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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Sacred Father, open the hearts of our lawmakers to the power of Your providence. Lord, provide them with a greater appreciation of Your wisdom, power, and love. Remind them of Your plans to keep them from stumbling or slipping, as You prepare them for their accountability to You. Give them strength for their challenging pilgrimage, and provide them with a faith that will not shrink, though pressed by many a foe. Empower them with the moral and spiritual stamina to walk in the paths of integrity, courage, and joy.

And, Lord, bless all who labor to bring Your peace on Earth.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE; ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT; AND INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 6938, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 299, H.R. 6938, a bill making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

OBAMACARE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, one of the issues that Congress must deal with—and do it very shortly—is the cost of health insurance.

President Obama famously said that ObamaCare would let Americans keep their health insurance if they liked it and that it would also lower their premiums. We know, more than a decade later, that those promises were never true.

We need to lower healthcare costs. It starts with expanding access and competition to high-quality, affordable health insurance through health savings accounts, association health plans, and other consumer-driven health plans. It also requires action to reduce prescription drug prices through pharmacy benefit manager reform. That reform should not be a tough thing to do because we have three separate approaches in the U.S. Senate, with a total of about 60 to 65 Members, in a bipartisan way, supporting the passage of PBM reform.

The evidence for fixing ObamaCare can be found in America's pocketbook today. I recently received a letter from an Iowan, documenting the increases this person has seen in his monthly health insurance premiums, just since ObamaCare became law. Before

ObamaCare was signed into law, this Iowan saw zero-percent increases in his health insurance premiums and even saw premium reductions. In the 8 years prior to ObamaCare, this Iowan had a cumulative premium increase of 4 percent. In the 8 years since ObamaCare, this Iowan saw a cumulative premium increase of 87 percent.

Health insurance has gotten more costly under ObamaCare—case in point with this Iowan's story. His monthly health insurance premium, which was once around \$800 before ObamaCare, is now over \$2,000 a month.

Extending temporary COVID bonuses for wealthy households, where the money is shoved to insurance companies, is not the answer. We need to enact commonsense solutions to bring down healthcare costs.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I just want to mention Thursday's appropriations vote in the House.

Thanks to Speaker JOHNSON, House Appropriations Committee Chair TOM COLE, and others, the House passed a three-bill appropriations package—Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment—by an overwhelming bipartisan margin.

Now it is our turn, and I hope that we will be able to get these bills passed here in the Senate in the next couple of days. We have a lot of appropriations work left to do before the January 30 deadline, and we should not waste any time in getting this bipartisan package over the finish line.

SOUTHERN BORDER

Mr. President, it is difficult to overstate just how dramatically the situation at the southern border has changed over the past year.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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In November, the latest month for which we have border numbers, there were just 11,000 total encounters at the southern border—11,000. Now, to put that number into perspective, the previous November, under President Biden, saw 94,000 encounters. The November before that saw a staggering 242,000 encounters, and the November before that, 235,000. This November, there were 11,000, and not one individual who tried to cross the border illegally was released into our country—not a single one. In fact, it has been months since an illegal immigrant was released into the interior of our country. Contrast this with the Biden years, which saw literally millions of illegal immigrants released into the interior.

I was down at the border recently, and the situation could not be more different from my 2021 and 2023 visits. Back then, I was meeting with overwhelmed border agents and was visiting overwhelmed border facilities. I remember, during my 2021 trip, we visited a facility that was at 16 times its allotted capacity—16 times. During one of my trips, I remember actually seeing with my own eyes individuals attempting to cross the border illegally, and I remember talking to Border Patrol agents—Border Patrol, who, by the time of my 2023 trip, had spent 2 years dealing with recordbreaking numbers of illegal immigrants; Border Patrol agents who were in desperate need of resources and support from the Biden administration—resources and support that never came.

I talked to Border Patrol agents on my most recent trip, and what I heard cannot be more different. Border Patrol agents are telling me that the flood that they once dealt with has shrunk now to a trickle; that they are being supported in their work and are allowed to do the job that they were hired to do, which is to protect our southern border.

I still can't get over the difference. In 2021 and 2023, I visited the southern border, and I saw chaos. In 2026, I visited, and I saw calm and order, and our country is so much safer because of it.

I am grateful for all that President Trump and his administration have done to make and keep our southern border secure. I am proud of the work that we have done here in Congress to help ensure that border security is here to stay.

Our Working Families Tax Cuts legislation made a generational investment in the resources that law enforcement needs to secure the border and deter illegal immigration. We funded the completion of the border wall, new technology and border surveillance equipment, and additional Border Patrol agents. We expanded detention capacity and expanded partnerships with local law enforcement to enforce immigration law.

And these resources are already having an effect. On my recent trip to the border, agents repeatedly emphasized how they are seeing effects from our

Working Families Tax Cuts legislation and in particular with the addition of needed new personnel and counterdrone technology. Thanks to that counterdrone technology, Border Patrol personnel can take over or destroy cartel drones at the border, limiting cartels' surveillance abilities and ability to transport dangerous items.

I am proud that after 4 long years of strain thanks to President Biden's border crisis, Border Patrol agents are finally receiving the resources they need to do their jobs, prevent illegal immigration, and keep us safe.

Mr. President, January 9 was National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, and my conversations with Border Patrol agents on my recent trip reminded me of just how blessed we are to have men and women who step up and answer the call to serve as law enforcement officers. From the Border Patrol to the Capitol Police and other Federal agents, to our local sheriff and police departments, our safety is secured for us by men and women who willingly choose to place themselves between us and danger. Too often, the sacrifices these men and women make are not appreciated. In fact, we have seen a reprehensible amount of hostility toward law enforcement in recent months and years.

I hope that today and every day, we will take a moment to remember what our law enforcement officers do for us and how very lucky we are to have them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

JEROME POWELL

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night, the New York Times reported that a criminal investigation has been opened into Jerome Powell, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. Anyone with two eyes and half a brain knows exactly what this criminal probe represents: a brazen attempt by Donald Trump to cannibalize the Fed's independence.

The allegations behind this probe are clearly bogus. This has nothing to do with building renovations, of all things; it has everything to do with Donald Trump weaponizing the DOJ into his attack dog and bullying America's central bank into submission on something unrelated to what they do.

This is another ominous, troubling step toward the MAGA-fication of America's monetary policy, which is the bedrock of the global economy and essential for stability in the markets.

So the American people should beware: If you are worried about making

sure mortgage rates come down, making it easier to buy a home, Donald Trump's attack on the Fed should trouble you deeply. If you are worried about what the economy is going to look like in the next 6 months, 12 months, and beyond, Donald Trump's attack on the Fed should alarm you.

If you are a Senate Republican in this Chamber who has at any point spoken out about the Fed's independence, about the need to bring inflation down, about the importance of law and order, now is the time to find your voice and to take a stand.

The bogus criminal probe conducted by the DOJ screams for congressional oversight. We need to bring DOJ officials to testify before the Senate and explain this outrageous criminal probe, and the Senate must reject any future Trump nominee to the Fed so long as this dark cloud continues to hang over the central bank—because if Donald Trump can use the threat of criminal investigation to influence monetary policy, then we will have no independent Fed to speak of, and, again, interest rates will go up, mortgage rates will go up, car loan rates will go up, credit card rates will go up, and the American consumer will pay more.

The American consumer is already worried, troubled, and devastated by the lack of affordability, and what Trump is doing will make things even more unaffordable. You would say: What the heck does one have to do with the other? But when the markets feel there is no steadiness, no stability in the Fed, they charge more, they get worried, they clamp down.

And, look, Donald Trump is clearly angry that his own Presidency has been a disaster for our economy so is looking for a scapegoat, and he thinks Jerome Powell can be one. He has made a big mistake. No one is going to fall for that bull.

Everyone knows Jay Powell and the Fed aren't the reason Donald Trump's poll numbers and our economy are in the garbage. If he wants someone to blame, Donald Trump should simply look in the mirror, not at Jerome Powell.

VENEZUELA

Mr. President, on Venezuela, last night, Donald Trump posted on Truth Social a ridiculous screen shot of a fake Wikipedia page that called him the acting President of Venezuela. Donald Trump calling himself the acting President of Venezuela is stupid, but it is a very useful illustration of where his head is at right now. He is totally focused on military adventures and completely ignoring the affordability crisis here at home.

To those Republicans who hemmed and hawed last week saying the U.S. involvement in Venezuela was a one-and-done, those views have now aged like spoiled milk. Last week, Donald Trump was asked if we are staying in Venezuela for a month, 6 months, a year, or longer. He answered:

I would say much longer.

And he says this with a smile on his face.

What does he think the American people are thinking—that we want another endless war, this time in Venezuela; that we want to stay for years and waste treasure and possibly lives on this adventure in Venezuela? The American people don't want that.

Then he says:

We are going to [give the] money to Venezuela.

Do you think the American people want that—a foreign adventure so we can give money to Venezuela?

Just yesterday, Energy Secretary Wright said the United States will be in Venezuela for maybe a year, maybe 2 years, and maybe more. The American people didn't vote for Donald Trump to be acting President of Venezuela for a year, 2 years, 3 years—even for a day; they voted for him to put America first and bring down the cost of living.

The more people learn about what is going on in Venezuela, the more people hear that U.S. involvement could last years, the more they will demand that Congress act.

Now, the good news is that this week, the Senate has a chance to halt Trump's military follies, to halt his focus on foreign adventurism rather than bringing down their prices.

Last week, a strong bipartisan group of Senators moved forward with a War Powers Resolution I championed with Senators KAINE, SCHIFF, and PAUL. The Senate will vote this week to pass this resolution and affirm the Congress's constitutional authority on matters of war and peace.

I say to my Republican colleagues who don't yet support this resolution: Join us to prevent another forever war.

The pressure will be on Senate Republicans this week to make a choice: Stand with the majority of Americans who don't want us in Venezuela or enable Donald Trump and risk entangling us in another forever war.

The American people will be watching what we do this week. Americans don't want another round of endless wars. They don't support propping up foreign nations and regimes.

The vote this week will tell all, and the American people will be watching.

TARIFFS

Mr. President, finally, on tariffs, as soon as this week, the U.S. Supreme Court may rule on whether or not Donald Trump's chaotic tariff policies are constitutional.

I have long been very clear that the Supreme Court should strike Donald Trump's tariffs down. The President's tariffs are an unlawful usurping of Congress's authority over trade, and I have seen firsthand in New York how they have raised prices for families and shut down so many small businesses.

Congress may not have a say on whether or how the Supreme Court will rule, but we absolutely have a say on future legislation on the President's tariff authority. The Senate has al-

ready voted four times on a bipartisan basis to reject Trump's illegal trade war.

If the Supreme Court strikes down all or some of Donald Trump's tariffs, we know he will come to Congress and demand another blank check. Republicans must be ready to buck up and tell him no.

Senate Democrats will not support any legislation that hands the President a free pass to slap tariffs on whoever he likes, the consequences for our economy be damned, in his eyes.

No blank checks for an endless trade war. No blank checks for Donald Trump to issue tariffs whenever he likes against whomever he likes, regardless of the consequences—particularly the American people, as he raises and raises and raises their cost of living.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic Whip.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, against the direction and wishes of the Speaker of the House MIKE JOHNSON, 17 House Republicans joined every Democrat in the House to vote for an extension of the Affordable Care Act enhanced premium tax credits.

Last year, 22 million Americans relied on these tax credits to be able to afford their health insurance, but on January 1, those credits expired because the Republican-controlled Congress refused to extend them. Because these tax credits have lapsed, millions—millions—of Americans are being forced to drop their health insurance or to pay double or triple for their healthcare plans. Families are already struggling with the expenses they face every single day—grocery prices, electric bills, mortgage payments. We shouldn't add health insurance to that list.

The House has done its part. The only barrier to putting a bill on the President's desk is this body, the U.S. Senate.

Last month, Senate Democrats voted to extend these tax credits. Four Republicans joined us, but we fell short of the 13 we needed to get the job done. Now we have another chance. There is no excuse for further delay. We can act this week, before we take a break, to avoid this healthcare catastrophe.

