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No. 69

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 20, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY K. WEBER, Sr. 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.

### HONORING KEVIN BREHM

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor longtime Adams County, Pennsylvania, Volunteer First Responder Kevin Brehm. Kevin passed away while on duty as an emergency medical technician on April 9 of 2026.

From his teenage years, Kevin devoted his life to public service.

A lifelong resident of East Berlin, Pennsylvania, he was a life member of

the Northeast Adams Fire & EMS, where he had served as a deputy chief and mentor to so many aspiring first responders.

Throughout 42 years of being a first responder, Kevin amassed thousands of hours of training through his fire, rescue, and EMS disciplines.

Most certainly, Kevin impacted the lives of countless individuals with his professional expertise and his kind and thoughtful nature.

On behalf of the entire 13th Congressional District, I offer prayers and condolences to Kevin's family and to his fellow first responders throughout Adams and York Counties, Pennsylvania.

### RECOGNIZING JOHN FRANCO

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of my friend, Coach John Franco, an educator and a football coach, who positively impacted the lives of high school students at four schools over the last 39 years.

A native of Blair County, Pennsylvania, John Franco recently announced his retirement from coaching. Most recently, he was head coach of the Tyrone Area High School football team.

During his two stints at Tyrone, which spanned over 25 years, Coach Franco led the football team to a combined record of 230-71 and three—yes, three—appearances in the State title game. His 1999 team won the PIAA Class 2A championship.

With an overall career record of 291-154-2, Coach Franco ranks 25th in PIAA victories.

Coach Franco has stated that the highlight of his entire career was coaching his two sons, Johnny and Steve. Both sons earned all-State recognition.

Coach Franco was a standout football star in his own right at Bishop Guilfoyle High School where he later served on that coaching staff.

On behalf of everyone in the 13th Congressional District, I express my

gratitude to Coach Franco for his commitment to the development of young people and offer best wishes for success in all of his future endeavors.

### ACKNOWLEDGING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POD AT UPMC ALTOONA

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, with great pride, I rise today to acknowledge the successful and effective implementation of the behavioral health pod in the emergency department at UPMC Altoona.

Supported in part with Federal funding that I was honored to facilitate, this innovative space provides patients seeking emergency treatment for behavioral health conditions with a dedicated, safe, and therapeutic environment separated from the traditional emergency department.

As the first anniversary of the pod's opening at UPMC Altoona approaches, approximately 500 patients have already benefited from this novel treatment approach. Across Pennsylvania, fewer than five behavioral health pods are operational.

Within the health pod, trained professionals focus on recovery-centered care support, offering individuals who need that mental health or substance use expertise in times of crisis.

Clinicians have emphasized that this approach provides patients with a better experience in a private and less stimulating environment to begin their healing process.

On behalf of all the constituents in the 13th Congressional District, I congratulate UPMC on this successful implementation.

### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Library Week and the critical role that libraries play in communities across Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District.

Libraries are so much more than just a place to borrow books. They offer lifelong opportunities in learning through reading.

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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H2963

Through my work in Washington, I have had the privilege of bringing books from the Library of Congress to many libraries across Pennsylvania's 13th District.

But many libraries are facing real challenges in simply keeping their lights on. That is exactly why I introduced the Community Passport Services Access Act.

This legislation takes a practical, commonsense step to help libraries remain viable community hubs by allowing the libraries to continue offering passport services, bringing in needed revenue, expanding services for residents, and reinforcing their role as a one-stop resource for the public.

This bill is about keeping library doors open.

#### HONORING DON SCHLITZ

(Mr. COHEN of Tennessee was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker:

You got to know when to hold 'em  
Know when to fold 'em  
Know when to walk away  
And know when to run  
You never count your money  
When you're sitting at the table  
There'll be time enough for counting  
When the dealing's done.

If you recognize those words, which most Americans would, they are the words of "The Gambler." "The Gambler" was performed successfully by Kenny Rogers, but it was written by Don Schlitz.

