



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 172

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

No. 8

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 12, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID J. TAYLOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

SIGNIFICANT STRIDES TO STRENGTHEN UNITED STATES WARFIGHTERS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, President Trump issued an executive order last week to prioritize the development of the U.S. warfighter.

President Trump has made significant strides toward strengthening the United States' military capabilities, and this executive order continues to do just that.

Enhancing the lethality and readiness of our military forces relies on the highly skilled practices of defense contracting partners like JLG Industries, Volvo Construction Equipment, the Manitowoc Company, and firms like Lockheed Martin, Leonardo DRS, Kongsberg Defense Corporation, and JWF Defense Systems. These are all examples of companies that put our Nation's vital interests first, and these are all companies that are in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District.

President Trump's initiative will hold Defense to the highest standards by refocusing on our Nation's military readiness, which is especially needed in these incredibly dangerous times.

I thank President Trump for this initiative.

RECOGNIZING EFFORTS TO RESTORE GETTYSBURG MONUMENTS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the efforts of the Gettysburg National Military Park to restore several monuments. These restoration efforts follow the vandalism of historic monuments at Gettysburg.

These memorials honor the brave soldiers who fought and died in one of the most pivotal American battles. Restoring these monuments will take months and cost taxpayers thousands of dollars. These are resources that should have never been necessary to expend.

These actions were not simply acts of graffiti. They were acts to damage our legacy. These monuments stand as reminders of sacrifice, unity, and the ongoing work of perfecting this Union. They deserve our utmost respect.

We owe it to those who fought for these freedoms and to the future generations of Americans to ensure that our national parks and memorials are preserved.

Representing Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank Superintendent Kris Heister and her staff at Gettysburg National Military Park for

their dedication to protecting these sacred sites.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all constituents to uphold the highest respect for those who died so that we might enjoy the many freedoms that we continue to have today.

RECOGNIZING HUNTINGDON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Huntingdon Area School District on its selection as a Great Pennsylvania School.

Bestowed by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, this designation recognizes school districts across Pennsylvania for academic excellence. As Superintendent Jennifer Mitchell stated: This meaningful designation reflects the shared commitment to high-quality, innovative, and community-centered education in Huntingdon.

Mr. Speaker, I join with constituents throughout Huntingdon in congratulating the Huntingdon Area School District, Superintendent Mitchell, and the school board directors on the district's designation as one of Pennsylvania's great schools.

HONORING THE LIFE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT OF TINA PELESKY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and community impact of Tina Pelesky, a dedicated advocate for veterans, who passed away at the age of 56 this past Christmas Eve.

Tina devoted her professional life to Veteran Community Initiatives, a nonprofit organization in Johnstown that provides numerous services for veterans in a 14-county region that includes Cambria, Somerset, and Bedford Counties.

Tina most recently served as VCI's director of finance and administration. In her partnership with VCI founder Tom Caulfield, Tina was instrumental in supporting numerous aspects of VCI's mission.

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

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



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As we pause to remember Tina, we also keep her husband, David, and her entire family in our prayers. We also express a nation's gratitude for her passionate commitment that advocates like Tina Pelesky and Tom Caulfield make each and every day for all of those who served this great country.

KOREAN-AMERICAN DAY

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Korean-American Day, a day to commemorate the first wave of Korean immigrants to the United States and honor the generations who have followed.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a vibrant Korean-American community in Virginia, a community that has made incredible contributions across the country in government, business, technology, education, the arts, and more.

Today is also a solemn reminder of the Korean-American families who remain divided as a result of the Korean war, including families in my district, whose stories I have heard firsthand.

The Korean war separated thousands of families who have spent decades seeking reunification and closure, but I am proud to be championing bipartisan legislation that I introduced earlier this year to help accelerate the reunification of these families. This was recently signed into law, offering these families hope for a long overdue reunion.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing to work with the Korean-American community in my district and across the country to make these reunions a reality, and I wish everyone a happy Korean-American Day.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, my office has been working with so many constituents who have been harmed by the administration's new immigration policies, one of which placed a hold on immigration petitions and applications from 19 countries designated by the administration.

In our district, families followed the law. They filed their paperwork and waited in good faith. They were told that their application was in good order and would be approved soon, and then the process completely stopped. Work permit applications were frozen, leaving people legally present but unable to work.

Asylee and refugee family petitions have also been stalled. There are so many heartbreaking stories, like one hopeful couple in my office who has been trying to plan their wedding but remain separated while they wait. There is another person who has not been able to unite with their sons or daughters.

These delays have been putting people's lives on hold indefinitely without any sort of timeline or transparency,

and we must restore timely adjudication of these applications.

RECOGNIZING FAUQUIER HOSPITAL

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, for the second year in a row, Fauquier Hospital has been named the Top General Hospital in the Nation.

Fauquier Hospital has received an A grade for the last 18 months. It is recognized as a certified primary stroke center, and it has a 97-bed acute care hospital.

Only 52 hospitals receive this honor every year, and we are glad to have Fauquier Hospital serving our community.

Healthcare institutions around the country continue to face challenges, with cuts to Medicaid, the ACA tax credits expiring, and burned-out workforces that are asked to do more with less every single day.

The Senate must take up the 3-year ACA tax credit extension to address healthcare costs. We must make sure that we restore Medicaid funding, or we risk losing hospitals like Fauquier Hospital.

Working in healthcare is often a thankless job, and I hope the House will join me in thanking the nurses, doctors, and staff that keep hospitals like Fauquier Hospital running.

HONORING PULLER VETERANS CARE CENTER

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Puller Veterans Care Center on its grand opening on the historic grounds of the former Vint Hill Farms Station in Fauquier County. I am so excited about this center because it is going to deliver top-quality care to veterans in our region.

Mr. Speaker, 128 private rooms are organized into households and neighborhoods around a central community center. The site actually played a decisive role during World War II in intercepting enemy communications, including the message that helped pave the way for the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

It is fitting that a place that helped secure freedom will now serve those who fought to preserve it. The center appropriately honors the Puller family, including General Lewis "Chesty" Puller, one of the most decorated marines in our history; his son, Lieutenant Lewis Puller, Jr., a Vietnam veteran and a Pulitzer Prize-winning author; and former delegate and State Senator Toddy Puller.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to all who made this grand opening of the Puller Center a reality.

HONORING WINNERS OF IOWA STATE AUTOMOTIVE DEALERS ASSOCIATION HIGH SCHOOL SKILLS CONTEST

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituents, Jack Winslow and Charlie

Winslow, on earning first place at the Iowa State Automotive Dealers Association High School Skills Contest in Des Moines.

Jack and Charlie worked hard to represent Pleasant Valley High School and to show their skill and dedication to automotive technology and repair. These students advanced through two rigorous phases of competition, beginning with a written assessment focused on automotive repair, followed by a demanding hands-on evaluation.

During the hands-on section of the competition, Jack and Charlie took measurements, diagnosed faults, and completed repair processes, earning the highest scores among Pleasant Valley competitors.

As a result of their outstanding achievements, Jack and Charlie were awarded first place along with a new tool cart and a scholarship to Des Moines Area Community College's automotive program, helping them to continue the pursuit of their passion for automotive technology.

Mr. Speaker, I could not be prouder to recognize Jack and Charlie for all of their hard work and for this amazing accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING KATE GIANNINI

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate my constituent, Kate Giannini of Washington County, for receiving the prestigious Fulbright Specialist Award to the Netherlands.

Kate will complete a project at Deltares, a major technological institute in the Netherlands, focused on environmental science, knowledge sharing, and building lasting partnerships that benefit communities in the United States and abroad.

Kate is 1 of over 400 Americans selected each year for this honor based on professional achievement, leadership, and commitment to international cooperation.

Kate works full time at the Iowa Flood Center; co-owns a small business with her husband, Ryan; serves with Bur Oak Land Trust; is a mom of two; and is an active community volunteer.

We are proud to have her representing Iowa and to recognize this amazing achievement and opportunity.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DAVE STREB

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of a friend and pioneer in Iowa, Dave Streb.

Dave was the co-owner of Streb Construction Company along with his brother, Steve, where for decades, they helped build the backbone of our communities by paving subdivisions, parking lots, city streets, county roads, interstates, and airports across our great State.

Dave's legacy goes far beyond concrete and construction. He was a man who believed in hard work, craftsmanship, showing up every day to make Iowa stronger than it was the day before, and he was a proud Hawkeye.

Through Dave's leadership, Streb Construction became a trusted name, supported good-paying jobs, and helped communities grow and connect. Dave Streb leaves behind a lasting imprint on Iowa's landscape and an even greater impact on the people who knew him. He will be deeply missed, and his legacy will endure in every mile laid and every life connected.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend birthday greetings to my sister. Happy birthday, Marianne.

Before I yield, I will raise the podium in memory of my great colleague, Representative Doug LaMalfa. Doug will be sorely missed.

WARMTH OF COLLECTIVISM

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, America recently witnessed the new mayor of America's largest city share his democratic socialism vision with New Yorkers. He pledged to "replace the fridity of rugged individualism with the warmth of collectivism."

Here in our Nation's semiquincentennial, 250 years of liberty, the new mayor rejected the fundamentals of American hard work and the extraordinary benefits of markets that have freed billions from hunger and poverty around the globe.

Anyone with even a basic knowledge of history knows that government-enforced collectivism always ends in poverty, death, and despair.

Mr. Speaker, look at Cuba, where the warmth of communism has left people with no rights, no freedom, and driving cars from the 1940s and 1950s; or Xinjiang, China, where the Uyghurs are imprisoned and enslaved to labor; or certainly no modest case, the Korean Peninsula, North Korea, where people are in darkness for 12 months a year and where people are stunted by malnutrition and oppression and live in darkness, literally and figuratively.

□ 1215

Compare that to South Korea, Mr. Speaker. In less than three generations since the end of the Korean conflict, the average South Korean is three inches taller, lives 12 years longer, and earns 18 times more than their northern struggling counterpart. Same people; same peninsula. One system embraced the individual; the other, the collective.

Of course, there are the millions starved to death and thrown into the gulags by Mao's China and Stalin's Soviet Union.

These aren't abstract failures, Mr. Speaker. They are graveyards built on broken bodies. What starts as hope ends in tyranny and death every time.

COPTIC CHRISTIANS IN EGYPT

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to shed light on the discrimination faced by Coptic Christians in Egypt.

Coptic Christians face restrictions on building churches, have limited rep-

resentation in government, and, tragically, have been targets of violence and persecution. They are attacked in the streets, held as political prisoners, and have little recourse.

The discrimination they face not only violates their basic human rights, but also undermines Egypt's rich cultural diversity and history, as well as Egypt's own legal commitments to its citizens.

It is critical for the international community to encourage the Egyptian government to further embrace religious tolerance, effectively protect minority rights, and ensure equality under the law for all of its citizens.

It is important for us to bring to light these issues and do all we can to promote our values: that no matter what race or religion, all people deserve dignity and respect.

As the Coptic Pope Tawadros II told me: "All Egyptians take their water from the Nile." In that spirit, Egypt has work to do.

RECOGNIZING DR. CAM PATTERSON

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership of Dr. Cam Patterson, our former chancellor of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Last year, Dr. Patterson announced his decision to step down from his leadership position after 7 years of focused, dedicated service to the university, the medical school, and the people of Arkansas.

Under his leadership, UAMS continued its commitment to excellence. As UAMS faced the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Patterson helped expand access to care across the State and navigated the pandemic while strengthening the university's reputation for excellence and research, patient care, and medical education.

As he remains at UAMS as a professor of cardiovascular medicine, Dr. Patterson will continue to advance his spirit of innovation, compassion, and service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Patterson for his leadership and for always putting Arkansas families first.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF DOUG LAMALFA

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in condolence to Jill LaMalfa and the LaMalfa family of northern California, that beautiful area north of Sacramento, deep in the wilderness, home to Mt. Shasta. There was no better representation of the people of California than Doug LaMalfa.

He was a gentle giant. I had so much fun with him over the years. He was such a committed person to his constituents, to the State of California, to public service, to his relationships on both sides of the aisle. He had deep respect. From the most liberal Democrat in California to the most conservative Republican down in Texas, they all loved Doug LaMalfa. He will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, Martha and I share our condolences. We pray for the family at this tragic loss, but we are grateful for

our friendship and service with Doug LaMalfa.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL REINA "REI" SERINEO

(Mr. MOYLAN of Guam was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Reina "Rei" Serineo of the United States Air Force, a proud daughter of Guam, as she concludes her distinguished career in service to our Nation.

For nearly two decades, Lieutenant Colonel Serineo embodied the very best of what it means to wear the uniform. As an air battle manager, she logged more than 2,000 flight hours, including hundreds in combat and combat support missions, where decisions made in seconds carried life and death consequences for those in harm's way.

Across assignments in the United States, Europe, and the Indo-Pacific, she earned the trust of commanders and airmen alike, leading with precision, integrity, and care for those she served. Most recently, she helped shape the future of our Air Force through her work in the air combat command, guiding policies, training, and modernization.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Serineo's service brings great pride to Guam and to our entire Nation. I thank her for her leadership, her sacrifice, and her enduring legacy of excellence.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SENATOR CARMEN ARTERO KASPERBAUER

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of the late Senator Carmen Artero Kasperbauer.

Born in 1935, Carmen grew up during the Japanese occupation of Guam in World War II, an experience that shaped her deep sense of responsibility to her community and her island.

She lived a life defined by service, first as a registered nurse, caring for others when they were most vulnerable, and later as a senator in the Guam Legislature, where she served two terms with professionalism and integrity.

Her life spanned generations of change on Guam, from war and recovery to a steady life of service rooted in community.

Guam has lost a matriarch, but her legacy of service lives on through her husband, Dr. Larry Kasperbauer, and her children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful island, I say "a big thank you"; "un dangkolo na si Yu'os ma'ase'." She will be deeply missed.

RECOGNIZING DR. MARY OKADA

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Mary Okada as she concludes her tenure as president of Guam Community College after many years of service to our island.

Since 2007, Dr. Okada has served as president of the Guam Community College, becoming the first woman to lead

the institution. Under her leadership, GCC strengthened its role as a pathway to workforce training, skilled trades, healthcare, and public service, helping students gain the skills they need to succeed and contribute to the broader community.

She led with care and responsibility, ensuring strong financial stewardship, and building programs that respond to the realities of Guam's workforce and economy. The impact of her work is reflected in the thousands of students whose lives were shaped by the education and training they received at GCC.

Guam is stronger because of her service and investment in our students. Mr. Speaker, I say: "Thank you"; "Si Yu'os Ma'ase" to Dr. Okada for her leadership and for the opportunities she has created for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING DR. ERIK SWANSON

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Erik Swanson upon his conclusion of service as superintendent of the Guam Department of Education.

Dr. Swanson stepped into the role during a challenging period for public education on Guam. He brought a steady focus on students, accountability, and the responsibility that comes with leading an island-wide school system.

During his tenure, he worked to address longstanding issues facing Guam schools while supporting educators, staff, and families who show up every day for our students. His leadership reflected a clear understanding that education is not just policy, but people.

Public education on Guam carries unique challenges, and Dr. Swanson approached that responsibility with care and commitment. I thank Dr. Swanson for his service to Guam students and families, and I wish him well in the next chapter ahead.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Let Your favor, O Lord, be upon us and direct the work that lies before us this week.

We pray that as we immerse ourselves in the tasks of this day and the

duties of our office, that nothing we do would veer from Your divine design. Rather that everything we do would be found pleasing, not in our eyes, but in Yours.

Enable us, then, to stand firm. While issues and arguments will pull us to the left and to the right, may our feet remain fixed on the path You lay before us.

With this prayer, we give ourselves to the work You would have us do. Focus our efforts and our energies on work that strives to accomplish Your purpose and not our personal gain. Strengthen our convictions and compassions that they would champion Your cause alone and not the fleeting desires of our hearts.

Lord, let not our work this day be in vain, but may all that we do bring glory to You.

In the hope of Your sovereign name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

TRUMP TAX CUTS FOR FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, among the 2025 legislative accomplishments by Republicans and President Donald Trump, with the leadership of MIKE JOHNSON, the Working Families Tax Cuts has provided the cutting of taxes, limiting government, expanding freedom, and providing progrowth policies creating jobs.

Under President Trump, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 worked, but it had an expiration date. Americans would have faced historic tax increases.

This Republican law stops tax increases, continues Trump tax cuts, enabling families to make plans for jobs.

Success by President Trump with all-of-the-above energy are the lowest gas prices since 2021. Affordability is achieved, with money in your pocket and reduced transportation costs for businesses.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues.

Trump is reinstating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting and mocking Trump with Putin defending the illegitimate Venezuelan dictator Maduro, who was courageously arrested by Trump, jailing the narcoterrorist for killing Americans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID ELLIOT MEYER

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

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Elliot Meyer, my constituent who tragically passed away on December 6 at the age of 32.

While his time with us was far too short, he leaves behind an incredible legacy characterized by kindness and a drive to public service.

At Randolph-Macon College, he was awarded a fellowship to study the emerging Tea Party movement, which led to the publication of his book "Slingshot: The defeat of Eric Cantor."

After reading the book, I recruited him to an internship in Congressman CONNOLLY's office, where he quickly earned everyone's respect for his reliability and his keen intellect. He later worked as a press assistant to Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe. In 2024, he achieved a lifelong dream of becoming a Federal civil servant working in the Department of Energy's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations.

Elliot accomplished so much in a life that was too short. He will be missed dearly.

STANDING WITH BRAVE IRANIANS

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

Mr. KILEY of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise to stand with the brave Iranians who are protesting a repressive regime that has wrecked havoc on its own people, the region, and the world at large. The United States must stand with the Iranian people in this critical moment.

For decades, the Iranian dictatorship has exported terrorism throughout the Middle East and beyond, while tormenting its own people. At this moment, it has shut down communications nationwide and is inflicting violence and death on the courageous people taking to the streets.

This latest wave of repression is a symptom of weakness. Indeed, the regime has never been weaker. It is vainly trying to rebuild a nuclear capacity that the United States can undoubtedly neutralize again. Its economy has been ruined by the regime's self-sabotage.

It is my hope that the people of Iran do not have to bear the cost of this malevolence for much longer. It is my ardent hope that a better future, one of

peace, freedom, and democracy, is not far away for the people of Iran.

END HUNGER NOW TOUR

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, this week I am officially announcing a statewide End Hunger Now tour, where I will be visiting every congressional district in Massachusetts to hear from people struggling to put food on the table, to see firsthand why getting nutritious food into every community matters, and to learn from the organizations that are making a difference in people's lives.

I am proud that Massachusetts is taking a stand to fight hunger, but I am ashamed that in the richest country in the history of the world nearly 48 million people, including 14 million children, don't know where their next meal is going to come from.

I think our national hunger crisis is more than just a policy failure. I think it is a moral outrage, one that Trump and Republicans have made worse by ripping food assistance away from people so they can give tax breaks to billionaires and canceling USDA's gold-standard hunger report to bury the impact of their cruel cuts.

Madam Speaker, this tour is about fighting back, and I hope you will follow along as I keep fighting to end hunger now.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1500

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina) at 3 o'clock p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

REMOTE ACCESS SECURITY ACT

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2683) to provide for control of re-

mote access of items under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2683

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Remote Access Security Act".

SEC. 2. CONTROL OF REMOTE ACCESS OF ITEMS UNDER THE EXPORT CONTROL REFORM ACT OF 2018.

The Export Control Reform Act of 2018 is amended as follows:

(1) In section 1742 (50 U.S.C. 4801), by adding at the end the following:

"(15) REMOTE ACCESS.—The term 'remote access' means access on a purposeful, knowing, reckless, or negligent basis to an item subject to the jurisdiction of the United States under this Act by a foreign person through a network connection, including the internet or a cloud computing service, from a location other than where the item is physically located if the Secretary determines that the use of the item could pose a serious risk to the national security or foreign policy of the United States. Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to lower the requisite mens rea required to be proven for criminal liability under section 1760."

(2) In section 1752 (50 U.S.C. 4811)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "or remote access of such items" after "export of items"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting "or remote access of such items" after "export of items"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "and in-country transfer of items" and inserting "in-country transfer, and remote access of items"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "or remote access" after "the release".

(3) In section 1753 (50 U.S.C. 4812)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (2)(F), by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) the remote access of items subject to the jurisdiction of the United States by a foreign person.";

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (6), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(8) regulate the remote access of items described in subsection (a)(3)."; and

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) by striking "or in-country transfer" each place it appears and inserting "in-country transfer, or remote access"; and

(ii) by striking "subsections (b)(1) or (b)(2)" and inserting "subsections (b)(1), (b)(2), or (b)(8)".

(4) In section 1754 (50 U.S.C. 4813)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (3), by striking "and in-country transfers" and inserting "in-country transfers, and remote access";

(ii) in paragraph (4), by striking "and in-country transfers" and inserting "in-country transfers, and remote access";

(iii) in paragraph (5), by striking "and in-country transfers" and inserting "in-country transfers, and remote access";

(iv) in paragraph (6), by striking "United States export control" and inserting "United States control";

(v) in paragraph (7), by striking "export controls" and inserting "controls";

(vi) in paragraph (10), by striking "or in-country transferred" and inserting "in-country transferred or accessed remotely";

(vii) in paragraph (11), by adding at the end before the semicolon the following: "or remote access"; and

(viii) in paragraph (15), by adding at the end before "and" the following: "or remotely access (including the provision thereof)";

(B) in subsection (b), by striking "or in-country transfer" and inserting "in-country transfer, or remote access"; and

(C) in subsection (d)(1)(A), by striking "or in-country transfer" and inserting "in-country transfer, or remote access (including the provision thereof)".

(5) In section 1755 (50 U.S.C. 4814)—

(A) in subsection (b)(2)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking "and in-country transfers" and inserting "in-country transfers, and remote access (including the provision thereof)"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking "and in-country transfers" and inserting "in-country transfers, and remote access (including the provision thereof)"; and

(B) in subsection (c), by striking "export controls" and inserting "controls".

(6) In section 1756 (50 U.S.C. 4815)—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "and in-country transfer" and inserting "in-country transfer, and remote access"; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking "or in-country transfer" and inserting "in-country transfer, or provide remote access to".

(7) In section 1757 (50 U.S.C. 4816)—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking "or in-country transfer" and inserting "in-country transfer, or remote access"; and

(B) in subsection (c)(2), by striking "export controls" and inserting "controls".

(8) In section 1760 (50 U.S.C. 4819)—

(A) in subsection (a)(2)(F)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking "any export control document or any report" and inserting "any document or report"; and

(ii) in clause (iii), by striking "or in-country transfer" and inserting "in-country transfer, or remote access";

(B) in subsection (c)(1)(C), by striking "or in-country transfer" and inserting "in-country transfer, or remotely access (including the provision thereof)"; and

(C) in subsection (e)(1)(A)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking "or in-country transfer outside the United States any item" and inserting "in-country transfer outside the United States any item or remotely access any item (or provide such access)"; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking "or in-country transfer" and inserting "in-country transfer of items, or provide remote access to items".

(9) In section 1761 (50 U.S.C. 4820)—

(A) in subsection (a)(5), by striking "or in-country transferred" and inserting "in-country transferred, or remotely accessed"; and

(B) in subsection (h)(1)(B), by striking "or in-country transfer" and inserting "in-country transfer of items, or provide remote access to items".

(10) In section 1767(b)(2)(A) (50 U.S.C. 4825(b)(2)(A)), by striking "and in-country transfer" and inserting "in-country transfer, or remote access".

SEC. 3. CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall ensure that the appropriate congressional committees are kept fully and

currently informed of any anticipated promulgation of regulations to control the remote access of items under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018, as amended by section 2, including ensuring such committees are informed, in a classified setting as necessary, on—

(1) the national security risk that would be addressed by the regulations;

(2) how the method of the regulations addressed the national security risk; and

(3) how the regulations may impact the economy of the United States.

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to require the approval of the appropriate congressional committees as a condition precedent to the exercise of an authority under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018, as amended by section 2.

(c) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. AMO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Remote Access Security Act.

Mr. Speaker, export controls exist to limit critical technology developed in the U.S. from falling into the hands of our adversaries. Export controls are a major tool of the administration to protect sensitive tech and bolster our own national security, and these rules have never been more timely or important as China seeks to enhance their chip and AI development.

Unfortunately, there is a major loophole in our export control regime. As the laws and regulations are written, physical export controls do not apply to remote access of items. This means that still to this day, the CCP can access our tech through the cloud and utilize it for their own malicious purposes. Our export controls are only as strong as the weakest link, and right now, the CCP has a real tool to sidestep these prohibitions. We need action now.

My bill defines “remote access” and adds remote access provisions into existing law. It provides the Commerce Department with the authority to regulate controlled items through the cloud and finally close this loophole.

The Remote Access Security Act received unanimous support in the House

Committee on Foreign Affairs during markup, passing with a bipartisan vote of 51–0.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman MAST, as well as my bipartisan co-leads, Speaker JOHNSON, and Leader SCALISE for helping to move this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this much-needed and commonsense bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2683, as amended.

I thank Representative LAWLER for introducing the Remote Access Security Act, as well as Chairman MAST and Ranking Member MEEKS for working together to get this through our committee.

President Joe Biden imposed unprecedented export controls on China and Russia to restrict their access to critical U.S. technologies that could enhance their military capabilities. We know these controls were working because both nations have worked vigorously to try to circumvent our restrictions.

Right now, our laws do not explicitly cover the remote access of technologies via network connections, including the internet or cloud computing services.

H.R. 2683 would close this gap by giving the Bureau of Industry and Security statutory authority to control the remote access of items by bad actors who aim to jeopardize our national security or foreign policy interests.

While this bill passed the House last year, it is even more critical today. President Biden took steps to prevent the remote access of U.S. chips by our adversaries in his Artificial Intelligence Diffusion Rule. That rule is not perfect, but President Trump rescinded it and failed to replace it with any new policy framework.

Thanks to Donald Trump repealing the rule, there are currently no clear or consistent safeguards in place to protect American chips from being accessed remotely by our adversaries, and the safeguards are even less clear once they are exported abroad.

For the sake of enriching himself and his billionaire friends, Trump went further to undermine our national security by loosening President Biden’s export controls on advanced chip sales to build data centers in Saudi Arabia and the UAE. He is auctioning off our chips to the highest bidder without a care for the national security implications. Without strong guardrails in place, this puts American IP and technology at risk.

H.R. 2683 provides BIS with the authority to control remote access to critical American technology and demands that the administration act to protect our interests.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), the chairman of the South and Central Asia Subcommittee.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from New York allowing me to speak on this. I rise in support of Mr. LAWLER’s bill, the Remote Access Security Act.

Mr. Speaker, America is at a critical juncture in our technology policy. Do we want to allow our adversaries to weaponize American technology? Do we want them to dominate us militarily and economically in the future? Do we want to create a dystopian world and make everyday Americans subservient to the Chinese Communist Party and their affiliates, or do we want to make a decisive stand to stop some of the most advanced technologies from being used against us in every facet of our lives?

Loopholes currently available in U.S. export control allow the CCP and others to gain a competitive advantage over American companies, especially when it comes to cloud services for technologies that would otherwise not be accessible in physical form. In other words, and in plain English, you can’t buy it, so you shouldn’t be able to rent it either.

The Remote Access Security Act fixes this problem by giving the administration—all administrations—the authority and flexibility to restrict China’s cloud-based access to our most advanced AI technologies.

In November 2025, I convened a subcommittee hearing on export control loopholes which leave American technology vulnerable, and this is where we extensively discussed issues such as this one. H.R. 2683 was reported favorably out of the House Foreign Affairs Committee by a vote of 51–0. Mr. Speaker, we can’t do better than unanimous, but that is showing broad bipartisan agreement on this particular issue.

Today, Congress needs to uphold our responsibility to the American people to close this loophole and stop the CCP and its affiliates from leveraging our technologies for their own military modernization efforts and pursuit of technological dominance. Keeping this coveted technology out of the hands of the CCP and their affiliates will ensure that Silicon Valley, not Xinjiang, remains the center of the AI revolution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAUMGARTNER), a cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Congressman LAWLER for this fine bill. We have heard about the loophole that exists, and I will provide a few more details.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would allow the U.S. Government to extend existing export controls to the remote access of controlled U.S. technology

through cloud infrastructure. Remote access is more than just the CCP. Remote access is defined as access by foreign persons of concern, specifically those from Russia, Iran, North Korea, and China, to also include Hong Kong and Macau.

□ 1510

Let me give you three examples of what we are talking about of high-risk national security activities involving access to controlled technologies such as advanced AI chips.

One example would be conducting surveillance to undermine human rights through spyware location tracking or biometric identification. That is not good stuff. We don't want the Chinese and our countries of concern to be using the best American technology remotely to do that. Nor do we want them to train AI models to enable weapons of mass destruction, automated cyber attacks, or systems that evade human oversight. Another final example would be accessing tools designed for offensive cyber operations.

Under this bill, if a Chinese firm would like to rent access to a cluster of advanced chips already subject to U.S. control in an overseas data center, the Department of Commerce can require a license if determined that remote access is a risk to U.S. national security.

Put simply, if the U.S. has the authority to prohibit the export of a critical U.S. technology, then the remote access to that same technology should also be subject to control.

As mentioned, this bill was unanimously supported in committee, and I hope and expect unanimous support here on the House floor.

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

As technology evolves, so must our technology security policies. Our export control regulations were written at a time when remote access of controlled technologies was not an acute threat.

Today, as Russian and PRC entities find more and more creative ways to evade our sanctions and export controls, we must update our regulations to keep pace with their tactics.

By passing this bill, Congress can make it harder for problematic PRC companies and military-aligned entities to obtain access to U.S. technologies and exploit them to hurt U.S. national security. By passing this bill, this body can send a clear message to Donald Trump that he must do more to protect American technology and safeguard U.S. national security.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me and support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for supporting this bill in committee unanimously and certainly strongly encourage a unanimous vote here on the floor.

We all recognize the threats we face around the globe and in particular from China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, among many other bad actors. Our export control laws are put in place for a reason, and it is to protect sensitive technology from getting into the hands of bad actors.

However, when our laws were established, they did not take into account the ever-changing technology, and so it is imperative that we as a Congress act with urgency to update our laws and ensure that China, Russia, Iran, and others do not have access to sensitive technology remotely. That is why this bill is imperative, and I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in the affirmative.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2683, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

CONSENSUS CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BAUMGARTNER). The Chair announces the Speaker's designation, pursuant to clause 7(a)(1) of rule XV of H.R. 909, as the measure on the Consensus Calendar to be considered this week.

CRIME VICTIMS FUND STABILIZATION ACT OF 2025

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 909) to temporarily provide additional deposits into the Crime Victims Fund, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 909

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. DEPOSITS IN CRIME VICTIMS FUND.

Section 1402(b)(6) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 20101(b)(6)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "or" at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ";; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(C) beginning on the date of enactment of the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act of 2025 through fiscal year 2029, sections 3729 through 3731 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the 'False Claims Act'), provided that—

"(i) amounts necessary to remunerate qui tam plaintiffs as described in subsection (d) of section 3730 of title 31, United States Code, are not available for deposit to the Fund; and

"(ii) amounts necessary to reimburse the United States Government for the damages which the Government sustains from acts described in subsection (a) of section 3729 of title 31, United States Code, are not available for deposit to the Fund."

SEC. 3. INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT.

Not later than September 30, 2028, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report containing an audit of the Crime Victims Fund, as established by section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 20101). Such audit shall include—

(1) information relating to the sustainability of deposits into the Crime Victims Fund;

(2) the effect of the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-27) on the balance of the Crime Victims Fund, the long-term stability of the Crime Victims Fund, and the use of funds obligated out of the Crime Victims Fund;

(3) the effect of the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act of 2025 on the balance of the Crime Victims Fund, the long-term stability of the Crime Victims Fund, and the use of funds obligated out of the Crime Victims Fund;

(4) legislative recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the Crime Victims Fund;

(5) administrative or management recommendations for improving the oversight and administration of the Crime Victims Fund; and

(6) the methodology used to conduct the audit to include—

(A) the data sources relied upon;

(B) any limitations realized during the audit; and

(C) the criteria applied in evaluating the long-term stability of the Crime Victims Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) and the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am beyond proud to rise in support of my bill H.R. 909, the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act.

This bipartisan legislation will provide critical support to over 7 million crime victims throughout every State in this country, without spending a single taxpayer dollar.

Mr. Speaker, across the United States, domestic violence shelters,

rape crisis centers, and child advocacy centers are in dire need of support. These organizations serve the most vulnerable in our society: battered spouses, rape survivors, and children, even toddlers who have been sexually abused and exploited.

As elected officials, it is our duty to ensure these victims receive the support, care, and, equally important, the justice they deserve.

Tragically, over the past 8 years, across multiple administrations, the balance of the Crime Victims Fund, or CVF, has plummeted, jeopardizing Federal support for these victims.

This fund does not use taxpayer dollars. It is solely financed by the fines, settlements, and other monetary penalties collected from Federal criminal prosecutions. From 2017 to 2023, the balance of CVF dropped by over 92 percent. It was almost completely wiped out.

Congress attempted to correct this decline in 2021 with the bipartisan VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act, but Federal resources are still not meeting the needs of victims in our Nation.

Child advocacy centers and domestic violence shelters have been forced to triage their services or, even worse, to close entirely.

In 2024, my home State of Missouri saw a \$10 million cut, over 40 percent, Mr. Speaker, of its Federal support for victims of violent crime, gone. This is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I got to work, and over the past 2 years, I have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, with law enforcement, with prosecutors, and with victim advocacy groups to craft this legislation and build an overwhelming coalition of support.

Today, with 327 bipartisan cosponsors, this bill, the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act, will be the most widely supported piece of legislation considered on the House floor so far this Congress. I would like to emphasize that for just a second. With 327 bipartisan cosponsors, this bill is the most widely supported piece of legislation to receive a vote in Congress.

□ 1520

My bill uses nontaxpayer dollars to ensure vital programs can survive and victims receive the assistance necessary to heal, recover, and help law enforcement hold offenders accountable.

For years, the CVF had been financed by criminal monetary penalties, but those resources are no longer sufficient. With my bill, the CVF will also receive, through fiscal year 2029, the unobligated civil penalties collected through antifraud law.

One of the most prominent Federal antifraud laws is the False Claims Act. The False Claims Act allows the Federal Government to sue entities that defraud government programs and seek up to three times the damages. For ex-

ample, if an entity defrauds the Federal Government out of \$1 million, the government can sue that entity for up to \$3 million. If the government wins, \$1 million is returned to the defrauded agency, up to 30 percent is rewarded to any relevant whistleblower, when necessary, and the remaining leftover funds are unobligated.

The Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act only redirects these leftover, unobligated funds to the CVF. We include specific protections for government reimbursement and whistleblower rewards. Those dollars remain untouched. This bill simply ensures that the surplus damages collected from those found liable for fraud in Federal court are used to support victims of crime.

This temporary infusion of resources will stabilize the CVF, support both victims and law enforcement investigations, while also retaining the fund's original intent of being financed by the legal fines from bad actors, not tax dollars.

This commonsense legislation must pass Congress as quickly as possible because every day that we wait, victims of the most horrific crimes across our country are left in need.