I have spoken to colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have said that they want to make healthcare more affordable. They have spoken to these families. They know the hardship they face with these premiums.

Extending the premium tax credits is the only way to do that immediately. Let's do it on a bipartisan basis and surprise everybody. We can help provide Americans with the peace of mind that their families need, give them coverage so that if there is a bad diagnosis, an accident, a tough hospitalization, they are covered.

CRYPTO

Mr. President, on a separate topic, later this week, the Senate Banking

and Agriculture Committees plan to mark up and vote on landmark crypto market structure legislation.

While we await the release of the specific bill text, let me be clear. A strong crypto market structure bill must include the following provisions: ensure protection for investors, especially retail consumers; protect victims from fraud, like crypto ATM scams; strengthen our financial stability; provide strong guardrails against money laundering; and prevent the President and his family from further enriching themselves.

In the year 2008, the American people faced the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. This was spurred in large part by risky, subprime mortgages that went belly-up.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has stated that "financial innovation and deregulation contributed to an environment in which the [United States] and global financial systems became far . . . less stable than in previous decades."

In the wake of this, we did something to prevent a future crisis: We passed the Dodd-Frank bill, providing much needed reforms to the financial system that protected consumers and increased accountability on Wall Street.

But it has been 16 years since Dodd-Frank was signed into law, and the financial system in America has changed dramatically. Today, it is the rise of cryptocurrency—a risky, volatile, unpredictable investment that requires meaningful—meaningful—regulation.

The crypto industry has wide reach. It was valued in excess of \$4 trillion in 2025, and estimates show that the industry has 40 to 70 million active users each month.

Naturally, the crypto industry is calling for rubberstamp regulation of this asset in the name of innovation. Sound familiar? It is the same reason the FDIC gave us as the cause for the great recession. What does this mean? The next crypto crash could wipe out not just the fat cats but a lot of working families—just like in 2008.

President Trump has failed to put in place commonsense guardrails to fend off another market collapse.

Since returning to office, financial regulators like the SEC have dropped lawsuits against some of the largest and most dubious crypto companies, creating an environment of unaccountability.

President Trump has pushed for deregulation of financial markets, including by taking his chain saw to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in the name of "government efficiency." He has pardoned crypto executives that have allowed funds to flow to terrorists, drug cartels, and cybercriminals—the worst of the worst.

Trump has personally enriched himself—to the tune of nearly \$1 billion in the first half of 2025—through crypto scams like meme coins.

The industry has proven repeatedly that it plays a key role in facilitating

fraud. Crypto ATM scams illustrate this perfectly. These scams swindle unsuspecting Americans—usually senior citizens—out of their life savings when they receive phony phone calls telling them that they owe taxes to the Internal Revenue Service or a penalty for missing jury duty. The scammer who calls tells the victim that they can pay what they owe at a crypto ATM machine. They are popping up all over the United States. Little does the victim know that the money they deposit into the crypto ATM is transferred to the criminal's digital wallet. The person putting it in the machine will never see it again.

The FBI estimates that in 2025, last year, victims lost more than \$333 million to scams facilitated by crypto ATMs. Congress must meaningfully regulate this industry and address these scams. We cannot make the same mistakes we made leading up to 2008, and we cannot expect taxpayers to support a multibillion-dollar bailout for the crypto industry if there is a crypto crash.

Capitulating to the crypto industry and the self-imposed rush to mark up these forthcoming crypto market structure bills comes at the direction of a President who is trying to enrich himself and his family. I wish I didn't have to say that, but it is true.

As the Senate Banking and Agriculture Committees consider cryptocurrency legislation, I advise Chairmen SCOTT and BOOZMAN to work across the aisle to explore proper protections and regulations in the crypto market. Rushing this process is unwise and poses a serious danger to the U.S. financial system.

We have been warned. We have been through this in recent memory. Let's not do it again to unsuspecting victims.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Senator from Arizona.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. KELLY. Madam President, I didn't expect that I would ever find myself here, as a U.S. Senator, having filed a lawsuit against a Secretary of Defense.

When I graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1986 and was commissioned into the U.S. Navy as an ensign, I swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. I have upheld that oath every single day since.

I upheld it on the second night of Operation Desert Storm, when a Russian-made SA-6 surface-to-air missile locked onto my airplane when I was on a mission to bomb an airfield in southern Iraq. I made a last-ditch maneuver. The missile exploded above us, and I delivered the bombs on target.

I upheld my oath as a test pilot, logging hundreds of flight hours, pushing aircraft to the limits, to make sure that our pilots had the best aircraft and systems to use in combat.

And I upheld my oath when my service took me to NASA, where I went into space four times, where I was honored to command two space shuttle missions, and where I was also the first astronaut on the scene in East Texas after Space Shuttle Columbia exploded during reentry, and I had to recover the bodies of my friends and astronaut classmates.

And I have upheld my oath here in the U.S. Senate, a place I never expected to find myself in because my wife Gabby was always the elected official in our family. If she had never been shot in the head, she would be here in this Chamber and not me. But I love this country, and I felt that I had an obligation to continue my public service in a way that I never expected. And so I have upheld my oath in this job too because I take seriously my duty to protect the Constitution for all Americans.

I just never expected that I would have to protect the rule of law against a Secretary of Defense. Pete Hegseth is now coming after what I earned through my 25 years of military service, in violation of my rights as an American and as a retired veteran and as a U.S. Senator, whose job it is to hold this and any administration accountable. He doesn't like what I said, and so he is trying to censure and demote me.

And let's talk for just a second about what it is that I said that he decided to censure me over, according to his letter: first, that I simply restated the law—that servicemembers must refuse illegal orders. Somehow, restating the law is now against the law, according to Pete Hegseth.

This isn't new. It is something every recruit is taught. It is something that Pete Hegseth himself has said repeatedly, including, specifically, about this President and Commander in Chief, Donald Trump.

Second, that I criticized him for firing admirals and generals and that this administration is surrounding themselves with a bunch of yes-men.

Let me repeat it here right now: It is bad for our national security that Pete Hegseth fired admirals and generals because of who they are. And a bunch of yes-men—well, that is bad for any organization.

Lastly, he is censuring me because I have raised concerns about his actions and military operations. Well, that is my job. I have every right to say these things—as an American, as a retired servicemember, and as a U.S. Senator, and especially as a member of the Armed Services Committee whose duty it is to provide oversight over the Department of Defense.

Pete Hegseth's unconstitutional crusade against me sends a chilling message to every retired member of the military. If you speak out and say something that the President and Secretary of Defense don't like, you will be censured, threatened with demotion, or even prosecuted.

Every servicemember knows that military rank is earned; it is not given. It is earned through the risks you take, the sacrifices you and your family make, the leadership you display, and the respect you earn from the superiors who recommend you for promotion. After my 25 years of service, I earned my rank as a captain in the U.S. Navy.

Now, Pete Hegseth wants even our longest serving military veterans to live with the constant threat that they could be deprived of their rank and retirement pay, years or even decades after they leave the military, just because he or another Secretary of Defense or a President doesn't like what they have said.

If Pete Hegseth succeeds in silencing me, then he and every other Secretary of Defense who comes after him will have license to punish any retired veteran of any political persuasion for the things that they say. And by that logic, a 100-year-old World War II veteran could be hauled in and censured or court-martialed because he says something that Pete Hegseth disagrees with.

That is wrong. It is not the way things work in the United States of America, and I will not stand for it because our freedom of speech, the separation of powers, and due process are not just words on a page. They are core principles of our democracy. When we say we have an obligation to protect and defend the Constitution, this is exactly what we are all talking about. It is this—because that oath that I spoke about earlier, it should sound very familiar to other folks in this room because it is the same one that every Member of the U.S. Senate has taken.

For 250 years, we have been the greatest democracy the world has ever seen because patriotic Americans have been willing to stand up for not just their own rights but for the rights of all of our fellow citizens. That continued resolve is what will decide if our democracy lasts another 250 years.

That is why, today, I filed a lawsuit against the Secretary of Defense to protect my rights, the rights of retired veterans, and the rights of all Americans. I have never backed down from a fight for our country, and I am not going to back down from this one.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I come to the floor today to condemn the heartbreaking and anti-American rise in religious discrimination and hate-fueled extremism and to call particular attention to the ways this administration has fueled the flames of Islamophobia and anti-Arab hate that has hurt countless members of our Muslim American and Arab American communities.

Now, unfortunately, neither religious discrimination nor acts of hate-fueled violence are new or are uniquely American.

Last month, I joined Senator SCHUMER and all of my Democratic colleagues in speaking out against the horrible anti-Semitism targeting our Jewish communities and calling out disgusting vitriol from the likes of Nick Fuentes and his ilk, and I joined people of conscience everywhere in mourning and standing with the Jewish community in Australia after that monstrous attack took 15 lives during a Hanukkah celebration.

Now, in America, in years back, Dr. Martin Luther King warned us that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere, and the same is true about religious intolerance, bigotry, and violence. Any prejudice or discrimination or violence rooted in how people believe, express, and experience their faith is a threat to all people of faith everywhere.

I rise today to specifically condemn the discrimination our Muslim and Arab American communities are facing because, unfortunately, this President and his administration have openly stoked and institutionalized Islamophobic discrimination.

We all recall, on November 26, we saw a horrific attack on two members of the West Virginia National Guard deployed here in our Nation's Capital. That type of violence has no place in a just society. But the Trump administration did not meet this attack with targeted, measured attempts to minimize violence or curb extremism. Instead, their actions and rhetoric stoked further divisions by using this awful attack as grounds to justify targeting Afghan-American communities in the United States.

After that attack, the Trump administration announced a halt to the processing of all immigration requests from Afghan nationals, coinciding with an announcement from the State Department that they would immediately be halting visa issuance for individuals traveling on Afghan passports. The President and his administration are taking the actions of a single person and distorting this horrific, isolated incident to justify suppression and cruelty against many more who have done nothing wrong, many who have risked their lives, families, and communities to support U.S. servicemembers during the long war in Afghanistan.

Another example: Look at the President's commentary related to members of the Somali community. During a Cabinet meeting last month, the President called the Somali community "garbage," saying:

We don't want them in our country.

I have to tell you, I believe these comments are disgusting, they are dehumanizing, and they are un-American, and they should roundly and loudly be condemned by all public officials. The intolerance and ignorance that motivates these statements and these actions didn't just begin in the past few weeks or even with this administration.

I say to my colleagues: Ask any of your Muslim or Arab constituents

when they got the so-called talk from their parents or heard the first attack on their faith or their culture.

This rot—this un-American activity—has been in this country a long, long time.

Just the other week, I was sitting with a group of Virginians who happened to be Muslim Americans. One of the individuals I have known a long time, has been a community member and well-known business guy, and happens to also be Muslim. This individual had been doing a lot of work all across Northern Virginia, working with local governments and others, trying to develop affordable housing projects.

He was working specifically with a county in outer Northern Virginia. He had been assured everything was set. He was going out to the meeting where it was going to be "project approved." He got to, again, the county offices. And it was at a time during the day, as somebody who practices his faith, that he got out and prayed, as Muslims do on a regular basis during the day. And after doing that prayer privately next to his car, he then went into the county meeting. And, suddenly, everything that had been totally pro forma—someone had seen him praying, and he suddenly found out the contract wasn't going to be signed.

The fact is, this individual has got an extraordinary record of, as I said, producing affordable housing all across the region. But the fact that simply displaying his faith caused him to lose a piece of business that was there just for a pro forma approval ought to shock us all.

I think we all have to talk to our Muslim and Arab neighbors, our constituents. These kinds of stories are, unfortunately, not the exception. There are too many examples of fear or discrimination or being somehow made to feel, if you happen to be Arab American or Muslim American, that you are somehow a lesser American. And rather than being a leader who elevates our morality, who confronts these views, President Trump and his administration seem deliberately intent on preying on these kinds of fears and deepening divisions based on religion or immigration status.

