action Network, dedicated to empowering students by providing equal learning opportunities at local schools.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to thank Representative Bird for her dedication to serving her community. I wish Shannon and her family all the best on their next endeavor.

RECOGNIZING SOLANCO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE AT THE 2025 STUDENT DRONE CHALLENGE

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize and congratulate Solanco High School students Robert Baxter, Lucas Vilk, and Caleb Reed on their success in the 2025 Student Drone Challenge.

The Student Drone Challenge is hosted by the Interaction of Ionizing Radiation with Matter University Research Alliance (IIRM–URA), which is a collaborative partnership between universities, laboratories, and industrial companies. Funded by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, the IIRM–URA's primary concern is to mitigate threats against weapons of mass destruction. The competition is an opportunity for students to learn and engage in the fields that IIRM–URA supports.

The 2025 challenge involved a virtual drone simulation where students conducted reconnaissance to identify radiological threats in a building captured by friendly forces. Pitting over 800 competitors including those from university, high school, and middle school—the Solanco High School students took the top spots on the podium. Robert Baxter placed 1st overall, Lucas Vilk placed 2nd for high school students, and Caleb Reed placed 3rd for high school students.

I am grateful for educational programs that broaden our students' horizons. I congratulate the winning students, and I look forward to what their bright futures hold.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WILLIAM JAMES ''W.J.'' FRIERSON, SR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a devoted public servant, respected minister, and trusted community leader whose faithful service to Clarendon County and the people of South Carolina spanned more than three decades. Reverend William James ''W.J.'' Frierson, Sr. transitioned on December 26, 2025, leaving behind a legacy defined by faith, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to service.

Born on July 8, 1953, in Manning, South Carolina, W.J. Frierson was raised in a family grounded in faith, hard work, and community responsibility. As a young man, he accepted Christ and became an active member of Green Hill Missionary Baptist Church, where he answered his call to the ministry and began a long journey of service within the church and beyond.

Over the years, he faithfully served in numerous roles, including choir member, sexton, trustee, ordained deacon, and ordained associate minister, building a foundation of spiritual leadership that would guide every aspect of his life. Most recently, W.J. Frierson pastored Lovely Hill Baptist Church in Holly Hill for 18 years, shepherding his congregation with compassion and wisdom.

Reverend Frierson was equally committed to education and self-improvement. A 1971 graduate of Manning High School, he pursued higher education at Texas College, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and Biology. He continued his Christian education through the Sumter Baptist M&E Association and Morris College, preparing himself to serve not only as a pastor, but as a thoughtful and compassionate leader equipped to guide others.

In 1995, W.J. Frierson began what would become a historic tenure on Clarendon County Council and represented Council District Two for thirty years. During his service, he was known for his steady leadership, thoughtful deliberation, and deep concern for the well-being of all residents. He approached public office not as a position of power, but as an extension of his ministry—listening carefully, advocating tirelessly, and always seeking to do what was right rather than what was easy. His colleagues and constituents respected him for his integrity, humility, and willingness to work through differences for the good of the county.

Beyond elected office, Reverend Frierson was deeply engaged in civic and community organizations. He was affiliated with Prince Hall Masons as a member of Red Hill Lodge No. 144, the Manning Branch of the NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and numerous educational and faith-based boards and councils. Professionally, he dedicated more than three decades as Human Resources Manager at Century Aluminum, retiring in 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the memory of Reverend William James ''W.J.'' Frierson, Sr.—a servant of God, a servant of the people, and a pillar of his community. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and a mentor to countless individuals who will carry his lessons forward. ''W.J.'' was a man whose life reflected his faith, whose leadership strengthened his community, and whose legacy will endure.

RECOGNIZING THE ATSMA FAMILY

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Atsma Family, who have been named the 2025 Dairy Family of the Year by the Tulare Chamber of Commerce.

The Atsma family's story is a remarkable example of hard work, perseverance, and dedication to agriculture. George Atsma's father initially immigrated from the Netherlands to Canada in 1953 at just 20 years old. After meeting his wife and welcoming their first child, they moved his young family to Southern California. There, he worked for local dairymen and eventually entered the dairy business himself—continuing the family tradition dating back to the 1600s.

In 1994, George Atsma began his own dairy legacy when he started building his own herd in Tipton, California. A few years later, he purchased property just east of Tulare, and by 2007 had completed renovations and moved his herd to the new site. Today, he operates both a successful dairy and a calf ranch with his wife, Tina, and their six children: Joshua, Danielle, Tavis, Annika, Georgiana, and Roman.

In 2005, Mr. Atsma launched a custom calf raising business—another example of the family's commitment to innovation in dairy production. What began with 450 milking cows has

● 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.

grown to a herd of 1,550, including 1,400 milking cows. That kind of growth doesn't happen without a deep respect and knowledge of the land and livestock.

This June, during the Annual Salute to Dairy and Dairy Princess Coronation hosted by the Tulare Chamber of Commerce, the Atsma Family was recognized for their leadership, stewardship, and contributions to both the dairy industry and our local community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Atsma Family on this well-deserved honor. Their work represents the very best of the Central Valley's agricultural heritage, and their impact will be felt for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RALPH L. WADSWORTH

HON. BLAKE D. MOORE

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ralph Wadsworth, who passed away on December 25, 2025.

In many ways, Ralph is a prime example of the American dream. Having grown up in Idaho, he became the first of his family to attend college. At the time, he lived in an abandoned Army barracks and took odd jobs to pay for lodging and food. When he married his high-school sweetheart, Peggy, they had just fifty dollars to their name.