I urge all of my colleagues in both Chambers to support this bill, and, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) so much for this piece of legislation. I thank her for all the really good hard work that she has done in rallying the troops to do the right thing. I thank her very much for taking care of our victims and making sure they have these provisions. I, too, have been a victim, so I thank her personally.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 909, the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act of 2025.

Established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to provide funding for State victim compensation and assistance programs, the Crime Victims Fund does not rely on taxpayer dollars. Instead, it is funded by fines, monetary penalties, and assessments paid by convicted Federal defendants, as well as forfeited bail bonds and other gifts and donations.

For four decades, the Crime Victims Fund has been a lifeline, providing money through grants to States, local governments, individuals, and other entities. It supports rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, child advocacy programs, and services for survivors like me of homicide, assault, and human trafficking in every State and in every territory. It pays for counseling, emergency shelters, legal aid, and lost wages.

In short, the Crime Victims Fund is the bedrock of our Nation's promise to help victims rebuild their lives, serving nearly 4 million victims of crime every year. That is a staggering number, so I

want to say it again: 4 million victims of crime every year.

Over the last decade, the fund has faced a severe and sustained crisis. Stemming from changes in prosecution practices, revenues have plummeted. Meanwhile, the needs of victims have only grown.

In recent years, we have witnessed the emergence of a devastating cycle. Annual distributions to States for victim services and assistance have been cut by 40 percent, forcing programs to close their doors, lay off their staff, and turn victims away in their greatest and most desperate hours of need.

H.R. 909 is a necessary and responsible solution that is not just fiscally sound but profoundly just. This bill would address the fluctuations in deposits that continue to threaten the fund and our ability to provide vital support to victims of crime.

It would provide critical stabilization of the fund by authorizing an infusion of unobligated funds collected through the False Claims Act to halt the immediate bleeding. This stopgap measure will prevent further catastrophic cuts to victim services, ensuring that hotlines remain open and advocates remain at their posts while we implement and continue to work on a long-term fix.

It includes essential oversight and accountability measures. By requiring regular reporting that includes an audit, we can guarantee transparency in how these funds are being managed and distributed, and we can be sure that the money reaches frontline organizations that are doing the hard work on the ground. This is lifesaving work that they are doing, with efficiency and integrity.

Speaking as a beneficiary of the good works done as a result of the existence of the Crime Victims Fund and a proud cosponsor of H.R. 909, there is truly an urgent need to pass this legislation. Without Federal funding, critical victim services are simply going to vanish.

I am grateful to the sponsors of this bill and to all of our colleagues for their bipartisanship in doing what is right to help our victims and for their efforts.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act, and, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN), a co-lead of this legislation.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 909, the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act. I thank Congresswoman ANN WAGNER for her leadership on this legislation because it reflects a principle this body has long shared: When the justice system holds wrongdoers accountable, those resources should help rebuild the lives of the innocent victims of the wrongdoers.

Congress created the Crime Victims Fund through the Victims of Crime Act

of 1984 to support victims of violent crimes through counseling, advocacy, and recovery services.

□ 1530

Importantly, this fund is financed by fines and penalties paid for by those convicted of Federal crimes. It is not taxpayer dollars. That structure reflects that simple, but powerful, idea that accountability should serve justice.

Today, however, that promise is under strain. According to the Office for Victims of Crime, the Crime Victims Fund ended fiscal year 2024 with a balance of just \$1.2 billion, a 90 percent decline since 2017. As a result, victim assistance programs nationwide face a \$600 million funding shortfall. For organizations serving survivors of domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault, including programs across northeast Texas, where I represent, this means fewer services and, in some cases, the risk of shutting the doors of organizations who are helping to bring restoration and healing to victims and families.

H.R. 909 reflects a straightforward principle: The justice system can both punish lawbreakers and support victims. There are no new taxes, no new spending, and no cost to the taxpayer, only a responsible use of fines collected in judicial proceedings to ensure victims are on a pathway to healing. The bill temporarily redirects unobligated funds collected under the False Claims Act into the Crime Victims Fund through 2029. Over the past 2 years alone, False Claims Act settlements have totaled nearly \$5 billion, and after defrauded agencies and whistleblowers are made whole, remaining funds currently sit unused.

This legislation is bipartisan because the need is bipartisan. Victims of crime are not defined by geography or by party, and neither should our response. H.R. 909 provides stability, preserves the original intent of the Crime Victims Fund, and ensures that those harmed by crime continue to receive the support they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to strongly support this commonsense legislation.

I, again, thank Representative WAGNER for her years of leadership and dedicated work to make this a reality and for all those on both sides of the aisle who are ardently supporting this bill.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN).

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan legislation, and I extend my praise to the distinguished gentlewoman from Missouri who has demonstrated a remarkable initiative and high octane energy in organizing the House of Representatives behind it. We are grateful to her for her efforts and also to Mrs. MCBATH, who is the ranking member on our Crime and Federal Government

Surveillance Subcommittee for her efforts in always making sure that we put crime victims first. When we have a crime and there is a prosecution, it is State v. defendant or people v. defendant, but what is left out of that is the victim, and she always makes sure that we keep the victims very much in our sights, in our minds, and in our hearts.

The Crime Victims Fund has been significantly depleted, resulting in a \$630 million cut to victim services in fiscal year 2024. Deposits into the fund have dropped dramatically since 2018. From 2008 to 2017, deposits were, on average, \$2.56 billion annually. From 2008 through 2023, annual deposits averaged only \$737 million.

So that is much greater than a 50 percent drop. There are different reasons for this that we need to analyze and address, but in the meantime, the consequences for VOCA grants are devastating.

These grants are the primary source of Federal funding for thousands of victim service providers across America, including programs serving victims of human trafficking, drunk driving, domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. These are our people, our family members, and our community members who are suffering who need the help.

VOCA grants are funded by the statutorily created Crime Victims Fund, which is supported by criminal fines, assessments, and penalties paid for by convicted Federal offenders. However, these are being progressively wiped away. Without congressional action, victim service providers will be forced to make more dramatic cuts to critical services while many others will simply have to close their doors.

In order to stabilize the balance of the fund and prevent further cuts, H.R. 909 would add unobligated funds from actions brought under the False Claims Act to the sources of revenue that are deposited into the Fund. Deposits would be made into the Crime Victims Fund only after whistleblowers and defrauded Federal agencies are paid first and other preexisting obligations are satisfied.

This is a temporary change that will give Congress time to assess its overall efficacy and conduct robust review before deciding whether to renew, adopt an alternative remedy, or create a permanent, long-term fix.

Mr. Speaker, I suppose you could say this is a Band-Aid solution, but having cut my finger recently, I like Band-Aid solutions. Band-Aids are necessary sometimes to stop the bleeding, and I think that is where we are right now. We have an obligation to the millions of victims of crime across the country who rely on the services made possible by the Crime Victims Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 909, and I hope all my colleagues will do the same.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. SCHMIDT), who is another co-lead of H.R. 909.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to add my voice to those thanking our colleague from Missouri for her leadership on this work. It has been a pleasure to work with her and with our colleagues on the other side. It has been an honor to help lead the support for what she is trying to get done here.

Mr. Speaker, in my State, we dealt with this issue a number of years ago, and it is a policy fight that is separate from what we are doing here today. We actually ultimately decided to move our State-based crime victim support programs into appropriated support from our general fund and deposit all of these erratic streams from the court system into the general fund so that the risk of funding was shifted onto the State generally and not borne by those who rely on the services in particular.

That is a discussion for another day. I share it today because for me, at least, this brings back memories of a time when we were wrestling with the same issue back home.

Mr. Speaker, how do you look a rape victim or a domestic violence victim in the eye and tell them that the good folks in your community, the advocates and the supporters of domestic violence services or rape crisis centers or child advocacy centers who want to be there to help you in your time of greatest need may not be there because their government didn't pay the bills?

The lights aren't on. The staff wasn't paid, so they left. That is where we are writ large in this subject matter, and we are there because of the vagaries in the recovery cycle and all kinds of things that happen in the court system that generate these revenue streams. This is a way to put our finger in the dam until we figure out longer term how we provide that sort of certainty.

There are a lot of different groups of crime victims. By the way, none of them asked to be crime victims. They didn't wake up and expect to be victimized. They have had a terrible moment thrust upon them by somebody else's actions, and they are in a time of need where they need help. That is what advocates do in these support services. That is what this money goes for.

This helps a lot of different types of crime victims. I will share a couple of moments in my last minute or so here about the work of the child advocacy centers that this supports. I have often said in the work I did when I was a State legal official, we did a lot of work with crime victims, child crime victims, supporting our child advocacy centers, and prosecuting criminal cases under State law against offenders who committed terrible crimes against children.

I have often described it to people this way: It is not like on TV in the crime shows.

When the victim is an 8-year-old child or a 7-year-old child, and when what happened to them was some form of sexual abuse, the odds are about 90-10 that the offender is somebody that the child knew and trusted.

It is rare that it is a stranger offense with little kids. That is because that is how the offender got access to the child.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Kansas.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, on our watch, we prosecuted parents, we prosecuted grandparents, we prosecuted ministers, and we prosecuted coaches.

Mr. Speaker, the only evidence you have is what that child can testify to in front of a bunch of strangers in a jury box, a judge in a dark robe, and people in our adversarial system because you rarely have physical evidence in these cases. We sometimes, but rarely, have extraneous evidence.

That child has to be able to testify, or justice is never done, and that child cannot testify if he or she has not had the support and services of victim advocates at, for example, a child advocacy center to bring them to the point they can tell truthfully what happened to them.

This bill is about justice, and I am proud to support it.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues on both sides of the aisle agree that neither saving lives nor providing support to victims of crime are partisan issues. Victimization knows no political party.

The instability of the Crime Victims Fund threatens red states as well as blue states alike, urban centers and also rural communities equally. Passage of the Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act is a declaration of our own common values.

This bill says that our commitment to this Nation's victims is not just a line in a budget subject to prosecutorial trends.

I would like to say when my family and I spent the 2½ years in court that we did in Jacksonville, Florida, when my son was murdered in November of 2012, the Crime Victims Fund of Florida helped to support the representative and to provide the representative who spent day after day with us making sure that we had the resources and the means that we needed, making sure that we understood that the State of Florida was standing there to support us in spite of the terrible tragedy that we had suffered. That money, those funds, were allocated from the Crime Victims Fund.

So, once again, having actually lived through this experience, I know how important it is to make sure that we pass this legislation.

□ 1540

It says that our first thought is to bind the wounds of the injured, the helpless, and the innocent.

We owe it to the survivors who need counseling and stable housing to help

them sleep through the night again. We owe it to the parents who must bury their child or their children or their loved one, such as I have. We owe it to the countless silent sufferers who have yet to come forward but who must know that help will be there when they need it.

This is a commonsense solution that will ensure victims have access to the services that they need to heal, to reclaim their lives again, and to feel secure enough to speak out about their pursuing the justice that they deserve.

I ask all Members of this body to support this lifesaving bill. I hope that the Senate will take it up and pass it as quickly as possible.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I note that in 2024, child advocacy centers provided assistance to over 370,000 children nationwide who suffered abuse. That is 370,000 children in one year alone. For those who might not be aware, after a child is tragically exploited or sexually assaulted by a predator, one of the first places a victim is taken is a child advocacy center, or CAC.

At CAC, specialized interviewers are able to work with the child victim to not only make them feel safe and secure but also to get vital information that can be used by law enforcement to identify and arrest the offender. These often horrifying details are then used by our prosecutors, who stand firmly with this legislation, to ensure the predator is put behind bars.

My most recent visit to a CAC was in October last year. I had the pleasure of meeting with the executive director of the Missouri Network Against Child Abuse, Jessica Seitz, and her team at the Union, Missouri, child advocacy center.

The work these incredible individuals do every single day to protect and help children going through unspeakable trauma deserves the highest recognition. I want to ensure that all of them are recognized on the floor of this Chamber for what they do in Missouri and beyond. I also want to recognize all of the CACs throughout the United States that open their doors every day to help those who need it most.

The legislation before all of us today will turn our gratitude into action, Mr. Speaker. We will get these organizations, the amazing people who work there, and the children who rely upon them the resources they so desperately need.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I first thank my co-leads for their help in pursuing and pushing this legislation forward: Representatives DEREK SCHMIDT, who we heard from, and NATHANIEL MORAN, STEPHANIE BICE, JIM COSTA, and my dear, dear friend across the aisle, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, who I wish could have joined us today for this debate.

I also thank the House Judiciary Committee and the Appropriations

Committee, who had a strong hand in this, and Leader SCALISE for working with my team to bring this bill to the floor. Of course, I thank Congresswoman LUCY MCBATH for her tremendous support and her testimony to just the terrible injustice and travesty that she has endured. I thank her for her support and her management of this piece of legislation, H.R. 909, across the aisle.

Through our collaboration, we were able to include strong language ensuring a comprehensive audit of the CVF will be delivered to Congress. The information from this audit will help us do our jobs as policymakers and properly plan for the future of the CVF and avoid another crisis like this.

To the dozens and dozens and dozens of supporting organizations that stood with me in this fight, including the National Children's Alliance, the National District Attorneys Association, RAINN, Covenant House, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, the National Network to End Sexual Violence, and the National Association of Assistant U.S. Attorneys.

Mr. Speaker, our work is not done. We can and must get this bill through the Senate, as we discussed across the aisle, and signed into law. It has been an honor to lead this effort, and I am humbled to have gained cosponsors from well over a majority of the United States House Republican Conference and 75 percent of the entire House of Representatives.

This could not have been accomplished without dedication, teamwork, and a true get-stuff-done attitude. Representing our constituents in this Chamber is not a job, Mr. Speaker. It is a calling. There is no higher calling than helping the most vulnerable in our society.

I, again, urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, H.R. 909, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 909, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2025

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3424) 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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3424

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Congress has amended the laws governing bankruptcy fees as necessary to ensure that the bankruptcy system remains self-supporting, while also fairly allocating the costs of the system among those who use the system.

(2) Because of the importance for the bankruptcy system to be self-funded, at no cost to taxpayers, Congress has closely monitored the funding needs of the bankruptcy system, including by requiring periodic reporting by the Attorney General regarding the United States Trustee System Fund.

(3) Because the system governing bankruptcies of various types is interconnected, Congress has established fees, including filing fees, quarterly fees in chapter 11 cases, and other fees, that together fund the courts, judges, United States trustees, and trustees serving in bankruptcy cases under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code.

(4) Trustees serving in bankruptcy cases under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, are vital to the functioning of the bankruptcy system, as they provide services at the front lines of the bankruptcy process, administering thousands of cases.

(5) Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees provide valuable returns of assets to government creditors, including the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Agriculture, the Small Business Administration, and other Federal, State, and municipal governments.

(6) Due to the work of the chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees, millions of dollars are also disbursed annually to private creditors of all types, including medical providers, unsecured creditors, small businesses, and micro-enterprises such as domestic support providers.

(7) Despite the essential role of chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees, since 1994 the amount of compensation paid to these trustees has not been increased. As in 1994, bankruptcy trustees receive only \$60 per case (composed of \$45 from subsection 330(b)(1), and \$15 from subsection 330(b)(2), of title 11, United States Code) in nearly 90 percent of chapter 7 cases, and bankruptcy trustees receive no compensation at all for cases in which the filing fee is waived by the bankruptcy court.

(8) Since 1994, there have been significant increases in salaries, attorney fees, budget appropriations, filing fees, and court-related fees associated with chapter 7 bankruptcies. In contrast, the \$60 paid to chapter 7 trustees has remained the same and has not even been increased for inflation. In 2021, Congress attempted to implement a mechanism that would give chapter 7 trustees a raise, but the trustees only received increased compensation for 1 fiscal year. Based on Consumer Price Index estimates, the \$60 paid to trustees in 1994 would be the equivalent of over \$125 today.

(9) This Act and the amendments made by this Act—

(A) increase the compensation of chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees to the level that is appropriate, overdue, and proportionate with the level that was intended in 1994, by increasing the total compensation of trustees to \$120 per case;

(B) ensure adequate funding of the United States trustee system through the increase of certain fees, which will also apply to districts that are not part of a United States trustee region as required by existing law; and

(C) support the preservation of existing bankruptcy judgeships that are urgently needed to handle existing and anticipated increases in business and consumer caseloads.

(10) This Act will not alter the filing fee under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, and will not modify, impair, or supersede the current authority of the district courts of the United States, or of bankruptcy courts, to waive the payment of filing fees by indigent individuals.

SEC. 3. TRUSTEE COMPENSATION.

(a) COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS.—Section 330 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1) by striking “\$45” and inserting “\$105”; and

(2) by striking subsection (e).

(b) REMAINDER OF FEES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the remainder of fees collected under section 1930(a)(1)(A) of title 28, United States Code, after compensating trustees under section 330(b)(1) of title 11, United States Code, shall be deposited as follows:

(1) \$63.51 in the special fund of the Treasury established under section 1931 of title 28, United States Code.

(2) \$25.00 in the special fund established in accordance with section 10101(b) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (28 U.S.C. 1931 note).

(3) \$51.49 in the United States Trustee System Fund established under section 589a of title 28, United States Code.

(c) UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND.—Section 589a of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by striking “40.46 percent of the fees collected” and inserting “\$51.49 of the fees collected in each case”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D) by striking “Fourth” and inserting “Second”; and

(B) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C); and

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (B).

SEC. 4. BANKRUPTCY FEES.

(a) QUARTERLY FEES.—Section 1930(a)(6)(B) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “5-year” and inserting “10-year”; and

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) in subclause (I)—

(i) by inserting “the greater of” before “0.4”; and

(ii) by striking “and” at the end and inserting “or”; and

(B) in subclause (II), by striking “0.8” and inserting “0.9”.

(b) PERIOD FOR DEPOSITS.—Section 589a(f) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by section 3(c)(2), is amended by striking “2026” each place it appears and inserting “2031”.

(c) DEPOSITS OF CERTAIN FEES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 THROUGH 2031.—Notwithstanding section 589a(b) of title 28, United States Code, for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031—

(1) the fees collected under section 1930(a)(6) of title 28, United States Code, less the amount specified in subparagraph (2) of this subsection, shall be deposited as specified in section 589a(f) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by this Act; and

(2) \$5,400,000 of the fees collected under section 1930(a)(6) of title 28, United States Code, shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF TERM OF CERTAIN TEMPORARY OFFICES OF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE.

(a) BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2020.—Section 4 of the Bank-

ruptcy Administration Improvement Act of 2020 (28 U.S.C. 152 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(D) in subparagraph (D)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(E) in subparagraph (E)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(F) in subparagraph (F)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(3) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(4) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(5) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(6) in subsection (f)(2)(A), by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”.

(b) BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP ACT OF 2017.—Section 1003(b)(2)(A) of the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2017 (28 U.S.C. 152 note) is amended by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”.

SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the first day of the calendar quarter that first occurs on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS.—Section 3 and the amendments made by section 3 shall apply to any case under title 11, United States Code, commenced on or after October 1 that first occurs after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code; or

(B) under chapter 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code, that is converted to a case under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code.

(2) BANKRUPTCY FEES.—Section 4 and the amendments made by section 4 shall apply to—

(A) any case commenced or pending under chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, on the first day of the calendar quarter that first occurs on or after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) quarterly fees payable under section 1930(a)(6) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by section 4, for disbursements made in any calendar quarter that begins on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on S. 3424.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3424, the Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act of 2025.

The bill before us today is an important piece of legislation that will help ensure the bankruptcy system continues to function efficiently and without taxpayer funding.

Congress designed the bankruptcy system to be funded through the fees imposed on those who utilize the system. From time to time, Congress has passed legislation to respond to how the bankruptcy system is operating.

S. 3424 responds to the current bankruptcy climate in three ways: First, the bill extends the temporary quarterly fees used to pay for the United States Trustee Program within the Department of Justice and bankruptcy judgeships. Ensuring taxpayers are not on the hook for the administration of the Bankruptcy Code is critical. The only way to ensure the bankruptcy system is funded far into the future is to maintain the current fee schedule.

Second, S. 3424 extends for an additional 5-year period numerous temporary bankruptcy judgeships across the country. These bankruptcy judges ensure that bankruptcy cases are quickly and efficiently administered. While bankruptcy filings in recent years have slowed, early data suggests that bankruptcy filings will likely increase in the coming years. Maintaining these temporary bankruptcy judgeships for the next 5 years will ensure that the bankruptcy system can continue to operate at full capacity if necessary.

Finally, and most importantly, S. 3424 increases the pay per case for Chapter 7 trustees. Chapter 7 trustees play a critical role in the bankruptcy system, ensuring that creditors recover as much as possible from bankruptcy debtors. Chapter 7 trustees also ensure that the government receives unpaid taxes, fines, and fees or whatever else it may be owed during a bankruptcy case. In around 90 percent of the cases, Chapter 7 trustees receive the statutory minimum payment for their services, \$60 per case. This rate was established in 1994 and has never been permanently increased.

S. 3424 increases the pay per case by adjusting chapter 7 trustee compensation for inflation since 1994 to \$120. This change is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1550

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan legislation, which will help ensure that Americans have access to bankruptcy relief when financial disaster strikes and they need it.

The legislation would increase compensation for chapter 7 trustees for the first time in more than 30 years, extend vital temporary bankruptcy judgeships, and ensure that our bankruptcy system continues to be self-funded and poses no cost to the American taxpayer.

Chapter 7 proceedings are designed for people who are most in need of financial relief. In chapter 7 bankruptcy, an individual debtor who has fallen on hard times, rather than go to debtor prison, which was the old-school method, can settle his or her debts, pay off back taxes, stop further collection actions, and secure a fresh start.

The process is means-tested, so it is available only for those who really need it, and it often comes with credit counseling and debtor education courses that can help our constituents achieve financial literacy and avoid bankruptcy a second time.

Nationwide, this process is overseen by trustees who help to distribute millions of dollars annually to local, State, and Federal Government agencies and private creditors of all types. In 1994, Congress set the pay for trustees at \$60 per case, and we have not revisited that \$60 pay rate in the decades since.

This bill would increase that paltry amount at long last. By doubling their fee to \$120, we help to ensure that debtors will have the assistance they need to navigate the complicated and convoluted world of bankruptcy proceedings.

The bill also extends 29 temporary bankruptcy judgeships that are set to expire. In my State of Maryland alone, we are on track to lose three out of seven temporary judgeships. That is nearly half of our entire bankruptcy bench. We cannot afford to lose these judges at the very moment that bankruptcy filings are rising everywhere, up 30 percent in our State alone over the last couple of years.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill to increase the access and opportunity provided to all Americans under the bankruptcy system. I ask all of our colleagues to read it and to support it.

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

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, again, I restate my strong support for this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, again, this important legislation promotes efficient government rather than expanding it, reinforces user-funded government services, strengthens accountability and oversight, and reduces market distortions caused by uncertainty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge its support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3424.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMBATING ONLINE PREDATORS ACT

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6719) to prohibit threats to a minor, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6719

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Combating Online Predators Act" or the "COP Act".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITING THREATS TO A MINOR.

(a) MATERIAL INVOLVING THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF MINORS.—Section 2252A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking "illegal; or" and inserting "illegal;";

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

"(8) knowingly distributes, offers, sends, or provides, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, a threat to distribute—

"(A) a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct, or

"(B) a visual depiction of a person the defendant believes is a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct,

with the intent that the minor, or the person the defendant believes is a minor, create or transmit a visual depiction of any minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;"; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "or (6)" and inserting "(6), or (8)".

(b) MATERIAL CONSTITUTING OR CONTAINING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.—Section 2252 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3)(B)(ii), by striking "or" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (4)(B)(ii), by inserting "or" after the semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

"(5) knowingly distributes, offers, sends, or provides, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, a threat to distribute—

"(A) a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct, or

"(B) a visual depiction of a person the defendant believes is a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct,

with the intent that the minor, or the person the defendant believes is a minor, create or transmit a visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct;";

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting "or (5)" after "paragraph (4)"; and

(3) in subsection (c), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting "or (5)" after "paragraph (4)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. LEE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6719.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize January as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, I am proud of all the work the House Judiciary Committee has done and continues to do to protect children and our most vulnerable populations.

In the 118th Congress, the Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance held two hearings focused on human trafficking, child protection, and the identification of victims. Through those important hearings, my legislation, the REPORT Act, which strengthened requirements for online service providers to report crimes involving child sex abuse material to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, was signed into law. I applaud Chairman BIGGS for beginning the 119th Congress with our first subcommittee hearing once again focused on protecting victims of online exploitation.

Our work is far from over, which is why I look forward to passing the Combating Online Predators Act today.

Mr. Speaker, the rise of sextortion against our Nation's children is troubling. Sextortion is a form of exploitation that occurs when someone threatens to distribute another person's private, sensitive material unless that person complies with a demand for additional sexual content, sexual favors, or money.

Incidents of sextortion have increased dramatically in recent years. Cases reported in the United States increased from 13,842 in the first half of 2024 to 23,593 in the same period in 2025. This rapid growth is disturbing, and it is unacceptable.

Children are especially vulnerable to falling victim to sextortion, with boys aged 14 to 17 most often being targeted. Tragically, this exploitation has led some young people to take their own lives in an attempt to prevent their images from being shared with friends or family.

Through this horrendous conduct, we have lost beautiful young lives, including Gavin Guffey from South Carolina, Bryce Tate from West Virginia, and many other children. I have also met with parents, including a mother from my home State of Florida, who shared the heartbreaking story of her son who fell victim to sextortion and later took his life.

Each of these precious lives was taken too soon, and today, we honor and remember them. Yet, under cur-

rent law, law enforcement is not fully equipped with the tools necessary to prosecute those who push children into these acts. Sextortion falls outside of the CSAM statute, forcing Federal prosecutors to rely on a patchwork of charging theories that do not fully reflect the gravity of these crimes. The absence of a specific Federal statute prohibiting sextortion leads to inconsistent and inadequate sentencing that can fail to capture the seriousness of this offense.

A legislative fix is, therefore, necessary to ensure Federal prosecutors can charge this conduct directly and fight sextortion effectively.

Congress has a duty to protect children from online exploitation and ensure predators are held fully accountable. The Combating Online Predators Act does exactly that by amending the United States Criminal Code to criminalize intentional threats to distribute child sex abuse material.

No child should ever encounter these threats online, and no child should ever feel that the only way out is to end their own life. Predators must be stopped, and today, Congress continues its work. By passing the Combating Online Predators Act, we strengthen our laws, close a dangerous gap, and send a clear message to predators everywhere that this conduct will not be tolerated.

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

□ 1600

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6719, the Combating Online Predators Act, and I echo my distinguished colleague in noting that sextortion is a serious and rising threat faced by countless unsuspecting teens all over America when they use the internet and social media.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, or NCMEC, operates a Cyber Tip Line to receive reports of suspected child exploitation. The Cyber Tip Line has received many more reports of sextortion of minors in recent years, amounting to tens of thousands of potential victims. These crimes have deadly consequences.

NCMEC has identified 36 teens who took their own lives after being subjected to harsh and incessant harassment from callous perpetrators of sextortion. The problem is everywhere.

Last May, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland announced the guilty plea of a man who had coerced at least 108 different girls to send him pictures and videos of themselves engaged in sexual conduct. The victims ranged in age from 5 to 17 years old and lived all over the U.S. and even around the world, from Tennessee and Massachusetts to Australia and the United Kingdom.

When the man asked for access to the social media account of an 11-year-old,

he wrote: "Add me back or I'll post all your vids online and in servers. I have everything saved."

When some victims said they did not want to send him any more images, he threatened to post the images online, come to their house, or tell their parents. The man victimized a 12-year-old, her friend, and her 5-year-old sister through Snapchat.

Investigators obtained an IP address linked to the Snapchat account, which eventually led them to the perpetrator's house, where they recovered a laptop, two hard drives, and four iPhones containing evidence of the coercive treatment of more than 100 different girls. In this case, the man pled guilty to an existing crime of producing child sex abuse material.

Prosecutors have said the existing statutes do not always fully address the scope or severity of the conduct involved in these terrible cases. This bill would close that gap and ensure that more of these criminals are held accountable.

I hope we continue to work with our colleagues in a bipartisan way to strengthen and improve our laws to address these new and dangerous crimes and to keep our children safe online.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 6719, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS), the subcommittee chairman.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership on this issue. I thank all the members of our Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, both Republicans and Democrats, for working together on these very important issues.

Mr. Speaker, sextortion has become a devastating crisis. Predators threaten to release explicit images of minors to extort money, more content, or compliance, preying on shame and fear.

Protecting children from online sexual exploitation remains a top priority for our Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance in this Congress.

Offenders, often overseas or even juveniles, groom victims and then weaponize images or AI-generated deepfakes pulled from public photos to demand payment or further abuse. This drives severe trauma, self-harm, and suicide.

More than three dozen teens have taken their lives in recent cases, with boys aged 14 to 17 hit hardest. Reports of these horrible crimes are surging. NCMEC, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, reports that financial sextortion cases jumped from over 13,800 in early 2024 to nearly 24,000 in early 2025. The FBI logged nearly 55,000 sextortion reports in 2024 alone, with \$33 million in losses.

I commend the FBI for its investigations and public alerts. Current law, 18 U.S.C. 2252 and 2252A, does not explicitly cover threats to distribute child

sexual abuse material or images believed to be of minors. That gap limits prosecution.

The Combating Online Predators Act closes that gap by criminalizing knowing threats to distribute these depictions with intent to coerce or extort. This is a targeted bipartisan fix that gives prosecutors the tools they need to stop these predators and protect our kids.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bill. I hope that this bill passes out of the House today and swiftly passes out of the Senate to be signed by the President.

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

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the internet is increasingly becoming a hostile place for children. The practice of sextortion is becoming far too common. As many as one in five teenagers report experiencing sextortion.

That is why I rise in support of the Combating Online Predators Act, which takes decisive action against the practice of sextortion.

This bill updates current child sexual abuse material laws to ensure that sextortion is included so that no minor can be threatened with the release of explicit content that depicts them.

As bad actors use the internet to harm kids, Congress must ensure our laws are updated to protect them. Those who seek to threaten our youth through sextortion must be held accountable, and this bill ensures they will.

Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful to my colleague, Representative LEE, for leading this effort to protect children from this harmful practice. I am pleased with the widespread and bipartisan support for it, and I urge my colleagues to support the Combating Online Predators Act.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, to close, I strongly support H.R. 6719, the Combating Online Predators Act. I encourage all of our colleagues to support it, and I praise the gentlewoman for her leadership on this legislation.

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

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their thoughtful debate and for their support on this important issue. This legislation addresses a clear and dangerous gap in Federal law that predators have exploited to harm children online.

By explicitly criminalizing threats to distribute child sex abuse material, Congress ensures these heinous acts are prosecuted with the seriousness that they deserve. This legislation reflects the bipartisan recognition that protecting children from exploitation is a shared responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, it provides law enforcement with the clarity, consistency, and

tools necessary to hold offenders accountable and prevent future harm.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to pass H.R. 6719, the Combating Online Predators Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WIED). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6719, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHILD PREDATORS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6715) to prohibit sexual exploitation and sexually explicit depictions of minors, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6715

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Child Predators Accountability Act”.

SEC. 2. PREVENTING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SEXUALLY EXPLICIT DEPICTIONS OF MINORS.

(a) SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.—Section 2251(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after “coerces any minor to engage in,” the following: “or be depicted engaging in.”

(b) SEXUALLY EXPLICIT DEPICTIONS OF A MINOR FOR IMPORTATION.—Section 2260(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after “coerces any minor to engage in,” the following: “or be depicted engaging in.”

(c) DEFINITION.—Section 2256 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (11), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(12) ‘engage in’, when used with respect to a minor depicted in a visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct, includes—

“(A) the participation of the minor in the sexually explicit conduct; or

“(B) the depiction of the minor in the visual depiction of the sexually explicit conduct, regardless of whether the minor participated in such conduct, if the defendant intentionally included such minor in the visual depiction.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HARRIS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative

days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6715.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the state of child protection in our Nation and around the world is deeply alarming and demands our immediate and undivided attention.

Sadly, in today’s world and today’s age, child sexual abuse material, better known as CSAM, has never been more prevalent.

□ 1610

According to a study from February 2025, 1 in 12 children worldwide have been subjected to online sexual exploitation or abuse. Even more troubling: The vast majority of child sexual abuse, over 90 percent in many documented cases, is perpetrated by someone whom the child knows or is related to, whether family members, trusted adults, or acquaintances.

These are not distant strangers. They are often people with direct access to our children, making the betrayal all the more heartbreaking.

We, in Congress, have a duty to act decisively. We must commit ourselves fully to making the internet and our entire society a safer place for America’s children and children everywhere.

My bill, the Child Predators Accountability Act, strengthens the criminal code to hold perpetrators accountable and to protect our children.

Under current law, the definition of “sexually explicit material” requires that a child be engaged in sexually explicit conduct for the material to qualify. This narrow wording has created a dangerous loophole.

In one egregious case, a defendant produced a sexually explicit video that included a child who was merely present, passive, and not actively participating. Since the child was not deemed to be “engaged in” the act, the conviction for distributing CSAM was overturned. The predator was let off the hook for using a child due to a technicality in the statute.

Mr. Speaker, this cannot stand. We cannot allow one rogue case to lead to a domino effect of bad case law and less protection for these vulnerable children. No predator should escape accountability simply because they included a minor in the frame but did not physically touch or direct them in the explicit conduct.

Such content is profoundly abusive. It exploits the child’s presence, dignity, and vulnerability for depraved purposes. It inflicts lasting harm and deserves to be unequivocally classified as CSAM.

My bill delivers a precise, necessary fix. It amends the law to clarify that the depiction of a minor would qualify

as sexually explicit conduct, regardless of whether the minor participated in such conduct, if the defendant intentionally included the minor in the visual depiction. This closes a loophole and equips prosecutors and law enforcement with clearer tools that will ensure justice for the victims.

The Child Predators Accountability Act is a straightforward, commonsense measure that will help hold exploiters accountable and prevent future abuses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me in defending our children by voting in favor of this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am rising in strong support of H.R. 6715, the Child Predators Accountability Act of 2025.

Mr. Speaker, the decision that the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina references out of the Seventh Circuit, *United States v. Howard*, threatens to significantly limit prosecutors' ability to hold some of the worst child predators to account legally. The question may appear to be technical, but the human consequences are grave and brutally simple.

Title 18 of the United States Code, section 2251(a), criminalizes the production of child sex abuse material. For decades, prosecutors have used the law to target predators who prey on children or who produce ghastly images of child sex abuse, but the Seventh Circuit's ruling in the Howard case in 2020 jeopardized prosecutors' ability to go after these dangerous people until they actually abuse the child and create an image of the abuse.

The Howard decision narrowed the scope of section 2251(a), holding that the mere physical presence of the minor in a visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct does not automatically violate the statute. To obtain a conviction for production of CSAM in the Seventh Circuit, the child in the photo, video, or image must themselves be engaged in the explicit conduct.

This is an absurd reading that we can and must legislatively resolve. The Howard ruling undermines the ability to prosecute common scenarios involving the surreptitious recording of kids; for example, when criminals plant concealed cameras in bathrooms, locker rooms, and bedrooms to record sexually explicit images of children who are unaware that they are even being filmed.