Just last month, the administration announced it would stop adjudicating all immigration benefit requests for nationals of 19 countries. That means law-abiding residents who have lived in this country—many, for years—are seeing their naturalization interviews paused and their citizenship ceremonies canceled. Now, these decisions build on a travel ban that was put in place by the administration earlier in the year—or last year.

Let me be crystal clear. At least in my mind, these bans are not about your safety or mine. These bans are about limiting access to the American dream to a select few that the administration thinks look the right way or worship the right god.

But it is not just the President—not just President Trump. On the floor of

this body, a Senator called Islam a "poisonous religion" that "is fundamentally incompatible with our Western values." In recent weeks, a Member of the House posted on his official Twitter page:

How to Deal with Mainstream Muslims: I don't know how you make peace with those who seek your destruction, I think you destroy them first.

This is an official Twitter page of a Member of the House of Representatives.

All too often, this vitriol is met with silence—a dangerous, weaponized apathy that says Islamophobia is somehow acceptable at the highest levels of government. All of us, but especially those of us who serve in this body, in public office, have a duty to end that silence and loudly and resolutely condemn Islamophobia and anti-Arab hate.

And while others seek to divide and distort circumstances to advance their narratives, there are so many stories actually worth telling. So I want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Muslim Americans to Virginia's history. Muslim Virginians are integral to what makes our Commonwealth thrive. They are lawyers, doctors, educators, homemakers, and entrepreneurs. They are engineers designing infrastructure, researchers advancing technology, small-business owners fueling our local economies, and transportation workers getting folks to where they need to go. Muslim Virginians live out the democratic values that this country was built on. They are serving in elected office, shaping policy, and making this country a better place to live.

As a matter of fact, last November—just a few months ago—Virginia voters proudly made history by electing the first Muslim woman to statewide office in any State in our country. Ghazala Hashmi will be sworn in as Lieutenant Governor of Virginia this coming Saturday. She joins the growing number of Muslim Virginians that already serve across all three levels of Virginia government—in the State House, in our judiciary, and in so many levels of local government. And they represent their neighbors with dedication and integrity.

Muslim Virginians are also patriotic and want to keep this country safe, many of them bravely choosing to serve as police officers, intelligence officers, and servicemembers in our Armed Forces. One of those patriots was CPT Humayun Khan, who died in service to our country during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His efforts alone saved the lives of more than 100 soldiers, and I still remember his mother and father speaking at a political convention and holding up our American Constitution and talking about their son's sacrifice to keep America safe.

Contrary to the rhetoric of our President and his administration, our country is safer because of Muslim Americans like Captain Khan and the thousands of Muslim American police and

Muslim American soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and guardians. I am grateful for their service every day.

The contributions of Muslims to Virginia should not just be measured by titles or economic impact; they are seen in generosity, compassion, and community. Islamic centers and mosques across the Commonwealth step up to serve their communities with food assistance, refugee resettlement, youth mentorship, and much more. They open their doors not only to worship but to serve as an example of compassion and mercy that is inseparable from their Muslim faith.

Muslim Virginians also add to the cultural richness of our Commonwealth through art, music, literature, and food. They bring languages and stories from across the world—from Sudan to Pakistan, Somalia to Afghanistan, Morocco to Palestine. They also bring the uniquely American experience of growing up, learning, working, and building a life in our Commonwealth of Virginia. Their story is Virginia's story—one of perseverance, community, success, and hope.

So when the President and his administration or my colleagues here or in the House use xenophobic, fearmongering tactics to attack and intimidate or diminish members of the Muslim or Arab American community, I want you to remember that they are individuals who are being wrongly misrepresented.

Next month marks the start of the holy season of Ramadan for our Muslim brothers and sisters. Particularly during this time of reflection and community but frankly throughout the whole year, it should be incumbent upon all of us to call out all forms of bigotry and discrimination against any religious community and to stand up for all of our communities against injustice.

I think all of us should once again commit to never stay silent in the face of religious intolerance against the Christian faith, against the Jewish faith, against the Muslim faith, or other great faiths of the world. Our job as representatives of the American people is to protect our communities and our people—all of our people. We abandon each other I think at our own peril and at our Nation's peril.

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.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, the spending bills that we write are not just numbers on a page; they affect the daily lives of Americans across the country in very real ways, like whether or not they can afford their electric

bill or whether families have clean drinking water at home, whether communities have infrastructure to prevent flooding and respond to devastating weather events like the ones we saw in my home State of Washington last month, and whether they have the resources they need to keep people safe.

These are the issues at stake, the issues that are in my mind each year as I work to negotiate our appropriations bills. It is a responsibility I take extremely seriously, and it is why from day one I have vowed to rip up President Trump's budget and write a new one, because this President and his budget director, Project 2025 author Russ Vought, want to slash over \$160 billion in essential investments for American communities and working families. They actually tried to cut our entire nondefense budget by over one-fifth. But even that number disguises the much deeper cuts that have been pushed for key programs. In some cases, House Republicans adopted those in their own bills alongside hundreds of extreme poison pill provisions.

Democrats said: No way. Absolutely not. And we made clear that our conferenced bills had to be closer to the bipartisan Senate levels that ensured our bills cleared our committee with overwhelming support. Throughout these negotiations, our ranking members and I focused on protecting funding that our communities rely on, rejecting sweeping, devastating cuts, and eliminating far-right, poison pill riders.

Now, this week, the Senate is taking up the package that the House cleared last week in an overwhelming vote, which contains the CJS, Energy and Water, and Interior funding bills. In each of these bills, I am very happy that we protected critical funding and fought off poison pill riders.

In the CJS bill, we rejected Trump's plan to slash funding for scientific research and the National Science Foundation's budget by 57 percent, cut NASA's science budget in half, and devastate NOAA and climate research that all of us rely on for accurate weather forecasting, whether we know it or not.

Trump also wanted to cut funding to prevent violence against women by \$215 million, which was truly heartless. Democrats protected that funding and increased it by \$7 million.

We shot down Trump's proposals to merge and weaken important Federal Agencies—Agencies like the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Office on Violence Against Women and COPS Office under the Office of Justice Programs.

Similarly, the Interior bill protects the Forest Service from over \$1 billion in Trump cuts. It protects clean water programs from those massive cuts. It protects air and pollution grants from outright elimination. It protects the pay of our Federal wildland firefighters. It rejects nearly \$1 billion in

Trump cuts to Tribal programs for school and safety and self-governance.

As ranking member of Energy and Water, I worked hard to make sure these bills definitively rejected Trump's damaging proposals and made major investments that are absolutely critical both to my home State of Washington and our entire Nation.

President Trump's proposal would have raised Americans' energy bills by cutting energy and grid programs, including eliminating the Weatherization Assistance Program, but Democrats saved those and in fact procured more assistance to help lower families' energy bills.

Not only did we reject Trump's \$2 billion cut to the Army Corps of Engineers, we actually increased funding and spelled out in line item after line item exactly how that funding is to be spent because last year, Trump and Russ Vought blatantly defunded Army Corps construction projects in blue States like Washington and California and steered hundreds of millions of dollars to red States instead. I called that out for what it was—a politically motivated abuse of power that was only possible because we were operating under a slush fund, full-year CR.

This year, we made sure that Trump and Russ Vought cannot muck around again and turn crucial flood prevention projects like the Howard Hanson Dam in Washington State into political hostages. I am very proud that we were able to write in much needed funding for the Howard Hanson Dam bill, alongside crucial funding for many of our Nation's ports and harbors.

The Energy and Water bill protects investments in water infrastructure, hydroelectric power, and scientific discovery so our National Labs can keep doing the cutting-edge work that we all rely on. It rejects Trump's proposal to gut clean energy funding; zero out solar, wind, and hydrogen research programs; and eliminate several independent Agencies that support economic development in the country.

Now, throughout these bills, I was very happy to work with Chair COLLINS and address indirect costs to ensure that our scientific research can continue without drastic interference and disruption.

I want to thank everyone—some of my fellow leaders on the Appropriations Committee who came to the table for very serious, hard negotiations to put these bills together. This was not easy work, and it was done under a very challenging timeline, but we are showing what can still get done when both sides work together.

I want to start by acknowledging and thanking very much Chair COLLINS and her staff, who have worked extraordinarily hard with my staff throughout this process, and we are continuing to work.

I also want to thank House Chairman TOM COLE and Ranking Member ROSA DELAUNO and all their staffs.

I want to thank Senator KENNEDY, who is my counterpart on the Energy

and Water Subcommittee; Senator MORAN and Senator VAN HOLLEN, our leaders on the CJS Subcommittee; and Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator MERKLEY, our Interior Subcommittee leads; and, of course, their counterparts in the House: Representatives FLEISCHMANN and KAPTUR on Energy and Water, ROGERS and MENG on CJS, and SIMPSON and PINGREE on Interior.

Our ranking members, along with the chairs in both the House and Senate, did a tremendous job working together to get these bills done. These bills reassert Congress's power over key spending decisions, and that cannot be more important.

These bills will put an end to some of the truly unacceptable and partisan retaliation we have seen from the Office of Management and Budget by telling this administration exactly how Congress has decided funding must get spent. That is a huge improvement from the status quo we have with Republicans' yearlong slush fund CR that gave Trump and Vought way more power to decide how to spend our taxpayer dollars and which projects and priorities to fund.

Over the last year, we have seen them abuse the power that terrible slush fund CR gave them to rob our communities and completely remake Federal spending priorities without so much as talking to Congress. That is why right now it is so important that we end that slush fund authority and reassert our power as lawmakers by passing these full-year spending bills that specify exactly how funds are to be spent, just as we had always done until last year.

So with the next funding deadline coming up, it is crucial that we pass these bills, protect the funding that our families count on, reject Trump's heartless cuts, and put power back in the hands of the American people and their elected representatives where it belongs. That is what this package does and what I am intent on doing with the rest of our bills as well.

My North Star is always, what can I do that does the most for folks back home in Washington State, how can I protect the programs that hard-working people count on, and how can I deliver real wins that make families' lives better?

So to all of my colleagues who share my outrage over how Trump has trampled over our spending laws and my grave concerns over his damaging cuts and harmful budget proposals, I will continue to join you in pushing back against his agenda on the Senate floor. These are not the bills we would have written on our own. I know that. These are not the bills I would write on my own. But they do mark significant improvement over the status quo where Trump and his Agency heads can rewrite parts of the budget without Congress, and they are vastly better than the Trump budget plan, which was full of cuts and extreme policies.

So I will continue to work with my colleagues to make sure that the pro-

grams that protect our communities and save families money don't get axed.

Passing funding bills that we shape and write is one of the most important ways that we wield our power and make the voice of our constituents heard. It is one of the most fundamental jobs of Congress to write these bills, to decide how our taxpayer funds get spent.

So I urge all of our colleagues to join me this week in voting to pass this next package of bills and reassert our power so that we can put forward and pass into law bills that aren't only bipartisan but that make sure all of our constituents come first.

In fact, just yesterday, we put out a bipartisan package for S-FOPS and FSGG funding bills, and it is a package that once again saves crucial investments in our communities, in our small businesses, and in America's global leadership.

I will have more to say on that soon, but I see that our chairman Senator COLLINS has joined me on the floor, and I do again want to thank her personally for all of her hard work to get this done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TUBERVILLE). The Senator from Maine.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to cloture on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 299, H.R. 6938.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent to be able to complete my remarks before the vote is called.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPROPRIATIONS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I anticipate that this evening, the Senate will take advantage of the opportunity to begin consideration of a carefully negotiated, fiscally responsible, bipartisan and bicameral package of fiscal year 2026 appropriations bills that are vital to the safety, security, and economic well-being of all Americans.

This fiscally responsible package includes funding for the following three bills: the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies legislation; the Energy and Water Development bill; and the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations. Among other things, it provides full-year appropriations for the Department of Justice, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Energy, and the Department of the Interior. It also funds the National Science Foundation—a priority of mine—and the EPA.