Their poverty did not restrict Ralph's ambition and drive. After graduating from college and working for several engineering firms, he ventured out on his own and founded the Ralph L. Wadsworth Structural Engineering company in 1962. This company grew to be successful throughout the country. They engineered and built many high-rise office buildings in Salt Lake City, Utah, as well as many temples for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including most notably the temple here in Washington, D.C.

Ralph prioritized his family, his faith, and his country. He held a deep love for the United States of America and raised his children to recognize the great blessing it is to live in this country. He always recognized the role that his faith and belief in God had in his personal and professional success. Perhaps most importantly, he, along with his wife Peggy, raised seven sons who continue his legacy of success and hard work.

Ralph is survived by his 7 sons, 21 grandchildren, and 27 great-grandchildren. I extend my deepest condolences to his family and express my gratitude for the important contributions that Ralph offered to our state and our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WILLIAM WOLPERT HARRIS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the heaviest but most grateful of hearts that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of my dear friend, William Wolpert Harris. Bill was an extraordinary person who dedicated a lifetime to improving the quality of life of every child in every community. Today family, friends, and colleagues will gather to share stories and their memories of Bill, highlighting the incredible impact his good work had on countless lives.

Bill graduated with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from Wesleyan University in 1961 and later earned a Doctor of Philosophy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He worked for several years in the private sector and served as a visiting lecturer and adjunct professor at several universities. However, it was in 1981 that Bill founded what would become his lifelong passion and ultimate legacy, KidsPac, a group that helped to focus legislators at every level of government on the importance of early childhood education. It was through these efforts that I was introduced to and got to know Bill. Together we worked to shape and, eventually, enact legislation that authorized and funded the United States Child Traumatic Stress Initiative. This initiative has resulted in the creation of a national network of thirty-eight centers focusing on child traumatic stress. Bill was also one of the staunchest supporters of the effort to expand the child tax credit. Over the years, his guidance and advocacy ensured that this policy remained at the forefront of discussion and debate. We were indeed kindred spirits and for more than two decades, under Bill's outstanding direction, KidsPac was a leader and respected voice in the advocacy for policies concerning childcare, prenatal health, and early education.

For Bill, supporting children and enriching their early life experiences was not just a passion but a family occupation. Bill's father, Irving, founded the Erickson Institute as well as the Ounce of Prevention Fund, and was instrumental in the development of the Yale Child Study Center and Zero to Three. Bill's late wife, Robie, was a celebrated children's author, unapologetic defender of free speech, and remarkable advocate for children. Bill and Robie's activism was integrated into every facet of their lives so it is no surprise that both of their sons, David and Ben, both followed in their footsteps. David, taking a page from his Bill's work, has focused his professional life on research and advocacy for policies that address child poverty. Ben, whose interests more mirrored his mother's, is now Clinical Professor at the Psychological Center at The City College of New York (CCNY), which provides low-to-moderate-cost services to the CCNY and West Harlem communities. In this role, and throughout his career, he has worked with a socioeconomically and culturally diverse range of children and adolescents as well as adults.

Bill's dedication to issues concerning children and their health and well-being extended far beyond KidsPac. In 1984 Bill founded the Children's Research and Education Institute and he served on the advisory board of the Child Development Community Policing Program in conjunction with the Yale Child Study Center. He also served on numerous not-for-profit boards and advisory committees, including the Urban League, Wesleyan University, the State Legislative Leaders Foundation's Children's Program Steering Committee and the National Science Foundation's Review Panel of the Public Understanding of Science Program. Over his lifetime he received a myriad of awards for his work on behalf of children, including the Advocacy Award, Division of Child, Youth and Family Services, from the American Psychological Association; the Dale Richmond Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics; the Leadership Award for Public Service from Zero to Three; and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Wesleyan University. And just a few short years ago, Bill was honored alongside his son, David, by the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies with its inaugural Public Advocacy Award for outstanding and fundamental contributions to advancing social understanding of trauma.

On a personal note, it has been an enormous privilege to work with three generations of the Harris family—first Irving, then Bill, and now David—to develop and advocate for policies and programs that give children and their families the foundational security they need to learn and thrive. Through their unique understanding that our young people represent the future and that we as a community and a Nation must give them the tools that they need in order to succeed.

Bill Harris was a remarkable man who dedicated a lifetime to improving the lives of children. I am honored to rise and pay tribute to the indelible mark he has left. Today, I thank my dear friend, Bill, for the difference that he has made in this country, and the millions of lives that have been made better through his vision, his passion, and his kindhearted spirit. He has been an inspiration to all of us. I will forever be grateful for the friendship, humor, and generosity he bestowed upon me over the years. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his sons, David and Ben. The world is just a bit dimmer without his presence, and he will be deeply missed by all those who knew him.

RECOGNIZING AMY ZHANG

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Amy Zhang of Morrison, Colorado, for winning Best in Show in the 2025 Congressional App Challenge.

Amy built EnAct: AI Guides, Vision-Impaired Act, an assistive technology app for seeing impaired individuals that describes the user's environment, helping them avoid pathway collisions. Her application uses multiple AI platforms, and was inspired in part by Amy's experience with a friend who is seeing impaired.

This accomplishment is an impressive example of Amy's determination, hard work, and advanced STEM knowledge base.