Criminals who record themselves sexually violating very young children, such as infants and toddlers, who are too young to understand that they are being filmed in sexually explicit scenarios could also conceivably avoid prosecution under the pinched reasoning of the Howard decision.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6715 would make clear that even the passive use of a child in the production of child sex abuse materials is a crime, and it will eliminate any confusion caused by the Seventh Circuit's ruling in Howard.

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

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for his work on this bill and the bipartisan work from the Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, which has worked on this, and I appreciate that very much.

The ranking member, the whole committee, and the entire Committee on the Judiciary has banded together, which if you ever watched the Judiciary Committee, you would know that this is a remarkable time.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the support that we have here because anyone who exploits a child for sexual purposes must face full accountability and must face the full measure of the law.

There cannot be loopholes or technicalities that would let predators slip through the cracks, and when we find them, this body has to fix that. Protecting minors from sexual exploitation remains a core priority for our Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance.

A recent decision by the Seventh Circuit in *United States v. Howard* exposed a dangerous gap in current law. Both of the previous speakers have spoken to that, but that really is the crux of this. The court overturned a conviction for producing child sexual abuse material because the minor—a sleeping, clothed child—was merely present in the video, not touched, actively involved, or engaged.

In that case, the defendant filmed himself in sexual conduct near his 9-year-old niece. The court ruled that he did not use her under existing statute because she was passive. That interpretation is utterly unacceptable.

Predators should not evade justice simply because the child whom they exploit is unaware. The harm is real. The intent is clear. This loophole weakens 18 United States Code, section 2251(a), and related statutes, making it harder to prosecute offenders and easier for exploiters to walk free and then exploit others and create more victims.

The Child Predators Accountability Act of 2025 closes this gap by clarifying that a minor is engaged in sexually explicit conduct when the offender intentionally includes the child in the depiction, even passively. This is a straightforward, bipartisan fix that ensures that Federal law captures these heinous acts and imposes the penalties that they deserve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I commend law enforcement for their tireless work of protecting children, and I commend the work of this committee and the lead sponsor of this bill, Mr. HARRIS.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6715 so that every child predator is fully held to account. Let's do this today. Let's get it out of the Senate quickly and get it up to the President's desk to be signed and enacted immediately.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH), my good friend who is the ranking member on the Crime and Federal Government Surveillance Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member RASKIN for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6715, the Child Predators Accountability Act of 2025.

The safety of our children is foundational to a secure and just society. Yet this foundation is broken every time a child is victimized.

Due to narrow interpretations, prosecutors have sometimes been required to prove that a child was visibly, actively participating in sexual conduct in order to bring charges, but exploitation doesn't always look the same. A child does not have to be visibly active for harm to be real, lasting, and devastating.

□ 1620

Tell me, what would it mean for the child victims if we required more?

The properly named Child Predators Accountability Act makes an important and very necessary clarification for a circuit split that could allow predators to evade justice. By making it uniformly illegal to depict a minor in sexually explicit material, regardless of whether that child appears to be actively participating, this change strengthens the law so that predators can no longer hide behind technical loopholes while continuing to exploit our children, making sure that anyone who dares to prey on the most vulnerable will face consequences for their crimes. This legislation would clarify Federal standards nationwide and restore consistency in how these horrific offenses are prosecuted, ensuring that justice does not depend solely on geography or jurisdiction.

The protection of our children from monstrous crimes transcends political television. I call on each and every one of my colleagues to pass this legislation and send a very clear and strong message that the exploitation of children will be met with the full, unyielding, inescapable force of justice. This bill empowers law enforcement and prosecutors by giving them unified and stronger tools to pursue cases and dismantle these exploitation efforts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Georgia.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, when the law is clear, justice can move more swiftly and more effectively, allowing

victims to begin the long process of healing with the knowledge that their government is standing with them and for them.

This legislation is about protecting the most vulnerable among us.

The time for action is now. I support the Child Predators Accountability Act, and I urge all my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6715, the Child Predators Accountability Act, and I thank my colleague from North Carolina for his leadership in advancing this important legislation.

Protecting our Nation's children is among the most solemn responsibilities entrusted to Congress.

Our criminal statutes must be clear and effective so that individuals who exploit children are held fully accountable under the law. When ambiguity exists, it can undermine enforcement and allow dangerous conduct to fall outside the reach of existing statutes.

Recently, a court decision in *United States v. Howard* highlighted a technical gap in Federal child exploitation law, one that exposed the need for greater clarity in how certain conduct is defined and prosecuted.

In that case, the Court interpreted existing statutory language in a way that limited accountability, even though a child's image was used in sexually exploitative conduct.

Mr. Speaker, that outcome underscores an important reality. A child is harmed whenever their image is intentionally placed into a sexualized setting. The absence of physical contact or active participation does not eliminate the harm or the violation.

This is an issue that I have personally heard about from law enforcement officers who work on these cases every day. I commend Mr. HARRIS, Chairman BIGGS, and Chairman JORDAN for ensuring that we address it through the Child Predators Accountability Act, and I thank my colleagues for joining with us in this important work.

H.R. 6715 closes a dangerous loophole. It restores clarity, strengthens enforcement, and reaffirms our commitment to protecting children and upholding justice.

Mr. Speaker, there should be no ambiguity when it comes to the criminal nature of the sexual exploitation of children. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6715.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we seem to have the bipartisan convergence that we need to reverse the error of the interpretation that is in the Howard decision to make sure we can always hold accountable the perpetrators of this seriously corrosive crime.

H.R. 6715 strives to right this wrong, and I am proud that we are acting in a bipartisan way to do that. I urge my

colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the members of the Committee on the Judiciary for unanimously supporting this bill in markup. I am grateful for my colleagues who have all risen to speak today and to the ranking member and leadership on the other side that have worked together with us.

Mr. Speaker, I urge swift passage of my legislation, the Child Predators Accountability Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HARRIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6715, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COERCION AND SEXUAL ABUSE FREE ENVIRONMENT ACT

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6732) to prohibit unlawful coercion of a minor, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6732

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Coercion and Sexual Abuse Free Environment Act" or the "CSAFE Act".

SEC. 2. UNLAWFULLY COMPELLING CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2422 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c)(1) Whoever, using the mail or any facility or means of interstate or foreign commerce, or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, intentionally compels a minor to—

"(A) engage in self-harm, including suicide or attempted suicide;

"(B) commit animal crushing (as defined in section 48);

"(C) engage in abusive or degrading non-sexual conduct (whether or not physical injury results) for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense; or

"(D) engage in sexually explicit conduct, as defined in section 2256(2)(A), shall be punished as provided in paragraph (2).

"(2) Whoever violates, attempts to violate, or conspires to violate paragraph (1)—

"(A) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both;

"(B) if serious bodily injury results, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both; or

"(C) if death results, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or both.

"(3) In this subsection, the term 'compel' includes the use of a threat, extortion, blackmail, fraud, deceit, or manipulation."

(b) JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5032 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "or 2241(c)," and inserting "2241(c), or 2242(c),".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the horror of child abuse and exploitation online continues to remain a significant problem across the country.

The Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance made combating child exploitation a top priority in the 118th Congress, and we continue to do so in the 119th Congress.

Unfortunately, criminals are continuously finding new ways to force minors to commit sexual or violent acts against themselves or others.

Violent online networks are methodically targeting vulnerable underage populations across the United States. These violent groups, often known as gore groups, target children and force them into unthinkable acts of violence against themselves, against others, and even against animals.

These groups use social media or other popular platforms such as Roblox or Discord to elicit private information or sexual images from minors, and they use that information and that material to blackmail victims into mutilating themselves or taking other violent action against friends, family members, or pets.

Many of these networks rapidly emerge, create alliances, and then quickly dissolve, making it difficult to determine leadership structure. Many criminal actors are located overseas, and many of these offenders are also minors themselves.

The most prominent example is the online extremist network known as 764. Mr. Speaker, 764 is a decentralized online network that glorifies violence and encourages participation in criminal activities such as sextortion and doxing. A disturbed young man, who has since been arrested and jailed, started the 764 network in 2020.

While decentralized, the group has grown into a vast array of online predators seemingly in a dark competition of who can manipulate children to commit the most violent acts.

In 2024, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, NCMIC,

Cyber Tipline, the Nation's centralized reporting system for the online abuse and exploitation of minors, received more than 1,300 reports of exploitation with a connection to a violent online group. By August of 2025, NCMIC had already received more than 1,000 similar reports.

A law enforcement officer stated of these groups: "If you can get someone to self-harm, you are doing quite well in that group. If you can get them to kill themselves, you are reaching the pinnacle."

In April 2025, the FBI Richmond field office shared a public information video warning parents about a "new threat to kids' safety." According to former Deputy Director Dan Bongino, the FBI has more than 300 active investigations into these groups, and that number continues to grow, but they were having difficulty preparing for prosecution because of gaps in our law.

I applaud the FBI for taking crucial steps to both raise awareness of this issue and hold predators accountable. However, more tools are needed from Congress to ensure that these heinous individuals are prosecuted.

The conduct of groups such as the 764 network do not always fit neatly into existing criminal statutes, which potentially jeopardizes prosecutions.

The Coercion and Sexual Abuse Free Environment Act, CSAFE, criminalizes compelling or enticing a minor to engage in self-harm, engage in animal crushing, or to commit acts of self-mutilation or self-branding.

We can all find common ground with this commonsense legislation. These are grotesque crimes that must be prosecuted to the fullest extent.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I commend both sides of the aisle for working on this legislation. It is my hope and fondest wish that we pass this bill out of this House today, get it to the Senate, and get it up to the President for signing and enactment.

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

□ 1630

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

I rise in support of H.R. 6732, the CSAFE Act, which creates a new crime to prohibit people from compelling children into physically harming themselves or animals.

Coercing kids online to hurt themselves or others is spreading harm that all of us need to take seriously. We have seen an alarming rise in episodes of this in recent years, and it has become clear that there is no Federal statute that effectively addresses this extreme misconduct.

Violent online groups have emerged on popular platforms geared toward children and teenagers. These groups, and individuals acting alone, encourage kids to commit horrifying acts, including cutting themselves, creating child sex abuse material, sexually ex-

ploiting other children, harming animals, swatting, doxing, and, in the most extreme cases, taking their own lives.

This happened to Jay Taylor, a 13-year-old who was struggling with an eating disorder, gender identity problems, and a sense of isolation. He found a connection on the online platform Discord. Members of 764, an online network that targets and exploits vulnerable young people, got their hooks into him and devastatingly coerced Jay into taking his own life while live-streaming.

The FBI agents who worked on his case repeatedly encountered roadblocks while attempting to get prosecutors to file charges in the case, with one U.S. attorney telling the agents that it simply was not possible to do anything.

The bill before us now, the CSAFE Act, seeks to address the shortcomings in existing Federal criminal law when it comes to investigating cases and prosecuting criminals who coerce and extort children online.

I thank the chairman for working with me to address some of the constitutional concerns I raised at our committee's markup of this legislation back in December of last year. I am very pleased to support this bill today, which I think is legally seaworthy and will survive any constitutional challenges.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6732, the Coercion and Sexual Abuse Free Environment Act, and I thank my colleague from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) for his leadership on this critical issue.

Madam Speaker, as technology advances, so do the tactics of predators who seek to harm our children. Current Federal statutes were not written with this kind of remote, organized, and coercive abuse in mind. When the law lags behind the tactics of predators, Congress has an obligation to act.

We are now confronting a deeply disturbing trend in which organized online networks target vulnerable minors, manipulate them through fear and blackmail, and coerce them into committing acts of violence against themselves, others, or even animals.

These online groups use mainstream platforms to gain access to children, extract personal information or images, and then weaponize that material.

The result is severe psychological coercion and abuse—children forced into self-mutilation, cruelty to animals, or even suicide, all at the direction of anonymous criminals who often operate across borders and behind ever-changing online identities.

Our laws must be able to meet this threat head-on. H.R. 6732 does exactly

that. This bill modernizes Federal criminal law by clearly criminalizing the coercion or enticement of a minor to engage in self-harm, animal crushing, or other abusive or degrading conduct.

This legislation closes dangerous gaps in current law and sends an unmistakable message: Compelling a child to destroy themselves or to harm others is child abuse. It is criminal, and it will be prosecuted.

Madam Speaker, protecting children is one of Congress' most solemn responsibilities. H.R. 6732 is a necessary, targeted, and responsible response to a real and growing threat.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH).

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee for yielding.

I rise today in support of H.R. 6732, the Coercion and Sexual Abuse Free Environment Act, or, as we all call it, the CSAFE Act.

As technology has become more sophisticated, online threats against children have become more complicated, malicious, and sometimes deadly.

The harm has moved beyond just simple bullying. Today, groups of people online, like the so-called 764 network, seek out and coerce vulnerable kids to photograph, record, or live stream acts of violence or self-harm to the world.

Take, for example, a horrific case that happened just last summer on the online platform Roblox. Several people associated with 764 located in Tennessee allegedly used the platform to entice a 13-year-old, located hundreds of miles away in New Jersey, to carve the initials of each person into her leg and send the group pictures and videos of her self-inflicted wounds.

According to the criminal complaint, the content was shared with the leader of the 764 group, or the so-called boss, so that the perpetrators could become full-fledged members of the group.

Mind you, Roblox is a massive online platform that actually allows users to design, create, and play millions of different games. With roughly half of its user base being under the age of 13, the platform is used by nearly 90 million children every day and has repeatedly been found to be at the top of its class in safety features.

Just imagine the potential harm that could be inflicted on our children on platforms and websites that have subpar safety features.

Let's be clear. State and Federal prosecutors have brought charges in these types of cases. For example, on November 20, 2025, the Department of Justice announced that a grand jury returned an indictment charging a 20-year-old man in Maryland, who identifies himself as a member of the 764 group, with three counts of sexual exploitation of a child, three counts of

coercion and enticement of a child, and one count of cyberstalking.

Still, there is no law that specifically prohibits the coercion of children to inflict harm on themselves or others, which sometimes makes it hard for prosecutors to pursue these charges.

The CSAFE Act is meant to fill in the gaps in our Federal law by creating a new crime that prohibits individuals from compelling, attempting to compel, or conspiring to compel children into physically harming themselves, others, or animals.

□ 1640

While the original bill considered by the Judiciary Committee raised several constitutional concerns, I am pleased to see that this bill before us today includes several improvements that address the concerns that we raised during our bill markup.

As the internet and online platforms continue to evolve and create new challenges that we have to deal with every single day, it is our job as policymakers to be responsive to those challenges, ensuring that these seemingly benign tools are not used for nefarious purposes. We must also make sure that our criminal justice system is capable of holding to account those who dare to exploit these platforms and these tools and prey on our children and cause harm to others.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues in this body to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, bad actors often prey on the most vulnerable: our children. It is our job to stand up for them. That is why I rise today in support of the Coercion and Sexual Abuse Free Environment Act introduced by my colleague and friend, Chairman ANDY BIGGS.

This bill will ensure accountability for anyone who intentionally compels a minor to engage in self-harm or other degrading acts. As child abuse continues in this country and takes many forms, prosecutors must have the proper tools to go after these predators.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Coercion and Sexual Abuse Free Environment Act.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. I have no further speakers, Madam Speaker. I will just restate my strong support for this legislation. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Arizona for bringing it forward. It is certainly a lot more fun to be with him on legislation than against him on legislation, and I am delighted we were able to work on this bipartisan bill together.

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

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member

RASKIN for his helpful suggestions that will make this bill much better and has made it much better. I thank Ranking Member MCBATH for her support as well.

It is our desire to bring these malevolent-hearted people who are filled with evil and criminal intention to justice and to protect our children.

Madam Speaker, I urge the swift passage of this bill out of the House and the Senate and to get it signed and enacted, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.) The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6732, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENDING IMPROPER PAYMENTS TO DECEASED PEOPLE ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 269) to improve coordination between Federal and State agencies and the Do Not Pay working system.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 269

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act”.

SEC. 2. IMPROVING COORDINATION BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES AND THE DO NOT PAY WORKING SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 205(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)), as amended by section 801(a)(7) of title VIII of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260), is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) The Commissioner of Social Security shall, to the extent feasible, provide information furnished to the Commissioner under paragraph (1) to the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system described in section 3354(c) of title 31, United States Code, for the authorized uses of the Do Not Pay working system to help prevent improper payments of, and support the recovery of improperly paid, benefits or other payments through a cooperative arrangement with such agency, provided that the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) are met with respect to such arrangement with such agency. The Commissioner of Social Security and the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system shall, while the data described in the preceding sentence is being provided to the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system, enter into an agreement based upon an agreed upon methodology, which covers the proportional share of State death data costs, which the Commissioner of Social Security and the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system may periodically review.

“(12) The Commissioner of Social Security may not record a death to a record that may

be provided under this section for any individual unless the Commissioner of Social Security has found it has clear and convincing evidence to support that the individual should be presumed to be deceased.”.

(b) IMPROVING COORDINATION REGARDING INDIVIDUALS INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED AS DECEASED.—Section 205(r)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)(7)), as added by section 801(a)(4) of title VIII of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260), is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) notify any agency that has a cooperative arrangement with the Commissioner of Social Security under paragraph (3) or (11) of the error.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on December 27, 2026.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act.

This bipartisan bill continues a bipartisan policy that has already enabled the Federal Government to identify, prevent, and recover hundreds of millions of dollars of improper payments made to dead people.

Currently, the Social Security Administration has temporary authority to share its death data with the Treasury Department’s Do Not Pay Portal to identify, prevent, and recover improper payments. In its first year alone, Treasury reported this data exchange saved American taxpayers over \$108 million.

Unfortunately, Social Security’s authority to share its data with Treasury is temporary and lapses at the end of this year if Congress doesn’t pass this bill. That would only increase the likelihood that more taxpayer money is erroneously sent to dead people. In 2023 alone, before this policy was implemented, the Office of Management and Budget found the Federal Government sent \$1.3 billion to dead people. That is unacceptable. The American people expect Congress to safeguard their hard-earned tax money from waste, fraud, and abuse.

I thank Representative HIGGINS for his leadership on this issue as well as

Senator KENNEDY. As a former law enforcement officer, CLAY HIGGINS has worked to protect Americans from criminals, and now he is translating that commitment into finding ways that we can protect taxpayer dollars as well.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Madam Speaker, information on the deceased is already shared among Federal agencies under existing law. This is really a trivial bill that is designed only to make it appear that Republicans are doing something about supposed fraud. An independent investigation found that the Social Security Administration has an incredible success rate with less than 1 percent of payments found to be improper, some of those being overpayments and some of those being underpayments.

Today, of course, is not the first time we have heard these claims about fraudulent Social Security payments to the dead. Indeed, from that very podium, Madam Speaker, we heard President Trump last March come to give a lengthy address to a joint session of this Congress. In his remarks that combined misinformation, outright lies, and a good many platitudes, the President devoted special attention to Social Security, ridiculing it with outlandish tales. He spoke of “3.9 million people from ages 130 to 139, 3.5 million people from ages 140 to 149. And money is being paid to many of them.”

What nonsense. Thanks to the anti-fraud guardrails that are already available, that has not happened, and the President’s representation was absolutely wrong.

While today’s bill essentially duplicates existing efforts to prevent erroneous payments, the focus on improper payments to deceased people is just another part of the Republican plan to undermine public confidence in Social Security, a social insurance program that has been one of the most valuable initiatives ever approved in this Congress.

Yet Trump appointed Elon Musk, who proclaimed that Social Security is “a Ponzi scheme.” He gave him the authority to take a hatchet to the Social Security Administration. For months, DOGE, the department of government evaporation, promoted related lies.

Undermining the delivery of checks and quality service, the Trump regime, through DOGE, abruptly fired thousands of Social Security workers, and it continues to enact erratic policy changes. This comes on top of years of Republican opposition to adequately staffing the Social Security Administration.

Social Security has less staff today than it did a decade ago, despite the fact that it now serves many, many more Americans. As a result, at Social Security, under the Trump regime, there is a backlog of 6 million cases, public inquiries, along with an agency

that is riddled with errors and delays from the shortage of adequate staffing.

Now, the plan from the Trump regime on Social Security is to cut in-person visits at offices around the country, which is just another effort to obstruct Americans from getting straight answers, not from a machine but from a person, concerning their hard-earned benefits. These are just more ways to cause Americans to question this vital Federal program so that nobody is surprised if, one day, the payments are late or the trust fund is insufficient.

We have had one current Member of the United States Senate, a Republican, who has declared that what we need to do, he insists, is to “pull it up by the roots and get rid of it” with reference to Social Security.

Providing modest retirement, disability, and retirement benefits to 69 million Americans, Social Security is what puts food in the fridge and keeps the lights on week after week.

For 22 million Americans, Social Security is the difference between living in poverty, and for 40 percent, it is more than one-half of their income.

It is a lifesaving, irreplaceable, social contract. As stewards of this hard-earned benefit, we must protect taxpayers’ dollars, but empty promises to address supposed fraud are not the answer.

Americans deserve a restored watchdog and efficient program at Social Security that ensures swift and easy access to their payments.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1650

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES).

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH for yielding time to me on this important topic.

It is important to be here today to express my support for S. 269, the Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act. It is commonsense legislation that taxpayers should not be footing the bill for people who are deceased.

The purpose of this legislation is to permanently authorize the Social Security Administration to share its full Death Master File with the Treasury’s Do Not Pay service. The Death Master File that is generated by Social Security is the best, if not the only national file that identifies the death of individuals throughout the country. This access will allow Federal agencies to have the updated, complete death data necessary to verify benefit eligibility and prevent erroneous overpayments.

We are well aware that the Federal Government has a major spending problem, and we face a massive problem continuing to pay people for all sorts of Federal programs, including Social Security, who have passed away. In FY 2024 alone, Federal agencies reported over \$162 billion in improper

payments. By making this data exchange permanent, the Bureau of Fiscal Service projects that we will save \$330 million across the Federal Government by December of 2026.

As the chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee, I am committed to enforcing this legislation and protecting the integrity of our programs for the American taxpayer.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself another 5 minutes.

This bill is really another missed opportunity. The protections that are most urgently needed are not these new guardrails, but guardrails to protect our inalienable right to privacy.

Through the Privacy Act and other means, this Congress has long set limits on what the government can and cannot do with intimate details that it collects about each American. Government officials are not free to use our sensitive personal data however they wish, but that may actually be happening under the Trump regime.

When this legislation was before the Ways and Means Committee, I offered an amendment to address a serious and looming threat to our privacy. The Trump administration is pursuing an unprecedented effort to consolidate Federal data on virtually every American into a single, centralized master file, a de facto digital ID on every American.

This would be a digital record containing most anything that any part of the government knows about you, tracking where you live, where you work, your earnings, your bank account, your health insurance, your child support agreements, and more.

To understand the scope of this extraordinary project, my amendment required the administration to produce materials related to the Social Security Administration’s role in data aggregation and its chosen contractor, Palantir, a company that one Silicon Valley executive once described as “building the infrastructure of the police state.” This project would further empower a President whose priorities include revenge, personal enrichment, and self-glorification to misuse this data.

Beyond the obvious danger of empowering a surveillance state or enabling the targeting of political opponents, the other danger associated with this mass centralization is that this sensitive information held by the Federal Government in one place could be exposed to hacking. One vulnerability, one malicious actor, one insider threat, and millions of Americans could be exposed.

A whistleblower has already revealed that the Social Security records of roughly 300 million Americans were uploaded into an unsecured cloud environment without adequate safeguards. Internal Federal reviews have identified serious weaknesses in Palantir’s systems.

One internal U.S. Army memorandum described Palantir’s platform

as “very high risk,” warning that any unauthorized user, regardless of clearance, could access all the applications and datasets, the very kind of thing that would interfere with our privacy from private entities.

Palantir, of course, disputes these findings, but the concerns are real, and the consequences of getting it wrong would be enormous. My approach would not have stopped this project. It would not have dismantled anything. It simply would have required transparency, basic disclosure of how Social Security data has been used or misused by the Trump regime in the creation of this centralized database.

Yet, despite the gravity of these concerns, Republicans voted to block this reasonable inquiry from a regime that seems to thrive on secrecy.

This vote follows a troubling pattern that occurred right here in the House when rules were adopted to block a resolution of inquiry that I and other Members had to ask for this data from the administration.

Twice now, Republicans have adopted special rules, extraordinary measures that are designed to prevent the House from ever considering this question. Twice they have used the process to hide from the American people what is happening and to protect their Members from having to take a vote about this sweeping intrusion into our privacy.

Remarkably, Palantir has even said they are willing to support the resolution. That hasn’t been enough for our Republican colleagues. This is the time for sunlight instead of fear of sunlight. It is unfortunate that this transparency, which should not be controversial, is not included in this bill.

I will be voting for this bill, as we did in committee, but it is relatively meaningless, and the big issues of the day are not being addressed in this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN).

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for the time.

Madam Speaker, if there is one group of Americans who definitely shouldn’t be receiving Federal payments, it is the dearly departed. There is a famous line in the movie “The Sixth Sense” where the star says: “I see dead people.” Our Treasury Department doesn’t see dead people. They just write them checks.

Year after year, gaps in our data system allow improper payments to flow to individuals who are no longer living. It is wasteful, avoidable, and undermines trust in government-run programs.

As founder and co-chair of the DOGE Caucus, I am proud to support the Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act. It is a commonsense, bipartisan effort to strengthen the accuracy of the Death Master File, improve data

sharing across Federal agencies, and ensure that benefits programs have the timely, reliable information they need to verify eligibility, and a pulse, before payments go out the door.

The results, Madam Speaker, speak for themselves. The Treasury Department recently announced it recovered \$31 million in fraud and improper payments in just the first 5 months of test driving and implementing these reforms. The legislation makes these temporary provisions permanent and stops payments to deceased individuals moving forward.

Madam Speaker, this bill is a big step toward accountability, and I urge my colleagues on all sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this vital anti-fraud, antiwaste, antiabuse legislation.

As the saying goes: You can’t take it with you, so let’s stop writing checks to dead people.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I think it would be more accurate to say this bill is a tiny step, it is a trivial step, and it is curious how narrow the interest of our Republican colleagues are with regard to fraud.

Trump has been busy pardoning one fraudster after another. We haven’t heard a peep from our Republican colleagues about that nor about his wrongful action within days of his inauguration of abruptly and unjustifiably firing the chief inspector general of the Social Security Administration. That is the public watchdog who is there to ensure that no fraud—dead, living, or otherwise—occurs. In only a single year, that inspector general had saved Social Security about \$12.4 billion through audits and investigations.

House Republicans have similarly remained totally mute about the fact that as of today, almost a year later, Trump has continued his failure to nominate a replacement inspector general. They are apparently not too eager about addressing fraud to have a real watchdog there.

Just as they yell “fraud” as an excuse to replace ObamaCare with Republican nothing care, while Trump reinstates the suspended insurance brokers that were causing the fraud, the Trump regime and its congressional enablers are really just yelling “fraud” as a cover for the real agenda, which is to privatize Social Security.

Trump’s Treasury Secretary, Mr. Bessent, recently blew their cover by indicating that the big, ugly bill about which Republicans have been so gleeful is really a “back door” to privatize Social Security, a step that will undermine the program that so many Americans are counting on.

This bill offers no additional protection to them or to the taxpayer. What it does do is continue the myth that Social Security is fraudulent, that it is not delivering the benefits that Americans have been able to rely on for generations, and with appropriate action

will be able to rely upon for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1700

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

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

As stewards of Americans’ hard-earned tax dollars, we have a responsibility to ensure efficient and appropriate government spending. The dollars that have been spent on Social Security have been spent well and effectively to benefit millions.

For years, I have sought action on several fraud prevention measures, efforts that have been repeatedly rejected, not even heard by the Republican majority.

Ignoring my legislation and other proposals that have been offered from the Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, another inspector general that was fired by President Trump, Republicans instead offer this minor bill that does little to address fraud, that raises a myth concerning payments to the deceased, and perpetuates that myth that Social Security should be, in the words of one Republican Senator: pulled up by its roots and gotten rid of.

It is all fear-mongering from some of the same people who recently enacted a truly horrifying scheme with the largest cuts to healthcare and SNAP food assistance in the history of this country, all in order to further enrich some billionaire donors. These cuts leave millions of children, people with disabilities, and seniors without access to a doctor, struggling to afford their medications, and unable to receive in-home support.

The billionaire class was so greedy that even \$1 trillion in cuts to healthcare wasn’t enough to pay for everything that they demanded. The total receipt from Republicans’ legislation means that trillions of dollars are being added to our national debt, even after these draconian cuts to healthcare. Those additions to the national debt will endanger the long-term promise of Social Security and Medicare.

This legislation does nothing to address Social Security’s guarantee to American workers. If this Congress fails to act, the Federal Government will default in 2032, and people would see their Social Security payments cut.

Meanwhile, this bill also ignores the Trump regime’s effort, which I discussed, about the development of a digital file on every American and the invasion of our privacy. It is good that this legislation requires the Treasury Department’s Do Not Pay system to reimburse Social Security and State agencies for its use of death records that the States collect and provide to Social Security.

Social Security should not bear the price for that Do Not Pay system's use of the data. I certainly support that provision, but every American will bear the cost of Republicans' failure to protect their hard-earned benefits and private information from Trump's hatchet job on the Social Security Administration.

While I don't oppose the bill, I do oppose the misrepresentations that are made about it.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this bill is another piece of the puzzle in the fight against waste, fraud, and abuse. Before the Social Security Administration began sharing its complete death records with the Treasury Department, the Federal Government paid \$1.3 billion to the dead in just a single year.

Congress authorized the Treasury to access Social Security's death data for 3 years ending in 2026. In the first year alone, Treasury reported that it helped the Federal Government identify, prevent, or recover \$108 million in improper payments, with another \$200 million expected by the end of this year. It is only common sense to make this fraud prevention measure permanent.

This policy has already passed both the Senate and the Ways and Means Committee with broad, bipartisan support. I hope the House does the same and sends this to President Trump's desk as soon as possible.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 269.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AGOA EXTENSION ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6500) to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6500

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "AGOA Extension Act".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN COUNTRIES IN AFRICA UNDER AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT; RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.

(a) EXTENSION.—

(1) TRADE ACT OF 1974.—Section 506B of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2466b) is amended by striking "September 30, 2025" and inserting "December 31, 2028".

(2) AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 112(g) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(g)) is amended by striking "September 30, 2025" and inserting "December 31, 2028".

(B) REGIONAL APPAREL ARTICLE PROGRAM.—Section 112(b)(3)(A) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(3)(A)) is amended—

(i) in clause (i), by striking "21 succeeding" and inserting "24 succeeding"; and

(ii) in clause (ii)(II), by striking "September 30, 2025" and inserting "December 31, 2028".

(C) THIRD-COUNTRY FABRIC PROGRAM.—Section 112(c)(1) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(c)(1)) is amended—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking "SEPTEMBER 30, 2025" and inserting "DECEMBER 31, 2028";

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking "September 30, 2025" and inserting "December 31, 2028"; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking "September 30, 2025" and inserting "December 31, 2028".

(b) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 514 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1514) or any other provision of law, and subject to paragraph (2), any entry of a covered article to which duty-free treatment or other preferential treatment under section 506A of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2466a) would have applied if the entry had been made on September 30, 2025, that was made—

(A) after September 30, 2025, and

(B) before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be liquidated or reliquidated as though such entry occurred on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) REQUESTS.—A liquidation or reliquidation may be made under paragraph (1) with respect to an entry only if a request therefor is filed with the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act that contains sufficient information to enable such Commissioner—

(A) to locate the entry; or

(B) to reconstruct the entry if it cannot be located.

(3) PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS OWED.—Any amounts owed by the United States pursuant to the liquidation or reliquidation of an entry of a covered article under paragraph (1) shall be paid, without interest of any kind, not later than 90 days after the date of the liquidation or reliquidation (as the case may be).

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) COVERED ARTICLE.—The term "covered article" means an article from a country that is designated by the President as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country under section 104 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3703) as of the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) ENTRY.—The term "entry" includes a withdrawal from warehouse for consumption.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CUSTOMS USER FEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1303(j)(3) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "September 30, 2031" and inserting "December 31, 2031"; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking "September 30, 2031" and inserting "December 31, 2031".

(b) RATE FOR MERCHANDISE PROCESSING FEES.—Section 503 of the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3805 note) is amended by striking "September 30, 2031" and inserting "December 31, 2031".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6500, the AGOA Extension Act, legislation to reauthorize the African Growth and Opportunity Act trade preference program.

Our Nation's economic, strategic, and national security interests are front and center in AGOA. Think about it: This program strengthens our critical supply chains and helps us counter the harmful global influence of nations like China and Russia.

Don't just take my word for it. A witness testifying before the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee put it bluntly when discussing the potential for a lapse in AGOA when he said: "There will be a party in Moscow. There will be a party in Beijing if we don't reauthorize it."

To achieve this, however, we aren't going to lower our standards. This extension maintains the most stringent eligibility criteria of any trade preference program, with annual reviews to defend IP rights, human rights, market access, and the rule of law against corruption. To be eligible, countries must also ensure they are not undermining America's national security or foreign policy interests.

While we still need a longer-term AGOA extension, this reauthorization provides a much-needed level of certainty and stability in the near term so that Congress can continue its work on future reforms to address and strengthen U.S. priorities. After all, U.S. businesses have invested \$8 billion annually under AGOA while our African trading partners have begun to open their markets for U.S. agriculture.

Protecting market access for America's farmers and ranchers is incredibly important to the rural communities I represent in Missouri, a point I have made in my travels to the regions going back to 2015 when I attended the AGOA forum in Gabon.

After we take this step, we can build further. Americans would benefit if African nations graduated into formal bilateral trade agreements with the U.S.

Right now, the nation of Mauritius is on track to graduate from AGOA within the next 5 years. When African nations take steps to expand their markets to American products, graduating from AGOA should have clear benefits, not negative consequences.

Africa is home to 30 percent of the world's critical mineral reserves, and China is quickly moving to corner the market on critical minerals and exploit Africa's vast resources. Stronger partnerships with African nations mean we will limit China's ability to make further gains in the region and protect our national security interests.

□ 1710

Madam Speaker, for example, last year the Trump administration announced a strategic partnership agreement with the Democratic Republic of the Congo to develop critical minerals.

I thank the chairman of our Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, Congressman ADRIAN SMITH, for his tremendous work and leadership in proactively building support for this renewal effort.

I urge my colleagues to support this extension of AGOA, which received strong bipartisan approval in the Ways and Means Committee. I look forward to continuing to work across the aisle to further strengthen this critical program.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6500, the AGOA Extension Act.

For over two decades, AGOA, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, has affirmed America's commitment to expanding economic opportunity, creating jobs, strengthening strategic partnerships, and forging mutually beneficial economic bonds between the United States and our allies in sub-Saharan Africa.

Since its enactment in 2000, AGOA has provided duty-free access to the U.S. market for a broad range of goods from eligible AGOA sub-Saharan African countries. AGOA has enjoyed broad bicameral and bipartisan support from both Democrats and Republicans from both the House and the Senate.

By lowering barriers for African exports, AGOA expands demand for U.S. services and inputs—from agricultural equipment to digital and logistic services to energy and finance—supporting jobs at home and abroad.