Let me explain to our colleagues, who I think are well aware of this fact, that this package did not come together overnight. It is the result of months of work, of bipartisan and bicameral negotiations, and last week

passed the House by an overwhelming vote of 397 to 28.

I want to thank the House Chairman TOM COLE and Ranking Member ROSA DELAUNO of the Appropriations Committee, as well as the vice chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator PATTY MURRAY, from whom we just heard, for their hard work, including over the holidays, to get these bills done.

We also could not have done it without the extraordinary staff that we are blessed to have, some of whom stayed up literally all night working on these bills.

We also worked closely with the administration, which has issued a statement in support of passage of this package.

The appropriations mini package that is before us would actually reduce discretionary spending while better focusing funding on key priorities of the American people. Let me highlight just a few of those priorities.

The Commerce, Justice, and Science bill invests in America's economic development and trade relationships. It supports our State and local law enforcement, including through the Byrne Formula Program that supports a range of law enforcement activities, from prosecution to crime prevention.

It funds space exploration and research in critical scientific and technological fields. The bill invests in the National Science Foundation, which supports research in all 50 States and helps to spur new discoveries that will advance health, prosperity, and welfare. The National Science Foundation is basic to much of the foundational research that leads to exciting technological and scientific breakthroughs.

I am a strong supporter of the NSF. I am pleased that we restored funding that was proposed to be cut, and I am also delighted that we dealt with an issue that has been a very high priority for me, and that is how we handle indirect research costs. I think we have come up with a good solution to hold steady how indirect costs are dealt with now at universities and colleges; independent, nonprofit laboratories; medical institutions and hospitals; and other entities that contribute so much to our way of life.

The bill—the Commerce bill—also supports our oceans and fisheries and weather programs that are enormously important to our working waterfronts. As you can image, this is of particular concern to me, representing the State of Maine, where we are so proud of our fishing and lobster sectors, which are synonymous with the State of Maine.

Recently, in Portland, there was a bad fire on the working waterfront, and it was extraordinary to see how everyone came together to work to put out the fire and also to help those who were affected, including our fishermen and lobstermen who had boats tied up to the wharf, the wharf owner, the restaurants on the wharf, and the businesses like Sea Bags, which are located

on the wharf. Everyone came together in a sense of community that really defines my State.

I want to express my thanks to Subcommittee Chairman JERRY MORAN and Ranking Member CHRIS VAN HOLLEN for their hard work on the CGS bill.

Next, the Interior bill provides resources for the management and conservation of public lands, while fostering economic development through critical energy programs. It supports Tribal programs across the country; helps ensure that Americans have clean air, water, and soil; and provides Federal firefighters with the tools that they need to prepare for and suppress wildfires. It also includes funding to fight the devastating impact of the spruce budworm, which is being experienced right now in the State of Maine and other States.

I want to commend the subcommittee chair LISA MURKOWSKI and the ranking member JEFF MERKLEY for their efforts in crafting this legislation.

Finally, the Energy and Water Development bill will improve water infrastructure and promote American energy independence. It will also strengthen our nuclear deterrence posture, ensure our nuclear stockpile readiness and safety, and prepare for existing and future nuclear threats.

Subcommittee Chair JOHN KENNEDY and Ranking Member PATTY MURRAY worked tirelessly on this bill, and they have my appreciation.

Members ought to have a voice in the funding decisions that affect all of our States and constituents back home. The bills in this package were drafted with input from nearly every Senator. Together, Senators submitted literally thousands of requests to the committee for consideration. In some cases, these were programmatic requests, supporting programs they know well from their own State's experience. In other cases, they were a community development project request, or CDS. The legislation before us incorporates many of these requests and takes into account viewpoints from across the Chamber on both sides of the aisle. It truly is a Member-driven product.

Enacting this package would bring the total number of full-year fiscal year 2026 appropriations signed into law to six, as the first three bills—the Agriculture, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Legislative Branch bills—were enacted in November.

We are continuing our hard work. Yesterday, the final versions of the National Security, State Department, and Related Programs and the Financial Services and General Government appropriations bills were released and publicly posted. The House of Representatives is slated to take up those two additional appropriations bills this week.

It is our intention to complete work on all 12 of the annual appropriation

bills this month. That is an ambitious goal, but it is one that we can achieve with cooperation and collaboration that have brought us to this second round of three bills today.

I want to thank all of the members of the Appropriations Committee and, again, our extraordinary staff for their hard work, and I want to express my appreciation to Majority Leader THUNE. He promised that he would bring appropriations bills to the Senate floor. That did not happen in the past. And I am delighted, but not surprised, that he has kept that promise. He has supported our committee's process and worked to bring these bills to the Senate floor.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support cloture on the motion to proceed to the package that is before us. And, again, my thanks to all the Members in both the House and the Senate who worked so hard to bring us to this point.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 299, H.R. 6938, a bill making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Susan M. Collins, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Ashley B. Moody, Lindsey Graham, James Lankford, Joni Ernst, John Boozman, Jim Justice, Marsha Blackburn, Pete Ricketts, Jon A. Husted, Tom Cotton, Dan Sullivan, Mike Rounds, Ted Budd.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 299, H.R. 6938, a bill making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) would have voted "Yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 80, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 7 Leg.]

YEAS—80

Alsobrooks	Graham	Murray
Baldwin	Grassley	Ossoff
Banks	Hassan	Peters
Barrasso	Hawley	Reed
Blackburn	Heinrich	Ricketts
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Blunt	Hoeben	Rounds
Boozman	Husted	Schatz
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Justice	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Capito	Kelly	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sheehy
Collins	King	Slotkin
Coons	Klobuchar	Smith
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lujan	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McConnell	Van Hollen
Daines	McCormick	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Welch
Durbin	Moody	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Moreno	Wyden
Galleo	Mullin	Young
Gillibrand	Murkowski	

NAYS—13

Bennet	Lee	Schiff
Booker	Markey	Scott (FL)
Hickenlooper	Murphy	Warren
Johnson	Padilla	
Kim	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—7

Cornyn	Hagerty	Warnock
Cruz	Paul	
Ernst	Risch	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 80, the nays are 13, and the motion is agreed to.

Three-fifths of the Senators, duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1834. An act to advance policy priorities that will break the gridlock.

H.R. 5184. An act to authorize the Secretary of Energy to transmit to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development recommendations for changes to preemptive energy conservation standards applicable to manufactured homes.

The message further announced that the House of Representatives having proceeded to reconsider the bill (H.R. 131) to make certain modifications to the repayment for the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado, returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the

House of Representatives, in which it originated, it was resolved, that the said bill do not pass, two-thirds of the House of Representatives not agreeing to pass the same.

The message also announced that the House of Representatives having proceeded to reconsider 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, returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, it was resolved, that the said bill do not pass, two-thirds of the House of Representatives not agreeing to pass the same.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 224. An act to amend section 102(a)(20) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to require the exclusion of service-connected disability compensation when determining whether a person is a person of low and moderate income, a person of low income, or a person of moderate income, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

At 6:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 3424. An act to amend titles 11 and 28, United States Code, to modify the compensation payable to trustees serving in cases under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, to extend the term of certain temporary offices of bankruptcy judges, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5184. An act to authorize the Secretary of Energy to transmit to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development recommendations for changes to preemptive energy conservation standards applicable to manufactured homes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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-2434. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Thiamethoxam; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 13060-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2435. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Flupyradifurone; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemption" (FRL No. 13080-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2436. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "SpCas9 Protein; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 13100-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2437. A communication from the Acting Division Director, Regulations Management Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "OneRD Guarantee Loan Regulation" (RIN0572-AC63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2438. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and 2021 Report to Congress on Contract Funding of Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Awards"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2439. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 and 2023 Report to Congress on Contract Funding of Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Awards"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2440. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcast Stations, Port Bragg and Cloverdale, California" ((DA 25-1052) (MB Docket No. 25-246)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2441. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Delete, Delete, Delete" (FCC 25-80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2442. A communication from the Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of the Commission's Rules Regarding Implementation of the Final Acts of the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2015) To Allocate the Band 5351.5-5366.5 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service" (FCC 25-60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2443. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of

Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-1106)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2444. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0215)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2445. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Burns Flat, Oklahoma" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2025-2245)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2446. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of Fee Rates" ((RIN1029-AC88) (Docket No. OSM-2025-0004)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2447. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minimum Program Make Up Funds" ((RIN1029-AC98) (Docket No. OSM-2025-0014)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2448. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prior Balance Replacement Funds" ((RIN1029-AC95) (Docket No. OSM-2025-0012)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2449. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prior Balance Replacement Funds" ((RIN1029-AC94) (Docket No. OSM-2025-0011)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2450. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Compliance with the Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq" received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2451. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Secretary of State's intent to designate Lebanese Muslim Brotherhood as a Foreign Terrorist Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2452. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Grants for Certified States and Indian Tribes" ((RIN1029-AC96) (Docket ID OSM-2025-0019)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2453. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of Portions of Permanent Program Performance Standards Regulating Subsidence Controls for Underground Mines" ((RIN1029-AC91) (Docket ID OSM-2025-0009)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2454. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Scope of Federal Regulations Implementing the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977" ((RIN1029-AD02) (Docket No. OSM-2025-0021)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2455. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicability of Federal Regulations Implementing the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977" ((RIN1029-AD04) (Docket No. OSM-2025-0024)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2456. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Reclamation Requirements" ((RIN1029-AC99) (Docket No. OSM-2025-0015)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2457. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prior Balance Replacement Funds" ((RIN1029-AD00) (Docket No. OSM-2025-0016)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2458. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Certification and Noncoal Reclamation" ((RIN1029-AC97) (Docket No. OSM-2025-0020)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3611. A bill to clarify the treatment of certain non-controlling developers or pro-

viders of distributed ledger services involved in digital assets with respect to money transmission laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 3612. A bill to establish a new educational exchange program to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 3613. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a new national cemetery in the State of Hawai'i, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 3614. A bill to require any person that maintains an internet website or that sells or distributes a mobile application that is owned, wholly or partially, by a foreign adversary country, by a foreign adversary country-owned-entity, or by a non-state-owned entity located in a foreign adversary country, or that stores and maintains information collected from such website or application in a foreign adversary country, to disclose that fact to any individual who downloads or otherwise uses such website or application; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. MORENO):

S. 3615. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an exception for multiemployer plan participants to the requirements for automatic enrollment; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 128

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) 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. 272

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 272, a bill to improve the safety of infant formula through testing of infant formula for microorganisms and toxic elements, and for other purposes.

S. 421

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 421, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish country of origin labeling requirements for beef, and for other purposes.

S. 463

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 463, a bill to facilitate the implementation of security measures undertaken by the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

S. 494

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr.

WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 494, a bill to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, and for other purposes.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 556, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in logistical transactions and sanctions evasion relating to oil, gas, liquefied natural gas, and related petrochemical products from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 986

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 986, a bill to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 1232

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1232, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1500

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1500, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage from imposing cost-sharing requirements with respect to diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations.

S. 1532

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1532, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 1547

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1547, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to reauthorize the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 2141

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2141, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the treatment of moving expenses to employees and new appointees in the intelligence community who move pursuant to a change in assignment that requires relocation, and for other purposes.

S. 2284

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2284, a bill to prohibit Federal agencies from restricting the use of convertible virtual currency by a person to purchase goods or services for the person's own use, and for other purposes.

S. 2355

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2355, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for hospital and insurer price transparency.

S. 2738

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2738, a bill to establish eligibility requirements for covered educational employees under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, and for other purposes.

S. 2993

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2993, a bill to establish appropriate rules for prosecutors and Federal judges to carry a concealed firearm.

S. 3062

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3062, a bill to require artificial intelligence chatbots to implement age verification measures and make certain disclosures, and for other purposes.

S. 3179

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3179, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a criminal penalty for obstructing immigration enforcement activities.

S. 3186

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3186, a bill to ensure that the United States, States, and local governments are liable for monetary damages for constitutional violations by law enforcement officers.

S. 3187

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3187, a bill to provide a civil remedy for an individual whose rights have been violated by a person acting under Federal authority, and for other purposes.