Don Schlitz was 23 years old when he wrote that song. He was one of the greatest songwriters of our time. He passed away last Thursday night in Nashville, Tennessee, at the age of 73.

He was a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, the Songwriters Hall of Fame, the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, and he won two Grammy Awards. He had three Country Music Association Awards for Song of the Year and was ASCAP's Country Songwriter of the Year for 4 consecutive years.

What a career he had.

Among his 25 hits that hit number one were, of course, "The Gambler" by Kenny Rogers; "Forever and Ever, Amen" by Randy Travis; "When You Say Nothing At All" performed by both Keith Whitley, who made a hit out of it, and so did Alison Krauss; "Forty Hour Week" by Alabama; "One Promise Too Late" by Reba McEntire; "He Thinks He'll Keep Her" by Mary Chapin Carpenter, who cowrote the song with Don; "Strong Enough to Bend" by Tanya Tucker; and "On the Other Hand" by Randy Travis.

He had his first major hit with "The Gambler" in 1978. He was 23, and he had come to Nashville after going to Duke for a while. He wanted to be a songwriter, and he came to Nashville with \$80 in his pocket. That was the first song he wrote that ever got recorded. Bobby Bare did it first. It didn't sell

enough or well, and then finally Kenny Rogers got it, and it has become one of the greatest songs we know in history.

That song would win him both the Song of the Year at the Country Music Awards and the Country Song of the Year at the Grammy Awards.

He was also a friend of mine. He was a wonderful human being with a big heart. He used to call me his Congressman even though he lived in Nashville, and I was in Memphis.

I was honored by that appellation, and I will take it for the rest of my life as a great honor.

He served at the Room in the Inn helping people who were homeless. He just had a big heart.

He leaves his wife, Stacey, who is a sweetheart; his daughter, Cory; his son, Pete, and a brother and a sister. He leaves behind a great legacy and a great history of country music and songs that move the spirit.

May God bless my friend Don Schlitz.

#### RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS MISSION OF MERCY DENTAL CLINIC

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary work of the Arkansas Mission of Mercy dental clinic and its executive director, my good friend, Dr. Terry Fiddler of Conway, Arkansas.

For more than 20 years, including just last weekend, Arkansas Mission of Mercy has provided free, high-quality dental care for families who would otherwise go without.

Each year in Conway, hundreds of Arkansans line up in the early morning hours, some arriving before 3 a.m., for the chance to receive care.

Throughout these annual clinics, Mission of Mercy has served more than 28,000 patients and delivered over \$23 million in free dental services across our State.

This effort is powered by more than 800 volunteers, including dozens of dentists, hygienists, and medical professionals who give their time to serve their neighbors.

Dr. Fiddler and the Arkansas Mission of Mercy are not just restoring smiles. They are restoring dignity, health, and quality of life for thousands of Arkansans.

I thank Dr. Fiddler and his team for their years of service to our State.

#### IMPORTANCE OF FINANCIAL LITERACY

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the importance of financial literacy. April is National Financial Literacy Month, and it is worth pausing to recognize why it matters so much to our families.

Every day, Americans make decisions that shape their financial future: how to save, how to budget, how to plan for the unexpected. These choices have lasting consequences, and yet, too many people navigate them without the right tools or knowledge.

As a former community banker and investment adviser, helping Arkansans

understand their finances and plan for a secure future was one of the most rewarding chapters in my career.

The basics are simple but powerful. Live within your means. Save for that rainy day. Take advantage of compound interest. Plan ahead.

It is never too early or too late to learn about financial literacy. If you don't know where to start, reach out to your local bank, financial adviser, or financial planner in your community.

When Americans have the confidence and knowledge to manage their money well, they are better positioned for long-term success.

#### HONORING JOHN PURIFOY GILL

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and extraordinary legacy of a true Arkansas leader, John Purifoy Gill, who passed away last month at the age of 89.

John was a decorated marine, retiring as a lieutenant colonel, and a distinguished attorney who helped shape Arkansas law for decades.

From serving as a delegate to the Arkansas Constitutional Convention to leading the Arkansas Bar Association, his impact on our legal community is lasting and profound.