In an era of global economic disruption, AGOA helps U.S. companies diversify supply sources and build resilient and market-oriented networks in key sectors, including textiles, agriculture, and renewable energy.

By providing preferential treatment for developing African countries, AGOA promotes U.S. strategic influence and democratic values, as well as economic prosperity. Eligibility under

AGOA is directly tied to the progress by these developing African countries on market reform, rule of law, labor standards, and human rights.

The conditionality of this trade preference program harnesses trade as a catalyst for reform, not just revenue. Unfortunately, the AGOA program expired in September 2025, creating uncertainty for the future of America's relationship with the region.

The bill we are considering today will extend AGOA for 3 years and will send a clear message to the African Continent that we are committed to strengthening our shared prosperity.

Over the last few years, I have met directly with AGOA country leaders, civil society groups, and business communities about the importance of maintaining and improving the AGOA program.

I also had an opportunity to travel to Africa with Chairman SMITH. To a person, they all said the same thing. While they wanted a 10-year reauthorization, and it was preferable, to a person they all said that we needed certainty in this program.

The fact that the program ended in September 2025 has been a serious source of concern for many. A clean, 3-year reauthorization is preferable to allowing AGOA to lapse because businesses require predictability and certainty.

Investment decisions cannot wait for prolonged negotiations or uncertainty. A lapse has caused immediate harm to African exporters and U.S. importers, disrupting supply chains and costing jobs on both sides.

Reauthorization preserves U.S. credibility. Letting AGOA expire signals disengagement at a time when competitors like Russia and China are deepening their presence across the continent.

Reforms can and should be considered, but holding the program hostage for a perfect bill is too high of a price to pay. The cost of inaction is far greater than the cost of moving forward today.

Africa provides an important growth opportunity for U.S. markets. Economic growth is rapidly accelerating on the African Continent. By 2050, one in four people in the world will be African. As women become more integrated into the formal economy and the young workforce is empowered by emerging technologies, the region is poised to be the next rising economic powerhouse in the 21st century.

Therefore, it is in America's national interest to strengthen our ties with the region and encourage this growth by deepening our trade relations. If we don't nurture this important relationship, China and others will. We can ill afford to allow others to fill the void.

AGOA is more than just about tariffs and duty-free access to markets. Passing this bill will demonstrate that Congress is committed to our long-term relationship with Africa. Most importantly, reauthorizing AGOA sends a

very strong message that, even though the President's rhetoric toward many African countries has been a distraction, we in Congress do acknowledge the very important role that the continent of Africa plays.

To be clear, AGOA is not just a priority for the Congressional Black Caucus, although it is. It has been a decades-long bipartisan priority, and it stands as a proud example of America's commitment to deepening trust, stability, and shared prosperity with our AGOA allies.

I strongly support the 3-year reauthorization of the program. Moreover, during this extension, I hope we can continue our bipartisan efforts to modernize the program. I believe that we are making real progress on provisions that would strengthen enforcement, that would improve congressional oversight, strengthen critical mineral supply chains, improve utilization, and establish a smooth graduation path that encourages economic development.

Again, I thank Chairman JASON SMITH, as well as Ranking Member NEAL, for making AGOA a bipartisan priority for this committee. I also thank Ways and Means Chief Trade Counsel Alexandra Whittaker for her tireless efforts on this issue.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to vote for this bill and to send a strong signal to our African allies that leaders in Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, respect and value our continued partnership.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the diligent work of the full committee chairman, Chairman SMITH, to prioritize this issue.

Madam Speaker, we have an opportunity to advance the bipartisan legacy of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a program which has been a pillar of U.S. trade and economic engagement throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

As we all know, trade requires consistent engagement. With over 17,000 tariff lines and complex supply chains, trade is a detailed and dynamic system which values certainty.

AGOA is a unique opportunity to strengthen trading relationships through market signals and cooperation on our partners' trade and investment policy, rule of law, as well as worker and human rights. We cannot sit on the sidelines while our global adversaries, including the Chinese Communist Party, spread their malign influence across the continent.

As the Trump administration engages on trade, AGOA can be a complementary trade policy as we look to build mutually beneficial reciprocal trade. Though preference programs can be the foundation of our engagement with developing countries, they should never be the extent of it.

Take Kenya, for example. It has been a beneficiary of the program since it

began. When AGOA first went into effect in 2000, Kenya had very limited trade with the United States. Under AGOA, Kenya's GDP has grown exponentially, as have their imports from the U.S. As their economy has succeeded, so has their capacity for trade.

This was why I was so eager to see the first Trump administration work to advance bilateral negotiations with Kenya, and I hope to see continued progress with Kenya and other potential partners.

As the world works to avoid overreliance on unreliable single sources, redundant supply chains for both inputs and markets for our outbound products are key. Stronger partnerships across Africa can be a solution for many of these items, from critical minerals to agriculture.

With the fastest growing population and untapped economic potential, we must maintain reliable and proactive engagement across the continent.

Madam Speaker, again, I welcome all my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan program.

□ 1720

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I support strengthening our relations with African countries through the African Growth and Opportunity Extension Act. I think increased trade, economic activity, and development that respects human rights, labor rights, and the environment can benefit both Americans and Africans.

I think that trade is especially important at this time after the profound damage done by the consistent disrespect by President Trump of Africans, unless they happen to be White Afrikaners, and, more importantly, by his abrupt and unjustified termination of the Agency for International Development, which has cost tens of thousands of lives in Africa and other places, and thousands of American jobs. AGOA cannot undo all of that harm, but it can be part of responsible engagement, if it is done right.

It is important, however, to understand that this reauthorization does not guarantee a single African country the benefits of this bill if they fall out of favor with President Trump. The role of Congress is constrained. The bill continues to empower the President to include or exclude countries entirely at his whim, and we know how unpredictable, vengeful, and punitive he can be.

While I support AGOA, I do not support extending it to countries with serious human rights abuses, nor to those engaging in serious environmental destruction, such as the devastation of Africa's rainforests.

In Tanzania, bodies filled morgues as more than 700 people last fall were reportedly killed in connection with the recent election. Peaceful protesters in Mozambique, Angola, and Madagascar were shot by security forces. Rwanda

and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are involved in multiple war crimes, despite President Trump's failed attempts to achieve a peace agreement.

I have particular concern about Kenya from a business standpoint. A longtime, well-respected Austin resident, an engineer and law-abiding citizen, serves as co-president of LightPulse, a respected Kenyan healthcare and educational institution. Kenyan authorities cooperated in the abduction of one of his employees, who was taken to Türkiye and tortured. The next thing that we knew, up on a website in Türkiye was a declaration that my constituent was being labeled as a terrorist. Another incident of this type occurred only last month, and the Kenyans have been unable to provide a suitable explanation for their conduct.

Finally, American workers should not be forced to compete on an uneven playing field, where China sends manufactured products to Africa, there are minor changes made there, and then this product is sent here as an AGOA trade preference product. Our trade laws should be clear and not put our workers at a disadvantage by forcing them to compete with these kinds of practices.

AGOA cannot undo the immense harm that President Trump has already inflicted, but if properly structured, it can strengthen democratic rights and environmental protection.

I would support a short-term extension paired with meaningful reforms. We have had no shortage of time in order to get these reforms; only a lack of will. We do not have that reform bill before us.

Madam Speaker, for all of those reasons, I respectfully urge my colleagues to reject this bill and instead work toward a more responsible, accountable reauthorization of AGOA.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, we have no additional speakers and are prepared to close.

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Alabama for yielding me time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in support of renewing the African Growth and Opportunity Extension Act.

AGOA is a critical program to advance prosperity for the people of sub-Saharan Africa and to maintain United States' leadership in the region. It is a program that has bipartisan support.

AGOA is far from perfect, and so I understand concerns raised by a wide range of stakeholders, including labor, environmental, and other trade groups, about proposed changes to make this program better, stronger, and more effective moving forward.

This is a straight reauthorization for 3 years, providing a runway for all stakeholders to weigh in on needed improvements. To appropriate the sage

words of Frederick Douglass: "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."

The U.S. must not cede power to China or any other world power by not curing the lapse of this vital, soft power tool.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of the bill.

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their work on this bill.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I really don't have much to say except that I am fully in support of this legislation. I am so thankful to my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee for working through this and, of course, the tremendous work of the staff.

We know that, since enactment in 2000 of AGOA, it has been a key element in providing support in sub-Saharan Africa for duty-free access to U.S. markets for almost 6,000 products, which includes over 5,000 products under the Generalized System of Preferences, as well as 1,800 specific AGOA products.

We know that Africa has the youngest and fastest-growing youth population, 60 percent under 25. Madam Speaker, 5 million young people will enter the workforce from Africa in 2035.

We cannot concede, as a nation, this tremendous market that is available not only for American economic growth and innovation but African, as well. Russia and China have engaged in an extraction of resources on the continent through their Belt and Road Initiative, through the use of Wagner, as well as China extracting so many minerals from this continent.

American innovation, economic support, and products are the products that Africa wants to utilize. Unless we have AGOA, they cannot do so.

I thank the gentlewoman for allowing me to speak on this tremendous opportunity.

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), the ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, as a longtime proponent of the African Growth and Opportunity Extension Act, I rise today in support of this bipartisan bill, H.R. 6500, the AGOA Extension Act.

Let me first thank Ways and Means Committee Chairman SMITH, Chairman SMITH of the Trade Subcommittee, Ranking Member NEAL, and Ranking Member LINDA SÁNCHEZ for working on this in a bipartisan way and getting it over the hurdle.

Madam Speaker, I also have to think about an individual who mentored me. I cannot think about AGOA without thinking about the former chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, the

Honorable late Charles B. Rangel. He always spoke and thought of doing what he could for the continent of Africa.

The African Growth and Opportunity Extension Act delivers significant economic benefit to the United States. In removing barriers to trade between the United States and Africa, AGOA has enabled approximately \$1.8 billion in salaries for American workers each year.

AGOA also provides approximately \$1 billion in annual benefits to American consumers. The program has resulted in millions of American households enjoying lower prices for cocoa, coffee, and other goods that the United States cannot produce at home.

American businesses understand the value of supporting robust U.S.-Africa trade, which supports more than 450,000 jobs across the United States.

For this reason, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Apparel & Footwear Association, and countless other business associations are calling for AGOA's reauthorization by Congress.

Put simply, this bill offers clear advantages for millions of American workers. AGOA is essential to also protecting U.S. foreign policy interests in Africa.

As we speak, China and other U.S. adversaries are trying to undermine the African Continent to do this kind of work. In fact, Chinese officials seek to deepen China's commercial ties with African countries, prevent American businesses from competing in local markets, and redirect trade away from the United States.

□ 1730

Africa is the continent with the world's fastest growing population. China recognizes the critical role that Africa will play in the future and its economy and wants to exploit that, particularly as global demand for critical minerals and rare earth elements increases. China understands its own economy will benefit by making trade with Africa easier, not harder, and that is why China is rooting for AGOA's demise while offering zero-trade deals that mimic this vital U.S. program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, there are certainly improvements we can make in terms of encouraging countries to better utilize the trade preferences offered under AGOA and to maximize their government strategies to take full advantage of those benefits. I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve AGOA over the next 3 years, but extending the legislation is a first critical step.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote for this program.

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

May I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Alabama has 4 minutes remaining.

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, in closing, I again thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member NEAL, as well as Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member SANCHEZ of the Subcommittee on Trade for working so hard to make sure that we reauthorize AGOA.

Last year alone, AGOA imports totaled \$8 billion. Moreover, since 2002, AGOA has spurred more than \$500 billion in exports to the United States.

However, this year, the impact of the reciprocal tariffs, coupled with the expiration of AGOA on September 30, threaten to erode 25 years of economic cooperation.

If we fail to act, we will likely see weakening supply chains and increased poverty across the continent. Moreover, many industries could shift investments away from Africa and toward Asia. Sub-Saharan African exports to China have overtaken exports to the United States. We should not allow this trend to continue.

AGOA remains a centerpiece of United States trade in that region, and turning our backs on Africa at this critical time would be disastrous. Africa is diversifying their economy. It is expanding past textiles and agriculture. The service sector is growing rapidly, and women are beginning to get opportunities to enter the formal workforce.

During my visits to several African countries over the years, and most recently with Chairman SMITH, I witnessed personally the benefit of AGOA, and I witnessed the entrepreneurial spirit of the people. As internet access becomes broadly available, rapid economic growth and opportunity will follow.

We have the ability to benefit from this inevitable growth in Sub-Saharan Africa, and we should do something about it.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to be a part of this committee and a part of this bipartisan effort to make sure we do just that.

In closing, I quote the first African-American chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, Charlie Rangel, and what he said about AGOA. He is often known as the father of AGOA. Charlie said: "Since it was enacted in 2000, AGOA has been the cornerstone of the U.S. trade policy with Sub-Saharan Africa and has been a true success."

AGOA has further contributed to diversification and competitiveness of Sub-Saharan Africa's economies and supports hundreds of thousands of jobs across the continent and the United States. I can think of no better way for America to continue to expand its trade relationships with Africa than reauthorizing this very important piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I again ask my colleagues to vote in favor of this reau-

thorization and extend a warm and hearty thank you to Chairman SMITH for making sure that this remains a bipartisan effort and we are getting it across the finish line.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, first, I say thank you to Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. NEAL for their help in order to get this across the finish line. This is an important piece of legislation that I know my staff, Josh Snead and Hilary Pinegar, have worked tirelessly on for a long time to make sure that this program does not die. I thank both the Democrat and Republican staff. I thank Jorge Rueda and Alexandra Whittaker, as well. I appreciate the hard work. This is super important.

Reauthorization of the African Growth and Opportunity Act will advance the economic, strategic, and national security interests of the United States today and pave the way for future reforms to strengthen this critical program.

AGOA has a proven track record of holding our trading partners accountable to the strictest standards, while opening markets to American producers, particularly our farming community.

It is a vital tool to combat the harmful influence of nations like China and protect America's supply chains, including access to critical minerals.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article discussing the strategic importance of critical minerals.

[Sept. 3, 2025]

WHY IS RENEWING AGOA STRATEGIC FOR U.S.-AFRICA MINERALS DIPLOMACY?

(Critical Questions by Graecelin Baskaran)

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), first signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 2000, is a unilateral U.S. trade preference program set to expire in September 2025. Its pending reauthorization has sparked debate over whether—and how—it should be extended and reformed. A failure to extend AGOA could have larger ramifications at a time when the United States is doubling down on its commercial diplomacy—and more specifically, its mineral diplomacy efforts—with Africa.

Q1: What is the strategic role of AGOA nations in reshaping critical mineral supply chains?

A1: There are 33 African countries eligible to participate in AGOA. Many of these countries—such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia—are among the world's most well endowed with critical minerals.

In fact, five of the world's top fifteen destinations for rare earths exploration in the past year were AGOA beneficiaries: South Africa, Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania, and Angola. Together, they have roughly 50 high-grade rare earths deposits. Moreover, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Tanzania cumulatively hold graphite reserves on par with China's, even though China accounted for 77 percent of global graphite output in 2023. According to internal calculations, AGOA beneficiary countries also hold 70 percent of the

world's manganese, 89 percent of the world's platinum group metals, 54 percent of cobalt, 23 percent of graphite, and 10 percent of copper. Much of this resource wealth remains untapped, underscoring the vast potential for deepening U.S.-Africa supply chain partnerships in critical minerals. The U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has financed—or is preparing to finance—mineral projects in a number of AGOA countries, including Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Q2: What is AGOA's impact on critical minerals supply chains?

A2: AGOA offers limited tariff advantages to the mining sector, since most minerals already face relatively low tariffs. Its real value lies in the realm of soft power. In June 2025, China announced that it would expand market access by removing tariffs on all imports from 53 African nations. If the United States were to let AGOA expire and reimpose tariffs on African exports, it would send a damaging signal about the future of U.S. commercial diplomacy on the continent. When African governments see comparable opportunities from both the United States and China in the mining sector, they will be more likely to lean toward Beijing.

Q3: Why is renewing AGOA crucial for building long-term minerals diplomacy?

A3: AGOA is important for building commercial diplomacy. While mining generates significant revenue, it is not a major source of employment. Compared to sectors like manufacturing, agriculture, or services, mining has a much lower labor multiplier. Modern operations are highly mechanized, relying more on advanced technology and machinery than on large workforces. The jobs that are created are typically specialized—geologists, engineers, and metallurgists—limiting wider employment opportunities. Yet Africa urgently needs large-scale job creation, as its population of 1.4 billion is expected to grow to 2.5 billion by 2050. Mining alone is not positioned to meet this demand.

By contrast, AGOA has supported the expansion of more labor-intensive industries, such as textile manufacturing and agriculture. Namibia illustrates this potential. With more than 7.7 million cattle, sheep, and goats, its livestock sector is substantial. After spending 15 years working to meet stringent safety and logistical standards, Namibia became the first African nation to export beef to the United States in 2019. Exports reached 860 tons in 2020 and are projected to grow to 5,000 tons by 2025. Namibia's Meatco has significantly benefited from duty-free access to the U.S. market through AGOA. Given the infancy of the beef export relationship with the United States, a disruption to AGOA could risk its sustainability and undermine capital investments within the sector.

Sustaining a positive economic relationship with Namibia is key to advancing minerals diplomacy, particularly given its significant mineral wealth. The country is home to the world's fourth-largest uranium reserves—resources that could support the U.S. nuclear renaissance. Today, Namibia hosts three active uranium mines—Rössing, Husab, and Langer Heinrich—all of which have significant Chinese ownership through entities such as the China National Uranium Corporation, China General Nuclear Power Group, and the China Africa Development Fund. The Lofdal heavy rare earths project, partly owned by Japanese investors, produces around 2,000 tons of rare earth oxides annually and contains some of the world's most valuable heavy rare earth metals. In addition, Namibia is on track to become Africa's third-largest lithium producer by 2026.

Namibia's vast resource base, combined with its reputation as one of Africa's most

politically stable and well-governed nations, positions it well to develop a growing industrial processing ecosystem. But allowing AGOA to lapse would deal a serious blow to Namibia's labor-intensive beef industry and could undermine future U.S. minerals diplomacy in this resource-rich nation, further ceding ground to China.

Zambia is another important jurisdiction for minerals diplomacy. In the last few years, the U.S. government opened its first-ever Commercial Service Office at the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka and launched a Tripartite Alliance with Zambia and the DRC to advance raw material extraction, processing, and battery manufacturing. The DFC has also provided support to a U.S. company developing one of Zambia's largest copper projects.

Deepening minerals diplomacy will depend on strengthening the bilateral economic relationship. Interviews with Zambian stakeholders reveal mounting frustration among voters that the mining sector is failing to deliver meaningful benefits to the population. Zambia's heavy reliance on copper as its dominant export, coupled with limited economic diversification, has left the country highly exposed to commodity price swings. Expanding U.S. investment into other industries, such as agriculture, textiles, and manufacturing, could ease pressure on the mining industry while simultaneously strengthening Zambia's broader economy and employment generation efforts. Such diversification would generate shared benefits, improve public perceptions of mining, and lessen the risk of abrupt policy shifts that complicate operations for U.S. firms. The tax benefits derived from AGOA are an important investment incentive. In 2022, 55.3 percent of Zambia's exports to the United States went through AGOA, making its renewal vital to sustaining U.S.-Zambia commercial diplomacy.

More broadly, the expiration of AGOA would likely prompt many African countries to reassess their economic diplomacy strategies. Without preferential access to the U.S. market, governments may find it more attractive—or even necessary—to expand commercial and strategic partnerships with China, which has already established itself as the dominant player in Africa's trade, infrastructure, and minerals sectors. In the critical minerals space in particular, Beijing's willingness to provide financing, infrastructure, and guaranteed offtake agreements could accelerate African alignment with Chinese interests, potentially sidelining U.S. efforts to build resilient, diversified supply chains.

Q4: Is AGOA congruent with the Trump administration's Africa approach?

A4: It is. Since 2016, U.S. policy toward Africa under the Trump administration has placed a strong emphasis on commercial diplomacy, with critical minerals at the forefront. A major step came in 2018 with the creation of the DFC, which made its first equity investment in the critical minerals sector the following year. In 2023, a review was undertaken of the effectiveness of the President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa (PAC-DBIA), an initiative launched during the Obama administration with the mandate to advise the U.S. president, through the commerce secretary, on strategies to expand the United States' commercial engagement across Africa. The review found that the Trump administration convened more PAC-DBIA meetings than either Obama or Biden.

Since returning to office, Trump's Africa policy has been characterized by senior officials emphasizing business and trade over aid. U.S.-Africa engagement has increasingly focused on critical minerals. One major ini-

tiative has been a "minerals-for-security" proposal in which President Félix Tshisekedi offered the United States access to the Democratic Republic of the Congo's resources in exchange for security support. Following negotiations in Washington and Doha, the DRC and Rwanda signed a peace agreement in Washington, D.C., on June 27, 2025. Attention is now turning to advancing mineral cooperation and broader regional economic integration. In July 2025, the DFC approved financing for two critical minerals projects in sub-Saharan Africa. According to its announcement, these investments are intended both to spur regional development and to strengthen U.S. critical mineral supply chains vital for energy, defense, and advanced technologies.

The challenge for the Trump administration is balancing AGOA, which is a unilateral trade preference program, with its strong preference for more bilaterally beneficial economic statecraft instruments.

Q5: What could AGOA 2.0 look like?

A5: AGOA can become more bilaterally beneficial. Linking a unilateral trade preference program with a mining investment incentive could significantly boost capital flows into Africa's mining sector. Such a framework could unlock greater capital flows into Africa's mining sector, while ensuring that off-take agreements from new projects are secured with the United States and its allies.

A useful precedent for an investment incentive came from the Inflation Reduction Act's Section 30D tax credit, which offered up to \$7,500 for the purchase of a new electric vehicle if its batteries met specific sourcing requirements for critical minerals and manufacturing. To qualify for the minerals portion of the credit, a portion of the battery's mineral content had to be extracted or processed in the United States or a country with a U.S. free trade agreement (FTA). This enabled graphite mined in Mozambique to qualify, since it was processed in Louisiana—yielding benefits to Mozambique's economy while strengthening graphite security for the United States.

Although the 30D provision was recently eliminated, future tax incentives of this kind could be powerful tools to attract mineral investment in AGOA-eligible countries, with the extracted resources routed to the United States or allied partners for processing. The incentive should be industry agnostic, so minerals sourced for defense, semiconductors, and energy would be eligible for the incentive. However, in the meantime, ensuring AGOA's renewal without interruption is essential to signal the strength and continuity of the U.S.-Africa economic relationship.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6500, the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGO) Extension Act, introduced by Chairman Jason Smith.

This bill reauthorizes the AGOA program—first established by Congress in 2000. AGOA is a nonreciprocal U.S. trade preference program that encourages trade and investment with sub-Saharan African countries.

Economic benefits of AGOA include:

The bolstering of economic growth.

Promoted economic and political reform.

Improved U.S. economic relations in the sub-Saharan Africa region.

Diversified supply chains.

New markets for American goods and services.

Stronger and diversified American investments.

National security benefits of AGOA include: Peace and stability in a region that our adversaries, such as China, are trying to exploit.

An American presence in a region rich in critical minerals.

American values are being promoted abroad, resulting in governance improvements that align sub-Saharan African nations with American foreign policy.

AGOA greatly benefits our national security and economy. For those reasons, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6500.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6500, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

HAITI ECONOMIC LIFT PROGRAM EXTENSION ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6504) to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from Haiti under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6504

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Haiti Economic Lift Program Extension Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL RULES FOR HAITI UNDER CARIBBEAN BASIN ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT.

Section 213A of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (19 U.S.C. 2703a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (B)(v)(I) to read as follows:

“(I) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—The term ‘applicable percentage’ means 60 percent or more on and after December 20, 2017.”; and

(ii) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) QUANTITATIVE LIMITATIONS.—The preferential treatment described in subparagraph (A) shall be extended, during each period after the initial applicable 1-year period, to not more than 1.25 percent of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States in the most recent 12-month period for which data are available.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “in each of the 16 succeeding 1-year periods” each place it appears and inserting “in any of the succeeding 1-year periods”; and

(2) by amending subsection (h) to read as follows:

“(h) TERMINATION.—The duty-free treatment provided under this section shall remain in effect until December 31, 2028.”.

SEC. 3. RESTORATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN ARTICLES FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall proclaim such modifications to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States as may be necessary to restore the eligibility of articles described in subsection (b) for preferential treatment under section 213A of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (19 U.S.C. 2703a).

(b) ARTICLES DESCRIBED.—An article described in this subsection is an article that—

(1) was eligible for preferential treatment under section 213A of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (19 U.S.C. 2703a) on December 20, 2006; and

(2) became ineligible for such treatment after that date and before the date of the enactment of this Act as a result of revisions to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE OF PROCLAMATION.—A proclamation under subsection (a) shall take effect not earlier than 2 business days after the President submits to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives a report on the proclamation and the reasons for the modifications to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule under the proclamation.

SEC. 4. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 514 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1514) or any other provision of law, and subject to paragraph (2), any entry of a covered article to which duty-free treatment or other preferential treatment under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (19 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) would have applied if the entry had been made before September 30, 2025, that was made—

(1) on or after September 30, 2025, and

(2) before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be liquidated or reliquidated as though such entry occurred on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REQUESTS.—A liquidation or reliquidation may be made under paragraph (1) with respect to an entry only if a request therefor is filed with the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act that contains sufficient information to enable such Commissioner—

(1) to locate the entry; or

(2) to reconstruct the entry if it cannot be located.

(c) PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS OWED.—Any amounts owed by the United States pursuant to the liquidation or reliquidation of an entry of a covered article under paragraph (1) shall be paid, without interest of any kind, not later than 90 days after the date of the liquidation or reliquidation (as the case may be).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ARTICLE.—The term “covered article” means an article from Haiti.

(2) ENTRY.—The term “entry” includes a withdrawal from warehouse for consumption.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Ms. PLASKETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6504, the Haiti Economic Lift Program Extension Act, introduced by my colleague, Representative MURPHY.

This legislation extends the HOPE and HELP trade preference programs which provide trade preferences for certain apparel and textile imports from Haiti.

Haiti has endured years of profound hardship, political instability, economic collapse, and repeated natural disasters. As our bill author, Dr. MURPHY, shares from his time serving as a medical missionary in Haiti, these trade programs represent an economic lifeline that supports tens of thousands of jobs and sustain one of the last remaining formal industries in the country.

Failing to extend these programs would further destabilize an already fragile situation, worsening humanitarian conditions. Strengthening economic opportunity in Haiti promotes regional stability, pushes back on malign actors trying to gain influence with our neighbors, and advances U.S. interests. Prosperity in our hemisphere enhances security right here at home.

Renewing HOPE and HELP supports nearshoring and more resilient supply chains, benefiting American workers and businesses, while reducing reliance on distant and unreliable sources.

I commend Dr. MURPHY for his leadership on this issue. Through his numerous trips to Haiti, he has seen firsthand the human consequences of economic collapse. He also understands the value these programs provide to American businesses, including those in North Carolina that have built reliable partnerships in Haiti.

Last month, the Ways and Means Committee passed this bill unanimously, 41–0, a strong bipartisan signal that these programs work.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 6504, the Haiti Economic Lift Program Extension Act.

For over 15 years, Haiti HOPE/HELP programs have supported both U.S. and Haitian textile industries by granting Haiti duty-free access for apparel and textile products.

Building strong business ties between two neighboring nations, this bill, the Haiti Economic Lift Program Extension Act, reauthorizes the HOPE/HELP trade preference program for an additional 3 years, through December 2028.

The bill also restores eligibility for certain textiles that were initially eligible for duty-free treatment but became ineligible due to changes in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule.

I thank Ranking Member NEAL, Chairman SMITH, and Dr. MURPHY, and I especially thank my longtime friend and fellow Georgetown University alumnus, Haiti's Ambassador to the United States, Lionel Delatour, for their leadership in keeping the light of Haiti HOPE/HELP alive here in the House of Representatives.

Many American manufacturers, as well as Haitian civil society, have pushed for the extension of trade relations with Haiti.

Of course, we thank the committee's Trade staff, led by Alexandra Whitaker, Mr. Rueda, Mr. O'Donovan, as well as former U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai, who have supported our work to reauthorize the program for many years.

We all know that Haiti faces overlapping humanitarian, political, and economic crises and needs both economic and political stability. The circumstances require immediate action. More than 60 percent of the people of Haiti are living below poverty lines, and over 25 percent of the population live in extreme poverty. The 37 percent youth unemployment rate, combined with declining female literacy and lower school enrollment rates, as well as the crime and gang violence we all know about, makes finding skilled work very difficult.

I include in the RECORD links to two articles. One is "Locked in Transition: Politics and Violence in Haiti," by the International Crisis Group. The link can be found here: <https://www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/caribbean/haiti/107-locked-transition-politics-and-violence-haiti>

The second is the "World Report 2025: Rights Trends in Haiti." The link can be found here: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/haiti>

Madam Speaker, the security crisis and political instability have been compounded by a dire humanitarian situation.

According to the World Bank, over 64 percent of Haiti's population of 11.7 million lived on less than \$3.65 per day in 2024. The World Food Programme has identified Haiti as having one of the highest proportions of acute food insecure people in any crisis worldwide. In a report covering August 2024 to February 2025, about 5.5 million people require humanitarian assistance, and 4.5 million are facing acute food insecurity.

The apparel sector has incredible importance to Haiti's economy and is the foundation for the country's economic development. When we talk about the economic development of Haiti, let's not forget its history and the circumstances that have led to the crisis and compounded the situation that they are in.

Many of us here in this Chamber may be aware of Haiti's history, but I remind my colleagues of a critical fact: In 1825, for their freedom, France demanded that Haiti pay. The initial debt was 150 million in gold, later reduced to 90 million in gold, which equals approximately \$560 million in today's currency. It took Haiti 122 years to pay off this ransom. Imagine the United States had been forced to compensate Britain for our independence.

It is estimated that between \$21 billion and \$115 billion in economic losses have occurred because Haiti had to pay this fee, a fee for freedom. That has instead, of course, led to Haiti's economic dire straits that we see today.

It is our support of Haiti, as well as the economic benefits to the United States that we receive through its apparel, which will help lift them. Given the cascading job losses and extreme security crisis, Haiti cannot afford to wait any longer for reauthorization of this vital program.

Haiti is our strategic ally. It is one of the few countries in the hemisphere that still recognizes Taiwan. U.S. support for Haiti's apparel sector is mutually beneficial. Haitian apparel utilizes a great deal of American-grown cotton, and when it is in place, it plays an essential role in shifting supply chains out of China and into the Western Hemisphere.

I thank my colleagues for supporting Haiti and its people, and I thank them for supporting the Caribbean hemisphere.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6504, the Haiti Economic Lift Program Extension Act.

The Haiti HELP/HOPE program provides significant benefit to both the U.S. and Haiti. These preferences can deliver tangible results in Haiti while also supporting our goals for diversification.

Providing duty-free access for textiles and apparel from Haiti leads to more affordable products for U.S. consumers while creating in-country opportunities for Haiti's workforce.

The apparel and textiles industry is important for the Haitian people, providing economic stability throughout times of uncertainty and unrest.

As President Dwight D. Eisenhower once said: "World trade helps to lay the groundwork for peace by making all free nations of the world stronger and more self-reliant." While times have changed somewhat since these words were spoken, the message still rings true.

As a key pillar of our economic engagement with Haiti, the HELP/HOPE program has supported industry growth while encouraging a more stable business environment. However, as with

AGOA and other expired preference programs, Haiti HELP/HOPE should not be the extent of our engagement. Congress and the Trump administration must develop additional strategies to work with Haiti to create a more sustainable and self-reliant economy.

A more stable Haitian economy supports American companies that seek to do business there, creating a supply chain for those products as we diversify away from China.

Onshoring and nearshoring of critical industries cannot leave opportunities within our own hemisphere on the table. We have the opportunity today to reassert congressional commitment to fostering security and prosperity in Haiti, supporting businesses that are already operating in Haiti or looking to establish new supply chains.

Reauthorizing Haiti HOPE/HELP is the right thing to do. It is in our interest to support stability in Haiti, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands for yielding me time.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 6504, a 3-year extension of the Haiti HOPE/HELP trade preference program, one of the most important tools for promoting economic stability, job creation, and long-term development in Haiti.

The Haitian people have faced enormous hardships in recent years, after suffering successive political and environmental tragedies. Now is the time for Congress to demonstrate our support for the Haitian people and to promote trade policies that promote stability and spur economic development in Haiti.

In 2020, I led the bipartisan effort to reauthorize the U.S.-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act, which works together with the Haiti HOPE/HELP program to ensure that the manufacturing sector stays invested in Haiti.

For more than a decade, HELP/HOPE has been a lifeline for Haiti's fragile economy. The program allows Haitian manufacturers to export certain goods to the United States duty-free, providing critical market access that has helped to sustain 50,000 jobs, many held by women, and anchor one of the few reliable industries in that country.

□ 1750

However, Haiti HOPE/HELP is not just a development initiative. It is a mutually beneficial partnership. American companies rely on Haiti as a near-shore sourcing location that is close to U.S. markets, supports resilient supply chains, and provides competitively priced apparel that helps keep costs affordable for American consumers. This partnership strengthens both of our economies and creates opportunity abroad while boosting economic activity right here at home.

Today, however, Haiti faces extraordinary political unrest, economic strain, and humanitarian need. Just as families are struggling to afford basic goods, this vital program is set to expire. Without this critical trade preference, Haitian exporters will face sudden and steep tariff increases. For many factories, these added costs are unsustainable. This result would be devastating: widespread job loss, factory closings, and further destabilization of a country already in crisis.

We should be clear about what is at stake. Allowing Haiti HOPE/HELP to lapse would not only undercut one of the few functioning economic pillars in Haiti, but it would also push families deeper into hardship, increasing migration pressures, and eliminating a key source of stability in our hemisphere.

Congress must act now. Businesses rely on this critical program both in Haiti and the United States. Workers need the reassurance that these jobs will not vanish overnight. Our close neighbor, just 700 miles from our shore, needs the continued support of this very important program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Alabama.

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands for her leadership. I thank the chair, Chair JASON SMITH, as well as Ranking Member NEAL for ensuring that this bill continues to have bipartisan priority in our committee.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this extension and to protect the partnership that delivers real and measurable benefits for both Haiti and the United States.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER).

Mr. LAWLER. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH for his leadership and bringing this bill forward. I thank Dr. MURPHY for his leadership along with our subcommittee chairman, ADRIAN SMITH, as well.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Haiti Economic Lift Program Extension Act.

In my Hudson Valley district just north of New York City, we have a vibrant Haitian community. It is actually one of the largest Haitian diaspora communities in the country, and it has been an honor representing these great people and working with them over these many years.

One of the things that they have taught me is that the American people and the people of Haiti are interconnected. We have such historic ties that go beyond the current political crisis, so it is imperative that we step up and help uplift Haiti out of the present circumstances.

Since their President was assassinated just a few years ago, the Haitian people have endured hardship.

They have endured political unrest, and they have endured gangs engaging in kidnapping. The Haitian people need hope, and they need support from the American people.