I congratulate Amy Zhang for her success in the Congressional App Challenge. I am certain she will continue to show the same dedication and strength of character in all her future endeavors. I am excited to see all she will accomplish.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I was indisposed during this vote due to a vehicle accident. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 2; YEA on Roll Call No. 3; and NAY on Roll Call No. 4.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JAMES KUNKLE

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of James Kunkle, a decorated World War II fighter pilot, aviation leader, and American hero whose service and courage spanned more than a century.

James Kunkle was born in October 1922 in New Kensington, Pennsylvania, and later moved to California, where he graduated from Beverly Hills High School in 1940. His commitment to service began early, joining the California Air National Guard as a teenager. During World War II, he earned his pilot's wings in 1942 and served as a fighter pilot with the 401st Fighter Squadron of the 370th Fighter Group under the United States Army Air Forces, flying the iconic P–38 Lightning in combat missions over Europe.

On September 16, 1944, during a mission over Aachen, Germany, Mr. Kunkle displayed extraordinary heroism in aerial combat. Despite being wounded, sustaining severe aircraft damage, and enduring an onboard fire, he shot down two enemy aircraft. He successfully bailed out over what he believed to be enemy-held territory, evaded capture, returned to Allied lines, rejoined his squadron, and continued flying missions beyond his required tour. For his valor that day, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second-highest award for heroism in combat.

Following his military service, Mr. Kunkle devoted his life to aviation. He operated aviation businesses, developed airports and airport facilities across California, throughout the United States, and in Guam, and remained an active pilot for decades. He made his longtime home in the Santa Ynez Valley, where his contributions left a lasting mark on the Central Coast aviation community.

In his later years, Mr. Kunkle was honored repeatedly for his service, including recognition at the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion in Normandy, designation as an honorary member of the United States Space Force, and the naming of Santa Ynez Airport as Kunkle Field, honoring three generations of aviators in his family. Even after turning 100, he continued to inspire, receiving honors from the Nebraska Air National Guard and being recognized as one of the last surviving pilots of the 401st Fighter Squadron.

James Kunkle passed away peacefully at home on November 29, 2025, at the age of 103. His life stands as a powerful testament to courage, perseverance, and lifelong service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF ALICE KITCHEN

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with immense sorrow along with Missouri's 5th Congressional District, to commemorate the life and legacy of a great Kansas Citian, Ms. Alice Kitchen. The fruits of Alice's advocacy for women, children, and marginalized communities will live on for generations to come. Alice was a force to be reckoned with, stopping at nothing to ensure that others could live free of abuse, injustice, and discrimination. Her undeniable impact will continue to grace Kansas City with inspiration.

Alice's long history of advocacy began when as a high school student, she became involved with Guadalupe Center as a volunteer in the 1950s. As she saw the many families in predominately Hispanic neighborhoods in Kansas City who lacked access to food, running water, and electricity disturbed her, she questioned the morality behind sitting by when others lived that way. After graduating from her Catholic high school, she moved to Encino, California, where she joined the Sisters of Social Service convent where she ministered to domestic workers in Beverly Hills, most of whom were Mexican immigrants. These individuals, she described, were lonely, poorly paid, and isolated. She took those experiences and paved a life of activism. After graduating with her master's degree in social work at the University of California—Los Angeles (UCLA), Alice returned to Kansas City to work in a legal aid office where she helped young, first-time offenders avoid longer criminal records. With a love for social services, she continued her career at Children Mercy's where she served as the director of social services for two decades. Under her leadership, she sought funding for specialized treatments needed by children with medical issues and initiated programs to assist young mothers fight their battles with addiction.

Alice was devoted to bringing light to issues she believed in, and a full-time job was not going to hold her back. During Alice's voluntary night shifts, she established Amethyst Place, a supportive housing program that served mothers and children recovering from abuse, organized neighborhood cleanups as a board member of the Kansas City Housing Authority and assisted young mothers in obtaining health insurance. As a volunteer co-chair of the Affordable Care Public Education Committee in the Kansas City Metropolitan area, she advocated for the expansion of Medicaid and accessible healthcare. In March of 2012, her efforts were recognized, and Alice received the Champion of Change award from President Barack Obama at the White House. Gender equity and advocating for policies that support women was another mission that peaked Alice's interest. During her time with the League of Women Voters and Women's Equality, she was able to educate women voters and bring light to the disparities women were facing within workplaces. Her fearlessness led Jane McQueeney, a friend of Kitchen, to give testimony to the City Council in Kansas City when McQueeney was receiving less pay when working for the federal government. Kitchen worked with Kansas City to adopt an ordinance to prohibit discrimination against women and to stop employers from penalizing women with less experience.

When it was time for retirement, Alice saw it as an opportunity to do her evening tasks full-time. At age 69, she traveled to the Mosquito Coast of Honduras on a human rights observation mission. She took her mission on headfirst and investigated bullet holes in boats, houses that had burned down, and wounded villagers with her international activist group, the Cross Border Network. Alice never stopped looking for a way to improve the lives of others or to push anyone to their fullest potential. She lived her life to her fullest potential, and she continues to inspire others to do the same. In fact, she had a knack for finding strengths in people before they did themselves and pushed them to foster their strengths. As a woman who was one in a million, she continued to prove to the people who surrounded her, that they were also just as special.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Alice Kitchen. Her passing is devastating, but the legacy she leaves behind reminds us that no matter how short life tends to be, we can still make a world of difference. While she is not here to grace the community in Kansas City with her valiant voice, or her indominable spirit, her soul will live on through the extensive and beautiful legacy that she built. The legacy she left has lit fires under enough people in Kansas City, so they can forage through the noise and echo her advocacy, which will keep her spirit alive for eternity.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT AND LEGACY OF MS. BRENDA SANDERS-WISE

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Ms. Brenda Sanders-Wise for her extraordinary life of service, historic leadership, and enduring commitment to preserving the cultural legacy of Tarrant County through her lasting contributions to the Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogy Society, and the Lenora Rolla Heritage Center Museum.