S. 3267

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3267, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act

to provide for Medicare coverage of blood-based dementia screening tests.

S. 3396

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3396, a bill to enhance the rights of domestic employees, and for other purposes.

S. 3470

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3470, a bill to amend the Revised Statutes of the United States to hold certain public employers liable in civil actions for deprivation of rights, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4151. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4152. Mr. GALLEGO (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4153. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4154. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4155. Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4156. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4157. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4158. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4159. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4160. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4161. Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4162. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4163. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4164. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4165. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her

to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4166. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4167. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4168. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4169. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4170. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4171. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4172. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4173. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4174. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4175. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4176. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4177. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4178. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4179. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4180. Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4181. Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4182. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Ms. ALSOBROOKS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4151. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available under any division of this Act may be used by the Department of Justice to approve or facilitate a claim that—

(1) is subject to chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”); and

(2) results in a personal payment to the President, whether in the form of a settlement or any other payment issued under section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, (commonly known as the “Judgment Fund”) for the personal benefit of the President.

SA 4152. Mr. GALLEGO (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

DRAGON BRAVO AND WHITE SAGE FIRES
RECOVERY

SEC. _____. (a) There are appropriated—

(1) \$160,000,000 to the Forest Service for recovery from the Dragon Bravo and White Sage fires in the Kaibab National Forest; and

(2) \$600,000,000 to the National Park Service for recovery from the Dragon Bravo and White Sage fires in Grand Canyon National Park.

(b) This section is designated as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2026 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

SA 4153. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. The National Science Foundation, in awarding base funds to the National Center for Atmospheric Research for fiscal year 2026 from funds appropriated under this Act, shall provide funding in an amount that is not less than the amount provided to the National Center for Atmospheric Research for fiscal year 2024, and the National Science Foundation shall ensure the continuation of all operations, capabilities, and facilities of the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

SA 4154. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. From amounts appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall reinstate each grant or other award of the National Science Foundation that was cancelled on or after January 20, 2025, except in the case of a grant or award that was cancelled due to financial mismanagement, research fraud, or malfeasance.

SA 4155. Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

PROHIBITION OF OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND PRODUCTION IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of any division of this Act, none of the funds made available under any division of this Act may be used to issue a lease or any other authorization for the exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas in the planning areas described in paragraph (2).

(b) PLANNING AREAS.—The planning areas referred to in paragraph (1) are the following, as depicted in the 2024–2029 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program published on September 29, 2023, by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (as announced in the notice of availability of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management entitled “Notice of Availability of the 2024–2029 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement” (88 Fed. Reg. 67798 (October 2, 2023))):

- (1) The Washington/Oregon Planning Area.
- (2) The Northern California Planning Area.
- (3) The Central California Planning Area.
- (4) The Southern California Planning Area.
- (5) The North Atlantic Planning Area.
- (6) The Mid-Atlantic Planning Area.
- (7) The South Atlantic Planning Area.
- (8) The Straits of Florida Planning Area.

SA 4156. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

PROHIBITION ON LAST-MINUTE RESCISSIONS.

Notwithstanding any provision of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 681 et seq.), a special message transmitted under section 1012 or 1013 of such Act may not propose to rescind or defer any budget authority that expires on or before the date that is 90 days after the date on which such special message is transmitted.

SA 4157. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the matter preceding division A, insert the following:

RESCISSION LIMITATION.

No amounts may be rescinded from amounts provided under any division of this Act or any other appropriation Act for fiscal year 2026, unless the rescission is made through an appropriation Act (as defined in section 3 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 622)).

SA 4158. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. WILDFIRE FUNDING ADJUSTMENT.

(a) STATUTORY CAPS.—Section 251(b)(2)(F)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(F)(i)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “2027” and inserting “2037”;

(2) in subclause (VII), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in subclause (VIII), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

- “(IX) for fiscal year 2028, \$4,610,000,000;
- “(X) for fiscal year 2029, \$4,840,000,000;
- “(XI) for fiscal year 2030, \$5,080,000,000;
- “(XII) for fiscal year 2031, \$5,335,000,000;
- “(XIII) for fiscal year 2032, \$5,600,000,000;
- “(XIV) for fiscal year 2033, \$5,880,000,000;
- “(XV) for fiscal year 2034, \$6,180,000,000;
- “(XVI) for fiscal year 2035, \$6,485,000,000;
- “(XVII) for fiscal year 2036, \$6,810,000,000;

and

“(XVIII) for fiscal year 2037, \$7,150,000,000.”.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974.—Section 314 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 645) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) ADJUSTMENTS FOR WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—

“(1) ADJUSTMENTS.—If the Committee on Appropriations of either House reports an appropriation measure for any of fiscal years 2028 through 2037 that provides an amount for wildfire suppression operations in the Wildland Fire Management accounts at the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior, or if a conference committee submits a conference report thereon, the chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives or the Senate shall make the adjustments referred to in paragraph (2) to reflect the additional new budget authority provided for wildfire suppression operations for that fiscal year in that measure or conference report and the outlays resulting therefrom, consistent with paragraph (4).

“(2) TYPES OF ADJUSTMENTS.—The adjustments referred to in this paragraph consist of adjustments to—

“(A) the discretionary spending limits for that fiscal year as set forth in the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget;

“(B) the allocations to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives for that fiscal year under section 302(a); and

“(C) the appropriate budget aggregates for that fiscal year in the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget.

“(3) ENFORCEMENT.—The adjusted discretionary spending limits, allocations, and aggregates under this subsection shall be considered the appropriate limits, allocations, and aggregates for purposes of congressional enforcement of this Act and concurrent budget resolutions under this Act.

“(4) LIMITATION.—No adjustment may be made under this subsection in excess of—

- “(A) for fiscal year 2028, \$4,610,000,000;
- “(B) for fiscal year 2029, \$4,840,000,000;
- “(C) for fiscal year 2030, \$5,080,000,000;
- “(D) for fiscal year 2031, \$5,335,000,000;
- “(E) for fiscal year 2032, \$5,600,000,000;
- “(F) for fiscal year 2033, \$5,880,000,000;
- “(G) for fiscal year 2034, \$6,180,000,000;
- “(H) for fiscal year 2035, \$6,485,000,000;
- “(I) for fiscal year 2036, \$6,810,000,000; and

“(J) for fiscal year 2037, \$7,150,000,000.

“(5) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subsection, the terms ‘additional new budget authority’ and ‘wildfire suppression operations’ have the meanings given such terms in section 251(b)(2)(F)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(F)(ii)).”.

SA 4159. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

INCREASE IN TRANSFER AND MANUFACTURING TAXES FOR FIREARMS REGULATED UNDER THE NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT

SEC. _____. (a) TRANSFER TAX.—Subsection (a) of section 5811 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by section 70436(a) of Public Law 119-21, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) RATE.—There shall be levied, collected, and paid on firearms transferred a tax at the rate of \$4,709 for each firearm transferred.”.

(b) MAKING TAX.—Section 5821(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by section 70436(b) of Public Law 119-21, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$200” and inserting “\$4,709”, and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$0” and inserting “\$55”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 4182(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by section 70436(c) of Public Law 119-21, is amended by striking the second sentence.

SA 4160. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Not less than 75 percent of the amounts made available by this Act, or any other Act, for a community violence intervention and prevention initiative shall be allocated to nonprofit community-based organizations.

SA 4161. Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds provided under this Act or any other Act may be used to provide or facilitate compensation to any individual prosecuted for involvement in the attack on the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, including any individual so prosecuted and subsequently pardoned.

(b) No funds provided under this Act or any other Act may be used to establish or facilitate a compensation fund for the purpose of compensating individuals described in subsection (a).

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds provided under this Act or any

other Act shall be disbursed from the United States Treasury to refund any court-ordered compensation, including restitution, fines, or special assessments, paid by any individual convicted for involvement in the attack on the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, including any individual so convicted and subsequently pardoned.

(d) The Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer any amounts described in subsection (c) to the account appropriated under the heading “Architect of the Capitol—Capitol Building” for the maintenance, care, and operation of the United States Capitol and amounts transferred under this subsection shall remain available until expended

SA 4162. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 444(a) of division C, strike “\$763,514,000” and all that follows through “(2) \$353,514,000” and insert “\$638,514,000 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) \$353,514,000”.

In section 444(a) of division C, strike “; (3)” and insert “; and (2)”.

SA 4163. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division D, insert the following:

SEC. _____. GRACIE ACT OF 2026.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Generate Recordings of All Child protective Interviews Everywhere Act” or the “GRACIE Act of 2026”.

(b) GRANTS.—The Associate Commissioner may award grants to States for the purpose of assisting State agencies responsible for conducting child welfare interviews in recording and retaining all child welfare interviews conducted by such State agencies.

(c) APPLICATION.—A State seeking a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Associate Commissioner at such time and in such manner as the Associate Commissioner may require. Such application shall include—

(1) the State’s lead agency for the grant program and that agency’s current requirements involving the recording and retention of child welfare interviews;

(2) the challenges the State faces in developing, implementing, and monitoring requirements involving the recording and retention of child welfare interviews; and

(3) a description of how the State plans to use funds for activities described in subsection (d).

(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts received under a grant under this section shall be used exclusively for costs directly associated with conducting and retaining for 5 years the recording of all child welfare interviews by a State agency responsible for conducting child welfare interviews, including initial interviews conducted during a family assessment to the extent practicable.

(2) RECORDING REQUIREMENT.—A State receiving a grant under this section shall have a statute, ordinance, policy, or practice re-

quiring all child welfare interviews conducted by the State agency responsible for conducting child welfare interviews to be recorded through electronic audio recording, body camera video, or any other reasonable means of recording.

(3) RETENTION REQUIREMENT.—A State receiving a grant under this section shall have a statute, ordinance, policy, or practice requiring the recordings described in paragraph (2) to be retained and stored for not less than 5 years in a manner consistent with the protocols established by the State for such recordings, which shall include that—

(A) a copy of such recording—

(i) subject to clause (ii), may only be released to appropriate government agencies investigating an allegation or prosecuting an offense relating to an allegation; and

(ii) upon request by a caregiver or guardian in connection with a judicial proceeding, shall be made available to the caregiver or guardian, unless the court orders otherwise;

(B) a penalty is imposed for a violation of the limitation described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) the retention systems of the State agency responsible for conducting child welfare interviews securely manage the storage and distribution of such a recording with access controls and role-based permission management.

(e) ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(1) RECORDS.—A State that receives a grant under this section shall maintain such records as the Associate Commissioner may require to facilitate an effective audit relating to the receipt of the grant, the use of amounts from the grant, or outsourcing activities.

(2) ACCESS.—For the purpose of conducting audits and examinations, the Associate Commissioner shall have access to any book, document, or record of the State agency that receives a grant under this section if the Associate Commissioner determines that the book, document, or record relates to—

(A) the receipt of the grant; or

(B) the use of amounts from the grant.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER.—The term “Associate Commissioner” means the Associate Commissioner of the Children’s Bureau of the Office of the Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(2) CHILD WELFARE INTERVIEW.—The term “child welfare interview” means a documented interview with any relevant parties, including a child or an adult, conducted by a State agency responsible for conducting child welfare interviews in order to elicit information regarding concerns of abuse of a child, neglect of a child, or other crimes against a child.

(3) STATE.—The term “State” means—

(A) each of the several States;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

(D) any territory or possession of the United States.

(g) FUNDING AND SUNSET.—For each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031, the Associate Commissioner shall use not more than \$30,000,000 of the amounts appropriated to carry out subpart 1 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) to carry out this section.

SA 4164. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ PROHIBITION ON CHEMICAL OR SURGICAL MUTILATION OF A CHILD.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Chloe Cole Act”.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CHEMICAL OR SURGICAL MUTILATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “chemical or surgical mutilation” means engaging in any one or more of the following for the purpose of intentionally halting the natural development of the individual’s body so that it no longer corresponds to the individual’s sex or intentionally changing the individual’s body, including the individual’s external appearance or biological functions, to no longer correspond to the individual’s sex:

(i) The use of puberty blockers, including gonadotropin releasing hormone agonists and other interventions, to delay the onset or progression of normally timed puberty in an individual.