But John's leadership extended well beyond the law. He was a historian, a preservationist, and a storyteller, who dedicated his life to capturing the spirit of the Natural State.

His books, his work with our State Parks Commission, and his deep involvement in historic preservation ensured that Arkansas' story would be told and long remembered.

I had the privilege of working closely with him to honor Scipio A. Jones where John's research and advocacy were instrumental in placing this foundational and incredibly important attorney's portrait in the Little Rock post office that now bears his name.

John was a dear friend and a trusted voice. I loved our collaboration in historic preservation, outdoor recreation, and public service.

He leaves behind not just an extraordinary professional legacy but a loving family, a stronger Arkansas, and a standard of service that will continue to guide us.

#### HONORING ALAN GREENSPAN

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize that last month on March 6, Alan Greenspan celebrated his centennial, 100 years old.

Most Americans know him well as the man who ran the Federal Reserve for nearly 20 years, through four Presidents, historic prosperity, and he was witness to more than a few financial crises on his watch.

□ 1215

Often called the Maestro, he was confirmed as Fed Chairman on August 11, 1987, just 2 months before Black Monday, the largest single-day percentage decline in market history.

The next morning, the Fed issued a one-sentence statement: "The Federal Reserve, consistent with its responsibilities as the Nation's central bank,

affirmed today its readiness to serve as a source of liquidity to support the economic and financial system.”

It was short, calm, and unambiguous. Markets stabilized, and the crash did not become a depression.

That was Greenspan: precise under pressure and deliberate when others were panicking.

He went on to navigate the savings and loan crisis, the Gulf war recession, and the dot-com boom and bust.

My best wishes for his centennial, and my best wishes to his family.

GROTON, CONNECTICUT: SUB-  
MARINE CAPITAL OF THE  
WORLD

(Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw the attention of the House to another milestone in the extraordinary history of the Submarine Capital of the World, Groton, Connecticut, where this Saturday, USS *Idaho* (SSN-799) will be commissioned. *Idaho* is the 26th Virginia-class attack submarine delivered to the U.S. Navy, and the seventh such vessel built by the U.S. submarine industrial base in the last 4 years.

It is a technological marvel, weighing 7,800 tons, and the product of a workforce at the Electric Boat shipyard that has 26,000 hardworking, talented people.

Building a submarine is an extremely complex enterprise. Submarines operate in an environment that does not support human life, with a crew of 135 sailors. The boat is powered by a nuclear reactor and is armed with an arsenal to carry out its mission of deterrence. This is so important to our national security. Needless to say, there is no margin of error in its construction.

The good news is as the output of the Virginia-class program has grown, the proficiency of a new generation of shipyard workers has accelerated over the last 10 years, and the submarine quality scores by the Navy during submarine sea trials have steadily improved. In the case of USS *Idaho*, the Navy recorded the highest test scores in the history of the Virginia program.

Mr. Speaker, this successful commissioning is happening at a time when the volume of production is also hitting historic highs and hiring has been growing over the last 10 years.

This poster, produced by the U.S. Navy, depicts the volume of submarine construction tonnage in the U.S. starting in 1952, to my far right, through the present and into the future of 2054.

The orange bar represents tonnage in 2026, which is on par with the peak of high-rate production in the midst of the Cold War. There is no question, Mr. Speaker, that Groton, Connecticut, is the Submarine Capital of the World, full stop, period. It is not, as some are trying to say, trying to reclaim its title.

Indeed, after *Idaho*'s commissioning on Saturday, EB and its teaming partner, Huntington Ingalls Industries, are hard at work delivering USS *Arkansas* (SSN-800), which is now in the water performing sea trials, and USS *Utah* (SSN-801), which I visited in Groton with Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Daryl Caudle a few days ago, and soon to be floated off to join *Arkansas* for at-sea testing. They will be the 27th and the 28th Virginia-class submarines to be delivered to the fleet as soon as the end of this calendar year.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, Groton is the yard where the first Columbia-class SSBNs, the USS *District of Columbia*, is in the final stage of production and assembly. Columbia submarines weigh 21,000 tons, 2½ times the size of a Virginia. Once again, the EB workforce defied the skeptics and naysayers when the Navy announced that delivery of that boat is being moved up to calendar year 2028 from 2029, which was the Navy's prior plan.