Despite facing the harsh realities of segregation, which once prevented her from continuing her education in the very school district she now serves, Ms. Sanders-Wise persevered. She went on to become the first Black graduate of Haltom High School and, years later, made history again as the first Black school board trustee of Birdville Independent School District. Her journey stands as a testament to resilience, courage, and faith in the power of progress.

For more than five decades, Ms. Sanders-Wise has been a steadfast steward of Fort Worth's Black history and culture. As Executive Director of the Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society, a role she has held with distinction for 15 years, she has preserved irreplaceable narratives, provided educational programming and genealogy workshops for adults and children, and championed the importance of historical truth. Her

leadership has also guided the development of the Lenora Rolla Heritage Center Museum, fulfilling a long-held vision to create a permanent home dedicated to Fort Worth's Black history and culture.

Ms. Sanders-Wise's tenure has been marked by passion, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to historical truth. Through her guidance, the Society has remained a vital institution, strengthening community pride and honoring the legacy of pioneers such as the late Honorable Frank Moss, whose vision continues to inspire this important work.

As the Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society gathers under the theme ''A Legacy of Love—A Garden of Gratitude'' to celebrate her retirement, it is fitting that we pause to reflect on the profound impact of Ms. Sanders-Wise's labor of love. Her leadership has not only enriched our understanding of the past but has also laid a strong foundation for future generations to learn, grow, and lead.

Today, we commend Ms. Brenda Sanders-Wise for her years of faithful service and extend our deepest gratitude for her enduring contributions to history, culture, and community. We wish her a joyful and fulfilling retirement, and we celebrate a legacy that will continue to bloom for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING ANDREW HEINEMAN AND HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Andrew Heineman for nearly seven years of outstanding service to the constituents of New York's 12th Congressional District and to the United States House of Representatives.

A native of California, Andrew attended California State University, Northridge, where he graduated cum laude with a degree in Political Science and International Relations. His early political work included opposing Proposition 8 in California and later serving as an organizer on the Obama for President campaign, where he was known for knocking on even the most difficult doors.

Andrew later moved to Washington, D.C., where he began his congressional career in the office of Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI. There, he worked his way from Staff Assistant to Legislative Correspondent to Legislative Assistant.

In 2019, I was fortunate to have Andrew join my Washington, D.C. office, working primarily on Transportation and Infrastructure issues, before becoming my Legislative Director in 2022. In this role, he oversaw my entire Legislative agenda, prepared bills, amendments, and statements, and provided thousands of vote recommendations.

As a key member of my senior staff, Andrew has been at the center of my legislative work. He was instrumental in helping pass my landmark legislation, the Respect for Marriage Act, which enshrined marriage equality into law. Andrew worked tirelessly to ensure its passage in both the House and the Senate, and it was a privilege to celebrate with him at the White House for the bill's signing into law.

He was also central to the passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, skillfully negotiating with stakeholders in Washington while simultaneously participating in a meeting with New York elected officials—demonstrating his knowledge and strong political acumen.

As the head of the legislative team, he has served as a mentor for countless Legislative Staffers.

Andrew has been a leader on transportation issues in my office, staffing me on the Committee and advancing critical infrastructure priorities such as the Cross Harbor Rail Project and the Gateway Tunnel, helping ensure that New York City remains the public transit capital of the world. He led our efforts to establish congestion pricing in Manhattan and fend off attacks by President Trump and Secretary Duffy.

During his tenure, Andrew held hundreds of meetings with stakeholder groups from across the district, serving as a trusted representative of my office. He consistently brought deep knowledge and a strong understanding of complex issues to every engagement.

He also led numerous New York Delegation letters and served as a valued resource for staff across the House. His extensive network of colleagues and friends on Capitol Hill is a testament to the respect he has earned throughout the institution.

Outside of his official duties, Andrew has remained deeply involved with the California State University, Northridge Semester in Washington Program, where he teaches and mentors students pursuing careers in public service. His commitment to these students reflects dedication to helping others.

I am glad that Andrew is remaining on the Hill and I am sure that I will see him around Rayburn. I look forward to seeing where his career will take him and thank him for his excellent service.

RECOGNIZING AARIV ARORA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aariv Arora of Broomfield, Colorado, for earning the Rookie of the Year Award in the 2025 Congressional App Challenge.

Aariv built an interactive app called WayBuddy, a community safety app that allows students to report roadway hazards for fellow pedestrians and bicyclists on a shared map. This accomplishment is an example of Aariv's determination, hard work, and impressive knowledge base in the STEM field.

I congratulate Aariv Arora for his success in the Congressional App Challenge. I am certain he will continue to show the same dedication and strength of character in all his future endeavors. I am excited to see all he will accomplish.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK O. GEHRY

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable life and legacy of the renowned architect Frank O. Gehry. He passed away on December 5, 2025, after a brief battle with a respiratory illness, Mr. Gehry was not only one of the most influential architects of our time, but also a visionary whose work reshaped skylines and inspired generations.