The HOPE/HELP preferential trade program helps do just that. It lowers costs for Haitian businesses to export goods to the U.S., bolstering both economic development and stability for critical Haitian industries. It helps move the country forward in a moment when they need it most.

Forty percent of the Haitian population lives in the United States of America. Our ties are longstanding, and it is in our interests to have stability in a critical part of our hemisphere. As we see this administration prioritize our hemisphere and focus on the challenges throughout, in Venezuela, in Cuba, and in Colombia, it is imperative to have a strong partnership with Haiti.

This legislation comes at a critical moment. I was proud to cosponsor this, and I was proud to support Dr. MURPHY and Chairman SMITH's efforts to get this across the finish line in a bipartisan way.

I thank my colleagues across the aisle, folks like GREG MEEKS, our ranking member on the Foreign Affairs Committee, who has worked on numerous issues pertaining to Haiti with me on that committee, and we will continue to do so because it is imperative that we have a vibrant partner in the Caribbean.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, let me just thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the reauthorization of the Haiti-specific U.S. trade preference programs. Haiti, of course, is suffering from grave instability and security risks.

As we know, the ransom that Haiti paid to colonial France for its freedom continues to be at the cornerstone of its instability. I am telling you, Madam Speaker, that the least and the minimum that the United States can do to help stabilize the incredibly precarious situation in a land a stone's throw away from our shores, is to reauthorize these programs.

President Trump has lifted up the need to fortify economic and security interests in our hemisphere, and I can think of no better way to buoy these interests than support the bipartisan HOPE/HEALTH programs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAWLER). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. These programs are not without need of reform.

However, reauthorization is crucial to the economic growth and stability and to protect our economic security and interests in our hemisphere.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands has 9 minutes remaining.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), from Queens, who is the ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6504, the Haiti Economic Lift Program Extension Act.

First, as all have done, I thank the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina, Dr. MURPHY, for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor and for his partnership because we worked closely together to try to make sure that Haiti is given an opportunity to alleviate the suffering of the people of Haiti.

I also, again, can't help but celebrate the legacy of the former chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, Charlie Rangel, who championed meeting our moral responsibility to support stability and dignity for Haitians.

That is precisely what this bill does today. The Haiti Economic Lift Program Extension Act provides an economic lifeline to tens of thousands of Haitian families facing a gang-fueled humanitarian crisis that gets worse by the day.

The dire conditions on the ground in Haiti, driven by brutal, armed gangs, cannot be understated, and 1.4 million Haitians, over 10 percent of the country's population, are internally displaced. One-half of the country's population experiences life-threatening levels of hunger. Diseases such as cholera have spread as an increasing number of Haitians lack adequate access to drinking water, food, and healthcare.

□ 1800

Every family that is employed through the HOPE/HELP trade preference before us today for extension is a family less vulnerable to gang coercion, extortion, or recruitment.

There is no path to stability in Haiti without creating a foundation for economic opportunity. The HOPE/HELP program does exactly that. We simply cannot afford to abandon the thousands of Haitian families who depend on this program, nor the economic lift to our region that it will provide.

As the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT), knows best, because of her commitment to the Caribbean, this is a very important bill.

Lastly, let me say to Chairman SMITH, who goes to the gym in the morning and for months said to me

time and time again he will continue to work tirelessly until he gets this bill done: I thank him for doing this and doing it in a bipartisan way with Ranking Member NEAL and others.

This is the way we can do good in the United States House of Representatives and good for people who are in need.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, we have had some tremendously wonderful discussions during this debate period over this legislation.

Without reauthorization, companies will increasingly shift their production away from Haiti unless it is clear that HOPE/HELP will continue. We can't have that. I am so grateful that we have bipartisan support of Members who are interested in that. From all over our country—North Carolina, New York, Wisconsin—Members routinely understand our relationship with Haiti, one of our near neighbors.

There was discussion about Charlie Rangel, who was the former chair of Ways and Means, and was indeed in some ways the author of this legislation conceiving of it, representing Harlem, the Lion of Lenox Avenue.

He was also a veteran of the Korean war, and he would remind us that Haitian soldiers—we are in our anniversary now in this year of 2025 of our independence, our Declaration of Independence—fought with us under the Siege of Savannah in 1779, willing to fight for our freedom, willing to support us in our battle to become the great Nation that we became. It is now our imperative to help them, as well.

It is my hope that this short-term, 3-year extension will preserve production and jobs in Haiti while providing a runway for Congress to further strengthen this program.

As you can see, in 2024, more than \$92 billion in exports were done to the Caribbean and \$500 million in Latin America. Indeed, this is a region that the United States must be engaged in. It is mutually beneficial for us to have economic ties not only in Latin America but with our Caribbean neighbors, for them to be strengthened both politically and fiscally.

I thank my colleagues, again, for supporting Haiti and its people. I thank them for supporting the hemisphere. I particularly want to thank Chairman SMITH for moving this legislation through regular order, committee markup, and now here on the House floor. I thank him for working with Ranking Member NEAL as well as not just the Ways and Means members but members from other committees who also have jurisdiction over this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I thank everyone and urge support of this legislation, urge its passage as we move it through the Senate, and into reenactment. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time to close.

This bill represents a practical, bipartisan step toward stability, security, and shared prosperity right here in our hemisphere.

By renewing the HOPE and HELP programs, we reinforce an effective trade partnership that supports jobs in Haiti, strengthens American supply chains, and advances our nearshoring goals. At a time when Haiti faces extraordinary challenges, Congress should not end a program that has proven to be a force for economic opportunity and regional stability in our hemisphere.

This legislation passed the Ways and Means Committee unanimously because members on both sides recognize the humanitarian and strategic value these programs provide. A stable economy in Haiti contributes to a more secure United States.

I commend Dr. MURPHY for his leadership, and I urge adoption of the Haiti Economic Lift Program Extension Act.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6504, as amended.

The question was taken. The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

- H.R. 2683;
- H.R. 6500; and
- H.R. 6504.

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

tronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

REMOTE ACCESS SECURITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2683) to provide for control of remote access of items under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 369, nays 22, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 13]

YEAS—369

Adams	Crenshaw	Gottheimer
Aderholt	Crockett	Green, Al (TX)
Aguilar	Crow	Grijalva
Alford	Cuellar	Grothman
Allen	Davids (KS)	Guest
Amo	Davidson	Guthrie
Amodei (NV)	Davis (IL)	Hageman
Ansari	Davis (NC)	Hamadeh (AZ)
Auchincloss	De La Cruz	Harder (CA)
Babin	Dean (PA)	Haridopolos
Bacon	DeGette	Harrigan
Balderson	DeLauro	Harris (MD)
Balint	DelBene	Hayes
Barr	Deluzio	Hern (OK)
Barragán	DeSaulnier	Hill (AR)
Barrett	DesJarlais	Himes
Baumgartner	Dexter	Horsford
Beatty	Diaz-Balart	Houchin
Begich	Dingell	Houlihan
Bell	Doggett	Hoyer
Bentz	Downing	Hoyle (OR)
Bera	Edwards	Hudson
Bergman	Elfreth	Huffman
Beyer	Emmer	Huizenga
Bice	Escobar	Hurd (CO)
Bishop	Espallat	Issa
Bonamici	Estes	Ivey
Bost	Evans (CO)	Jack
Boyle (PA)	Evans (PA)	Jackson (IL)
Bresnahan	Ezell	Jacobs
Brown	Fedorchak	Jayapal
Brownley	Feenstra	Jeffries
Budzinski	Fields	Johnson (GA)
Bynum	Figures	Johnson (SD)
Calvert	Fine	Johnson (TX)
Cammack	Finstad	Jordan
Carbajal	Fischbach	Joyce (OH)
Carey	Fitzgerald	Joyce (PA)
Carson	Fitzpatrick	Kamlager-Dove
Carter (GA)	Fleischmann	Kaptur
Carter (LA)	Fletcher	Kean
Carter (TX)	Flood	Keating
Case	Fong	Kelly (IL)
Casten	Foster	Kelly (MS)
Castor (FL)	Foushee	Kelly (PA)
Castro (TX)	Fox	Kennedy (NY)
Cherfilus-	Frankel, Lois	Kennedy (UT)
McCormick	Franklin, Scott	Khanna
Chu	Friedman	Kiggans (VA)
Ciscomani	Frost	Kiley (CA)
Cisneros	Fry	Kim
Clark (MA)	Fulcher	Knott
Clarke (NY)	Garamendi	Krishnamoorthi
Cleaver	Garbarino	Kustoff
Cline	Garcia (CA)	LaHood
Cohen	Garcia (IL)	LaLota
Cole	Garcia (TX)	Landsman
Collins	Gill (TX)	Langworthy
Comer	Gillen	Larsen (WA)
Conaway	Gimenez	Larson (CT)
Correa	Golden (ME)	Latimer
Costa	Gomez	Latta
Courtney	Gonzales, Tony	Lawler
Craig	Gonzalez, V.	Lee (FL)
Crank	Gooden	Lee (NV)
Crawford	Goodlander	Lee (PA)

Leger Fernandez Newhouse
 Levin Norcross
 Liccardo Obernolte
 Lieu Ocasio-Cortez
 Lofgren Ogles
 Lucas Olszewski
 Luna Omar
 Luttrell Onder
 Lynch Owens
 Mace Pallone
 Mackenzie Palmer
 Malliotakis Panetta
 Maloy Pappas
 Mann Patronis
 Mannion Pelosi
 Mast Perez
 Matsui Peters
 McBeth Pfluger
 McBride Pingree
 McCaul Pocan
 McClain Pou
 McClain Delaney Pressley
 McClellan Quigley
 McClintock Ramirez
 McCollum Randall
 McCormick Raskin
 McDonald Rivet Reschenthaler
 McDowell Riley (NY)
 McGarvey Rivas
 McGovern Rogers (AL)
 McGuire Rogers (KY)
 McIver Ross
 Meeks Rouzer
 Menendez Ruiz
 Messmer Rulli
 Meuser Rutherford
 Mfume Ryan
 Miller (OH) Salazar
 Miller (WV) Salinas
 Miller-Meeks Sanchez
 Mills Scanlon
 Min Schmidt
 Moolenaar Schneider
 Moore (NC) Scholten
 Moore (UT) Schrier
 Moore (WV) Schweikert
 Moran Scott (VA)
 Morelle Scott, Austin
 Morrison Scott, David
 Moskowitz Sessions
 Moulton Sewell
 Mrvan Sherman
 Mullin Shreve
 Nadler Simon
 Neal Simpson
 Neguse Smith (MO)
 Nehls Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)

NAYS—22

Bean (FL) Clyde
 Biggs (AZ) Crane
 Biggs (SC) Gosar
 Boebert Harris (NC)
 Brecheen Harshbarger
 Burchett Higgins (LA)
 Burlison Massie
 Cloud Miller (IL)

NOT VOTING—39

Arrington Gray
 Baird Griffith
 Billirakis Hinson
 Buchanan Hunt
 Casar Jackson (TX)
 Clyburn James
 Donalds Letlow
 Dunn (FL) Loudermilk
 Ellzey Magaziner
 Fallon Meng
 Goldman (NY) Murphy
 Goldman (TX) Nunn (IA)
 Graves Pettersen

□ 1856

Mr. BRECHEEN changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. ONDER and KNOTT changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AGOA EXTENSION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6500) to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 340, nays 54, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 14]

YEAS—340

Adams Crow
 Aderholt Cuellar
 Aguilar Davids (KS)
 Alford Davis (IL)
 Allen Davis (NC)
 Amo De La Cruz
 Amodei (NV) Dean (PA)
 Ansari DeGette
 Arrington DeLauro
 Auchincloss DelBene
 Babin Deluzio
 Bacon DeSaulnier
 Balderson DesJarlais
 Balint Dexter
 Barr Diaz-Balart
 Barragan Issa
 Barrett Downing
 Baumgartner Edwards
 Bean (FL) Elfreth
 Beatty Emmer
 Begich Escobar
 Bell Espaillet
 Bentz Estes
 Bera Evans (CO)
 Bergman Evans (PA)
 Beyer Ezell
 Bice Fedorchak
 Bishop Feenstra
 Bonamici Fields
 Bost Figures
 Bresnahan Fine
 Brown Finstad
 Brownley Fischbach
 Budzinski Fitzgerald
 Bynum Fitzpatrick
 Calvert Fleischmann
 Carbajal Fletcher
 Flood Kim
 Carson Fong
 Carter (GA) Kustoff
 Carter (LA) Foushee
 Carter (TX) Foxx
 Case Frankel, Lois
 Casten Franklin, Scott
 Castor (FL) Friedman
 Castro (TX) Frost
 Cherriflus-Garcia Garamendi
 McCormick Garbarino
 Chu Garcia (CA)
 Ciscomani Garcia (IL)
 Cisneros Garcia (TX)
 Clark (MA) Gillen
 Clarke (NY) Gimenez
 Cleaver Golden (ME)
 Clyburn Gomez
 Cohen Gonzales, Tony
 Cole Gonzalez, V.
 Comer Goodlander
 Conaway Gottheimer
 Correa Green, Al (TX)
 Costa Griffith
 Courtney Grijalva
 Craig Grothman
 Crank Guest
 Crawford Guthrie
 Crockett Hageman

McBride Pelosi
 McClain Perez
 McClain Delaney Peters
 McClellan Pfluger
 McCollum Pingree
 McDonald Rivet Pocan
 McDowell Pou
 McGarvey Pressley
 McGovern Quigley
 McGuire Randall
 McIver Raskin
 Meeks Reschenthaler
 Menendez Rivas
 Messmer Rogers (AL)
 Meuser Rogers (KY)
 Mfume Ross
 Miller (OH) Rouzer
 Miller (WV) Ruiz
 Miller-Meeks Rulli
 Min Rutherford
 Moolenaar Ryan
 Moore (AL) Salazar
 Moore (NC) Salinas
 Moore (UT) Sanchez
 Moore (WI) Scalise
 Moran Scanlon
 Morelle Schmidt
 Morrison Schneider
 Moskowitz Scholten
 Moulton Schrier
 Mrvan Schweikert
 Mullin Scott (VA)
 Nadler Scott, Austin
 Neal Scott, David
 Neguse Sessions
 Nehls Sewell
 Newhouse Sherman
 Obernolte Shreve
 Ocasio-Cortez Simon
 Olszewski Simpson
 Omar Smith (MO)
 Onder Smith (NE)
 Owens Smith (NJ)
 Pallone Smith (WA)
 Palmer Smucker
 Panetta Sorensen
 Pappas Soto
 Patronis Spartz

NAYS—54

Biggs (AZ) Gosar
 Biggs (SC) Harrigan
 Boebert Harris (MD)
 Brecheen Harris (NC)
 Burchett Harshbarger
 Burlison Higgins (LA)
 Cammack Hoyle (OR)
 Cline Jayapal
 Cloud Jordan
 Clyde Joyce (PA)
 Collins Kaptur
 Crane Knott
 Davidson Larson (CT)
 Doggett Lee (PA)
 Fry Luttrell
 Fulcher Mace
 Gill (TX) Mackenzie
 Gooden Massie

NOT VOTING—37

Baird Gray
 Billirakis Hinson
 Boyle (PA) Hunt
 Buchanan Jackson (TX)
 Casar James
 Crenshaw Letlow
 Donalds Magaziner
 Dunn (FL) McCaul
 Ellzey Meng
 Fallon Murphy
 Goldman (NY) Nunn (IA)
 Goldman (TX) Pettersen
 Graves Rose

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1904

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HAITI ECONOMIC LIFT PROGRAM
EXTENSION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6504) to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from Haiti under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 345, nays 45, not voting 41, as follows:

[Roll No. 15]

YEAS—345

Adams	Davis (NC)	Hern (OK)
Aderholt	De La Cruz	Hill (AR)
Aguilar	Dean (PA)	Himes
Alford	DeGette	Horsford
Amo	DeLauro	Houchin
Amodèi (NV)	DelBene	Houlihan
Ansari	Deluzio	Hoyer
Arrington	DeSaulnier	Hoyle (OR)
Auchincloss	DesJarlais	Hudson
Babin	Dexter	Huffman
Bacon	Diaz-Balart	Huizenga
Balderson	Dingell	Hurd (CO)
Balint	Doggett	Issa
Barr	Edwards	Ivey
Barragán	Elfreth	Jack
Barrett	Emmer	Jackson (IL)
Baumgartner	Escobar	Jacobs
Bean (FL)	Espallat	Jayapal
Beatty	Estes	Jeffries
Bell	Evans (CO)	Johnson (GA)
Bentz	Evans (PA)	Johnson (LA)
Bera	Ezell	Johnson (SD)
Bergman	Fedorchak	Johnson (TX)
Beyer	Feenstra	Joyce (OH)
Bishop	Fields	Kamlager-Dove
Bonamici	Figures	Kaptur
Bost	Fine	Kean
Bresnahan	Finstad	Keating
Brown	Fischbach	Kelly (IL)
Brownley	Fitzgerald	Kelly (MS)
Budzinski	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (PA)
Bynum	Fleischmann	Kennedy (NY)
Calvert	Fletcher	Khanna
Carbajal	Flood	Kiggans (VA)
Carey	Fong	Kiley (CA)
Carson	Foster	Kim
Carter (GA)	Foushee	Knott
Carter (LA)	Fox	Krishnamoorthi
Carter (TX)	Frankel, Lois	Kustoff
Case	Franklin, Scott	LaHood
Casten	Friedman	LaLota
Castor (FL)	Frost	Landsman
Castro (TX)	Garamendi	Langworthy
Cherfilus-	Garbarino	Larsen (WA)
McCormick	Garcia (CA)	Larson (CT)
Chu	Garcia (IL)	Latimer
Ciscomani	Garcia (TX)	Latta
Cisneros	Gillen	Lawler
Clark (MA)	Gimenez	Lee (FL)
Clarke (NY)	Golden (ME)	Lee (NV)
Cleaver	Gomez	Lee (PA)
Cline	Gonzales, Tony	Leger Fernandez
Clyburn	Gonzalez, V.	Levin
Cohen	Goodlander	Liccardo
Cole	Gottheimer	Lieu
Correa	Green, Al (TX)	Lofgren
Costa	Griffith	Loudermilk
Courtney	Grijalva	Lucas
Craig	Grothman	Lynch
Crank	Guest	Malliotakis
Crawford	Guthrie	Maloy
Crenshaw	Hageman	Mann
Crockett	Hamadeh (AZ)	Mannion
Crow	Harder (CA)	Mast
Cuellar	Haridopolos	Matsui
Davids (KS)	Harrigan	McBath
Davis (IL)	Hayes	McBride

McCaul	Perez
McClain	Peters
McClain Delaney	Pfluger
McClellan	Pingree
McCollum	Pocan
McCormick	Pou
McDonald Rivet	Pressley
McDowell	Quigley
McGarvey	Ramirez
McGovern	Randall
McGuire	Raskin
McIver	Reschenthaler
Meeks	Riley (NY)
Menendez	Rivas
Messmer	Rogers (AL)
Meuser	Rogers (KY)
Mfume	Ross
Miller (OH)	Rouzer
Miller-Meeks	Ruiz
Min	Rulli
Moolenaar	Rutherford
Moore (AL)	Ryan
Moore (NC)	Salazar
Moore (UT)	Salinas
Moore (WI)	Sánchez
Moran	Scalise
Morelle	Scanlon
Morrison	Schneider
Moskowitz	Schrier
Moulton	Schweikert
Mrvan	Scott (VA)
Mullin	Scott, Austin
Nadler	Scott, David
Neal	Sessions
Neguse	Sewell
Neils	Sherman
Newhouse	Shreve
Ocasio-Cortez	Simon
Olszewski	Simpson
Omar	Smith (MO)
Onder	Smith (NE)
Owens	Smith (NJ)
Pallone	Smith (WA)
Palmer	Smucker
Panetta	Sorensen
Pappas	Stansbury
Patronis	Stanton
Pelosi	Stauber

NAYS—45

Allen	Downing
Begich	Fry
Biggs (AZ)	Fulcher
Biggs (SC)	Gill (TX)
Boebert	Gooden
Brecheen	Gosar
Burchett	Harris (NC)
Burlison	Harshbarger
Cammack	Higgins (LA)
Cloud	Jordan
Clyde	Joyce (PA)
Collins	Kennedy (UT)
Comer	Luna
Crane	Luttrell
Davidson	Mace

NOT VOTING—41

Baird	Gray	Rose
Bice	Harris (MD)	Schakowsky
Bilirakis	Hinson	Scholten
Boyle (PA)	Hunt	Stutzman
Buchanan	Jackson (TX)	Swalwell
Casar	James	Sykes
Conaway	Letlow	Tiffany
Donalds	Magaziner	Van Duyne
Dunn (FL)	Meng	Van Orden
Ellzey	Miller (WV)	Williams (TX)
Fallon	Murphy	Wilson (FL)
Goldman (NY)	Norcross	Womack
Goldman (TX)	Nunn (IA)	Zinke
Graves	Pettersen	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1911

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today due to a prior commitment in my Congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 13, YEA on Roll Call No. 14, and YEA on Roll Call No. 15.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, due to flight delays, I missed evening votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 13, YEA on Roll Call No. 14, and YEA on Roll Call No. 15.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 13, YEA on Roll Call No. 14, and YEA on Roll Call No. 15.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 13, YEA on Roll Call No. 14, and YEA on Roll Call No. 15.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to an official engagement, I was unable to vote on H.R. 2683, H.R. 6500, and H.R. 6504. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 13, YEA on Roll Call No. 14, and YEA on Roll Call No. 15.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5907

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. FITZGERALD) as cosponsor of H.R. 5907.

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

There was no objection.

NATIONAL MILK DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Milk Day, which we celebrated yesterday.

National Milk Day dates back to January 11, 1878, to commemorate when milk was first delivered in glass bottles.

Millions of Americans drink milk. It is a delicious and refreshing beverage that provides key nutrients like calcium, potassium, and vitamins A and D in every glass. Milk provides 13 essential nutrients, which is especially important for growing children.

This is one of the reasons why my Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act is so important. The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act will soon be signed into law this week. It allows schools to offer flavored and unflavored whole and 2 percent milk options.

National Milk Day allows us to recognize the many dairy farms across the country. In my home State of Pennsylvania, the dairy industry contributes \$14.7 billion to the State's economy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank our American dairy farmers who work around the clock to provide nutritious and delicious milk to all Americans.

Happy National Milk Day.

REMEMBERING JOHN CUNNINGHAM

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the exceptional life of John Cunningham, a resident of Rye for nearly 60 years, who passed away last week at the age of 93.

He was not only a familiar face around our community, but he was a familiar face on Broadway, on TV screens, and in movie theaters. John's acting career included roles too numerous to mention, but many are memorable to those anywhere in the Nation. He was the father in "Mystic Pizza," Mr. Anderson in "Dead Poets Society," and the character Sylvester Rheinback in the Christmastime movie "Silver Bells."

He was on the Broadway stage as Captain E.J. Smith of the ship in "Titanic" and as John Adams in "1776."

He had TV roles on "30 Rock," "Miami Vice," "Law and Order," and "The Good Wife," among many others.

His success as an actor notwithstanding, his role in the community was warm and friendly to all. Despite his status as a celebrity, he was approachable. He used his talents to help raise funds for local organizations, including dramatic readings with other actors, such as Frances Sternhagen, a New Rochelle resident, in the well-loved "Players and Playwrights" series at the Rye High School Performing Arts Center.

John and his wife, Carolyn, who served as a member of the Rye City Council, raised three children, all Rye High School graduates, with six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

John served in the U.S. Army and achieved a master's degree from Yale School of Drama. He was an active congregant of Rye Presbyterian Church, where a memorial service will be held this weekend.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute this neighbor and friend who made a career in the arts and, in so doing, brought honor to his profession and to his home community.

□ 1920

RECOGNIZING THE U.S. ARMY 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United States Army's remarkable 2025, defined

by service, sacrifice, and strength; and filled with moments that showcase the character and resolve of our soldiers and support teams across the globe.

In 2025, the Army marked its 250th birthday with community celebrations and tributes to the generations that defended our Nation. Its annual Year in Review also features stories of soldiers preparing for future challenges and meeting recruiting and retention goals well ahead of schedule, demonstrating renewed commitment and purpose and included in this Year in Review was Fort Stewart's Rock of the Marne.

This retrospective honors those who served today and those who served before. It reminds us that our Army stands ready to protect the homeland, support partners, and uphold peace at home and abroad.

Today, we celebrate the Army's achievements in 2025 and thank our soldiers for their enduring dedication to duty and to country.

CHAIR POWELL REFUSES TO GIVE IN TO TRUMP'S DEMANDS

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I am here today because this administration is playing games with costs, retirement accounts, and the entire financial system. He is attacking the Federal Reserve, which keeps our economy stable by threatening criminal investigations into Jerome Powell, the Fed's chair. He is doing it because Chair Powell refuses to give in to Trump's demands.

Mr. Speaker, the independence of the Fed makes it so politicians can't use it like a weapon. If the President can bully or threaten the Fed Chair, interest rates become a political tool, inflation becomes a campaign strategy; and your mortgage, your job, and your savings become collateral damage.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, this attempt to intimidate the Fed isn't about justice or the American people. It is about the President's ego, in my opinion.

I can't, and won't, stand by and let that happen. I will continue fighting to make sure that the Fed works for Oregonians and for Americans.

CHAMPIONS OF NEWARK BOARD OF EDUCATION'S HOLIDAY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

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

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say Go Bulldogs and Go Jaguars, better known as Malcolm X Shabazz High School's boys basketball team and Arts High School's girls basketball team, the champions of Newark Board of Education's Annual Holiday Basketball Tournament.

I wish I had been there to see Arts High School's girls basketball team se-

cure their first holiday tournament title and to see Malcolm X Shabazz' boys basketball team secure another win to keep them undefeated, but, even though I wasn't there, I am still cheering all the way from D.C. for a win that made all of Newark proud.

BE THE VOICE OF MORAL GRANDEUR AND SPIRITUAL AUDACITY

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Abraham Heschel once sent a telegram to John F. Kennedy. Referring to racism in this country, he said: "The hour calls for moral grandeur and spiritual audacity."

Now, 62 years later, we see the excessive brutality of ICE agents. Peaceful protesters are tear-gassed in the face. A pastor was shot in the head with a pepper ball. We have children being zip-tied, car windows smashed, people tackled and dragged, and guns pointed at unarmed bystanders. We have people targeted for the color of their skin or the accents that they speak in. ICE agents are demanding entrance to homes without warrants, and last week, an American citizen was gunned down.

Americans know this is wrong, and they are horrified. People of conscience across this country must come together and be that voice of moral grandeur and spiritual audacity once again. We have to find our courage and speak out. There is no other way.

CONGRATULATING DR. JOHN J. WARNER

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today proudly to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center cut the ribbon and opened the University Hospital today with 820 large private rooms sitting 26 stories high.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Ohio State University's president, Ted Carter, and our CEO of the Wexner Medical Center, Dr. John J. Warner, for making not only my district but central Ohio and this country healthier. As we are in this time in need of better healthcare, I thank them for understanding the healthcare needs of the citizens of the Third Congressional District.

It is, Mr. Speaker, the only IV maternity care hospital in central Ohio. It includes 16 labor and delivery rooms and 51 NICU rooms. It is in partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital. We salute Columbus because it is stronger and healthier because of this investment.

CONFUSION OVER WHO SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THIS COUNTRY

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, like many Americans, I caught a little of the TV over the weekend, which was dominated by the tragic events in Minneapolis.

However, there is one thing I felt had to be commented on because I think there is a lot of confusion as to who we should be removing in this country.

Right now in America, we have no shortage of people who are here from other countries. We are at an all-time high, even greater than the 1890s or 2010s in the number of people in this country who were not born here. That is over 15 percent. We are naturalizing about 850,000 people a year.

Nevertheless, there are Congressmen who keep getting confused and think the only people that should be removed from this country after Joe Biden left about 10 million people in the country illegally are people who committed serious crimes. That is ridiculous. Of the 10 million people that Joe Biden let in or 8 million people, whatever, obviously it is up to ICE to remove as many as possible and get back to historical norms.

□ 1930

END QUALIFIED IMMUNITY FOR ICE AGENTS

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in defense of communities across America terrorized by the dangerous, rogue, and violent actions perpetrated by ICE agents.

Millions have seen the videos of ICE shooting and killing Renee Good, a poet and mother who was unarmed and trying to drive away.

Following her tragic death at the hands of law enforcement, Republicans rushed to deny the truth and smear the victim, a playbook that has been employed frequently, especially against the Black community.

Now, the White House is claiming ICE agents have immunity from lawsuits. Enough.

That is why I will reintroduce my bill to end qualified immunity to hold Federal agents accountable for breaking the law and killing our neighbors.

This bill is for Renee Good and so many others, like Keith Porter, a proud girl dad who was killed by an ICE agent in Los Angeles. This bill is also for Nenko Gantchev from Chicago, who died in ICE custody after living in the United States for 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is for every person in America, citizen or not, to know that when ICE agents break the law, they should be held accountable.

For the families of these victims, Congress must end qualified immunity.

UPLIFTING SPIRIT OF OLYMPIC SKATER MAXIM NAUMOV

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to uplift the inspiring and persevering spirit of our Nation's people, embodied in an extraordinary young American, U.S. Olympic figure skater Maxim Naumov.

Despite having endured unspeakable loss, the tragic American Airlines crash over Arlington, Virginia, in January of last year that claimed the lives of both his parents, Vadim Naumov and Evgenia Shishkova, Maxim stepped onto the ice this past weekend with courage, composure, and grace under pressure.

At the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, he delivered a powerful short program for 85.72 points, fourth place, and a spot on the U.S. Olympic team. He then spoke with humility and love, paying tribute to his beloved parents who shaped his life.

President John F. Kennedy defined true grit as courage, grace under pressure, perseverance in the face of adversity. Maxim personifies that ideal. He teaches us that determination can rise even from the deepest loss and that discipline and artistry can become a language of hope.

Bravo, Maxim.

Maxim's dedication as a genuine athletic ice artist inspires every young American to a higher purpose. May he stay the course. He makes America proud for his generation.

Onward, Maxim. Onward, America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the article titled: "Maxim Naumov Credits His Parents, Who Died in DC Plane Crash, For Making U.S. Olympic Team: 'We Did It Together.'"

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

There was no objection.

[Jan. 12, 2026]

MAXIM NAUMOV CREDITS HIS PARENTS, WHO DIED IN DC PLANE CRASH, FOR MAKING US OLYMPIC TEAM: 'WE DID IT TOGETHER'

(By Drew Weisholtz)

Maxim Naumov will represent the United States at the Milan Cortina Winter Olympics as a member of the figure skating team and will be guided by his late parents, who died a year ago in a plane crash that rocked the figure skating world.

Former Olympians Evgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov were among those on board an American Airlines plane that collided with a Black Hawk helicopter on Jan. 29 last year. Sixty-seven people died in the crash, including 28 members of the figure skating community.

Naumov held up a photo of his parents after competing in the men's free skate at the United States Figure Skating Championships in St. Louis on Jan. 10.

Naumov, 24, later sat down with Hoda Kotb for an exclusive interview that aired on TODAY Jan. 12. He spoke alongside fellow skaters who were named to Team USA after the championships.

"You were holding the picture of your parents who perished in that plane accident," Hoda said to Naumov. "What were you saying to them from inside?"

"I was telling them that we did it, and we did it together," Naumov said.

"One of the favorite words that you say right now is the word 'we.' 'We are going to do this.' 'We can make it.' 'We're going to the Olympics.' It's not just you, is it?"

"No, no, I would not be here without them in any capacity," he said.

Naumov's godmother, Gretta Bogdan, was moved when she saw him receive his Olympic jacket and takes comfort in believing his parents are also beaming.

"Probably one of the best moments of my life," she told Hoda. "I know that his parents are watching down on him, and they're incredibly proud of him, and they know what's happening. They do."

Naumov has previously spoken about what his parents meant to him and how he dealt with his grief.

"They were beautiful people. They were so incredibly kind," he told TODAY in March 2025. "The only way out is through. There's no other way. There are no options but to keep going. I don't have the strength or the passion or the drive, or the dedication of one person anymore. It's three people."

The 2026 U.S. figure skating team is a loaded group, headlined by Iliia Malinin, known as "The Quad God," who will be making his Olympics debut. His parents, Tatiana Malinina and Roman Skorniakov, previously skated in the Olympics for Uzbekistan.

"It's just such an honor, and I'm so grateful that (I'm) also just following in my parents' footsteps," Malinin said. "They were two-time Olympians as well, and I'm just so excited to go there."

Andrew Torgashev is also a son of Olympians and understands the magnitude of his accomplishment.

"To call myself an Olympian is just so surreal. It makes me tear up, actually. It's quite awesome," he said.

The women's team will feature three current and former U.S. champions in Alyssa Liu, Isabeau Levito and Amber Glenn. They will each try to become the first American woman to win gold at the Olympics since Sarah Hughes did so in 2002.

"I think it's great that it's not just one person or singular hope. I think three people go at it—like, someone's going to stick," Glenn said while speaking to Hoda alongside Levito and Liu.

When Hoda pointed out that the trio represents sisterhood and family, the skaters said it's only natural.

"I mean, I feel like it's kind of normal. I feel almost weird to be praised for—" Liu said.

"Friendship?" Glenn finished.

"I think one of the reasons that we all get along so well is because not that many people understand what it takes and understand the ups and downs of such an intense sport like we do," she continued. "And I wouldn't be here without these two ladies."

Married couple and ice dance duo Madison Chock and Evan Bates are also on a quest to win gold at the Olympics after doing so in a team event in Beijing in 2022. This will mark their fourth Winter Games, which has some people wondering if they plan to call it quits anytime soon.

"You really never know when it's going to be our last, so this season we've been treating everything with respect and care for the moment and trying not to miss any little bit of it," Chock said.

"We're best friends, and we get to skate together every day, so why would we stop?" Bates said.

Ice dance partners Christina Carreira and Anthony Ponomarenko will also compete in their first Olympics, but Ponomarenko is part of a trend: His parents, Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko, are also Olympians.

"Going to the Olympics in the same sport that my parents did, it's unbelievable," he said.

"It still hasn't sunk in, to be honest," Carreira said.

The U.S. figure skating team will feature 16 athletes who will put their best foot forward when the Winter Olympics begin Feb. 6.

HOLDING PRESIDENT TRUMP ACCOUNTABLE

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, the American people want to know why the President of the United States and the Department of Justice are going after the Chairman of the Federal Reserve before they go after coconspirators in the Epstein case.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want to know why Donald Trump is using their taxpayer dollars to invade foreign countries and threaten our allies, but claims to not have enough money to fund American healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want to know why the President and Vice President are giving cover for lawless shootings by Federal agents while using political excuses to withhold funding for our communities, for public safety, housing, childcare, and food.

Mr. Speaker, the American people didn't ask for this. They asked for safe communities to ensure they can live their lives with dignity and opportunity and to leave a country their children can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, this is not that. We will continue to fight and hold this President accountable.

DEFENDING FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIR JEROME POWELL

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

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with grave concern over President Trump's vicious attacks on Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell.

I know Jerome Powell. He is a man of integrity. More importantly, he is an honorable and faithful public servant with extreme knowledge and expertise of our financial ecosystem.