(ii) The use of sex hormones, such as androgen blockers, estrogen, progesterone, or testosterone.

(iii) Surgical procedures that attempt to transform an individual’s physical appearance or that attempt to alter or remove an individual’s sexual organs.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—Such term does not include any of the following:

(i) Appropriate and medically necessary procedures to treat a verifiable disorder of sexual development, including an individual born with 46 XX chromosomes with virilization, with 46 XY chromosomes with undervirilization, or having both ovarian and testicular tissue.

(ii) The treatment of any infection, injury, disease, or disorder that has been caused or exacerbated by the performance of an intervention described in subparagraph (A) without regard to whether the intervention was performed in accordance with State or Federal law or whether the intervention is covered by the private right of action under subsection (d).

(iii) Any intervention undertaken because the individual suffers from any diagnosed and verifiable condition of the body’s organ systems, including the following:

(I) Traumatic bodily injuries (such as fractures, organ rupture, or penetrating trauma).

(II) Congenital structural anomalies of major organs or systems, including the cardiovascular, respiratory, renal, hepatic, neurological, or musculoskeletal systems.

(III) Acute illnesses with a high probability of rapid mortality.

(iv) Detransition treatment.

(2) **CHILD.**—The term “child” means an individual under 18 years of age.

(3) **DETRANSITION TREATMENT.**—The term “detransition treatment” means any treatment, including a mental health treatment, medical intervention, or surgery, that does either or both of the following:

(A) Stops or reverses the effects of a prior chemical or surgical mutilation.

(B) Helps an individual cope with the effects of a prior chemical or surgical mutilation.

(4) **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL.**—The term “health care professional” means a person, including a physician, who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of a State to administer health care in the ordinary course of the practice of his or her profession or performing such acts which require such licensure.

(5) **MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.**—The term “mental health professional” means a person who is licensed to diagnose and treat mental health conditions in a State.

(6) **PARTICIPATE.**—The term “participate”, with respect to acts constituting chemical or

surgical mutilation as defined in paragraph (1), means directly engaging in the planning, authorization, prescription, administration, or performance of any such act, including any of the following:

(A) Prescribing puberty blockers, sex hormones, or related medications with the intent to alter an individual’s physical appearance or reproductive function to align with an identity differing from his or her sex.

(B) Administering medications or treatments described in subparagraph (A) with such intent, whether by injection, oral delivery, or other means.

(C) Performing surgical procedures that attempt to transform an individual’s physical appearance to be of the alternate sex, or that alter or remove sexual organs as part of chemical or surgical mutilation.

(D) Authorizing or directing such chemical or surgical mutilation procedures as a supervising health care professional or institutional representative.

(E) Knowingly planning or coordinating the provision of treatments or procedures described above in subparagraph (A), (C), or (D) with the intent to facilitate chemical or surgical mutilation.

(7) **SEX.**—The term “sex” means a person’s immutable biological classification, determined at the moment of conception, as either male or female, as follows:

(A) The term “female” is a person who naturally has, had, will have, or would have but for a congenital anomaly or intentional or unintentional disruption, the reproductive system that produces, transports, and utilizes the large gamete (ova) for fertilization.

(B) The term “male” is a person who naturally has, had, will have, or would have but for a congenital anomaly or intentional or unintentional disruption, the reproductive system that produces, transports, and utilizes the small gamete (sperm) for fertilization.

(c) **PROHIBITION ON CHEMICAL OR SURGICAL MUTILATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—No health care professional, hospital, or clinic shall, in a circumstance described in paragraph (2), participate in the chemical or surgical mutilation of a child, and a health care professional, hospital, or clinic may commence participation in a treatment that qualifies as an exception specified in subclauses (i) through (iv) of subsection (b)(1)(B) only after determining that clear and convincing evidence supports a determination that the treatment so qualifies.

(2) **CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED.**—The circumstances described in this paragraph are that—

(A) the defendant or child traveled in interstate or foreign commerce, or traveled using a means, channel, facility, or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce, in furtherance of or in connection with the participation in the chemical or surgical mutilation;

(B) the defendant used a means, channel, facility, or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce in furtherance of or in connection with the participation in the chemical or surgical mutilation;

(C) any payment of any kind was made, directly or indirectly, in furtherance of or in connection with the participation in the chemical or surgical mutilation using any means, channel, facility, or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce;

(D) the defendant transmitted in interstate or foreign commerce any communication relating to or in furtherance of the participation in the chemical or surgical mutilation using any means, channel, facility, or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce

or in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce by any means or in any manner, including by computer, mail, wire, or electromagnetic transmission;

(E) any instrument, item, substance, or other object that has traveled in interstate or foreign commerce was used to perform the chemical or surgical mutilation;

(F) the chemical or surgical mutilation occurred within the District of Columbia, the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, or any territory or possession of the United States; or

(G) the chemical or surgical mutilation otherwise occurred in or affected interstate or foreign commerce.

(d) **PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An individual subjected as a child to chemical or surgical mutilation prohibited by subsection (c), or the parents or legal guardians of such individual, may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States for damages against any health care professional, hospital, or clinic, who participates in the chemical or surgical mutilation of that child. Such a cause of action shall be available regardless of whether the alleged chemical or surgical mutilation occurred before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **DAMAGES.**—Damages available pursuant to such an action may include—

(A) compensatory damages, including all economic damages associated with undoing, correcting, or ameliorating the effects or results of any chemical or surgical mutilation procedures;

(B) non-economic damages for emotional distress and pain and suffering; and

(C) punitive damages, if the claimant proves by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant against whom punitive damages are sought acted maliciously, intentionally, fraudulently, or recklessly.

(3) **STRICT LIABILITY.**—Any health care professional, hospital, or clinic whose participation in the chemical or surgical mutilation of a child after the date of enactment of this Act is proven by clear and convincing evidence shall be strictly liable for damages for any such act of mutilation. If a treatment qualifies under an exception specified in clauses (i) through (iv) of subsection (b)(1)(B), and that is raised as an affirmative defense to a violation of this section, the health care professional, hospital, or clinic shall bear the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that such exception applies.

(e) **RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**—In this section:

(1) No private right of action is established based on counseling, referrals to mental health professionals, or discussions of treatment options, including counseling, referrals, or options available upon reaching adulthood, or in circumstances not described in subsection (c)(2), provided by health care professionals, or mental health professionals, provided that such actions do not constitute participation in chemical or surgical mutilation, as defined in subsection (b).

(2) No liability for a health care professional under these provisions may be waived.

(3) Any ambiguities shall be resolved against any party found to have engaged in participation, as defined in subsection (b)(6), in the chemical or surgical mutilation of a child.

(4) In any cases in which chemical or surgical mutilation of a child is shown to have occurred before the date of enactment of this Act, there is limited deference to prevailing standards of care to the extent that such standards contradict the intent of this section and it is shown that the health care professional knew or should have known that

such standards of care were in serious, scientific, and medical dispute at the time of the chemical or surgical mutilation.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a health care professional or mental health professional from providing information about all available treatment options, discussing risks and benefits, or expressing professional medical opinions, so long as such actions do not constitute participation in chemical or surgical mutilation.

(f) **STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.**—An action under subsection (d) may be brought within 25 years from the date of the eighteenth birthday of an individual subjected to chemical or surgical mutilation as a child or within 4 years from the time the cost of a detransition treatment is incurred, whichever date is later.

(g) **SEVERABILITY.**—If any provision of this section, or the application of such a provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this section, and the application of the provision held to be unconstitutional to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected.

SA 4165. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . AMERICAN MUSIC TOURISM ACT OF 2026.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “American Music Tourism Act of 2026”.

(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR TRAVEL AND TOURISM.**—

(1) **DOMESTIC TRAVEL AND TOURISM.**—Section 605(b) of the Visit America Act (15 U.S.C. 9803(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) identify locations and events in the United States that are important to music tourism and facilitate and promote domestic travel and tourism to those locations and events.”.

(2) **FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND LEISURE TRAVEL.**—Section 605 of the Visit America Act (15 U.S.C. 9803) is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) **FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND LEISURE TRAVEL.**—The Assistant Secretary, in coordination with relevant Federal agencies, shall strive to increase and facilitate international business and leisure travel to the United States and ensure competitiveness by—

“(1) facilitating large meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions in the United States;

“(2) emphasizing rural and other destinations in the United States that are rich in cultural heritage or ecological tourism, among other uniquely American destinations, as locations for hosting international meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions;

“(3) facilitating and promoting international travel and tourism to sports and recreation events and activities in the United States; and

“(4) identifying locations and events in the United States that are important to music tourism and facilitating and promoting

international travel and tourism to those locations and events.”.

(3) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 605(f) of the Visit America Act (15 U.S.C. 9803(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) **REPORT ON GOALS RELATING TO DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the American Music Tourism Act of 2026, and every 2 years thereafter, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report of activities, findings, achievements, and vulnerabilities relating to the goals described in subsections (a) through (d).”.

(4) **DEFINITION.**—Section 600 of title VI of division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (15 U.S.C. 9801) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(B) by striking “In this title, the term ‘COVID-19 public health emergency’—” and inserting the following:

“In this title:

“(1) **COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.**—The term ‘COVID-19 public health emergency’—”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **MUSIC TOURISM.**—The term ‘music tourism’ means—

“(A) the act of traveling to a State or locality to visit historic or modern day music-related attractions, including museums, studios, venues of all sizes, and other sites related to music; or

“(B) the act of traveling to a State or locality to attend a music festival, a concert, or other live musical performance or music-related special event.”.

SA 4166. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . GRANT INCREASES.

Part T of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10441 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 2019. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION TRAINING FOR COSMETOLOGISTS AND BARBERS.

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **ELIGIBLE STATE.**—The term ‘eligible State’ means a State that has in effect a law that requires each individual seeking licensure from the State as a cosmetologist or barber to undergo qualifying training.

“(2) **QUALIFYING TRAINING.**—The term ‘qualifying training’, with respect to training for individuals seeking licensure from a State as a cosmetologist or barber, means online or in-person training, at no cost to the individual, provided by a victim service provider that—

“(A) focuses on how to—

“(i) recognize the signs of domestic violence;

“(ii) respond to the signs of domestic violence; and

“(iii) refer a client of the individual to resources for victims of domestic violence; and

“(B) may include a component focused on sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence.

“(b) **GRANT INCREASE.**—Subject to the availability of funds pursuant to subsection

(e), the Attorney General shall increase the amount of a grant awarded under section 2007(a) to an eligible State by an amount that is not more than 10 percent of the average of the total amount of funding provided to the State under section 2007(a) under the 3 most recent awards to the State.

“(c) **APPLICATION.**—An eligible State seeking a grant increase under this section shall submit an application to the Attorney General at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Attorney General may reasonably require, including information about the law of the eligible State described in subsection (a)(1).

“(d) **GRANT INCREASE TERM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The term of a grant increase under this section shall be for 1 year.

“(2) **RENEWAL.**—An eligible State that receives a grant increase under this section may submit an application for a renewal of such grant increase at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Attorney General may reasonably require.

“(3) **LIMIT.**—An eligible State may not receive a grant increase under this section for more than 3 years.

“(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2033, which shall remain available until expended.”.

SA 4167. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . ROMANCE SCAM PREVENTION ACT.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Romance Scam Prevention Act”.

(b) **ROMANCE SCAM PREVENTION.**—

(1) **FRAUD BAN NOTIFICATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An online dating service provider shall provide to a member of the online dating service a fraud ban notification if the member has received a message through the online dating service from a banned member of the online dating service.

(B) **REQUIRED CONTENTS.**—A fraud ban notification under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) The username or other profile identifier of the banned member, as well as the most recent time when the member to whom the notification is being provided sent or received a message through the online dating service to or from the banned member.

(ii) A statement, as applicable, that the banned member identified in clause (i) may have been using a false identity or attempting to defraud members.