Frank Owen Goldberg was born in Toronto in 1929 and later emigrated with his family to the United States, settling in Los Angeles, where he was raised. Working as a delivery driver while he studied at Los Angeles City College. Frank was inspired by his love of museums and art to study architecture. He later graduated from the University of Southern California's School of Architecture in 1954. Around that time, fearing the negative impact of antisemitism on his architectural career, Frank was persuaded to change his last name to ''Gehry.'' He moved with his family as he began his studies at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design but left the program before completion and returned to Los Angeles where his career in architecture began.

First working for Victor Gruen, the renowned Austrian American architect, and later the French architect, Andre Remonde, Frank quickly built his own unique design styles, and he returned to California. In 1967, he founded Frank Gehry and Associates in Los Angeles. His earliest designs included Santa Monica Place, the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, the California Aerospace Museum, the California Museum of Science and Industry, and the Norton House in Venice, California. His designs combined imagination with civic purpose, producing buildings that were as much works of art as they were places for community life.

Mr. Gehry's daring and modern approach would later culminate in globally celebrated landmarks such as the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao and the Walt Disney Concert Hall, cementing his reputation as one of the most influential architects of the modern era. Even in the later years of his life, he continued to devote his talents to projects in creative arts and fashion, including stores for Louis Vuitton and Bernard Arnault in Beverly Hills, California, and implementing the final touches on a 1,000-seat concert hall for the Colburn School of Music, right across the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Through these achievements, he inspired residents, policymakers, and artists alike to see architecture as a force for imagination and renewal. His ability to blend bold vision with functionality was extraordinary, and his legacy will endure in the skylines and communities he transformed. Mr. Gehry received numerous honors, including the Pritzker Architecture Prize (1989), the National Medal of Arts, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In addition to these iconic works, Mr. Gehry dedicated significant time to pro bono projects and public service. He was the founder of Turnaround Arts: California, a nonprofit organization that expands access to the arts in under-resourced public elementary and middle

schools across California. In 2014, he began work with the LA River Revitalization Corporation to develop the Los Angeles River Master Plan, a groundbreaking restoration of the Los Angeles River to create green space for the communities and wildlife that thrive along its path.

In 2015, Frank designed the Children's Institute in Watts, waiving his design fee to support families who had experienced violence and poverty. He also designed the Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA) center, completed in 2021, which provides free instruments, music training, and academic support to students from disadvantaged neighborhoods. These projects exemplify his belief that architecture could serve not only as art, but as a force for equity and opportunity.

In his passing, Mr. Gehry is survived by his wife, Berta, and three children. I am thankful for the cultural contributions he made in Los Angeles County and his global design landscape that has centered architectural design to serve people. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL DAVID ''MOON'' HALASI-KUN

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service and extraordinary career of Colonel David L. ''Moon'' Halasi-Kun, who has honorably served our Nation for more than twenty-five years and most recently as the Wing Commander of the 104th Fighter Wing at Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield, Massachusetts.

Colonel Halasi-Kun's career is a testament to dedication, leadership, and excellence in service. Commissioned from the United States Air Force Academy in 1998, he went on to graduate from the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program in 2000. Over the course of his career, he has accumulated more than 3,150 flight hours in the F–15 Eagle and other aircraft, and has participated in combat and support missions in Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, and ATLANTIC RESOLVE.

After a decade of active duty, Colonel Halasi-Kun joined the Massachusetts Air National Guard in 2008, where he has served with distinction for the past fifteen years. Rising through the ranks, he has held numerous leadership positions, including Vice Commander of the 104th Fighter Wing, before assuming command in 2022. In this role, he was responsible for ensuring that more than 1,000 military and civilian personnel were mission-ready to defend our homeland and support expeditionary deployments around the globe. Most notably, Colonel Halasi-Kun has upheld the stellar reputation that has become associated with Barnes, positioning the base to be selected as the preferred location to host a new fleet of F–35A aircraft. This decision solidified Barnes' place in the western Massachusetts community for decades to come.

Colonel Halasi-Kun's service has been recognized with some of the military's highest honors, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, and the Aerial Achievement Medal. His professional achievements are matched by his academic accomplishments, having earned advanced degrees in Military Operational Art and Science as well as National Resource Strategy.

On September 30, 2025, Colonel Halasi-Kun completed his final flight in the F–15C Eagle, marking both the end of his own flying career and the conclusion of the F–15 mission at Barnes Air National Guard Base. In a fitting tribute, he led a four-ship formation on a two-hour mission over the Atlantic, a ''Lunar Flight'' named in honor of his call sign, ''Moon.'' Upon his return, he was greeted by family, friends, and fellow airmen who celebrated his remarkable career and enduring legacy.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Halasi-Kun embodies the very best of our armed forces: courage, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to duty. His leadership has left an indelible mark on the 104th Fighter Wing, and his service has brought great pride to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to our Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel David ''Moon'' Halasi-Kun for his decades of service and sacrifice. We extend our deepest gratitude to him, his wife Gretchen, and his son Luke for their steadfast support throughout his career. His legacy will continue to inspire future generations of airmen as the 104th transitions to its next chapter with the arrival of the F–35s.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DEACON ANDREW WASHINGTON

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend, brother in Christ, and fellow servant of the community, Deacon Andrew Washington, who departed this life on November 14, 2025. Andrew was a man whose presence, spirit, and service touched countless individuals across Chicago's West Side and far beyond.