The President's effort to criminally target him with baseless accusations is an unprecedented assault on our democracy and the independence of the Federal Reserve.

An independent Federal Reserve is essential to America's economic sta-

bility, market confidence, and fairness to working families. The Federal Reserve is nonpartisan for a reason. It is guided by evidence, data, and duty. It does not cater to the whims of a President interested in his own political and personal fortune.

If the Federal Reserve loses its independence, the consequences will be felt on an international stage, undermining global confidence in our economy, destabilizing financial markets, and risking economic chaos worldwide.

The threat against Jay Powell is part of a growing and dangerous pattern. We must stand with Jay Powell and defend those independent agencies that underpin our economic resilience and national security.

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, eastern North Carolina residents deserve access to clean drinking water and safe neighborhoods. We understand that aging water infrastructure, prone to leaks and contamination, and law enforcement agencies lacking the tools they need to be successful, directly impact the well-being of our communities.

Working with local officials, we have prioritized these issues. I am glad to share that over \$5 million is being directed to eastern North Carolina communities for upgrading water infrastructure. Funds will also be used to purchase safety gear to better protect our law enforcement officers.

There is so much work to be done, and we plan to continue working with our local communities. By investing strategically in vital infrastructure and public safety, we are supporting eastern North Carolina's communities and economy for decades to come.

FIGHTING FOR DETROIT

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

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, the last time Donald Trump visited Detroit, he insulted our city, saying the whole country would end up like Detroit if Kamala Harris was elected. Mr. Trump promised to bring manufacturing jobs and economic success.

For the last 8 months, we have lost 68,000 jobs. Unemployment has hit a 4-year high. His tariffs have hurt Detroit's auto industry.

Mr. Speaker, Detroit does not need any more of Donald Trump's lies and insults. Detroit needs affordable housing, not Trump's insults. Detroit needs skilled jobs, not Trump's insults.

Mr. Speaker, I am fighting for Detroit, fighting to bring costs down, and make life more affordable for all.

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

SUCCESSFUL OPERATION TO ARREST NICOLAS MADURO

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. CRAWFORD of Arkansas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, it is particularly important with this Special Order to clear the air. Americans deserve no less than to understand the truth of what just transpired in Venezuela.

Nicolas Maduro has been removed as the reigning despot, narcoterrorist, and illegitimate President of Venezuela. This fact is a momentous and great thing, pure and simple.

Notwithstanding what you might have heard from many Democrats when President Trump's successfully ordered Maduro's arrest and exfiltration, the realization on the part of the world, especially Venezuelans, that Maduro's sword of repression has come to an end resulted in praise and thanksgiving. This mission clearly showed America's full force and capability to instigate good in the world and battle the forces of evil.

Americans woke up on January 3, 2026, to news that our truly courageous and skillful intelligence community, law enforcement, and military had executed a mission that is simply unbelievable if we had not heard about the exploits soon thereafter.

What an unprecedented risk our men and women took on that day to do what no other political administration in the world had ever contemplated as remotely possible: to remove and exfiltrate for prosecution a ruthless dictator whose direct involvement in narcoterrorism has led to the death of scores of Americans and other allies' citizens.

Please don't take my word for the nature of Maduro's reign over Venezuela. My Democrat colleagues have for years been raising the alarm of Maduro's destruction through a multitude of legislative measures. Just a small subset of this Democrat-led legislation is cited in a House resolution—H. Res. 987—we have introduced today.

□ 1940

Examples include H.R. 328, a Democratic-sponsored bill that excoriates the Maduro regime which "has refused to respect the overwhelming choice of

the people of Venezuela and subsequently arrested and abused thousands of innocent citizens of Venezuela, including children, for peaceful political participation.”

Mr. Speaker, consider H. Res. 1471 of the 118th Congress, another Democratic-sponsored piece of legislation that stresses “Venezuela, where actors linked to the regime of Nicolas Maduro have engaged in a sustained and synchronized campaign of disinformation to undermine the country’s 2023–2024 electoral process, invalidate the results of such elections, and attack Maria Corina Machado and other opposition leaders.”

Mr. Speaker, pointing to the threat closer to home, Democratic-sponsored H.R. 8741 of the 118th Congress defined Maduro as a person of concern who is engaged in a “long-term pattern or serious instances of activity adverse to the national security of the United States, the security of critical infrastructure of the United States, or the safety and security of United States persons.”

Mr. Speaker, contemplate Democratic-sponsored H.R. 5670 of the 118th Congress that succinctly called for “an end to the usurpation of Presidential authorities by Nicolas Maduro.”

Yet, despite this forgoing string of legislation sponsored by my friends on the other side of the aisle pointing to Maduro’s reign of terror, sadly, President Trump’s decisive actions to do something about it all seems to have caused a reversal in sentiment among Democrats. Rather than expressing unity during a time when the Western Hemisphere has been freed from a despot’s clutch, instead, Democrats have called the Trump administration “warmongers” who are “lying to the American people,” or referring to the President himself as having put us in a “fascist cul-de-sac,” having committed “an impeachable offense.”

Do these comments from Democrats sound supportive of the Trump administration or the fine men and women who successfully conducted one of the most daring operations in American history? Not to me. Not to any American who reads or hears them.

Instead, they seem to revel in demeaning a President whose administration just accomplished what the Democrats have never been able to do; that is, executing Maduro’s demise.

Despite a long, laundry list of Democratic bills and resolutions seemingly hoping for Maduro’s eventual removal, Democrats now choose to attack those who were able to make reality their previously voiced ambitions. Yet merely because it was the Trump administration which graciously performed the seemingly impossible, these Democrats now oppose one of America’s greatest hours.

To this end, we introduced a resolution today to make clear that the House of Representatives is supportive of the efforts of our brave patriots who deftly brought an end to Maduro’s ter-

rorization of not only the good people of Venezuela but also those Americans and others who have experienced Maduro’s drug-laden terrorism.

This Special Order and the related House resolution clarify one thing: America is grateful for this administration’s efforts to rid the world of a freedom-killing, murderous dictator. We are all better for it.

Mr. Speaker, I now recognize my friend, vice chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, America is safer today. A narcoterrorist and an illegitimate government leader, Nicolas Maduro, is removed from office and is awaiting trial in the United States of America.

One of the clearest responsibilities of the President is ensuring that those who endanger American lives are brought to face justice. He did just that.

When Nicolas Maduro continued to operate with impunity, President Trump made the decision to enforce United States law and protect our national security interests.

Nicolas Maduro was not a legitimate leader. He was an indicted narcoterrorist who helped turn Venezuela into a hub for drug trafficking, corruption, and foreign influence that directly threatened the United States and our allies. For a year, there was bipartisan agreement on this fact. The difference is President Trump acted.

As Secretary of State Marco Rubio made clear, this was a limited law enforcement action carried out with precision to enforce U.S. laws and protect our homeland.

The message is clear: The Western Hemisphere is our home. It cannot and will not become a safe haven for drug cartels, Iranian proxies, or hostile actors who seek to undermine our security and poison our communities.

This action made clear that the United States is serious about defending our national interests and holding criminals accountable, not through rhetoric but through results.

I express my deep gratitude to the law enforcement officers, servicemembers, and intelligence professionals who carried out this operation. Their discipline and professionalism reflect the highest standards of our Nation.

I thank President Trump for his actions. He did not escalate a conflict. He enforced the law.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), the distinguished chairman of the National Security Agency and Cyber Security Agency on the House Intelligence Committee.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chairman for having this Special Order here tonight and also for the in-

roduction of the special resolution that lays out the justification and why we took out Nicolas Maduro.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in strong support of the capture of Nicolas Maduro. Nicolas Maduro and his corrupt inner circle have been U.S. law enforcement targets for over 15 years with multiple agencies, including the U.S. Department of Justice, the DEA, and the FBI, working toward his arrest and his prosecution.

In 2020, under the first Trump administration, the United States unsealed a superseding indictment out of the Southern District of New York against Maduro and more than a dozen of his associates, along with offering a \$15 million reward for his capture.

The 2020 indictment described how Maduro and his top lieutenants served as leaders of the Cartel de los Soles for over two decades and partnered with known designated foreign terrorist organizations to move, at the time, over 250 tons of cocaine through Venezuela—cocaine that was cultivated, manufactured, and moved through Venezuela.

Then, fast-forward to January 2025. The Biden administration and the Biden Department of Justice, at the time relying on the same indictment from the Trump administration, increased the bounty and reward for Maduro to \$25 million. That is the same reward offered for information leading to Osama bin Laden’s capture.

Under the second Trump administration, last month, a superseding indictment was unsealed with updated estimates of cocaine smuggling linked to Maduro, now exceeding thousands of tons.

The new indictment highlights other criminal activity directly tied to Maduro, including providing fake travel documents to facilitate drug smuggling under the guise of diplomatic cover and partnerships with the Sinaloa Cartel boss El Chapo.

The bottom line is that Maduro is a thug. He is a dictator. He is an international criminal. That was recognized by the Biden administration and obviously the Trump administration.

The Department of Justice was in charge of this mission. It was their mission, and there were a lot of details that came out after the execution of this mission.

Yet one thing that didn’t get covered enough was that there were lawyers who immediately met Maduro when he was brought into United States’ custody. He was read his rights. He was given the opportunity to read the indictment before he was brought to the Southern District of New York.

Narcoterrorism is a serious, serious charge. If you look at the allegations in there, Maduro and his associates essentially flooded the United States with thousands and thousands of tons of cocaine.

The other thing that doesn’t get mentioned enough is the fact that our adversaries—Iran, China, and Russia—

essentially have used Venezuela for the last 20 years as a base and a platform to spy, threaten and cause chaos in the Western Hemisphere and the United States. That will no longer happen because of the brave work that was executed by our Special Forces on January 3.

I give a lot of credit to the Trump team: Secretary Rubio, Director Ratcliffe, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, General Caine, and obviously President Trump. None of this would have happened without that team that was in place.

Venezuela is going to be a better place without Maduro. The region is going to be better off, and the world will be a better place.

The reality is that Maduro's capture and prosecution will save American lives, and I commend the Trump administration for taking this decisive action.

There are additional targets of Maduro's criminal enterprise who remain at large and now know that the United States will no longer tolerate or turn a blind eye to the transshipment of their cocaine and other drugs across our borders.

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I thank Chairman CRAWFORD, and I thank the members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for being here tonight and look forward to continuing to work with the Trump administration to make the Western Hemisphere a safer place.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the gentleman from Arkansas, Mr. HILL, my colleague and the distinguished member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, as well as the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand on the floor with my colleague from Arkansas, our distinguished chair of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and our colleagues to give the American people some perspective on the important action that President Trump has taken that reasserts America's leadership in the Western Hemisphere, counters our rivals for that Western Hemisphere influence, Russia, Iran, China, and keep America safer by taking this action.

The communist, authoritarian government in Caracas has long been an adversary of the United States.

In the early 2000s, our relationship with Venezuela was strained when they named strongman Hugo Chavez as their leader. Maduro was a leader in the Chavez government, Mr. Speaker, and was a full partner in the anti-American policies and the growing partnership with Cuba, China, and Russia.

In 2013, Maduro became the president of Venezuela after Chavez' death. He continued those communist partnerships, compounded the anti-American rhetoric and strategy by adding the goal of becoming a narcostate.

From 2014 to 2015, the United States began to sanction Venezuelan officials for drug trafficking.

In 2017, the United States escalated sanctions against the Maduro government for its links to the illicit drug trade.

In 2019, the United States no longer recognized Maduro as Venezuela's legitimate president. As a result, the United States officially cut diplomatic ties with the Maduro regime.

In 2020, the Department of Justice charged Maduro with narcoterrorism, and the United States offered a \$15 million reward for his capture.

In 2024, in my view, Mr. Speaker, was the last straw when Maduro lost the national election and annulled the results.

He simply is a cheap, drug-dealing, election fraudster.

Don't take Republicans on this side of the aisle's word for it, Mr. Speaker. The European Union, the United States Government under the Biden and the Trump administrations, the Organization of American States, his neighbors, they all agree Maduro stole the election in 2024 and compounded it by annulling the results.

The regime was one long string of repression and human rights abuses. Over 8 million Venezuelans have fled Venezuela, their home country, because of Maduro.

Republicans and Democrats have acknowledged that Maduro has been a national security threat to the United States, and that is why I have to call out the hypocrisy that I have witnessed in recent days from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

The Western Hemisphere is America's backyard. It is also why I am pleased that the recently released National Security Strategy reasserts the Monroe Doctrine with current American security interests.

Under the National Security Strategy, the United States will enlist allies in the Western Hemisphere to partner in controlling migration, halting drug trafficking, and mutually strengthening stability and security.

Also, under the Trump National Security Strategy, the United States will expand our goals and partners in the Western Hemisphere by bringing in new countries, building new relationships, bolstering America as the top choice as a security and an economic partner.

The strength of the Trump administration, combined with the exceptional execution by our law enforcement and military operators, showcases, Mr. Speaker, how serious the United States is to keep our country safe, keep our people safe, keep our streets safe, and secure our allied economic and security interests from the tip of Argentina and Chile to Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Arkansas for his leadership.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT, my

good friend and a distinguished member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and chairman of the Subcommittee on the National Intelligence Enterprise.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I have, as other Members, gotten a number of calls over the last couple of days about whether or not I think the President did the right thing or not. I will read this to you: ". . . President of the United States of America, find that the situation in Venezuela, including the government of Venezuela's erosion of human rights guarantees, persecution of political opponents, curtailment of press freedoms, use of violence and human rights violations and abuses in response to antigovernment protests, and arbitrary arrest and detention of antigovernment protestors, as well as the exacerbating presence of significant public corruption, constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. . . ."

Now, what I want you to know is that wasn't Donald Trump that wrote that. That was Barack Obama that wrote that. If President Obama or President Biden had taken the same actions to remove Maduro from power and help not just the United States but the Western Hemisphere and the world as a whole, I can honestly tell you that Republicans would have applauded those actions. Because it was President Trump and the Trump derangement syndrome and the hatred that Democrats have for him, he has been attacked for it.

Remember this: President Trump did put a bounty on Maduro, but it was President Biden that raised the bounty to \$25 million in January of this year.

CHUCK SCHUMER in 2020 attacked: "And the President brags about his Venezuela policy. Give us a break. He hasn't brought an end to the Maduro regime. The Maduro regime is more powerful today and more entrenched than it was when the President began."

That was CHUCK SCHUMER in 2020. What is CHUCK SCHUMER saying today? "This is reckless. And the American people are just, this morning, in fear of what is going to happen here."

Let me tell you something. The world is a safer place because of what Donald Trump ordered and what our military carried out this past week. The Western Hemisphere cannot be a safe space for China, Russia, Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah, or the other terrorists that were being given safe haven in Venezuela.

Speaker PELOSI in 2019 ended her round table comments with a resounding: "It is clear Maduro must go, the sooner the better."

Madam Speaker, you should congratulate President Trump. Instead, what did she say: "Venezuela is ruled by an illegitimate regime, but the administration has not made the case

that an urgent threat to America's national security existed to justify the use of U.S. military force."

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful that we have a President in the White House with the guts to get it done, who has helped us build a military with the capability to get it done. It was one of the most impressive military operations that I think the world has ever witnessed. Those men and women, whether they were on the ground, in the air, or supporting that mission, deserve commendations, not criticism, as does the President of the United States, Donald Trump.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I am now pleased to recognize my good friend from Florida, GREG STEUBE, also a member and colleague on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Trump administration's actions in capturing Nicolas Maduro.

Over the past week, Democrats have claimed that Maduro's capture was unconstitutional, illegal, and violated international norms. Democrats argue that Congress must declare war or give explicit authorization before the President can act.

Article II is clear. The President is the Commander in Chief, and the Constitution has never required a declaration of war for every use of force, national security or law enforcement operation against criminal actors who threaten the United States.

President Clinton acted in Kosovo. President Obama acted in Libya. President Biden even ordered strikes against terrorist leaders. In none of those cases did Democrats suddenly discover a constitutional crisis.

The War Powers Resolution recognizes that the President may act first and notify Congress afterwards. There is no legal requirement that Congress be notified before the President takes action. That framework has governed American foreign policy for more than 50 years.

Maduro is not a legitimate head of state. He is a criminal defendant under United States law who was charged and indicted in 2020 by the Department of Justice for drug trafficking and other related crimes.

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There is legal precedent directly on point. All of these arguments made by the Democrats that it is illegal should look no further than President Bush's capture of Manuel Noriega in Panama in 1989. Like the Maduro operation, the Panama invasion occurred without congressional authorization.

Like Noriega, Maduro faces Federal drug trafficking charges. Like Noriega, he was captured through military operations conducted without congressional authorization. Like Noriega, he will surely argue head of state immunity and unlawful seizure. However,

just like the court found in Noriega's case, he will be prosecuted for his crimes, and the actions that led to his seizure are legally sound, as they follow a 36-year-old template validated by Federal courts.

Mr. Speaker, to the Americans whose communities have been devastated by drugs, to the families who have lost loved ones, and to the people of our hemisphere who have suffered under his criminal regime, this action sends a clear message: Narcoterrorist dictators are not immune from consequences, and the United States will not stand by while our citizens continue to be poisoned and murdered by the Maduro regime.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for his eloquent comments.

I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY), who is also my colleague on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend President Donald J. Trump for his decisive leadership that restored American strength, put our security first, and reasserted the rule of law on behalf of the American people in our hemisphere.

For years, Venezuela, under Nicolas Maduro, was not a legitimate government. It functioned as a criminal enterprise, enriching corrupt elites, fueling narcoterrorist networks, and exporting disorder throughout the Western Hemisphere.

That criminal activity did not stop at Venezuela's borders. It strengthened cartels, expanded drug trafficking routes, and contributed directly to the fentanyl crisis that is devastating working families across the United States, including in my home State of New York.

Under President Trump, that era of weakness is over. Criminals no longer get a free pass.

Through Operation Absolute Resolve, U.S. forces and law enforcement partners successfully captured Nicolas Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, both tied to narcotics trafficking, in a carefully planned, coordinated operation, carried out with precision and without a single U.S. casualty.

This is what peace through strength looks like. This was a lawful action. This was an act of justice against an indicted narcotrafficker who believed he could evade accountability while ordinary people paid the price. President Trump proved him wrong.

This operation also demonstrated what strong leadership looks like. Our military, intelligence community, and law enforcement agencies worked seamlessly together, drawing on decades of experience, to deliver accountability.

The administration did not stop there. By cracking down on sanctioned oil shipments and seizing illicit tankers operating in violation of U.S. law, President Trump sent a clear message: Sanctions will be enforced. Criminal

profits will be cut off. Rigged systems will be dismantled. When you stop the money, you choke off the trafficking.

Predictably, Democrats have reacted with hysteria, due largely to their acute Trump derangement syndrome and insistence on an America last policy. This is reminiscent of the policies of the Biden administration.

Democrats would rather see America cower to our adversaries than stand up for our people and enforce the Monroe Doctrine, or what we now refer to as the Donroe doctrine. Appeasement never results in effective deterrence.

Democrats' fecklessness has empowered dictators, emboldened traffickers, and left Americans less safe. Peace through strength works, and strong leadership matters.

The mission is stability in the Western Hemisphere and a secure transition in Venezuela that prevents criminals and adversaries from filling a dangerous vacuum. President Trump will continue to lead with strength, accountability, and resolve.

Mr. Speaker, this operation stands for a simple principle: Stand with the rule of law, cut off the money supply, stop the trafficking, always put America first, and the American people will win.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for those outstanding comments.

Mr. Speaker, I take no pleasure in highlighting the hypocrisy of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. In fact, I wish we all could speak with one voice on this issue. It should never be partisan or controversial to praise the arrest of a man like Nicolas Maduro.

Make no mistake about it, Nicolas Maduro is a murderer, an autocrat, a narcoterrorist, and a thug who has oppressed his people, stolen elections, and turned a once prosperous and free country into a desperate nation that millions have fled. We should all be celebrating the actions of the Trump administration in attempting to bring him to justice.

Sadly, as we have shown today, many of my Democrat friends who were once on the right side of this issue have changed their minds simply because Nicolas Maduro's arrest was orchestrated by someone they don't like, President Trump.

Instead of celebrating the administration of justice by an impartial U.S. court, they bemoan it. They call it unconstitutional, illegal, impeachable, and fascist. They insinuate that our government is somehow no better than Maduro's Socialist and murderous regime. That is just nonsense. In fact, it is embarrassing for those Members.

I respect my colleagues, both Democrat and Republican, who have long opposed the Maduro regime and the Chavez regime before it, people like Representatives SALAZAR and GIMENEZ, who represent thousands of Venezuelan Americans whose families or themselves have experienced the terror of

Venezuelan Socialism and oppression. I thank them for taking the time to support us and for showing why this effort in Congress is so vital. Without voices like theirs bringing us the true feelings of Venezuelan Americans, we would only have heard from those who cared more about opposing the President than bringing an oppressor to justice.

I also thank the many nameless, faceless Americans who planned and executed this daring and successful arrest. The public will never know their names or see their faces. Americans who have suffered from drug overdoses in their families brought on by illegal narcotics trafficked to the U.S. by Maduro and his cronies will never get to thank those individuals. I thank them, and I want them to know that they are being prayed for and thanked for all that they have done.

Bringing a man like Nicolas Maduro to justice won't bring back the millions of Americans we have lost to drugs or the countless numbers of Venezuelans who have been political victims of the regime, but it is a start.

Mr. Speaker, justice is worth fighting for. A Western Hemisphere free from drug trafficking and gangs, supported and run by illegitimate autocrats, is worth fighting for. Standing behind our principles, even when it is politically inconvenient, is a posture worth fighting for.

Mr. Speaker, as I close tonight, I remind the American people that this administration's law enforcement actions to bring Maduro to justice have received the full support of Republicans in Congress. I hope my Democratic colleagues, who were once in favor of such actions, will be able to put aside their animus toward the President and embrace new possibilities for the people of Venezuela.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2629. A letter from the Administrator, Cotton and Tobacco Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Cotton Board Rules and Regulations: Adjusting Supplemental Assessments on Imports (2025 Amendments) [Doc. No.: AMS-CN-25-0018] received January 6, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-2630. A letter from the Associate Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision

Agency, transmitting a notification of a vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-2631. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting three notifications of an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-2632. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting four notifications of discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-2633. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a notification of an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-2634. A letter from the Senior Advisor to the Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's Agency Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2025, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-2635. A letter from the Secretary, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting the Board's report on postal officers and employees who received total compensation authorized under the exceptions for critical positions in calendar year 2025, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3686(c); Public Law 109-435, Sec. 506; (120 Stat. 3237); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-2636. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report titled "Fiscal Year 2024 Report to Congress on Contract Funding of Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Awards", pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 5325(c); Public Law 106-260, Sec. 9; (114 Stat. 733); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-2637. A letter from the Branch Chief, Border Security Regulations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Automation of CBP Form I-418 for Vessels [Docket No.: USCBP-2021-0046; CBP Dec. No.: 25-16] (RIN: 1651-AB18) received November 14, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 725. A bill to take certain mineral interests into trust for the benefit of the Crow Tribe of Montana, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-436). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2860. A bill to reauthorize the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act to promote the protection of

the resources of the Northwest Straits, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-437). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3168. A bill to reauthorize the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-438 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1681. A bill to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an interagency strike force to ensure that certain Federal land management agencies, including the organizational units of such agencies, prioritize the review of requests for communications use authorizations, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-439 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mrs. FISCHBACH: Committee on Rules. H. Res. 988. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2988) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to specify requirements concerning the consideration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary factors, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2262) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exclude certain activities from hours worked, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2270) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exclude child and dependent care services and payments from the rate used to compute overtime compensation; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2312) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to revise the definition of the term "tipped employee", and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4366) to clarify the treatment of 2 or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (Rept. 119-440). Referred to the House Calendar.

CONSENSUS CALENDAR

Under clause 7 of rule XV, the following motion was filed with the Clerk:

Motion No. 2, January 12, 2026 by Mr. Lawler on H.R. 1422.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 7006. A bill making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 7007. A bill to govern on behalf of the American people; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Science, Space, and Technology, Education and Workforce, Small Business, Energy and Commerce, Foreign Affairs, Intelligence (Permanent Select), Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform, Veterans' Affairs, Financial Services, House Administration, Homeland Security, Rules, Ethics, the Budget, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of

such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEIL (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. BICE, Mr. CAREY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. OGLES, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. ROY, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. BACON, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. MANN, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. TIMMONS, Mrs. KIM, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. CLINE, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. KENNEDY of Utah, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. JAMES, Mr. MILLS, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. MACKENZIE, Mr. SCHMIDT, Ms. FEDORCHAK, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. KILEY of California, Mr. PATRONIS, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. RILEY of New York, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. PERRY, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. SELF, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. TIFANY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. STRONG, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. McDOWELL, and Mrs. WAGNER):

H.R. 7008. A bill to amend chapter 131 of title 5 to require certain restrictions on stocks for Members of Congress and their spouses and dependents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BARRETT:

H.R. 7009. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for housing loans guaranteed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to members of the reserve components and the National Guard who perform certain duties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BAIRD (for himself, Mr. COMER, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, and Ms. CRAIG):

H.R. 7010. A bill to amend the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations Act, 2026, to delay the implementation of amendments made by such Act to the hemp production provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. DELUZIO (for himself and Mr. RULLI):

H.R. 7011. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration to submit to Congress a report on the rate and causes of rail tank car pressure relief device failures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FINE (for himself and Mr. RULLI):

H.R. 7012. A bill to authorize the annexation and subsequent admission to statehood of Greenland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GOMEZ:

H.R. 7013. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funding to facilitate the invasion, annexation, purchase, or other form of acquisition of Greenland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUIZENGA (for himself, Mr. BERA, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. KENNEDY of New York):

H.R. 7014. A bill to provide for the designation of Burma for temporary protected status; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Mr. BAUMGARTNER):

H.R. 7015. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to protect legal proceedings from manipulation and provide for transparency and oversight of third-party beneficiaries in civil actions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KEATING (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mr. HOYER, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BELL, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. AMO, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CROW, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. STANTON, and Mr. BERA):

H.R. 7016. A bill to prohibit action to or the use of Federal funds to invade NATO countries and territories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY:

H.R. 7017. A bill to prohibit the withholding of Federal funds under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Child Care Development Fund, and the Social Services Block Grant programs without explicit authorization from Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself and Mr. MOSKOWITZ):

H.R. 7018. A bill to limit funding for United States participation in the United Nations if Israel is illegally expelled; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ (for herself, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 7019. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prevent certain alcohol and substance misuse; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 7020. A bill to provide for coverage of employees of the District of Columbia courts and the District of Columbia Public Defender Service under the District of Columbia Human Rights Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. OLSZEWSKI (for himself, Mrs. KIM, Mr. BERA, and Mr. HUIZENGA):

H.R. 7021. A bill to establish a new educational exchange program to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 7022. A bill to provide for the transmission of emergency alerts by satellite, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin):

H.R. 7023. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to establish

a public health insurance option, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STAUBER:

H.J. Res. 140. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to Public Land Order No. 7917 for Withdrawal of Federal Lands; Cook, Lake, and Saint Louis Counties, MN; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H. Res. 986. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7007) to govern on behalf of the American people; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi):

H. Res. 987. A resolution denouncing Nicolás Maduro's authoritarian, despotic, and murderous regime and commending President Trump for taking decisive action long called for by Members of Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SUOZZI:

H. Res. 989. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5827) to advance bipartisan, common sense solutions; to the Committee on Rules.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 7006.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 7007.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. STEIL:

H.R. 7008.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 5

By Mr. BARRETT:

H.R. 7009.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BAIRD:

H.R. 7010.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (Commerce Clause)

By Mr. DELUZIO:

H.R. 7011.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. FINE:

H.R. 7012.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1—the Spending Power

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3—the Foreign Commerce Clause

Article IV, Section 3—the Admissions & Property Clauses

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18—the Necessary and Proper Clause

By Mr. GOMEZ:

H.R. 7013.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 7 of Section 9 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. HUIZENGA:

H.R. 7014.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 7015.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. KEATING:

H.R. 7016.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section VIII

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY:

H.R. 7017.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 7018.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 7019.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 7020.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. OLSZEWSKI:

H.R. 7021.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 7022.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 7023.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. STAUBER:

H.J. Res. 140.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 51: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 251: Mr. STEUBE.
 H.R. 378: Ms. FEDORCHAK.
 H.R. 477: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
 H.R. 516: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. ROSE.
 H.R. 612: Mr. HIMES.
 H.R. 722: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
 H.R. 821: Mr. HERNANDEZ.
 H.R. 842: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
 H.R. 846: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
 H.R. 909: Mr. OLSZEWSKI.
 H.R. 929: Mr. DUNN of Florida and Mr. FONG.
 H.R. 1065: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.
 H.R. 1189: Ms. LETLOW and Mr. VINDMAN.
 H.R. 1197: Mr. MACKENZIE.
 H.R. 1232: Mr. ROSE, Mr. CRANK, Mr. WIED, and Mr. MASSIE.
 H.R. 1241: Mr. STEUBE.
 H.R. 1254: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.
 H.R. 1285: Mr. PATRONIS.
 H.R. 1300: Mr. PETERS.
 H.R. 1329: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 1330: Mr. LIEU and Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 1355: Mr. PAPPAS.
 H.R. 1361: Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.
 H.R. 1400: Mr. ROUZER.
 H.R. 1422: Mr. WALKINSHAW, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. KNOTT, and Mr. GUTHRIE.
 H.R. 1464: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 1521: Ms. RANDALL.
 H.R. 1564: Mr. ESPAILLAT.
 H.R. 1707: Mr. WOMACK.
 H.R. 1787: Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. MANNION, Mr. MIN, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. SIMON, Mr. TRAN, Ms. DEXTER, Ms. GILLEN, Ms. SALAZAR, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. RILEY of New York, Ms. POU, and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
 H.R. 1824: Mr. SORENSEN.
 H.R. 1958: Mr. STUTZMAN, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mr. BOST.
 H.R. 1965: Mr. VINDMAN.
 H.R. 1993: Mr. VINDMAN and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 2001: Ms. SEWELL.
 H.R. 2192: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Ms. UNDERWOOD.
 H.R. 2232: Ms. MATSUI.
 H.R. 2314: Mr. CRAWFORD.
 H.R. 2368: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 2477: Mr. WITTMAN.
 H.R. 2487: Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 2526: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
 H.R. 2555: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
 H.R. 2619: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.
 H.R. 2687: Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MACKENZIE, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. RULLI.
 H.R. 2784: Mr. BELL.
 H.R. 2830: Ms. GILLEN and Mr. TRAN.
 H.R. 2853: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
 H.R. 3037: Mr. NEGUSE and Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 3045: Ms. MORRISON.
 H.R. 3071: Ms. NORTON and Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 3117: Mr. SUOZZI and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
 H.R. 3131: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
 H.R. 3164: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
 H.R. 3178: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
 H.R. 3184: Mr. POCAN, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Ms. PETTERSEN, and Mr. SOTO.
 H.R. 3214: Ms. CRAIG and Mr. POCAN.
 H.R. 3277: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 3335: Mr. VINDMAN.
 H.R. 3437: Mr. DOWNING.
 H.R. 3512: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
 H.R. 3562: Mr. EDWARDS and Mr. CORREA.
 H.R. 3565: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
 H.R. 3649: Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. FOUSHEE,

Mr. LIEU, Ms. SIMON, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 3683: Mr. CISNEROS.
 H.R. 3733: Mr. BARR.
 H.R. 3885: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 3930: Ms. SIMON, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, and Ms. MCCLELLAN.

H.R. 4004: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. MCGARVEY.
 H.R. 4032: Ms. TITUS and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 4099: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
 H.R. 4206: Mr. RULLI.

H.R. 4299: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 4317: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 4471: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 4509: Mr. HARRIGAN.

H.R. 4646: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 4662: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 4667: Mr. MRVAN.
 H.R. 4721: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 4863: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.
 H.R. 4876: Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 4919: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
 H.R. 4948: Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 4966: Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 4993: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 5206: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
 H.R. 5271: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 5309: Ms. SALINAS.
 H.R. 5347: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 5355: Mr. MACKENZIE.
 H.R. 5356: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 5415: Mr. GILL of Texas and Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 5434: Mr. VINDMAN.
 H.R. 5438: Mr. OWENS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. GILL of Texas, and Mr. MOORE of Utah.

H.R. 5461: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
 H.R. 5512: Mr. HERN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 5519: Mr. CORREA.
 H.R. 5541: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 5548: Mr. BURCHETT.
 H.R. 5593: Mr. MOORE of Utah.

H.R. 5753: Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 5769: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.

H.R. 5862: Ms. MENG.
 H.R. 5891: Mr. MURPHY and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.

H.R. 5894: Mr. MORELLE.
 H.R. 5968: Mr. RULLI.

H.R. 5973: Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. BROWN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. STANTON, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 5987: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 6124: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 6130: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. COLE.
 H.R. 6137: Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 6184: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 6214: Mr. RULLI.

H.R. 6234: Mr. KHANNA.
 H.R. 6235: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 6236: Mr. KHANNA.
 H.R. 6364: Mr. DUNN of Florida.

H.R. 6373: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
 H.R. 6390: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.

H.R. 6423: Mr. CASE.
 H.R. 6434: Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 6449: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
 H.R. 6466: Mr. FULCHER.

H.R. 6469: Mr. BEAN of Florida and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 6474: Mr. HARRIGAN.

H.R. 6493: Mr. PANETTA.
 H.R. 6542: Ms. BYNUM.

H.R. 6547: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 6555: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 6574: Mr. AMO, Mrs. GRIJALVA, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 6591: Ms. RANDALL, Ms. ROSS, Ms. CHU, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 6605: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 6666: Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 6677: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 6715: Ms. GILLEN.

H.R. 6719: Ms. GILLEN.
 H.R. 6732: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina and Ms. GILLEN.
 H.R. 6734: Mr. BURCHETT.
 H.R. 6757: Ms. SEWELL.
 H.R. 6766: Ms. DELAURO and Ms. TLAIB.
 H.R. 6789: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 6806: Mr. COHEN, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. PALLONE, and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 6815: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 6823: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 6832: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
 H.R. 6840: Mr. COSTA and Ms. FRIEDMAN.
 H.R. 6846: Mr. PFLUGER.
 H.R. 6859: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM and Ms. SCHOLTEN.
 H.R. 6900: Mr. VINDMAN.
 H.R. 6908: Mr. WHITESIDES and Ms. LEE of Nevada.
 H.R. 6915: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. JAYAPAL.
 H.R. 6940: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 6945: Mr. YAKYM and Mr. MOORE of Utah.
 H.R. 6955: Mr. KENNEDY of Utah.
 H.R. 6989: Mr. FROST and Ms. CHU.
 H.R. 6993: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.
 H.R. 6994: Mr. BACON.
 H.R. 7000: Mr. LOUDERMILK.
 H.R. 7002: Mr. MCGARVEY.
 H.R. 7004: Mr. POCAN, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. LICCARDO.
 H.R. 7005: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
 H.J. Res. 122: Mrs. DINGELL and Ms. LEE of Nevada.
 H.J. Res. 136: Ms. NORTON.
 H.J. Res. 139: Mr. CLYDE.
 H. Con. Res. 68: Ms. TLAIB, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. LICCARDO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. MFUME.
 H. Con. Res. 69: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon and Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H. Res. 925: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H. Res. 956: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H. Res. 984: Mr. MACKENZIE, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. STEUBE, and Mrs. BICE.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. COLE

The following table is submitted in compliance with clause 9 of rule XXI, and lists the congressional earmarks (as defined in paragraph (e) of clause 9) contained in H.R. 7006. The bill does not contain any limited tax benefits or limited tariff benefits as defined in paragraphs (f) and (g) of clause 9 of rule XXI.