As ranking member of the Seapower Subcommittee on the House Committee on House Armed Services, I cannot overstate how extraordinary it is to have a first-in-class of a program's delivery date moved forward rather than back.

The strong momentum at the Groton yard and its sister shipyard at Quonset Point, Rhode Island, received another round of good news when EB recently announced its hiring goal for 2026. The overall goal is 8,000 new workers in 2026: 3,400 in Rhode Island and 4,600 in Groton. The plan will take the workforce from 26,000 to over 30,000 for the first time since the 1980s.

Once again, the skeptics and naysayers are scoffing at this goal, but as someone who has been directly involved in the adult job training programs and helping equip career and technical schools, as well as regular comprehensive high schools, with apparatus to run metal trades curricula, I have no doubt that Groton will meet its goal.

Indeed, 1 week ago, EB held a job fair in Waterford, Connecticut, expecting perhaps a few hundred visits. Instead, 1,800 people showed up. They had to cut off the line a few hours into the event because the H.R. staff was so overwhelmed.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday at the USS *Idaho* commissioning, the head of Naval Reactors Admiral Bill Houston, the successor to the Father of the Nuclear Navy, Hyman Rickover, will deliver keynote remarks, and it will be a proud moment for the ship's commanding officer, Commander Chad Guillerault, his crew, and their families.

It will also be a strong reaffirmation at the Groton Submarine Base, America's oldest submarine base, that the men and women who work at Electric Boat have, once again, demonstrated to our Nation and the world that Groton is still and always will be the Submarine Capital of the World.

PEDAL FOR IMPACT

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we all know why a bicycle can't stand up by itself. It is because it is too tired. We also go through life being too tired sometimes, but for two married veterans in northeast Florida, they are overcoming being too tired because they, Mr. Speaker, are on a mission.

Ashton and Casey Kroner are undertaking an amazing journey. This June, they will leave Green Cove Springs, Florida, and travel all 737 miles here to Washington, D.C., to advocate for change on bicycles.

They call it Pedal for Impact. Casey is currently battling cancer. His journey reflects what too many veterans experience: a health system that should work better. His story is not about blame but about awareness, urgency, and getting this right for the next veteran.

Mr. Speaker, veterans face higher cancer risks due to toxic exposures, yet screenings still rely largely on age rather than exposure history. That gap leads to delays, difficult treatments, and outcomes we can and must improve.

Ashton and Casey are seeking solutions. As they ride through Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, and Virginia, they carry a simple message: Screen earlier, detect sooner, and save lives.

In a town where we talk about moving the needle and where we all talk about leadership, they show us that moving the needle is sometimes accomplished by moving the pedals and shifting into high gear.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes we are all too tired, but Ashton and Casey show us that this is no moment to squeeze the brakes. We must keep moving forward for our veterans and in the fight against cancer.

Godspeed on their mission and journey.

Pedal on, Ashton and Casey.

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

Pastor Chad Weeks, Russell Baptist Church, Green Cove Springs, Florida, offered the following prayer:

God of Heaven and sovereign Lord of the nations, we come before You in this

Chamber mindful of Your holiness, goodness, justice, and mercy.

From our founding, this Nation has known its need for You, and we confess that we have often strayed from Your ways. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

We thank You for sustaining, preserving, and protecting this Nation through these 250 years and for every undeserved blessing You have given.

Grant wisdom, integrity, and humility to these lawmakers, that they may govern justly and serve faithfully. Restrain and frustrate all who seek evil, ruin, or violence against this land.

Turn the heart of our Nation back to You, and grant our children a future marked by truth, righteousness, peace, and freedom to walk in Your ways.

We ask this in the name of Your glorious Son, our only Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

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 Mississippi (Mr. EZELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. EZELL 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.