Born on February 12, 1942, in Dublin, Mississippi, Andrew was raised in a family guided by faith, wisdom, and resilience. After the untimely passing of his mother, Ruthie Lee Washington, his father, Reverend Bernard Washington, remarried, and through perseverance and hope the family made their way to Chicago in 1955. That journey—rooted in survival and aspiration—shaped the character of a man who would come to embody strength, compassion, and unwavering commitment to others.

In Chicago, Andrew attended Crane High School before becoming a certified electrician through Coyne Electrical School. A multi-talented man, he studied music, beauty, welding, and much more, mastering skills that allowed him to support his family, build small businesses, and establish himself as someone who could fix, create, inspire, and lead.

Andrew accepted Christ at an early age and served faithfully as a deacon at Ruth Memorial M.B.C. and later at New Galilee Missionary Baptist Church. I had the privilege of serving alongside him, and I know firsthand that he took his calling seriously—offering care, counsel, and comfort to God's people.

Mr. Speaker, Andrew Washington was known for many things—his impeccable dress, his sharp wit, his strong opinions, and his ability to make something out of nothing—but what stood out above all was his deep and unwavering commitment to helping others. And I want to highlight two stories that reflect the true measure of this remarkable man.

First, Andrew would not let a week pass without calling me—not for himself, but on behalf of someone else. He would say, ''Danny, I've got somebody I need you to help.'' Never once did he call to ask for anything for himself. In all the years I knew him, he never sought favor for his own benefit. His thoughts were always on the needs of others—young people, families in crisis, neighbors struggling with illness, joblessness, or hardship. I can personally attest that he helped hundreds of people, and he did so with a quiet humility that never sought recognition.

Second, I recall vividly the time of President Barack Obama's first inauguration. Tickets were scarce—scarcer, I admit, than even a Member of Congress might like. Yet Andrew—resourceful as ever—managed to get tickets and drove his well-known pickup truck all the way from Chicago to Washington, D.C. At the very last minute, he called me: ''Danny, I need a room. I've got my granddaughter with me—and some family and friends. We need a place to stay.''

I thought it would be impossible to find accommodations so close to the inauguration date. But somehow, through God's grace and a bit of determination, we found a room big enough for them all. Andrew's joy in that moment reflected the pride so many of us felt witnessing history. And in true Andrew fashion, the trip wasn't about himself—it was about creating memories for his loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, Andrew Washington was a man of faith, family, community, and conviction. He raised children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who loved him dearly. He worked hard his entire life, retiring from Ryerson Steel after decades of service. He built businesses, guided neighbors, supported churches, and anchored his community with generosity, wisdom, and love.

He was a storyteller, a counselor, and a living example of what it means to give more than you receive. He taught lessons using props, pictures, and humor. He brought people roses, and through them, messages of hope. He attended events across the city, spreading faith and fellowship wherever he went.

Mr. Speaker, Andrew Washington lived his life with purpose. He gave more than he took. He stood tall, spoke truth, walked boldly, and served faithfully. His legacy is one of service, compassion, resourcefulness, and unshakable faith.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Deacon Andrew Washington and in extending heartfelt condolences to his beloved wife, Leola Washington; his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren; and the entire Washington family.

May they be comforted in knowing that this good and faithful servant has finished his course, kept the faith, and left a legacy that will continue to bless generations.

TRIBUTE TO HERBERT GADSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life and legacy of an educator, public servant, freedom fighter, and man of deep faith whose service to the people of Hollywood, South Carolina, and the Lowcountry of South Carolina spanned more than five decades. The Honorable Herbert Gadson transitioned on January 2, 2026, leaving behind a community forever changed by his courage and leadership.

My longtime friend, Herbert Gadson, was born on September 22, 1948, in Charleston County, South Carolina. Reared in the close-knit community of Hollywood, his life was shaped early by faith, family, and an unshakable belief in education as the pathway to opportunity. Baptized at Saint Luke AME Church and later a devoted member of Wesley United Methodist Church, his life reflected the values instilled in him from childhood—service, discipline, and responsibility.

A gifted scholar, Mr. Gadson graduated as Valedictorian of the Baptist Hill High School Class of 1967. At a time when barriers for Black students were formidable, he matriculated at South Carolina State University, earning both bachelor's and master's degrees in education. While a student there, his life was forever changed by events that would become known as the Orangeburg Massacre. Beaten by state police days earlier and later shot during the protest, Mr. Gadson survived one of the darkest moments of the Civil Rights Movement, carrying a bullet in his hip for the rest of his life. But rather than retreat, he emerged with a renewed commitment to justice, dignity, and public service.

Education remained Herbert Gadson's first calling. For 30 years, he served as a teacher, administrator, and mentor in various South Carolina public schools. Whether in North Augusta, Johns Island, Wadmalaw Island, or Hollywood, he was known for firm discipline, high expectations, and genuine care for his students. He was more than an educator; he was a life coach, mentor, and a father figure to many.

In 1983, Mr. Gadson entered public service as a write-in candidate for Hollywood Town Council. In 1989, he made history when he was elected the first African American mayor of Hollywood. He served with distinction until 2003. As mayor, he confronted the crack cocaine crisis, rebuilt infrastructure, promoted transparency in government, and achieved what many believed impossible—bringing water and sewer services to a long-neglected rural town. His leadership transformed Hollywood, and his legacy is permanently marked by the Herbert Gadson Intersection, over which hangs the town's only traffic light.