State	Account	Project Name	Recipient	Recommended (\$)	Requestor(s)
AK	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Arctic Digital Library Project	Alaska Library Network	100,000	Murkowski
AK	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Voices Across Generations: A Native Alaska Audio Preservation Project	Alaska Music Archives	285,000	Murkowski
AK	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Voices of Our Ancestors: Preserving Elders' Knowledge	Wrangell Cooperative Association	130,000	Murkowski
CO	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	History Preservation and Education	University of Colorado Colorado Springs	348,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
GA	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Supporting the Preservation and Public Accessibility of United States Military History in Columbus, Georgia	Columbus State University	175,000	Ossoff, Warnock
HI	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Bishop Museum Digitization	Bishop Museum	1,581,000	Hirono, Schatz
IL	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Digitization Initiative	Eureka College	200,000	Durbin
IL	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Digitization Initiative	Galena-Jo Daviess County Historical Society	300,000	Durbin
KS	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Digitizing and Preserving Senator Bob Dole's Archives	Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics	5,292,000	Moran
LA	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Los Isleños Cultural and Coastal Museum and Community Archive	Nunez Community College	883,000	Cassidy
LA	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Louisiana Humanities Disaster Preparedness and Preservation Program	Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities	750,000	Kennedy
ME	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Northeast Indigenous Archaeology and Heritage Science Center Record Digitization	University of Maine System	750,000	Collins, King
MI	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Digital Preservation of the Lansing Labor News Newspaper	Michigan State University	210,000	Peters, Slotkin
MI	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	In Their Own Words: Collecting, Preserving and Celebrating Detroiters' Oral Histories	Detroit Historical Society	125,000	Slotkin
NJ	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Documenting America250—Education Portal & Programming for the Foundations of Freedom in New Jersey	Harriet Tubman Museum of Cape May	1,000,000	Booker, Kim
NV	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	University of Nevada, Reno—Repository of Tribal Cultural Artifacts	University of Nevada Reno	442,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen
NV	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Desert Research Institute—Southern Nevada Historic Preservation Project	The Desert Research Institute	558,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen
NY	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Conducting oral histories	Jazz at Lincoln Center Inc.	200,000	Schumer
NY	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Long Island Studies Institute	Hofstra University	459,000	Schumer
PA	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Digitizing the Battle of Homestead Foundation Labor History Archives	Battle of Homestead Foundation	174,000	Fetterman
RI	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Preservation and Digitization of RIBHS Collections	Rhode Island Black Heritage Society	200,000	Reed
VA	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Exploring America's Routes	America's Routes	57,000	Kaine, Warner
WI	National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Oneida Language Documentation, Resource Development, and Community Outreach Program	Skankulat, Inc.	125,000	Baldwin
AK	Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)	Prevention and Awareness Expansion	AK Fentanyl Response Project	400,000	Murkowski

State	Account	Project Name	Recipient	Recommended (\$)	Requestor(s)
MN	Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)	Rice County Youth Substance Use Disorder Prevention	Community Action Center	140,000	Klobuchar, Smith
MS	Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)	Rural Youth Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention Program	The University of Mississippi	2,000,000	Hyde-Smith, Wicker
NM	Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)	Strategic Prevention Framework	San Juan County Partnership	375,000	Heinrich
NM	Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)	Youth Substance Use Prevention Education	Capacity Builders Inc. (CBI)	200,000	Heinrich
RI	Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)	Student Assistance Program: Addressing Youth Mental Health and Substance Use in Rhode Island Schools	Coastline EAP, d.b.a. Rhode Island Student Assistance Services	2,756,000	Reed
WA	Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)	Safe Yakima Valley Youth Mentoring Program	Safe Yakima Valley	200,000	Cantwell
WV	Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)	WV Coalition Support for Substance Use and Suicide Prevention	West Virginia Hope in Action Alliance, Inc.	400,000	Capito
WV	Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)	Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Substance Use (SU) Mitigation Project	Morgan County Partnership, Inc.	600,000	Justice
AK	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Set Up Shop: Empowering Entrepreneurs in Underserved Communities	Anchorage Community Land Trust (ACL)	200,000	Murkowski
AL	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Athens State University LaunchBox	Athens State University	205,000	Britt
AL	Small Business Administration (SBA)	University of North Alabama Center for Innovation	University of North Alabama	5,000,000	Britt
AZ	Small Business Administration (SBA)	City of Phoenix Start-Up Commercialization Accelerator	City of Phoenix	925,000	Gallego, Kelly
CA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Contract Ready LA	City of Los Angeles	1,000,000	Padilla
CA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	County of Santa Clara—Small Business Resource at the Vietnamese American Services Center	County of Santa Clara	1,000,000	Padilla, Schiff
CO	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Statewide Collaboration on Resource Navigation and Education	Good Business Colorado	903,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
CO	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Health Focused Small Business Accelerator	Exponential Impact	256,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
CO	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Rural Small Business Software Procurement	Startup Colorado	493,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
CT	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Arts Council of Greater New Haven for Skillbox: Artists as Small Business Initiative	Arts Council of Greater New Haven	194,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
CT	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Entrepreneurial Center at CT State Northwestern for Small Business Programming	CT State Northwestern	1,740,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
CT	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Entrepreneurial Skill Building	Black Business Alliance	1,000,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
CT	Small Business Administration (SBA)	KNOX, Inc. for Urban Farmer Small Business Training	KNOX, Inc.	194,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
CT	Small Business Administration (SBA)	UConn Small Business Development Center for Digital Transformation of Connecticut Small Businesses	University of Connecticut Small Business Development Center	885,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
DE	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Agricultural Business Programming	University of Delaware	494,000	Blunt Rochester, Coons
DE	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Small Business Training and Assistance	La Plaza Delaware	300,000	Blunt Rochester, Coons
DE	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Technical Assistance for Local Small Real Estate Development Businesses	Cinnaire Lending Corporation	206,000	Blunt Rochester, Coons
GA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Empowering Small Businesses: Strategies for Growth and Sustainability	Greater Wealth Works, Inc.	250,000	Ossoff, Warnock
GA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Expanding Entrepreneurship for Georgians with Disabilities	Synergies Work, Inc.	475,000	Ossoff
GA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Expanding Entrepreneurship in Gwinnett County, Georgia	Gwinnett County Public Library Foundation, Inc.	334,000	Ossoff
GA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	GCSU Bobcat Business Incubator	Georgia College and State University	313,000	Warnock
GA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Greater Georgia Mobile Tech Unit	Greater Georgia Black Chamber of Commerce	200,000	Warnock
GA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Increasing Small Business Readiness in Federal Contracting	Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Business Development Center	189,000	Ossoff, Warnock
GA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Madison Village for Advanced Entrepreneurship	Madison Village for Advanced Entrepreneurship	400,000	Warnock
GA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Northeast Georgia Gateway for Business Momentum	Northeast Georgia Black Chamber of Commerce	64,000	Warnock

State	Account	Project Name	Recipient	Recommended (\$)	Requestor(s)
GA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	OU Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center's Entrepreneurship Empowerment Zone	Oglethorpe University, Inc.	105,000	Ossoff, Warnock
GA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Rural Small Business Impact Initiative	GABCC Foundation	500,000	Ossoff
GA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Small Business Federal Contracting Support	University of Georgia Research Foundation, Inc.	500,000	Ossoff
GA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Small Business Incubator and Creative Makerspace	Athens Regional Library System	198,000	Ossoff
GA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Supporting Veteran Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs in Clayton County, Georgia	Library Foundation of Clayton County, Inc.	300,000	Ossoff
GA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Supporting Veterans Transitioning to Entrepreneurship	ATLVets, Inc.	223,000	Ossoff
HI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Hawaii Innovation Center Hilo (Renovation)	University of Hawaii	1,000,000	Hirono
HI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Kauai Technology Hub	Kaua'i Economic Development Board	124,000	Schatz
HI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Kunia Farmer Service Center	Oahu Resource Conservation and Development Council	904,000	Schatz
HI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Oahu Small Business Development Initiative	Office of Economic Revitalization	404,000	Schatz
IL	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Comprehensive Small Business Programming Support	Chicago's Sunshine Enterprises, Inc.	550,000	Duckworth
IL	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Entrepreneur & Business Center Initiative	Joliet Junior College	800,000	Durbin
IL	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Entrepreneurship Center	Chicago Urban League	513,000	Durbin
IL	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Small Business Development Initiative	John Wood Community College	400,000	Durbin
IL	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Small Business Educational Initiative	Rock Valley College	800,000	Durbin
IL	Small Business Administration (SBA)	The Aux Evanston: A Small Business Start Up Center	The Growing Season	450,000	Duckworth
KS	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Rural Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Lab	Fort Hays Tech Northwest	1,744,000	Moran
LA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Greater New Orleans Food and Beverage Incubator	Jefferson Parish Economic Development & Port District (JEDCO)	3,650,000	Cassidy, Kennedy
MA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Local Small Business Development and Ecosystem Building	Black Economic Council of Massachusetts	700,000	Markey, Warren
MA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Regional Community Supported Agriculture	Eastie Farm	1,000,000	Markey, Warren
MA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Venture Studio for Small Businesses in Western MA	WMLBS, Inc dba Living Local	300,000	Markey, Warren
MD	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Expanding the Family Child Care Pipeline	Maryland Family Network	770,000	Van Hollen
MD	Small Business Administration (SBA)	FSC First Level Up Program	Prince George's Financial Services Corporation dba FSC First	244,000	Alsobrooks, Van Hollen
MD	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Kingdom Cares Economic Empowerment and Innovation Center	Kingdom Global Community Development Corporation	1,000,000	Alsobrooks, Van Hollen
MD	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Veteran Institute for Procurement (VIP)	Montgomery County Chamber Community Foundation	2,000,000	Alsobrooks, Van Hollen
ME	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Child Care Business Lab	Coastal Enterprises, Inc.	400,000	King
ME	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Rural Maine Entrepreneurship Accelerator	MaineStream Finance	225,000	King
ME	Small Business Administration (SBA)	SMCC Education and Training Accelerator Lab	Southern Maine Community College	2,237,000	Collins
MI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Operational Support for Northern Initiatives	Northern Great Lakes Initiatives (dba Northern Initiatives)	500,000	Slotkin
MI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Supporting the Success of Detroit Small Business Owners	Invest Detroit Foundation	375,000	Slotkin
MI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Supporting Wayne County Small Businesses	Wayne State University	1,000,000	Peters, Slotkin
MI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Westside Service Center Renovation Initiative	City of Grand Rapids	1,803,000	Peters
MN	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Accelerating Small Business Growth in Greater Minnesota	Latino Economic Development Center	500,000	Klobuchar, Smith
MN	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Business Technical Assistance Program	Rondo Community Land Trust	690,000	Klobuchar, Smith
MN	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Measuring and Addressing Small Business Financial Health in Underinvested Communities	Neighborhood Development Center	670,000	Klobuchar, Smith

State	Account	Project Name	Recipient	Recommended (\$)	Requestor(s)
MS	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Bridging the Startup Gap: Creating Mississippi's Innovator Hub	Innovate Mississippi	1,495,000	Hyde-Smith
MS	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Mississippi State University for Childcare and Entrepreneurship Program	Mississippi State University	1,500,000	Hyde-Smith, Wicker
MS	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Rural Master Entrepreneurship Volunteer Program	Mississippi State University	750,000	Hyde-Smith, Wicker
MS	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Rust College Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation	Rust College	500,000	Hyde-Smith, Wicker
MS	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Small Business Owner Financial Literacy Training Program	Hinds Community College	850,000	Hyde-Smith
MS	Small Business Administration (SBA)	University of Mississippi for Small Business Technology Program	The University of Mississippi	5,000,000	Hyde-Smith, Wicker
NH	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Child Care Business Development	Monadnock Economic Development Corporation	600,000	Shaheen
NH	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Claremont Small Business Center	Claremont Development Authority	466,000	Shaheen
NH	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Coos County Outdoor Economy Small Business Resiliency Support	Coos Economic Development Corporation	200,000	Shaheen
NH	Small Business Administration (SBA)	NH SBDC Rural Business Advising	University System of New Hampshire	444,000	Shaheen
NH	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Strafford EDC Technical Assistance Project	Strafford Economic Development Corporation	300,000	Shaheen
NJ	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Center for South Jersey Economic Development	Rutgers University-Camden	370,000	Booker
NJ	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Small & Diverse Business Training Platform and Network Development	NJ State Veterans Chamber of Commerce	630,000	Booker
NM	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Business Resource and Innovation Center (BRIC)	Downtown Taos Inc (Taos MainStreet)	250,000	Heinrich
NM	Small Business Administration (SBA)	CABQ Small Business Assistance	City of Albuquerque Economic Development Department	388,000	Heinrich
NM	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Indian Pueblo Entrepreneur Complex	Indian Pueblo Cultural Center	1,000,000	Heinrich, Luján
NM	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Key Industry Small Business Accelerators	Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team (WESST)	650,000	Heinrich
NM	Small Business Administration (SBA)	New Mexico Heritage Entrepreneurial Academy	Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area	633,000	Heinrich, Luján
NM	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Rural Small Business Marketing and Development	The Middle Rio Grande Economic Development Association	150,000	Heinrich
NM	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Southern New Mexico Technical Assistance Program	City of Albuquerque	200,000	Luján
NM	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Vida Mejor Capital Navigation Services Center	Vida Mejor Capital	167,000	Heinrich, Luján
NV	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Northern Nevada Development Authority—Northern Nevada Center of Excellence Small Business Incubator	Northern Nevada Development Authority	1,000,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen
NY	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Global Entrepreneurship Support and Business Innovation Program Expansion	Yeshiva University	500,000	Schumer
NY	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Human Resource Services Support for Small Businesses	Staten Island Chamber of Commerce Foundation Inc.	500,000	Schumer
NY	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Small Business Program	Korean American Civic Empowerment for Community	500,000	Schumer
NY	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Staten Island Chamber of Commerce—New York City Small Business Resource Network (SBRN)	Staten Island Chamber of Commerce Foundation Inc.	3,000,000	Gillibrand
NY	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Support for Small Businesses in Central Brooklyn	Bridge Street Development Corporation	446,000	Schumer
NY	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Technical Assistance and Seminars for Small Businesses Expanding Online Presence	Asian American Federation, Inc.	500,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
OR	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Built Oregon Small Business Market Growth and Support Program	Built Oregon	200,000	Merkley, Wyden
OR	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Native Business Accelerator Program	Native American Youth Alliance	551,000	Merkley, Wyden
OR	Small Business Administration (SBA)	North Coast Food Web Facilities	North Coast Food Web	610,000	Merkley, Wyden
OR	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Oregon UAS Accelerator	City of Pendleton	2,000,000	Merkley, Wyden
OR	Small Business Administration (SBA)	REAP Young Entrepreneurs Program	REAP, Inc.	652,000	Merkley, Wyden
PA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	New Accelerator Model Project	Innovation Works	750,000	McCormick

State	Account	Project Name	Recipient	Recommended (\$)	Requestor(s)
PA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Pennsylvania AI Data Centers & Energy Future	Catalyst Connection	600,000	Fetterman, McCormick
PA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Rural Entrepreneurial Technical Assistance Project in Bedford County	Bedford County Development Association	350,000	Fetterman, McCormick
PA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	TechVentures Lab Initiative	Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania	4,800,000	McCormick
PA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	University City Science Center's Pathways to SBIR/STTR	University City Science Center	400,000	Fetterman, McCormick
RI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Beautiful Day Food Entrepreneurship Program	Beautiful Day	1,650,000	Reed
RI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Farm Fresh Small Business Supports	Farm Fresh Rhode Island	700,000	Reed
RI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Hope & Main Providence	Hope & Main	1,700,000	Reed
RI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	ONB Small Business Technical Assistance	Olneyville Housing Corporation DBA ONE Neighborhood Builders	385,000	Reed
RI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Preparing RI Businesses for Growing Cybersecurity Needs	RI Commerce Corporation	380,000	Whitehouse
RI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Providence Revolving Fund Small Business Assistance Program	Providence Revolving Fund	125,000	Reed, Whitehouse
RI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Residential Construction Small Business Supports	Residential Construction Workforce Partnership (RCWP)	450,000	Reed
RI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	RIHub Startup Incubator	RIHub	495,000	Reed, Whitehouse
RI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Small Business AI Training	Bryant University	1,600,000	Reed
RI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Strategically Growing the Reach of the Chamber	The Rhode Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	200,000	Reed
VA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Roanoke Biotechnology Ecosystem Equipment Essential (Project RBE)	City of Roanoke	1,000,000	Kaine, Warner
VA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Rural Prosperity Program @ Virginia Innovation Accelerator	The Advancement Foundation	943,000	Kaine, Warner
VT	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Growing Vermont's Working Lands Economy for Small Businesses	Vermont Housing & Conservation Board	750,000	Welch
VT	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Southern Vermont Outreach and Employee Ownership Governance Programming	Vermont Employee Ownership Center Inc.	445,000	Sanders
VT	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Technical Assistance to Small Businesses for Navigating Changes to International Trade	Vermont Department of Economic Development	250,000	Welch
VT	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Vermont Small Business Legal Resilience Project at Vermont Law and Graduate School	Vermont Law and Graduate School	555,000	Sanders
WA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Shared Food Facility	Seattle Good Business Network, DBA Good Business Network of Washington	2,000,000	Murray
WA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	SW Washington Child Care Partnership	Support for Early Learning & Families (SELF)	1,034,000	Murray
WA	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Technical Assistance for Small Business Startup and Entrepreneurship Growth in Washington	Northwest Native Chamber	2,000,000	Cantwell, Murray
WI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Hmong Chamber Innovation Hub	Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce	1,687,000	Baldwin
WI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Sherman Phoenix Foundation—Phoenix Rise MKE	Sherman Phoenix Foundation, Inc.	959,000	Baldwin
WI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	University of Wisconsin-Stout	UW-Stout Center for Innovation and Development (CID)	202,000	Baldwin
WI	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Wisconsin Technology Council	Wisconsin Technology Council	40,000	Baldwin
WV	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Charleston Area Alliance Small Business Incubator Modernization	Capital Area Development Corporation of West Virginia dba Charleston Area Alliance	800,000	Capito, Justice
WV	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Façade Improvement Program	City of Fairmont	500,000	Justice
WV	Small Business Administration (SBA)	FASTER WV Support for Entrepreneurial Development	Advantage Valley Community Development Corporation	690,000	Justice
WV	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Growing Small Businesses in Man and Logan	Hatfield McCoy Convention & Visitors Bureau	500,000	Capito, Justice
WV	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Marshall University Aviation	Marshall University	2,502,000	Capito, Justice
WV	Small Business Administration (SBA)	PCDA Former Kanawha Manufacturing Building Rehabilitation	Putnam County Development Authority	500,000	Capito

State	Account	Project Name	Recipient	Recommended (\$)	Requestor(s)
WV	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Public-Private Childcare Cohort Model—Raleigh County, WV	New River Gorge Regional Development Authority	750,000	Capito, Justice
WV	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Rise Together: Building Businesses and Community Capacity	WV Hive Network, Inc.	750,000	Capito, Justice
WV	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Strengthening Rural Economies Project	West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition, Inc.	748,000	Capito
WV	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Strengthening Small Businesses in WV	West Virginia Women Work	500,000	Capito, Justice
WV	Small Business Administration (SBA)	WVDA West Virginia Grown Expansion Through Marketing & Trainings	West Virginia Department of Agriculture	371,000	Capito, Justice
AK	General Services Administration (GSA)	Anchorage Federal Building Roof	General Services Administration	2,500,000	Murkowski
AK	General Services Administration (GSA)	Juneau Federal Building Repairs	General Services Administration	2,232,000	Murkowski
AL	General Services Administration (GSA)	Dothan Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse	United States Courts for the Middle District of Alabama	5,000,000	Britt
AL	General Services Administration (GSA)	Hugo L. Black U.S. Courthouse	U.S. District Court—Northern District of Alabama	4,000,000	Britt
DE	General Services Administration (GSA)	Capital Improvements and Safety Upgrades—J. Caleb Boggs Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse	General Services Administration	3,014,000	Coons
GA	General Services Administration (GSA)	Improvements to Richard B. Russell Building in Atlanta, Georgia	General Services Administration	1,580,000	Ossoff, Warnock
MS	General Services Administration (GSA)	Colmer Building—Exterior Tuckpoint and Caulking	William M. Colmer Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse	1,088,000	Hyde-Smith
MS	General Services Administration (GSA)	Lightning Protection System—Russell Courthouse	Dan M. Russell Jr. United States Courthouse	3,448,000	Hyde-Smith
SD	General Services Administration (GSA)	Sallyport at Pierre Federal Building	General Services Administration	750,000	Rounds

**DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

H.R. 5907: Mr. FITZGERALD.

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 172

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

No. 8

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 DELAURO 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 DELAURO 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 HOLLLEN 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 Rochester	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	Luján	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
Gallego	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, Fort 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. LUJAN):

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. LUJAN) 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. GALLEGRO (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:

SEC. _____. **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:

SEC. _____. **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:

SEC. _____. **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 confirm a patient’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. 1041 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)”;

(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)”;

(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.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FIVE BERNARD AGUON

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Warrant Officer Five Bernard Aguon of the District of Columbia National Guard, a proud son of Guam, for a lifetime of extraordinary service to our Nation.

With more than 34 years of collective service across all three components of the United States Army, CW5 Aguon represents the very best of what it means to serve. His career is defined not only by longevity, but by impact, by a steadfast commitment to solving problems, building systems, and ensuring that the men and women who serve our country are supported with professionalism and care.

Most recently, CW5 Aguon served as the sixth Command Chief Warrant Officer of the District of Columbia National Guard. In this role, he was the top Army Warrant Officer advisor to the Commanding General, the Adjutant General, and the Land Component Commander. He was relied upon as a trusted counselor to commanders at every level, called upon to bring clarity to complex challenges and to guide decisions that affect the force.

Before assuming this role, he served at the highest levels of the National Guard as the G1 Senior Personnel Advisor within the Human Resource Information Systems Division. There, his work helped shape the future of how the Army manages its people, a responsibility that reached far beyond any single unit or command.

Throughout his career, CW5 Aguon served in an extraordinary range of positions. From Engineer Platoon Sergeant to Warrant Officer Recruiter; from Unit Administrator to Army Band Commander; from Education Services Manager to Personnel Systems Advisor—his service reflects rare breadth and depth. He supported Engineer, Infantry, Personnel, and Recruiting commands, and in each role, he brought the same steady leadership and technical mastery.

Perhaps most notably, CW5 Aguon was inducted into the U.S. Army Adjutant General Corps Wall of Fame in 2023 as a Distinguished Member of the Corps. This honor recognized his pivotal role in developing, testing, deploying, and sustaining the Army's Integrated Personnel and Pay System. This platform now supports Soldiers across the entire force, ensuring accuracy, accountability, and efficiency in how the Army manages its people.

That contribution alone will shape the Army for generations. His decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Action Badge, and Army Staff Identification Badge, reflect a career defined by excellence. But as with all great leaders, his true legacy is not

found in ribbons or medals. It is found in the systems he built, the soldiers he guided, and the trust he earned.

Beyond the uniform, CW5 Aguon has continued to serve. He has been a leader within the Adjutant General Corps, a life member of multiple professional associations, and the President of the Guam Society of America, remaining deeply connected to the island he proudly calls home.

Born and raised on Guam, he now resides in Northern Virginia with his wife Jennifer and their four children: Rocco, Rio, Aurora, and Andre. His journey from our small island in the Pacific to the highest levels of the National Guard is a powerful reminder of the reach and resilience of those who come from Guam and choose to serve something greater than themselves.

CW5 Aguon's career stands as a testament to quiet leadership, technical excellence, and unwavering dedication.

He has strengthened our Army, supported countless soldiers, and brought honor to his family and his island.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, and with great pride, I thank him for his service, his sacrifice, and his enduring legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness in my family, I missed the following Roll Call votes on January 7, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 2; YEA on Roll Call No. 3; and NO on Roll Call No. 4.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHESTER ROBERT KROPIDLOWSKI

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Chester Robert Kropidowski of Chicago. Chester was a veteran, a man of public service, and above all, a devoted brother, uncle, great uncle, and friend.

Before Chester began serving our city and country, he attended the University of Illinois where he obtained a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and was also an accomplished collegiate wrestler. He went on to earn a master's degree in science from Depaul University in Chicago.

Chester served our country by enlisting in the United States Army in 1964. His devotion to his community continued throughout his life, where he served the City of Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation for many years.

Chester possessed a philanthropic spirit as a donor to several organizations and causes, including Misericordia Heart of Mercy.

A loyal Chicagoan and proud Lakeview resident, Chester was deeply involved in his community. He was a long-time condo board member, assisted in planning the Chicago Marathon, and could often be found watching a Cubs game with his buddies at Murphy's Bleachers. Chester will be most remembered for the joy he brought into other people's lives. He cherished his traveling adventures with Lenore, his late significant other, and enjoyed fishing and golfing with family and friends.

We remember and honor Chester Robert Kropidowski not just as a veteran, but as the kind of American we should all aspire to be. May his memory be a blessing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in recognizing Chester Robert Kropidowski for his service to our country and honoring his legacy.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF WHITNEY HUTSON

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional service of Whitney Hutson, who served with distinction as Director of Operations in my office over the past year. Her tireless work, sound judgment, and steady leadership played a vital role in ensuring our team delivered results each day for the people of Iowa's 3rd District.

From her very first day on Team Nunn, Whitney stepped into one of the most demanding roles in any congressional office and excelled. She managed our daily, weekly, and long-term schedules—both in Washington, D.C. and across Iowa—ensuring every meeting, event, and engagement reflected our shared priorities and unwavering commitment to Iowans.

As Director of Operations, Whitney prepared schedules and briefing materials that kept our office moving forward—even through the longest shutdown in U.S. history, shifting legislative demands, and the day-to-day unpredictability of public service with exceptional skill.

Her calm under pressure mindset and ability to anticipate challenges kept us mission-ready in every circumstance and focused on what matters most: delivering for Iowans back home.

Equally important, Whitney brought warmth and creativity to our team culture. She mentored junior staff, supported colleagues through busy weeks, and brightened the office alongside her Cavalier companion, Lady the dog. When things moved fast, Whitney stayed focused. When the pressure mounted, she delivered. Her professionalism, reliability, and example set a high standard for our entire team.

A graduate of Western Kentucky University, a Nashville, Tennessee native, and a trusted

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

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

colleague to all, Whitney's service to the people of Iowa reflects the character and work ethic that define Team Nunn. I am grateful for her contributions and confident she will continue to lead and succeed in the next chapter of her career.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt thanks to Ms. Whitney Hutson for her contributions to Iowa's 3rd Congressional District and wish her continued success in all that lies ahead.

RECOGNIZING DR. MARY OKADA

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Mary Okada as she concludes a remarkable chapter of service as President of Guam Community College, after many years dedicated to education, workforce development, and the people of Guam.

Dr. Okada's leadership at Guam Community College has been historic. She became the first woman to lead the institution and went on to serve longer than any president before her. That continuity mattered. It provided stability, direction, and trust at a time when higher education was facing rapid change and increasing demands.

Long before becoming president, Dr. Okada served Guam Community College in key financial and administrative roles. She also brought experience from the Guam Department of Education.

Because of that background, she understood the institution not only from the classroom level, but from the operational side—how to manage resources, plan responsibly, and make decisions that would stand the test of time.

Under her leadership, Guam Community College strengthened its role as Guam's primary engine for workforce training and career education. Programs expanded to meet the real needs of the island, preparing students for skilled trades, healthcare, public service, and emerging technical fields. These were not abstract academic offerings; they were pathways to stable jobs and stronger families.

Dr. Okada placed a strong emphasis on financial responsibility and accountability. Through careful planning and disciplined management, Guam Community College maintained long-term fiscal stability and earned consistent confidence from auditors, policy-makers, and the broader community. That kind of stewardship is not always visible, but it is essential to an institution's success.

She also understood that education cannot exist in isolation. During her tenure, Guam Community College strengthened partnerships with government agencies, private employers, and regional organizations to ensure that training programs aligned with workforce demand. As a result, students left GCC better prepared to step directly into the workforce and contribute to Guam's economy.

Dr. Okada served as a respected voice for Guam and the Pacific in national and regional education discussions. She represented the interests of island communities in conversations about access, opportunity, and workforce development, ensuring that Guam was not overlooked in broader policy discussions.

Her leadership extended beyond a single campus. She served on accreditation bodies, education councils, and advisory boards, helping shape policies and standards that affect students well beyond Guam. Through this work, she elevated career and technical education and reinforced its importance as a respected and viable pathway.

Those who worked with Dr. Okada describe her as thoughtful, steady, and deeply committed to students. She led with consistency and care, focused not on short-term recognition, but on building systems that would continue to serve students long after her tenure.

As she steps away from her role at Guam Community College, her impact is evident in the thousands of students whose lives were shaped by the education and training they received. Her legacy is reflected not only in programs and facilities, but in opportunity created and futures strengthened.

Mr. Speaker, Guam Community College plays a vital role in our island's success, and Dr. Okada's leadership helped ensure that a role was carried out with purpose, responsibility, and vision. I thank Dr. Okada, for her years of service and for the lasting contributions she has made to Guam and its people—past, present, and future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAXINE DEXTER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, there was a shooting in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 12, H.R. 5184.

HONORING THE LIFE OF UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS VETERAN AND TULLYTOWN FIREFIGHTER MATTHEW "MATT" WALLACE HAINES

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of Matthew "Matt" Wallace Haines, a man whose journey through this world was defined not by ease, but by extraordinary service, resilience, and a deep devotion to others.

Born Michael Stephan LaVallee on May 13, 1971, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Matt passed away on December 19, 2025, at the age of 54. His early life was marked by challenges that demanded uncommon strength and perseverance. Rather than allowing those hardships to define him, Matt transformed them into a source of empathy, grit, and compassion. These are qualities that he carried with him to shape the man he became, the way he lived, the way he served, and the lives he touched.

Matt was a proud United States Marine and a volunteer firefighter for more than 20 years, serving with distinction as a Captain with the Tullytown Fire Company, Station 33. The residents of Tullytown knew that when the sirens

sounded, someone who genuinely cared was on the way. In dangerous situations which others would run from, Matt would courageously and instinctively run towards the emergency to aid and assistance. Service was not something Matt took lightly nor was it just a word to him. It was the heartbeat of who he was. His leadership, courage, and quiet dependability set a standard for what it truly means to live a life of civic duty.

Above all, Matt Haines was a family man. He leaves behind those who loved him, including his wife, Alyssa Renee (Grayson) Haines; his sons, Casey Ryan Haines and Jonathan Tomczyk; his daughter, Audrey Lightner, and her wife, Corine Lightner; his grandchildren, Alysia Dennis, Ayden Lightner, and Evan McFarland; his beloved mother and father, Jane LaVallee and Glen Papin, and his younger brothers, Stacey Schinold and Shelby Schinold. He is also remembered fondly by the many friends who became family over the course of his life.

Mr. Haines was also deeply loved by Alyssa's family, whom he embraced as his own. He is remembered by Christine (Albertuzzi) Grayson, whom he often said was the first true mother he had ever known; Lon Grayson, whom he proudly called "Dad"; his wife, Judy (Sindelar) Grayson; Jared Grayson; Melody Salvero Grayson; and his nieces, Chelsea and Taylor Grayson.

Mr. Speaker, we also pause with solemn reverence to remember that Matt was preceded in death by his beloved son, Matthew Tyler Haines. This heartbreaking loss forever shaped his life, yet even in grief he chose love, carrying his son's memory in every step he took.

Matt Haines will be remembered as someone who lived boldly and authentically. His friends and family will remember him as the "watch this" kind of guy. Matt was someone who made people laugh, pushed limits, and brought energy and humor into every room he entered. His larger-than-life personality, fearless spirit, and sharp sense of humor left an indelible mark on all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Matthew Wallace Haines. He was a United States Marine, a Fire Captain with Tullytown Fire Company Station 33, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a son, a brother, and a friend. We recognize a life that burned brightly in service, in love, and in courage. May his legacy endure, and may he now rest in eternal peace.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts and Public Defender Service Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would provide for coverage of employees of the local D.C. courts and the D.C. Public Defender Service (PDS) under the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977 (DCHRA). In 2022, the D.C. Court of Appeals

held that the DCHRA, which protects employees of the D.C. government and private employers from discrimination, is inapplicable to employees of the local D.C. courts. The court has not ruled on the applicability of the DCHRA to PDS employees.

The local D.C. courts and PDS are unique entities, and they sometimes fall through the regulatory cracks. They are neither federal nor D.C. government entities, though both were created and are funded by Congress, and their employees are treated as federal employees for some employee benefits. This bill would ensure that their employees have comprehensive protections from and remedies for employment discrimination.

While employees of the local D.C. courts and PDS are protected by federal anti-discrimination laws, the DCHRA provides much broader protections and remedies for employees than federal anti-discrimination laws.

While the D.C. Council may have the authority to enact this bill itself, only Congress has the clear authority to do so, given the express limitation in the D.C. Home Rule Act on the Council's authority to legislate on matters affecting the operations of the local D.C. courts, and given that Congress has generally served as the legislative body for PDS matters.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL DELUG

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Samuel Delug, a devoted community leader, philanthropist, accomplished attorney, and steadfast advocate for the Jewish people and the State of Israel. Sam Delug's passing is a profound loss to his family, friends, and the many organizations and causes strengthened by his generosity, warmth, and unwavering commitment.

A longtime attorney trained at the UCLA School of Law, Sam brought to his professional and civic life the values of integrity, rigor, and service. Born in Melbourne to parents who were fervent Zionists, his family history was deeply intertwined with the founding and survival of the State of Israel. Sam ultimately made his home in Los Angeles at a young age, where he built a life defined by community engagement and principled advocacy.

For decades, Sam Delug was deeply engaged in Jewish communal life and in support of Israel. He traveled to Israel frequently, participated in solidarity missions, and worked tirelessly to strengthen pro-Israel civic and political engagement. His involvement was never passive. Sam opened his home to host gatherings, brought new voices into the fold, and gave generously his time and resources to causes he believed in.

Sam was also a committed board member and supporter of Beit T'Shuvah, a nonprofit addiction treatment center in Los Angeles dedicated to healing broken souls and saving lives through compassionate, community-based care. His advocacy for dignity, recovery, and second chances made a lasting impact, in 2018, he was honored at the organi-

zation's gala in recognition of his unwavering belief in its mission.