(iii) A statement that a member should not send cash or another form of currency or personal financial information to another member.

(iv) Information regarding best practices to avoid online fraud or being defrauded by a member of an online dating service, which may be provided through a link to another web page or disclosure.

(v) Contact information to reach the customer service department of the online dating service provider.

(C) **MANNER AND TIMING.**—

(i) **MANNER.**—A fraud ban notification under subparagraph (A) shall be—

(I) clear and conspicuous; and

(II) provided by email, text message, or, if consented to by the member receiving the

fraud ban notification, other appropriate means of communication.

(i) TIMING.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclauses (II) and (III), an online dating service provider shall provide a fraud ban notification under subparagraph (A) not later than 24 hours after the fraud ban is initiated against the banned member.

(II) DELAY BASED ON JUDGMENT OF PROVIDER.—If, in the judgment of the online dating service provider, the circumstances require a fraud ban notification under subparagraph (A) to be provided after the 24-hour period described in subclause (I), the online dating service provider shall, except as provided in subclause (III), provide the notification not later than 3 days after the day on which the fraud ban is initiated against the banned member.

(III) DELAY UPON REQUEST OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL.—If, due to an ongoing investigation, a law enforcement official requests an online dating service provider to delay providing a fraud ban notification under subparagraph (A) beyond the time when the notification is required to be provided under subclause (I) or (II), the online dating service provider—

(aa) may not provide the notification before the end of the period of delay (including any extension of such period) requested by the law enforcement official; and

(bb) shall provide the notification not later than 3 days after the last day of the period of delay (including any extension of such period) requested by the law enforcement official.

(D) SAFE HARBOR APPLICABILITY.—An online dating service provider is not liable to a member, a banned member, or a former member for a claim based on an online dating service provider's action to comply with the requirements for providing a fraud ban notification under this paragraph.

(2) ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) ENFORCEMENT BY THE COMMISSION.—

(i) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of this section or a regulation promulgated under this section shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(ii) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall enforce this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this section.

(II) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person who violates this section shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act.

(III) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

(B) ENFORCEMENT BY STATES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), in any case in which the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that an interest of the residents of the State has been or is threatened or adversely affected by the engagement of any person in an act or practice that violates this section, the attorney general of the State may, as parens patriae, bring a civil action on behalf of the residents of the State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate relief.

(ii) RIGHTS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(I) NOTICE TO THE COMMISSION.—

(aa) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in item (cc), before initiating a civil action under clause (i), the attorney general of a State shall notify the Commission in writing that the attorney general intends to bring such civil action.

(bb) CONTENTS.—The notification required by item (aa) shall include a copy of the complaint to be filed to initiate the civil action.

(cc) EXCEPTION.—If it is not feasible for the attorney general of a State to provide the notification required by item (aa) before initiating a civil action under clause (i), the attorney general shall notify the Commission immediately upon instituting the civil action.

(II) INTERVENTION BY THE COMMISSION.—Upon receiving the notice required by subclause (I)(aa), the Commission may intervene in the civil action and, upon intervening—

(aa) be heard on all matters arising in the civil action; and

(bb) file petitions for appeal of a decision in the civil action.

(iii) LIMITATION ON STATE ACTION WHILE FEDERAL ACTION IS PENDING.—If the Commission has instituted a civil action for a violation of this section or a regulation promulgated under this section, no attorney general of a State may bring an action under clause (i) during the pendency of that action against any defendant named in the complaint of the Commission for any violation of this section or a regulation promulgated under this section alleged in the complaint.

(iv) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of bringing a civil action under this subparagraph, nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to prevent the attorney general of a State from exercising the powers conferred on the attorney general by the laws of the State to conduct investigations, to administer oaths or affirmations, or to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary or other evidence.

(v) ACTIONS BY OTHER STATE OFFICIALS.—In addition to a civil action brought by an attorney general under clause (i), any other consumer protection officer of a State who is authorized by the State to do so may bring a civil action under clause (i), subject to the same requirements and limitations that apply under this subparagraph to a civil action brought by an attorney general.

(3) ONE NATIONAL STANDARD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A State, or political subdivision thereof, may not maintain, enforce, prescribe, or continue in effect a provision of any law, rule, regulation, requirement, or standard having the force and effect of law of the State, or political subdivision of the State, that requires an online dating service provider to notify, prohibits an online dating service provider from notifying, or otherwise affects the manner in which an online dating service provider is required or permitted to notify, a member of the online dating service that the member has received a message from or sent a message to a member whose account or profile on the online dating service is the subject of a fraud ban through the online dating service.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This paragraph may not be construed to preempt any law of a State or political subdivision of a State relating to contracts or torts.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) BANNED MEMBER.—The term “banned member” means a member of an online dating service whose account or profile on the online dating service is the subject of a fraud ban.

(B) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

(C) FRAUD BAN.—The term “fraud ban” means the termination or suspension of the account or profile of a member of an online

dating service because, in the judgment of the online dating service provider, there is a significant risk the member will attempt to obtain cash or another form of currency from another member through fraudulent means.

(D) MEMBER.—The term “member” means an individual who—

(i) submits to an online dating service provider the information required by the provider to establish an account or profile on the online dating service; and

(ii) is allowed by the provider to establish such an account or profile.

(E) ONLINE DATING SERVICE.—The term “online dating service” means a service that—

(i) is provided through a website or a mobile application; and

(ii) offers members access to dating or romantic relationships with other members by arranging or facilitating the social introduction of members.

(F) ONLINE DATING SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term “online dating service provider” means a person engaged in the business of offering an online dating service.

(G) STATE.—The term “State” means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(5) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 4168. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . MAIN EVENT TICKETING ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Mitigating Automated Internet Networks for Event Ticketing Act” or the “MAIN Event Ticketing Act”.

(b) STRENGTHENING THE BOTS ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 of the Better Online Ticket Sales Act of 2016 (15 U.S.C. 45c) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by inserting “online” before “ticket issuer”; and

(II) by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

“(C) to use or cause to be used an application, including a software application, that performs automated tasks to purchase event tickets from an Internet website or online service used by an online ticket issuer through the circumvention of an access control system, security measure, or other technological control or measure used by such Internet website or online service to enforce posted online ticket purchasing order rules of the Internet website or online service.”;

(B) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

(C) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

“(b) REQUIRING ONLINE TICKET ISSUERS TO ENFORCE SITE POLICIES.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT TO ENFORCE AND UPDATE SITE POLICIES.—Each online ticket issuer shall—

“(A) establish, implement, and maintain an access control system, security measure, or other technological control or measure to

enforce posted event ticket purchasing limits and to maintain the integrity of posted online ticket purchasing order rules; and

“(B) regularly evaluate and make adjustments, as necessary, to such an access control system, security measure, or other technological control or measure in light of any material changes in technology, internal or external threats to system security, and the changing business arrangements or operations of the ticket issuer.

“(2) REQUIREMENT TO REPORT INCIDENTS OF CIRCUMVENTION; CONSUMER COMPLAINTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each online ticket issuer shall report to the Commission any incidents of circumvention of which the ticket issuer has actual knowledge not later than 30 days after the incident of circumvention is discovered by the online ticket issuer.

“(B) ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION.—The Commission may establish a reporting mechanism to provide for the electronic submission of reports required by subparagraph (A).

“(C) COORDINATION WITH STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—The Commission shall share with State attorneys general, as appropriate—

“(i) any report received from online ticket issuers under subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) consumer complaints related to any violation of this subsection that are submitted through the Commission’s website.

“(3) REQUIREMENT TO ADDRESS KNOWN CAUSES OF CIRCUMVENTION.—Each online ticket issuer shall take reasonable steps to improve its access control systems, security measures, and other technological controls or measures to address any known or reasonably foreseeable risks connected to incidents of circumvention.

“(4) COMMISSION GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Mitigating Automated Internet Networks for Event Ticketing Act, the Commission shall publish guidance for online ticket issuers regarding compliance with the requirements of this subsection.”;

(D) in subsection (c), as redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph—

(i) by striking “subsection (a)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (a) or (b)”; and

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

“(3) LIMITATION ON COMMISSION GUIDANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—No guidance issued by the Commission with respect to this Act shall confer any rights on any person, State, or locality, nor shall operate to bind the Commission or any person to the approach recommended in such guidance.

“(B) SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS.—In any enforcement action brought pursuant to this Act, the Commission—

“(i) shall allege a specific violation of a provision of this Act; and

“(ii) may not base an enforcement action on, or execute a consent order based on, practices that are alleged to be inconsistent with any such guidance, unless the practices allegedly violate this Act.”;

(E) in subsection (d), as redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, by striking “subsection (a)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (a) or (b)”; and

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

“(e) LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Attorney General, and other relevant State or local law enforcement officials shall coordinate as appropriate with the Commission to share information about any known instance of a cyberattack on a security measure, access control system, or other technological control or measure on an Internet website or online service that is used by an online ticket issuer to enforce posted event ticket pur-

chasing limits or to maintain the integrity of posted online ticket purchasing order rules. Such coordination may include providing information about ongoing investigations, but may exclude classified information or information that could compromise a law enforcement or national security effort, as appropriate.

“(2) CYBERATTACK DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘cyberattack’ means an attack, via cyberspace, targeting an enterprise’s use of cyberspace for the purpose of—

“(A) disrupting, disabling, destroying, or maliciously controlling a computing environment or computing infrastructure; or

“(B) destroying the integrity of data or stealing controlled information.

“(f) CONGRESSIONAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Commission shall report to Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives on the status of any enforcement action taken pursuant to this Act, as well as any identified limitations to the Commission’s ability to pursue incidents of circumvention described in subsection (a)(1)(A).”.

(2) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Better Online Ticket Sales Act of 2016 (15 U.S.C. 45c note) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(5) CIRCUMVENTION.—The term ‘circumvention’ means the act of avoiding, bypassing, removing, deactivating, or otherwise impairing an access control system, security measure, safeguard, or other technological control or measure described in section 2.

“(6) ONLINE TICKET ISSUER.—The term ‘online ticket issuer’ means a ticket issuer that owns or operates an Internet website or online service that, in the regular course of trade or business of the issuer, facilitates or executes the sale of event tickets to the general public.”.

SA 4169. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. GRANTS FOR AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “local educational agency” and “secondary school” have the meanings given those terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(2) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT.—The term “eligible applicant” means an eligible local educational agency or an eligible nonprofit organization.

(3) ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term “eligible local educational agency” means a local educational agency that serves 1 or more secondary schools that are located in a county in which the juvenile offense rate for the most recent fiscal year for which data is available was not less than 10 percent.

(4) ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term “eligible nonprofit organization” means an organization described in section 501(c)(3) and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that—

(A) has experience in operating an after school program or similar program for secondary school students; and

(B) is located in a county in which the juvenile offense rate for the most recent fiscal year for which data is available was not less than 10 percent.

(5) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—The term “eligible students” means students in any of grades 6 through 12.

(6) JUVENILE OFFENSE RATE.—The term “juvenile offense rate” means the percentage of violent offenses committed by any individual who is not more than 19 years of age as compared to the total number of violent offenses committed by all age groups in a given county, as published in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(b) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Attorney General shall award grants, in accordance with subsection (c), to eligible applicants that have an approved application in order to enable those eligible applicants to provide after school programs for eligible students, as described in subsection (f).

(c) FORMULA.—From the total amount made available to carry out this section, the Attorney General shall allot to each eligible applicant having an application approved under subsection (e), an amount that bears the same relationship to that total amount as the number of eligible students who will be served by such eligible applicant under this section bears to the number of eligible students who will be served by all eligible applicants under this section.

(d) NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY.—On the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, and of each fiscal year thereafter, the Attorney General shall—

(1) determine which counties in the United States had a juvenile offense rate of not less than 10 percent during the most recent fiscal year for which data is available;

(2) publish the determination of the Attorney General under paragraph (1); and

(3) publish an application that eligible applicants seeking a grant under this section can submit.