Mr. Gadson was a devoted husband to Linda Gadson, a loving father to Reginald, Telley, and Shaytee, a grandfather, and a beloved friend to many. He served as Finance Chair and Treasurer at Wesley United Methodist Church and on the Parish Relations and Nominations Committees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring The Honorable Herbert Gadson—a servant of the people and a pillar of hope whose legacy will continue to be a source of guidance to Hollywood and South Carolina for generations to come.

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE LANCASTER COUNTY BEEKEEPERS SOCIETY

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize the Lancaster County Beekeepers Society on their 150th anniversary.

The Lancaster County Beekeepers Society first met on March 13, 1876, in the city of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Founded by beekeepers with Lancastrian surnames like Reist, Hershey, and Herr, the first subject discussed was "Will bee-keeping pay?" The Lancaster County Beekeepers Society has continued to meet in the following 150 years, making it the oldest continuously operating, non-profit, honeybee club in the United States.

Throughout their long history, the Lancaster County Beekeepers Society has provided an opportunity for beekeepers to share their insights with one another and promote bee-related products. The club also provides public awareness about honeybees and their importance through lectures, exhibits, and programs like their annual New Beekeeper Workshop. The workshop has trained over 1,000 new beekeepers since its inception in 2010. These initiatives have benefited schools, churches, clubs, farm shows, and fairs across the county and state.

Honeybees are a vital part of our ecosystem. As the Lancaster County Beekeepers Society celebrates a monumental 150 years, their service to the community deserves to "bee" commended. I thank the club for what they do, and I wish them another 150 years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING DR. ANGELA "ANGIE" PACCIONE

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Angela "Angie" Paccione for her service to constituents in Colorado as Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE).

Dr. Paccione has been a lifelong public servant, working in education for over 27 years before joining CDHE. Since her appointment to this role in 2019, Dr. Paccione has worked to expand access to higher education for students of all backgrounds. Dr. Paccione has helped implement a variety of programs to increase access and affordability for low-income students, including the FosterED and EmpowerED scholarship programs for students who grew up in foster care and who are experiencing homelessness. Furthermore, Dr. Paccione helped implement the Colorado Re-Engaged Initiative to allow thousands of Coloradans who did not finish a four-year degree the opportunity to earn an associate's degree. And under her leadership, Colorado was ranked first in the Nation for educational attainment in 2022.

Throughout her tenure, Dr. Paccione has been a dedicated advocate, working to expand opportunities and improve educational outcomes for thousands of Colorado students. She has conducted robust outreach to prospective students about educational opportunities and resources offered by the state, including speaking with high school students and families at a FAFSA resource fair held by my office at Bear Creek High School in April of 2025.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to thank Dr. Paccione for her years of service and to wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Interim Résumé of Congressional Activity for the First Session of the 119th Congress (2025).

Senate

Chamber Action

(Legislative Days of January 7, 2026 and January 8, 2026)

Routine Proceedings, pages S95–S119, S121–S122

Measures Introduced: Fifteen bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3596–3610, S. Res. 576–580, and S. Con. Res. 25. **Page S115**

Measures Passed:

January 6, 2021 plaque: Senate agreed to S. Res. 580, directing the Architect of the Capitol to prominently display, in a publicly accessible location in the Senate wing of the United States Capitol, a plaque honoring the members of law enforcement responding on January 6, 2021, until the plaque can be placed in its permanent location. **Pages S111–12, S118**

Southern California wildfires anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 577, observing the 1-year anniversary of the 2025 Southern California wildfires. **Pages S117–118, S119**

Congratulating University of Washington Men's soccer team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 578, congratulating the University of Washington men's soccer team on winning the 2025 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1 Men's Soccer National Championship. **Pages S118, S119**

Social Security program: Senate agreed to S. Res. 579, affirming the importance of the Social Security program to the people of the United States and expressing the sense of the Senate that Social Security must be preserved, protected, and strengthened for current and future generations. **Pages S118, S119**

Measures Considered:

Hostilities Within or Against Venezuela: By 52 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 5), Senate agreed to the motion to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations of S.J. Res. 98, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Venezuela that have not been authorized by Congress. **Page S100**

Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026. **Pages S119, S121**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, January 8, 2026, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, January 12, 2026. **Pages S121–22**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, January 12, 2026, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill; and that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the motion to proceed to the bill ripen at 5:30 p.m. **Pages S121–22**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 53 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 6), Alexander C. Van Hook, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana. **Pages S100–09, S122**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general. **Page S122**

Messages from the House: **Page S114**

Measures Discharged: **Page S114**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S114, S121**

Measures Read the First Time: Page S114

Executive Communications: Page S114

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S115–16

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S116–19

Additional Statements: Pages S113–14

Privileges of the Floor: Page S119

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—6) Pages S100, S109

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:26 p.m., and reconvened at 4:27 p.m., on the same day, and adjourned at 4:29 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2026. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S121–22.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 18 public bills, H.R. 6974–6991; and 4 resolutions, H.J. Res. 138; H. Con. Res. 69; and H. Res. 982–983, were introduced. Pages H251–52

Additional Cosponsors: Page H253

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 178, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out activities to suppress wildfires, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–429, Part 1);

H.R. 179, to direct the Secretary concerned to coordinate with impacted parties when conducting a forest management activity, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–430, Part 1);

H.R. 2250, to reauthorize the National Landslide Preparedness Act, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–431, Part 1);

H.R. 435, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide direct hire authority to appoint individuals to Federal wildland firefighting and firefighting support positions in the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–432, Part 1);