Those who knew Sam will remember not only his dedication, but also his humor, his storytelling, and his genuine ability to forge deep and lasting friendships. He brought warmth and joy wherever he went and was known for his generosity, hospitality, and sincere care for others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Sam Delug as a man whose commitment to community, faith, and fellowship exemplified the very best of civic and charitable engagement. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who mourn his loss, especially his beloved children, Aaron, Asher, and Ester, and his grandchildren. May his memory be a blessing, and may his example continue to inspire them, and all of us, to carry forward the causes he so dearly loved.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness in my family, I missed the following Roll Call votes on January 9, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 12.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SENATOR CARMEN A. KASPERBAUER

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of Carmen Artero Kasperbauer, whose life reflected a deep and enduring commitment to service and community.

Born in 1935, Carmen grew up during one of the most difficult periods in Guam's history, the Japanese occupation of World War II. As a child, she witnessed hardship, fear, and sacrifice that shaped her understanding of responsibility and resilience at an early age.

Like many families on Guam, hers faced extraordinary risk during the occupation. Their decision to help protect U.S. Navy radioman George Tweed was an act of quiet courage, one that reflected the loyalty of the CHamoru people during a time when such choices carried severe consequences.

These experiences were not abstract history for Carmen; they were formative moments that guided her life's work. She chose a path of service as a registered nurse, dedicating herself to the care of others and to strengthening her community through compassion. For her, service was not simply just a career. It reflected her belief that service begins with showing up for people when they are most vulnerable.

Her commitment to public service did not stop there. In 1979, she was elected to the Guam Legislature, where she served as a senator for two terms. At a time when women

were still fighting for equal footing in political leadership, Carmen Kasperbauer brought both strength and humility to the legislative process. She was known not for grandstanding, but for her steadiness, her preparation, and her deep concern for the people she represented. As a senator, she believed that public service meant listening first and putting people ahead of politics.

She did her work carefully, asked thoughtful questions, and focused on what would truly help the people of Guam.

She carried into public office the same values she lived by every day—respect for others, responsibility to community, and a strong sense of duty. These values guided her decisions, whether she was serving in the Legislature, working as a nurse, or helping her neighbors. Those who knew her remember her as the person who always showed up, did the work, and never sought attention.

Beyond her formal roles, Carmen remained an active voice in Guam's community life. In later years, she shared her firsthand experiences of the war, ensuring that the sacrifices of Guam's people were not forgotten, minimized, or rewritten. Her testimony helped remind future generations that Guam's history is inseparable from America's, and that our island's people paid a very real price for freedom.

Carmen Kasperbauer passed away on Christmas Eve at the age of 90. Her life spanned generations of change on Guam, from war and recovery to a steady life of service rooted in community. Through it all, she embodied resilience, service, and quiet patriotism.

Mr. Speaker, Guam is a small island, but its contributions to this Nation are immense. Her life is a powerful example of that truth. Guam has lost a matriarch, but her legacy of service lives on through her husband, Dr. Larry Kasperbauer, and her children. On behalf of a grateful island, a very big thanks to the Senator. She will be deeply missed.

HONORING JAMES BAXTER HUNT, JR.

HON. DONALD G. DAVIS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, James Baxter Hunt, Jr., a farm-boy who became North Carolina's longest-serving governor, died on December 18, 2025. He was 88. Governor Hunt died at home on his Wilson County farm, where he grew up and still lived with his wife of 67 years, Carolyn Joyce Leonard Hunt.

He was born in Greensboro on May 16, 1937, the son of James B. Hunt, Sr., a farmer and soil conservationist, and Elsie Brame Hunt, a beloved English teacher. He grew up on his family's dairy farm in Wilson and graduated from Rock Ridge High School. "Jimmy" met Carolyn as a senior in high school at a National Grange Youth Convention in Ohio. When they met, Carolyn was living on her family's cattle farm in Mingo, Iowa. Jimmy would frequently hitchhike for 36 hours to see Carolyn during his school breaks. Their courtship, marriage, and long life together was a true partnership.

Carolyn, a teacher, was equally committed to public education and public service, including volunteering at schools throughout her life and leadership in Friendship Force. Together, they finished college and graduate school in North Carolina, with his undergraduate and master's degrees at North Carolina State University and her undergraduate degree and his law degree at UNC-Chapel Hill. After law school, they lived for two years in Nepal, where Hunt worked as a Ford Foundation economic adviser. When they returned to Wilson County, Hunt was elected president of the state Young Democrats in 1968. He chaired a reform commission that opened state party leadership positions to minorities, women, and young people. He listened to all people and maintained a laser focus on getting things done, even if it meant a hundred phone calls or a thousand handshakes in one day. It could always be done.

During his campaigns, he drove to every county in the state, stopping to eat barbecue and shake more hands. He loved to enjoy good food, especially with his family. Whether it was Carolyn cooking a seafood breakfast or fish on Fridays at Papa Jack's, he was always game. His Christian faith was a central part of his life, first at Marsh Swamp Baptist Church and later at First Presbyterian Church of Wilson. In every place they lived, including Nepal, Jimmy loved singing in the church choir with his wife. Music gave him so much joy. He would always sing songs with his brother and their wives at the annual Hunt holiday gathering. Hunt had a great love for working on his family farm and having Simmental cattle, and he was also a voracious reader throughout his life. Reading multiple newspapers each day was a common practice.

While Hunt made an immeasurable impact on all North Carolinians, his dedication and love for his wife, children, grandchildren, and great, grandchildren was above all. His passion for sports was strong, specifically N.C. State athletics. He took his family to all the games he could and watched the ones he could not attend. Jimmy and Carolyn never forgot a birthday or anniversary, always marked by a call with a beautifully sung "Happy Birthday" song. Carolyn's birthday was always marked by a family beach trip. Jimmy loved to swim in the ocean with his children, often floating on a raft. He cared deeply for his grandchildren and was very active with all of them. He would frequently be found fishing in the pond on his farm, swimming in the pool, or playing basketball with them. No matter the activity, he made sure to teach lessons along the way on how to stand up for what is right, always reminding them that "Hunts aren't quitters". His unwavering support and endless love for his family is something they will never forget.

In 1972, he was elected lieutenant governor and immediately got to work to establish statewide public kindergartens, raise teacher pay and protect governors' powers from legislative intrusion. In 1976, he was elected governor for the first time; he was 38 years old. Hunt served as governor for an unprecedented four terms, totaling 16 years. Carolyn's love and dedication to supporting her husband and raising their four children allowed Hunt to dedicate so much of his life to serving the people of North Carolina. As North Carolina's First Lady, Carolyn welcomed a constant stream of schoolchildren and other visitors from the state and beyond to the Executive Mansion.

Hunt is remembered by countless North Carolinians whom he led and inspired through more than 60 years of political and public service. He led North Carolina's transformation from a poor, largely rural state of farms and factories to a fast growing magnet for research, technology, and bioscience. When he left office at the beginning of the 21st Century, the state was recognized as one of the best places in the Nation to live and do business.

Hunt loved North Carolina and its people. He believed in the limitless potential that can come from hard work, dedication, passion, and perseverance. His life was a direct representation of those values and many more. His family is eternally grateful for the countless memories, lessons, and love he poured into them.

Governor Hunt is survived by his wife Carolyn Leonard Hunt; his brother Robert Brame Hunt (Margaret); his children Rebecca Hunt-Hawley (Jimmy), James Baxter Hunt, III (Deb), Rachel Henderson Hunt (Olav), and Elizabeth Hunt Amigh (Kevin); his grandchildren Hannah Streeter Hawley, Joseph Thornton Hawley (Casey), Stephanie Hunt Toder (Charlie), James Baxter Hunt, IV, Lindsey Derrick Hunt, Katia Hunt Nilender (Declan), Jonas Hunt Nilender, Jackson Zeak Amigh, Grace Leonard Amigh, and John Ross Amigh; and great grandchildren Isaac Harrison Hawley, Banks Thornton Hawley, Emily Lynn Toder, and Alex Harold Toder.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
BENJAMIN SOO RHEE

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Benjamin Soo Rhee. Benjamin was a respected physician, devoted family man and cherished member of his community. He passed away peacefully on December 25, 2025.

Dr. Rhee dedicated his life to the service of others through his work in medicine. He was deeply respected and admired by his colleagues and countless patients for his compassion, professionalism and integrity over the course of his distinguished career. He graduated from Korea University Medical School and later immigrated to the United States in 1964 from the Kyungi Province of the Republic of Korea, becoming a U.S. Citizen in 1976.

Dr. Rhee completed his residency in Internal Medicine in New York and went into private medical practice with his wife, a pediatrician. Together they would treat and heal patients for decades before retiring and moving to the City of Irvine, California.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Dr. Rhee had a passion and love for music, including singing karaoke. He also had a love for reading and writing, including authoring a 300-page book which documented the genealogy of his family dating back seventeen generations.

Benjamin was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife Dr. Wha Ja Choi, his two children, Edward and Richard and his six grandchildren: Brandon, Colin, Jason, Chloe, Kendall and Christian, who were the lights of his life.

He will be remembered not only for his contributions to the field of medicine, but also for his kindness, intellect and deep devotion to his family and community. His legacy of service and engagement will continue to inspire and guide those whom he served in his life.

HONORING BRENDA GORMLEY'S
LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. BRANDON GILL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Brenda Gormley and to honor her 24 years of distinguished public service to Denton County, Texas. Her commitment to emergency preparedness and volunteer training strengthened Denton County and North Texas, leaving a lasting legacy.

Brenda's involvement in emergency preparedness began in 2005 when she was introduced to the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) during a visit to the Highland Village Fire Department. What started as a simple inquiry quickly turned into a lifelong passion. She served as a CERT manager and instructor, earning recognition as a Texas CERT Master Instructor.

After Hurricane Katrina, Brenda served as a shelter manager and helped establish the Denton County CERT program at the request of Assistant Chief Roland Asebedo. Starting with fewer than a dozen volunteers, she grew the program into one of the most respected in Texas, expanding it to more than 500 background-checked, active members who received free, hands-on training open to all Denton County residents.

Under Brenda's dedicated leadership, Denton County's Citizen Corps Council received the National Award for Outstanding Citizen Corps Council in 2009. She served as Secretary of the Denton County VOAD Citizen Corps Council and as Past Chair of the North Central Texas Regional Citizen Corps Council, helping implement, expand, and sustain Citizen Corps programs regionally and statewide. Brenda's significant contributions to community preparedness and public service were recognized by Governor Greg Abbott at the state level and President Barack Obama nationally.

Brenda also helped develop the G517 CERT Master Instructor curriculum and the G417 CERT refresher curriculum for Texas. In 2011, she was honored as the first recipient of the Jack Colley Citizen Corps Leadership Award for her exceptional leadership and service. She further enhanced Denton County CERT by creating specialized response teams, often called upon to assist first responders.

Mr. Speaker, Brenda Gormley embodied the true spirit of public service and neighbors helping neighbors. I request my colleagues to join me in honoring her extraordinary dedication and contributions to the safety and security of her neighbors in Denton County and across Texas. Our sincere condolences go to her family, friends, and colleagues.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF
THE PURDY WELCOME CENTER
AND CONSERVATORY GARDENS
AT BROOKGREEN GARDENS

HON. RUSSELL FRY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the opening of the Purdy Welcome Center and Conservatory Gardens at Brookgreen Gardens, a National Historic Landmark in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. This is the largest capital project at Brookgreen in the last thirty years. It will welcome visitors from around the world with a conservatory of living plant displays, including an expansive orchid collection, sculpture made from plant materials, and a wetland garden and trail that teaches best environmental practices.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brookgreen Gardens on this milestone and in celebrating the cultural, educational, and tourism benefits it will bring to our state.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CLAIRE HALL

HON. MAXINE DEXTER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a dedicated public servant and a beloved leader in Oregon.

Lincoln County Commissioner Claire Hall devoted more than two decades of her life to serving her community with integrity, courage, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

A longtime Newport resident, Commissioner Hall was first elected in 2004 and went on to serve her county with distinction. Throughout her tenure, she worked relentlessly to expand access to healthcare, strengthen benefits for veterans, and advance affordable housing so that more families could remain rooted in the communities they love.

She was known for her willingness to take on difficult fights and for standing firm when the stakes were high. Most recently, Commissioner Hall was a fierce champion in opposing plans for an ICE detention center in Newport and in blocking any federal effort to relocate a Coast Guard rescue helicopter to make room for such a facility—always putting community safety, human dignity, and local values first.

In 2018, Claire Hall announced her gender transition with a statement that reflected the clarity and moral conviction she brought to every chapter of her life. She wrote, in part: "I will remain focused on social justice issues like the needs of children, families, seniors, people with disabilities and veterans. But now, the act of living my life itself becomes an act of social justice."

Commissioner Hall's life was indeed an act of social justice and a profound gift to her community.

She reminded us that public service is not measured only by the policies we advance, but by the dignity we defend, the people we protect, and the courage we bring to our work.

May we honor Commissioner Hall each day by choosing compassion, justice, and love for

our neighbors, and by continuing the work she so powerfully embodied.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
COLONEL REINA "REI" SERINEO

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Reina "Rei" Serineo of the United States Air Force, a proud daughter of Guam, as she concludes a distinguished career in service to our Nation.

For nearly two decades, Lt. Col. Serineo has embodied the very best of what it means to wear the uniform. She has served with distinction across continents and commands, in the air and on the ground, in moments of routine readiness and in times of real danger. Her career reflects not only operational excellence, but a deep commitment to leadership, mentorship, and the future of our Air Force.

Lt. Col. Serineo entered the Air Force in June of 2005 after graduating from the University of Portland and commissioning through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

From the very beginning, she chose a path that demanded precision, judgment, and courage. As an Air Battle Manager, she became a master of one of the most complex and critical missions in modern warfare.

Over the course of her career, she logged more than 2,000 flight hours aboard the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System with more than 300 of those hours in combat and combat-support missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Counter-ISIS.

These were not abstract missions. They were real-world operations in contested airspace, where decisions made in seconds carried life-and-death consequences for service members on the ground and in the air.

Her assignments tell the story of a leader trusted at every level. Lt. Col. Serineo consistently stepped into roles of greater responsibility. She served as an instructor, a flight commander, a chief of standardization and evaluations, an assistant director of operations, and a director of staff. In each role, she set the standard, not only for mission execution, but for how leaders should treat their people.

Most recently, as the Common Mission Control Center Functional Area Manager within Air Combat Command, she directed policy, operations, and training for the Battle Control Center weapon system. In this role, she helped shape the future of how our Air Force fights, leading teams across major commands, building consensus and vision.

What makes Lt. Col. Serineo's career especially meaningful is not only what she accomplished, but how she accomplished it. She invested in young Airmen, modeled professionalism, and reminded those around her that Leadership is not about rank, but integrity and responsibility.

Her educational achievements mirror that same drive for excellence. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance, completed Squadron Officer School, and obtained a Master of Public Administration. She is a graduate of Air Command and Staff College. At every stage, she prepared herself not only to serve, but to lead wisely.

Lt. Col. Serineo's decorations, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal, and the Air and Space Commendation Medal are symbols of a career defined by impact. But medals alone cannot capture the lives she influenced, the missions she safeguarded, or the trust she earned.

As she transitions from active service, our Nation remains stronger because of her. The systems she helped shape, the Airmen she mentored, and the standards she set will endure long after this chapter closes.

I thank Lt. Col. Serineo for her service, her sacrifice, and her leadership. She answered the call in moments of uncertainty and danger. She carried responsibility with grace and she left behind a legacy of excellence that will guide those who follow. May the next chapter of her life be filled with the same purpose, fulfillment, and success that defined her time in uniform.

HONORING PROFESSOR JAMES
"JIM" ARTHUR ALBERT FOR A
LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the legacy of James "Jim" Arthur Albert, a remarkable Iowan whose lifetime of service has left a profound mark on our state, Nation, and communities far beyond our borders.

Jim has served as a Professor of Law at Drake University for 43 years, earning national recognition for his teaching and shaping generations of attorneys through his steadfast commitment to excellence, integrity, and the rule of law. He has been named Professor of the Year at Drake on eight occasions, a distinction that reflects both the esteem of his students and his enduring influence on the legal profession. Prior to entering academia, he was a longtime trial lawyer and a proud graduate of the University of Notre Dame Law School, class of 1976.

Beyond the classroom and courtroom, Jim has devoted himself to public service and ethical leadership. Since 1997, he has served as Chair of the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Finance Disclosure Board, providing principled, steady leadership and strengthening transparency and accountability in Iowa's political process. Jim also served as a Federal Communications Broadcast Attorney in Washington, D.C., demonstrating his lifetime commitment to public service.

Jim's impact extends well beyond the borders of Iowa through his visionary leadership of the James Arthur Albert Foundation. Through this nonprofit, he has personally led more than 30 service missions to Belize, where he has worked to expand access to education by awarding scholarships, directing construction projects in underserved communities, and establishing workforce development programs for young Belizeans. What began as a modest initiative has grown into a nationally supported effort, as Professor Albert has forged lasting partnerships across Des Moines, throughout Iowa, and across the country—raising millions of dollars to promote education, economic opportunity, and lasting transformation in Belize.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jim Albert's extraordinary contributions to the people of Iowa, the people of Belize, and the countless lives he has touched through a career defined by service, leadership, and generosity.

HONORING THE FRIENDS OF THE CHICAGO RIVER FOR WINNING THE THIESS INTERNATIONAL RIVER PRIZE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the International River Foundation in honoring the Friends of the Chicago River, the 2025 recipient of the Thies International River Prize. The Thies International River Prize, established in 1999, is the world's most esteemed award for river restoration and management, honoring trailblazing organizations that advance lasting ecological, social, and economic benefits worldwide. This award speaks to the tireless contributions of the Friends of the Chicago River to environmental stewardship, river restoration, climate resilience, and public service here in Cook County.

Founded in 1979, Friends of the Chicago River is the only organization exclusively dedicated to the restoration and protection of the entire 156-mile Chicago-Calumet River system. Under the leadership of Executive Director Margaret Frisbie and a dedicated staff, the Friends of the Chicago River lead bold policy reforms, habitat restoration, and public engagement programs that have transformed the river from an overlooked industrial waterway into a thriving urban ecosystem. More than 60,000 people including 20,000 youth annually have joined efforts of the Friends of the Chicago River through education, outreach, and hands-on stewardship, while advancing policy initiatives that improve water quality, protect biodiversity, and strengthen climate resilience across the Chicago-Calumet watershed.

The recognition of Friends of the Chicago River with the 2025 Thies International River Prize underscores the emergence of our County as a global leader in urban river restoration and affirms the organization's pioneering role in shaping a future where rivers are valued as vital natural, social, and climate-sustaining wonders. Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of my colleagues in congratulating the Friends of the Chicago River on receiving the 2025 Thies International River Prize and thanking them for their continued work for the Chicago River.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness in my family, I missed the following Roll Call votes on January 8, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 5; YEA on Roll Call No. 6; YEA on Roll Call No. 7; NAY on Roll Call No. 8; NAY on

Roll Call No. 9; NAY on Roll Call No. 10; and NAY on Roll Call No. 11.

RECOGNIZING DR. ERIK SWANSON

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Erik Swanson upon the conclusion of his service as Superintendent of the Guam Department of Education.

Leading a public school system is never simple, and on Guam, that responsibility carries added complexity. Dr. Swanson stepped into the role of Superintendent during a period marked by significant challenges, including resource constraints, staffing concerns, and the lasting impacts faced by students and educators alike.

From the beginning of his tenure, Dr. Swanson understood that the work of public education is deeply personal. It affects not only classrooms, but families, communities, and the future of the island itself. He approached the role with a focus on responsibility, transparency, and support for those on the front lines of education.

During his time as Superintendent, Dr. Swanson worked to address long-standing issues within the Guam Department of Education while maintaining focus on student learning and school operations. He supported educators and staff who carry the daily responsibility of teaching and caring for Guam's children, often under difficult circumstances.

Serving as Superintendent of Education on Guam requires balancing many responsibilities at once. It means overseeing schools spread across the island, supporting thousands of students, and working closely with teachers, staff, and families, all while navigating limited resources and high expectations.

Dr. Swanson approached this role with an understanding of its demands and a respect for the people who carry out the work of education every day. He recognized that progress often comes through persistence, cooperation, and steady attention to the needs of students and schools.

He also understood the importance of collaboration. Dr. Swanson worked with parents, school leaders, and government partners to confront challenges facing the education system and to seek solutions that would benefit students across the island. His leadership reflected an understanding that progress in education requires cooperation, patience, and persistence.

Public education on Guam plays a critical role in shaping opportunity and strengthening our community. Leading that system requires not only professional experience, but resilience and care. Dr. Swanson carried that responsibility with seriousness and respect for the people he served.

Those who worked alongside him describe a leader who listened, remained engaged, and understood the weight of the decisions placed before him. While no tenure is without difficulty, Dr. Swanson's service reflected a commitment to doing the work and facing challenges directly.

Mr. Speaker, Guam's educators and students deserve leadership that recognizes both

the importance and the difficulty of public education. Dr. Erik Swanson answered that call during a demanding time.

I thank him for his service to Guam's students, educators, and families, and I extend my best wishes in the next chapter ahead.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 14

- 10 a.m.
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine chemical abortion drugs. SD-430
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism
To hold hearings to examine Biden's Afghan parolee program. SD-G50
- Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine growing the small business agricultural economy. SR-428A
- 3 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. SH-219
- 3:30 p.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine made in China and paid by seniors, focusing on stopping the surge of international scams. SH-216

JANUARY 15

- 9 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 2132, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent and mitigate the potential for conflicts of interest following government service, and the nominations of Daniel E. Burrows, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Megan Blair Benton, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, David Clay Fowlkes, to be

United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, Nicholas Jon Ganjei, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Brian Charles Lea, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, Justin R. Olson, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana, Aaron Christian Peterson, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, Andrew Benson, to be United States Attorney for the District of Maine for the term of four years, William Boyle, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of four years, Kevin Holmes, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas for the term of four years, Brian David Miller, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years, Richard Price, of Missouri, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri for the term of four years, and Darin Smith, to be United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming for the term of four years.
SH-216

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lieutenant General Francis L. Donovan, USMC, to be general and

Commander, United States Southern Command, and Lieutenant General Joshua M. Rudd, USA, to be general and Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service/Commander, United States Cyber Command, both of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider H.R. 3633, to provide for a system of regulation of the offer and sale of digital commodities by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the impact of technology on America's youth.

SR-253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 1157, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a review to evaluate the status of research on lung cancer in women and underserved populations, S. 921, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance on whether hospital emergency departments should implement

fentanyl testing as a routine procedure for patients experiencing an overdose, S. 2169, to require the development of a comprehensive rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy, and S. 272, to improve the safety of infant formula through testing of infant formula for microorganisms and toxic elements.

SD-430

JANUARY 28

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine improving the Federal environmental review and permitting process, part 2.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights

To hold hearings to examine scammers, focusing on fighting fraud in Minnesota and beyond.

SD-226

FEBRUARY 3

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine hidden facts regarding Nazis and Swiss banks.

SH-216

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S121–S140

Measures Introduced: Five bills were introduced, as follows: S. 3611–3615 **Page S130**

Measures Passed:

Lung Cancer Awareness: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 570, designating November 2025 as “National Lung Cancer Awareness Month” and expressing support for early detection and treatment of lung cancer, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S140**

Measures Considered:

Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026. **Pages S121–28**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 80 yeas to 13 nays (Vote No. 7), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S128**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, post-cloture. **Page S140**

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Market Integrity and Affordability—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, it be in

order for Senator Warner or his designee, to make a motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 84, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services relating to “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Market Integrity and Affordability”, and if Senator Warner or his designee has made a motion to proceed, Senate vote on the motion to proceed at approximately 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, January, 13, 2026. **Page S140**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

Page S140

Messages from the House: **Pages S128–29**

Measures Referred: **Page S129**

Executive Communications: **Pages S129–30**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S130–31**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S131–40**

Notices of Intent: **Page S140**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—7) **Page S128**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:53 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S140.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 18 public bills, H.R. 7006–7023; 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 140; and H. Res. 986–987; 989 were introduced.

Pages H654–55

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H656–57

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 725, to take certain mineral interests into trust for the benefit of the Crow Tribe of Montana, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–436);

H.R. 2860, to reauthorize the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act to promote the protection of the resources of the Northwest Straits, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–437);

H.R. 3168, to reauthorize the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–438, Part 1);

H.R. 1681, to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an interagency strike force to ensure that certain Federal land management agencies, including the organizational units of such agencies, prioritize the review of requests for communications use authorizations, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–439, Part 1); and

H. Res. 988, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2988) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to specify requirements concerning the consideration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary factors, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2262) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exclude certain activities from hours worked, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2270) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exclude child and dependent care services and payments from the rate used to compute overtime compensation; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2312) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to revise the definition of the term “tipped employee”, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4366) to clarify the treatment of 2 or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (H. Rept. 119–440).

Page H654

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Taylor to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H617

Recess: The House recessed at 12:23 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H620**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:08 p.m. and reconvened at 3 p.m. **Page H621**

Recess: The House recessed at 6:06 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H645**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Remote Access Security Act: H.R. 2683, amended, to provide for control of remote access of items under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 369 yeas to 22 nays, Roll No. 13; **Pages H621–23; H645–46**

Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act: H.R. 909, amended, to temporarily provide additional deposits into the Crime Victims Fund; **Pages H623–26**

Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act: S. 3424, 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;

Pages H626–28

Combating Online Predators Act: H.R. 6719, amended, to prohibit threats to a minor;

Pages H628–30

Child Predators Accountability Act: H.R. 6715, amended, to prohibit sexual exploitation and sexually explicit depictions of minors; **Pages H630–32**

Coercion and Sexual Abuse Free Environment Act: H.R. 6732, amended, to prohibit unlawful coercion of a minor; **Pages H632–34**

Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act: S. 269, to improve coordination between Federal and State agencies and the Do Not Pay working system;

Pages H634–37

AGOA Extension Act: H.R. 6500, amended, to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 340 yeas to 54 nays, Roll No. 14; and **Pages H637–42; H646**

Haiti Economic Lift Program Extension Act: H.R. 6504, amended, to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from Haiti under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 345 yeas to 45 nays, Roll No. 15. **Pages H642–45; H647**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H645–46, H646, and H647.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:07 p.m. Page H654

Committee Meetings

FLEXIBILITY FOR WORKERS EDUCATION ACT; EMPOWERING EMPLOYER CHILD AND ELDER CARE SOLUTIONS ACT; TIPPED EMPLOYEE PROTECTION ACT; PROTECTING PRUDENT INVESTMENT OF RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACT; SAVE LOCAL BUSINESS ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2262, the “Flexibility for Workers Education Act”; H.R. 2270, the “Empowering Employer Child and Elder Care Solutions Act”; H.R. 2312, the “Tipped Employee Protection Act”; H.R. 2988, the “Protecting Prudent Investment of Retirement Savings Act”; and H.R. 4366, the “Save Local Business Act”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 8–3, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2988, the “Protecting Prudent Investment of Retirement Savings Act”, H.R. 2262, the “Flexibility for Workers Education Act”, H.R. 2270, the “Empowering Employer Child and Elder Care Solutions Act”, H.R. 2312, the “Tipped Employee Protection Act”, and H.R. 4366, the “Save Local Business Act”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 2988, the “Protecting Prudent Investment of Retirement Savings Act”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Workforce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Workforce or their respective designees. The rule makes in order only the further amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report. Each amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the further amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee re-

port. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 2262, the “Flexibility for Workers Education Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Workforce now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Workforce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 2270, the “Empowering Employer Child and Elder Care Solutions Act”; H.R. 2312, the “Tipped Employee Protection Act”; and H.R. 4366, the “Save Local Business Act”, under closed rules. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of each such bill. The rule provides that the respective amendments in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Workforce now printed in each such bill shall be considered as adopted and each such bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in each such bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate on each such bill equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Workforce or their respective designees. Finally, the rule provides each such bill one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Walberg and Representative Scott of Virginia.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to receive a closed briefing on Operation Absolute Resolve, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education,

hearing entitled “Who’s Watching the Kids? How Employers, Innovators, and Parents Are Solving America’s Child Care Crunch”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Protecting America’s Energy Infrastructure in Today’s Cyber and Physical Threat Landscape”, 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled “Examining Legislative Options to Strengthen Motor Vehicle Safety, Ensure Consumer Choice and Affordability, and Cement U.S. Automotive Leadership”, 2:00 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology, and Artificial Intelligence, hearing entitled “Delivering for American Consumers: A Review of FinTech Innovations and Regulations”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled “Defense through Offense: Examining U.S. Cyber Capabilities to Deter and Disrupt Malign Foreign Activity Targeting the Homeland”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2853, the “Combatting Organized Retail Crime Act”; H.R. 6998, the “Renewed Hope Act”; H.R. 1958, the “Deporting Fraudsters Act of 2025”; H.R. 6978, the “Preserving Integrity in Immigration Benefits Act”; legislation on the Protecting Third Party Litigation Funding From Abuse Act; H.R. 1028, the “Protection of Women in Olympic and Amateur Sports Act”; and H.J. Res. 139, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring a balanced budget for the Federal Government, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on H.R. 5745, the “Marine Fisheries Habitat Protection Act”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries, hearing entitled “Hunting and Fishing Access in the Great American Outdoors”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled “Curbing Federal Fraud: Examining Innovative Tools to Detect and Prevent Fraud in Federal Programs”, 2 p.m., HVC-210.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 7006, the “Financial Services and General Government and National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2026”, 2 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “From Orbit to Operations: How Weather Satellites Support the National Security Mission”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled “Drugs, Thugs, and Fish: Examining Coast Guard Law Enforcement Efforts”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on legislation on the BEACON Act; H.R. 6444,

the “Blast Overpressure Research and Mitigation Task Force Act”; H.R. 6526, the “Clarity on Care Options Act”; legislation on the Data Driven Suicide Prevention Act; H.R. 2283, the “RECOVER Act”; legislation on the Health Desert Reform Act; H.R. 2426, the “Veterans Mental Health and Addiction Therapy Quality of Care Act”; H.R. 6652, the “U.S. Vets of the FAS Act”; H.R. 4509, the “NOPAIN for Veterans Act”; H.R. 5999, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish an opioid antagonist to a veteran without requiring a prescription or copayment; H.R. 6001, the “Veterans with ALS Reporting Act”; and legislation on the Whole Health for Veterans Act, 2:15 p.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled “Maintaining American Innovation and Technology Leadership”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of January 13 through January 16, 2026

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 6938, Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act.

At 2:15 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 84, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services relating to “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Market Integrity and Affordability”.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Armed Services: January 13, to receive a closed briefing on Operation Absolute Resolve, 9:30 a.m., SVC-217.

January 15, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lieutenant General Francis L. Donovan, USMC, to be general and Commander, United States Southern Command, and Lieutenant General Joshua M. Rudd, USA, to be general and Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service/Commander, United States Cyber Command, both of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: January 15, business meeting to consider H.R. 3633, to provide for a system of regulation of the offer and sale of digital commodities by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: January 15, to hold hearings to examine the impact of technology on America's youth, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: January 14, to hold hearings to examine chemical abortion drugs, 10 a.m., SD-430.

January 15, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1157, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a review to evaluate the status of research on lung cancer in women and underserved populations, S. 921, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance on whether hospital emergency departments should implement fentanyl testing as a routine procedure for patients experiencing an overdose, S. 2169, to require the development of a comprehensive rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy, and S. 272, to improve the safety of infant formula through testing of infant formula for microorganisms and toxic elements, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on the Judiciary: January 14, Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration, with the Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine Biden's Afghan parolee program, 2:30 p.m., SD-G50.

January 15, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 2132, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent and mitigate the potential for conflicts of interest following government service, and the nominations of Daniel E. Burrows, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Megan Blair Benton, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, David Clay Fowlkes, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, Nicholas Jon Ganjei, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Brian Charles Lea, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, Justin R. Olson, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana, Aaron Christian Peterson, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, Andrew Benson, to be United States Attorney for the District of Maine for the term of four years, William Boyle, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of four years, Kevin Holmes, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas for the term of four years, Brian David Miller, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years, Richard Price, of Missouri, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri for the term of four years, and Darin Smith, to be United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming for the term of four years, 9 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: January 14, to hold hearings to examine growing the small business agricultural economy, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: January 13, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

January 14, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

Special Committee on Aging: January 14, to hold hearings to examine made in China and paid by seniors, focusing on stopping the surge of international scams, 3:30 p.m., SH-216.

House Committees

Committee on Education and Workforce, January 14, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Building an AI-ready America", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, January 14, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled "Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission", 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, January 14, Subcommittee, on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions, hearing entitled "Evaluating the Operations of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS)" 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

January 14, Task Force on Monetary Policy, Treasury Market Resilience, and Economic Prosperity, hearing entitled "Striking the Right Balance Sheet" 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, January 14, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Winning the AI Arms Race Against the Chinese Communist Party", 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on House Administration, January 14, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the Stop Insider Trading Act; and H.R. 5891, the "Withhold Member Pay During Shutdowns Act", 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, January 14, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet, hearing entitled "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Protecting the U.S. Stone Slab Industry from Lawfare", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

January 14, Select Subcommittee to Investigate the Remaining Questions Surrounding January 6, 2021, hearing entitled "Examining the Investigation into the DNC and RNC Pipe Bombs", 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, January 14, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled "Implementation of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

January 14, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 926, the "Fort Pillow National Battlefield Park Study Act"; H.R. 3922, the "Cross-Boundary Wildfire Solutions Act"; H.R. 4038, the "Wildfire Response and Preparedness Act of 2025"; H.R. 4684, the "Star-Spangled Summit Act of 2025"; H.R. 6300, the "Grasslands Grazing Act of 2025", 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, January 14, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled "Advancing America's AI Action Plan", 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, January 14, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Member Day", 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, January 14, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled "Reevaluating the Rating Schedule: Examining VA's Efforts to Modernize Disability Benefits", 2:15 p.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, January 14, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6956, the "Barcode Automation

for Revenue Collection to Organize Disbursement and Enhance Efficiency Act"; H.R. 6903, the "Ensuring Children Receive Support Act"; H.R. 6431, the "New Opportunities for Business Ownership and Self-Sufficiency Act"; and H.R. 6945, the "Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act", 9:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, January 13

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, January 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 6398, Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, post-cloture.

Following which, Senator Warner or his designee, will make a motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 84, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services relating to “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Market Integrity and Affordability”, and vote on the motion to proceed at 2:15 p.m.

(Senate will recess from 12:45 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H. Res. 988, providing for consideration of H.R. 2988—Protecting Prudent Investment of Retirement Savings Act, H.R. 2262—Flexibility for Workers Education Act, H.R. 2270—Empowering Employer Child and Elder Care Solutions Act, H.R. 2312—Tipped Employee Protection Act, and H.R. 4366—Save Local Business Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Davis, Donald G., N.C., E25
Dexter, Maxine, Ore., E24, E27
Fitzpatrick, Brian K., Pa., E24
Fry, Russell, S.C., E27

Gill, Brandon, Tex., E26
Lieu, Ted, Calif., E26
Moylan, James C., Guam, E23, E24, E25, E27, E28
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia,
E24
Nunn, Zachary, Iowa, E23, E27

Quigley, Mike, Ill., E23, E28
Rutherford, John H., Fla., E23, E25, E28
Sherman, Brad, Calif., E25



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