(e) APPLICATION.—An eligible applicant seeking a grant under this section shall submit the application described in subsection (d)(3) to the Attorney General at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Attorney General may require, including—

(1) the juvenile offense rate for the most recent fiscal year for which data are available for—

(A) if the eligible applicant is an eligible local educational agency, the county in which 1 or more secondary schools served by the eligible local educational agency are located; or

(B) if the eligible applicant is an eligible nonprofit organization, the county in which the eligible nonprofit organization is located;

(2) an assurance that the eligible applicant—

(A) if the eligible applicant is an eligible local educational agency, will carry out the after school programs or will partner only with an eligible nonprofit organization to carry out such programs; or

(B) if the eligible applicant is an eligible nonprofit organization, will carry out the after school programs; and

(3) information about the activities and frequency of the after school programs that will be carried out with grant funds under this section.

(f) USES OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible applicant that receives a grant under this section shall use such grant funds to operate after school programs for eligible students, which may include—

(A) expanding existing after school programs for eligible students;

(B) developing and carrying out new after school programs for eligible students; or

(C) if the eligible applicant is an eligible local educational agency, partnering with an eligible nonprofit organization to administer and operate after school programs for eligible students.

(2) **COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.**—An eligible applicant that receives a grant under this section shall ensure that the after school programs carried out with grant funds are programs that—

(A) are held when school is out of session; and

(B) include activities that have an educational purpose that aim to—

(i) expand learning opportunities,
(ii) foster foundational skill development,
(iii) provide youth leadership opportunities; and

(iv) provide a safe and supportive environment.

(g) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **ELIGIBLE APPLICANT REPORTS.**—Each eligible applicant that receives a grant under this section shall submit an annual report to the Attorney General that describes—

(A) the number of schools served by an after school program established or maintained using funds under this section;

(B) the number of children served at each such school; and

(C) the general successes and vulnerabilities of the after school programs established or maintained using funds under this section.

(2) **ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date as of which the Attorney General has received all the reports for a year under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report summarizing the reports received under that paragraph.

(h) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029, to remain available until expended.

SA 4170. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COUNTERING NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS FROM THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter for 7 years, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, and make publicly available on the website of the Department of Justice, a report on activities conducted by the Department of Justice related to countering national security threats from and espionage in the United States by the Chinese Communist Party, including—

(1) a description of the activities and operations of the Department of Justice related to countering Chinese national security threats and espionage in the United States, including—

(A) theft of United States intellectual property (including trade secrets) and research; and

(B) threats from non-traditional collectors, such as researchers in laboratories, at universities, and at defense industrial base facilities (as that term is defined in section 2208(u)(3) of title 10, United States Code);

(2) an accounting of the resources of the Department of Justice that are dedicated to programs aimed at combating national security threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party, and any supporting information as to the efficacy of each such program; and

(3) a detailed description of the measures used to ensure the protection of civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy rights of United States persons in carrying out the activities, operations, and programs described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) **FORM.**—The report under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—In preparing the report under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall collaborate with the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Defense, and any other appropriate officials.

SA 4171. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. MOTOR VEHICLES.

Section 2119 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “, with the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm” and inserting “‘knowingly’”; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “if death results,” and inserting “if the motor vehicle is taken with the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm, and death results,”.

SA 4172. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. The Attorney General shall, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, use amounts made available under this Act to make publicly available in a searchable and downloadable format all records, documents, communications, and investigative materials in the possession of the Department of Justice, including the Bureau of Prisons and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that relate to the transfer of Ghislaine Maxwell from Federal Correctional Institution, Tallahassee, to Federal Prison Camp, Bryan.

SA 4173. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available under any division of this Act may be used by any officer or employee of the Department of Justice to enter into any legal settlement with an individual who has been convicted of an offense involving assaulting a law enforcement officer, including a viola-

tion of section 111 of title 18, United States Code, or a violation of section 432 of the Revised Statutes of the District of Columbia (sec. 22-405, D.C. Official Code), in connection with the events that occurred at or near the Capitol on January 6, 2021, if the claims giving rise to such settlement are based on alleged harm suffered by such individual—

(1) during the events that occurred at or near the Capitol on January 6, 2021; or

(2) from prosecution for an offense relating to such events.

SA 4174. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 144, line 3, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “*Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, not less than \$25,000,000 shall be used to provide authorized reimbursements for flood and storm damage projects for which there is an executed project partnership agreement, construction has been completed, and the non-Federal interest intends to use the reimbursement for additional water resources development activities.”.

SA 4175. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 145, line 4, strike “\$6,013,217,000” and insert “\$6,029,575,000”.

On page 147, line 2, insert “*Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 102, of the funds made available under this heading, \$16,656,000 shall be for Chicago Harbor, Illinois:” after “activities:”.

SA 4176. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. INTEREST ON FUNDS PROVIDED TO FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury may not charge interest on funds borrowed by the Federal Communications Commission (in this section referred to as the “Commission”) or the Secretary of Commerce under subsection (c) or (d), respectively, of section 5404 of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (in this section referred to as the “Fiscal Year 2025 NDAA”) (Public Law 118-159; 138 Stat. 2450).

(b) **RETURN OF INTEREST.**—Any interest described in subsection (a) collected by the Secretary of the Treasury—

(1) from the Commission before the date of enactment of this Act shall be returned to the Commission for use by the Commission for the purpose described in, and consistent with, section 5404(c) of the Fiscal Year 2025 NDAA, as though such interest had not been paid to the Secretary of Treasury; or

(2) from the Secretary of Commerce before the date of enactment of this Act shall be returned to the Secretary of Commerce for use by the Secretary of Commerce for the purpose described in, and consistent with, section 5404(d) of the Fiscal Year 2025 NDAA, as though such interest had not been paid to the Secretary of Treasury.

(c) UNPAID INTEREST.—The obligation of the Commission or the Secretary of Commerce to pay any unpaid interest that has accrued on the funds described in subsection (a) is terminated.

SA 4177. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Department of Justice shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives of the House of Representatives, and make available on the public website of the Department, a report that includes the following information:

(1) All records reflecting or relating to communications between any official of the Office of the Pardon Attorney, Office of the Attorney General, or Office of the Deputy Attorney General of the Department of Justice and any White House official regarding the December 1, 2025, formal pardon of Mr. Juan Orlando Hernández, former President of Honduras, who was convicted of drug trafficking and related crimes and sentenced to 45 years in prison.

(2) Any records in the possession of the Department corroborating any claim that the prosecution of Mr. Hernández was politically motivated or otherwise unsupported by evidence of criminal conduct.

(3) Any evidence of legal errors, procedural defects, or evidentiary insufficiencies in the prosecution or conviction of Mr. Hernández.

(4) A narrative description of how any evidence exonerating Mr. Hernández overcomes the weight of the evidence introduced at trial, such as—

(A) pictures of Mr. Hernández with drug traffickers at the 2010 World Cup despite his claims he did not know them;

(B) the audio recordings of members of the MS-13 gang discussing their payments to Mr. Hernández;

(C) the ledgers of the trafficker-witness who was murdered in prison; and

(D) phone data showing co-conspirators physically visited the presidential palace of Mr. Hernández at least twice.

(5) A summary of the timeline of the Federal law enforcement investigation into Mr. Hernández and his associates.

(6) A detailed description of the role of Mr. Emil Bove in the investigation, prosecution, and conviction of Mr. Hernández and his associates.

SA 4178. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REPEAL OF SECTION 213.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Anti-Cash Grab Act”.

(b) REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 213 of division C of the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 (Public Law 119-37) is repealed, and section 10 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2005 (2 U.S.C. 6628) is restored as if such section 213 had not been enacted.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of division C of the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 (Public Law 119-37).

SA 4179. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the matter under the heading “ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT” under the heading “ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY” in title II of division C, add the following:

In addition, up to \$3,300,000 for payment of compensatory damages for adequately documented claims submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency in connection with the August 5, 2015, Gold King Mine incident by a homeowner, a livestock grazer, a farmer, or a recreation company or other business for: injury or loss of property, or personal injury or death (as used in section 1346(b)(1) of title 28, United States Code); lost business income during the period beginning on August 5, 2015, and ending on December 31, 2015, excluding vacation rentals and any business that owns a mine or performs any mine-related business; expenses arising from relocating livestock and providing alternative water supplies during the period beginning on August 5, 2015, and ending on December 31, 2015; or lost income from diminished yield or loss of agricultural crops during the period beginning on August 5, 2015, and ending on December 31, 2015: *Provided*, That such claim must have been in the form of a written request for monetary compensation of a sum certain submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency on or before August 5, 2017: *Provided further*, That the Environmental Protection Agency may request additional documentation of claimed damages and may, in its discretion, determine the adequacy of documentation: *Provided further*, That payments shall not include costs for response (as defined in section 101 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601)); emotional distress; interest; punitive damages; amounts in excess of the amount requested in the original claim; amounts already paid in satisfaction of a claim; or payments to any claimant who, prior to the date of enactment of this Act, has entered into a settlement agreement with the United States for any amount exceeding \$2,500 or has had a judgment entered by any court in any case related to the August 5, 2015, Gold King Mine incident or the Bonita Peak Mining District: *Provided further*, That acceptance by a claimant of any payment under this paragraph shall be final and conclusive on the claimant with respect to all claims arising out of or relating to the same subject matter and constitute a complete release of all covered claims against the United States (including any agency or

employee of the United States) under chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, or any other Federal or State law, arising out of or relating to the same subject matter: *Provided further*, That no payment under this paragraph shall affect any right of a claimant to file a claim for benefits under any Federal entitlement program: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this paragraph are designated by Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)).

SA 4180. Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V of division B, add the following:

SEC. 504. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to control the flow of oil, the sale of oil, or the flow of proceeds that come from the sale of oil, from Venezuela.

SA 4181. Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV of division C, insert the following:

PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR NAMING FEDERAL PROPERTY AFTER SITTING PRESIDENT

SEC. _____. No funds made available by any division of this Act may be used to name, rename, designate, or redesignate any Federal building, land, or other asset in the name of a sitting President.

SA 4182. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Ms. ALSOBROOKS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division C, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts shall, with respect to any change made on or after December 18, 2025, to the name of the center established under section 2 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76h) on any building of the United States, on any material or display of the United States (physical, digital, or otherwise), or in any regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States (physical, digital, or otherwise), change back to the name used before December 18, 2025, on such building, material, display, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States (physical, digital, or otherwise).

(b) None of the funds appropriated in this Act or any other appropriation Act enacted before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act may be used to change any reference to the name of the John F. Kennedy

Center for the Performing Arts, as designated under the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76h) —

- (1) on any building of the United States;
- (2) on any material or display of the United States (physical, digital, or otherwise); or
- (3) in any regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States (physical, digital, or otherwise).

(c) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts shall submit a report to the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives that provides an accounting of all funds used on or after December 18, 2025, to change any reference to the name of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on any building, material, display, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States (physical, digital, or otherwise).

NOTICE OF INTENT TO NOT OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator ALEX PADILLA, do not intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Lt. Gen. Thomas M. Carden Jr. for appointment as Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau and for appointment to the grade indicated in the Reserve of the Army under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 10505, dated January 12, 2026.

NATIONAL LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 570.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 570) designating November 2025 as “National Lung Cancer Awareness Month” and expressing support for early detection and treatment of lung cancer.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MORENO. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 570) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.
(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of December 18, 2025, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 241; that the nomination be confirmed; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau and for appointment to the grade indicated in the Reserve of the Army under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 10505:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Thomas M. Carden, Jr.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Sen-

ate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 13; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 299, H.R. 6938, postcloture; further, that the Senate recess from 12:45 to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; that notwithstanding rule XXII, it be in order for Senator WARNER or his designee to make a motion to proceed to Calendar No. 293, S.J. Res. 84, and if Senator WARNER or his designee has made a motion to proceed, the Senate vote on the motion to proceed at 2:15 p.m.; finally, that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 299, H.R. 6938.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:53 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate January 12, 2026:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 10505:

To be general

LT. GEN. THOMAS M. CARDEN, JR.