H.R. 1110, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to develop and implement a strategy to increase opportunities to utilize livestock grazing as a means of wildfire risk reduction, with amendments (H. Rept. 119–433, Part 1);

H.R. 2405, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out activities to provide for white oak restoration, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–434, Part 1); and

H.R. 839, to prohibit the implementation of a Land Protection Plan for Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–435). Page H251

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Wied to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H137

Recess: The House recessed at 11:50 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. Page H148

Order of Business—Consideration of H.R. 6938: Agreed by unanimous consent that the question of retaining a portion of the bill on H.R. 6938 may be subject to postponement, as though under clause 8 of rule 20. Pages H150–51

Recess: The House recessed at 2:05 p.m. and reconvened at 2:30 p.m. Page H209

Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026: The House passed H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, by a yea-and-nay vote of 397 yeas to 28 nays, Roll No. 7. Earlier, the House agreed to retain Divisions B and C by a yea-and-nay vote of 419 yeas to 6 nays, Roll No. 6, and to retain Division A by a yea-and-nay vote of 375 yeas to 47 nays, Roll No. 5. Pages H151–H205, H209–11

H. Res. 977, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4593), (H.R. 5184), and (H.R. 6938) was agreed to yesterday, January 8th.

Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendments Act—Presidential Veto: The House voted to sustain the President's veto of H.R. 504, to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to

carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, by a yea-and-nay vote of yeas to nays, Roll No. 8 (two-thirds of those present not voting to override).

Pages H208–09, H211–12

Subsequently, the veto message (H. Doc. 119–120) and the bill were referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. **Page H212**

Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act: The House voted to sustain the President's veto of H.R. 131, to make certain modifications to the repayment for the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado, by a yea-and-nay vote of 248 yeas to 177 nays with one answering "present", Roll No. 9 (two-thirds of those present not voting to override).

Pages H205–08, H212

Subsequently, the veto message (H. Doc. 119–119) and the bill were referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. **Page H212**

Breaking the Gridlock Act: The House passed H.R. 1834, to advance policy priorities that will break the gridlock, by a yea-and-nay vote of 230 yeas to 196 nays, Roll No. 11. **Pages H212–13, H213–27**

H. Res. 780, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1834) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 202 nays, Roll No. 10.

Pages H212–13

Quorum Calls—Votes: Seven yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H209–10, H210, H210–11, H211–12, H212, H213, and H226–27.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Interim Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3, 2025 through January 3, 2026

	Senate	*House*	*Total*
Days in session	202	169	..
Time in session	1265 hrs., 21′	581 hrs., 59′	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	S8,949	H6,138	..
Extensions of Remarks	..	E1,249	..
Public bills enacted into law	24	45	..
Private bills enacted into law	..	..	..
Bills in conference	..	1	..
Measures passed, total	449	533	982
Senate bills	109	18	..
House bills	34	375	..
Senate joint resolutions	13	6	..
House joint resolutions	17	18	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	6	4	..
House concurrent resolutions	9	12	..
Simple resolutions	261	100	..
Measures reported, total	*237	419	656
Senate bills	204	..	..
House bills	5	368	..
Senate joint resolutions	..	..	..
House joint resolutions	..	2	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	1	..	..
House concurrent resolutions	..	2	..
Simple resolutions	27	47	..
Special reports	11	4	..
Conference reports	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	201	140	..
Measures introduced, total	4,259	8,101	12,360
Bills	3,562	6,926	..
Joint resolutions	100	135	..
Concurrent resolutions	24	67	..
Simple resolutions	573	973	..
Quorum calls	3	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	659	276	..
Recorded votes	..	85	..
Bills vetoed	..	2	..
Vetoes overridden	..	..	..

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 98 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 423 reports have been filed in the House.

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3, 2025 through January 3, 2026

Civilian nominees, totaling 568, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	417
Unconfirmed	4
Withdrawn	56
Returned to White House	91
Other Civilian nominees, totaling 418, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	291
Unconfirmed	124
Returned to White House	3
Air Force nominees, totaling 6,055, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	6,027
Unconfirmed	14
Withdrawn	1
Returned to White House	13
Army nominatees, totaling 8,143, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	6,068
Unconfirmed	1,978
Returned to White House	97
Navy nominees, totaling 5,207, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	5,198
Unconfirmed	5
Returned to White House	4
Marine Corps nominees, totaling 1,553, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,486
Unconfirmed	56
Returned to White House	11
Space Force nominees, total 416, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	414
Unconfirmed	1
Returned to White House	1

Summary

Total nominees carried over from the First Session	0
Total nominees received this Session	22,360
Total confirmed	19,901
Total unconfirmed	2,182
Total withdrawn	57
Total return to the White House	220

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

3 p.m., Monday, January 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 6938, Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

9 a.m., Friday, January 9

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Consideration of H.R. 5184—Affordable HOMES Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Baird, James R., Ind., E15
Carbajal, Salud O., Calif., E15
Cleaver, Emanuel, Mo., E15
Clyburn, James E., S.C., E13, E18
Davis, Danny K., Ill., E17
DeLauro, Rosa L., Conn., E14
Lieu, Ted, Calif., E16
Moore, Blake D., Utah, E14
Nadler, Jerrold, N.Y., E16
Neal, Richard E., Mass., E17
Pettersen, Brittany, Colo., E13, E14, E16, E18
Smucker, Lloyd, Pa., E13, E18
Valadao, David G., Calif., E13
Veasey, Marc A., Tex., E15

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