### WELCOMING PASTOR CHAD WEEKS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, Mr. BEAN of Florida was recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in a world that often feels out of control, marked by anxiety and fear, how do we respond to this chaos?

Pastor Chad Weeks reminds us of a simple but powerful answer: faith.

Today, I rise to honor Pastor Chad Weeks of Russell Baptist Church in Green Cove Springs, Florida, and to thank him for serving as the House's guest chaplain.

As lead pastor of a historic church founded by his great-grandparents in 1916, Pastor Weeks carries a legacy of service. Under his leadership, Russell Baptist has become a place to find strength in adversity and hope in times of hardship.

In a season of rapid growth, he has remained steadfast in holding firm to biblical truths while investing in the next generation through thriving youth ministries and community outreach.

It is a true honor to welcome Pastor Weeks to our Nation's Capital, along

with his parents, Jimmy and Joan Weeks; his wife, Ashley; and their four children: Ava, Eden, Ella, and John.

I am grateful for his friendship, Mr. Speaker, and his ministry in Clay County, Florida, and particularly for his boldness in sharing the Gospel.

### HONORING THE LIFE AND ULTIMATE SACRIFICE OF DEPUTY MICHAEL LEROY JIMERSON

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

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and ultimate sacrifice of Deputy Michael Leroy Jimerson of the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on April 2, 2026.

Deputy Jimerson made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his community. He put others before himself, living out the oath he took with courage, selflessness, and an unwavering commitment to protect those around him.

Mike served his community for 16 years with the Sheriff's Department, beginning as a volunteer before becoming a deputy. He answered the call to serve not because he had to, but because he believed in it.

He was a devoted husband to his high school sweetheart, Sheila, a proud father, and a loving grandfather. To his family, he was a protector and a steady presence. To his community, he was someone people could depend on.

This loss of the deputy is deeply felt across south Mississippi. As a former sheriff of this same organization, I know the risks that come with the badge and the kind of character it takes to wear it every day.

We honor his memory, we pray for his family, and we stand with the men and women who have come to serve.

Mike, you will not be forgotten. Rest in peace, brother.

### WISHING SENATOR PAT ROBERTS A VERY HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish former Senator Pat Roberts a very happy 90th birthday.

For decades, Senator Roberts showed up for Kansas, first as a marine, and then for our rural communities as chairman of both the Senate and House Agriculture Committees. When he was elected to the Senate in 1996, he promised that "when Kansas spoke, Washington would listen."

Mr. Speaker, no matter your political party, that kind of commitment is something that we should all respect and emulate.

Personally, I have appreciated the guidance he has shared with me over the years, especially on the farm bill. He understands still today that agriculture isn't just part of our State's economy, it is in our blood.

His mentorship is a reminder that even in a place like D.C., we can still come together, share stories, and learn from one another.

Today, we celebrate a Kansan who spent a lifetime working on our behalf.

Happy 90th birthday, Senator Roberts, and I thank you for all of your service.

### PRAY FOR SHREVEPORT ON LOSING EIGHT PRECIOUS CHILDREN IN A SENSELESS ACT OF VIOLENCE

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

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning, Shreveport lost eight precious children in a senseless act of violence. Eight children, the youngest just 3 years of age, are gone way too soon. There are simply no words.

Our hearts break for the families and everyone in the Cedar Grove neighborhood who are dealing with this unimaginable grief. We extend our deepest condolences to each of the families who lost loved ones and will continue lifting up the two women who were injured.

I encourage Louisiana and the Nation to join me in praying for these families and for this community.

I would also like to commend the officers and first responders who had to witness this tragedy firsthand for their bravery and dedication.

Shreveport is hurting now, but we have seen tough times before, and I know we will get through it again.

To the people of Cedar Grove, you are not alone. The Nation stands with you, and we will work through this together.

### CONGRATULATING THE ARTEMIS II CREW

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Artemis II crew on their successful mission around the Moon.

On this historic journey, Christina Koch made history as the first woman to travel this far into space. I am especially excited to celebrate Christina's achievement because she is a proud graduate of NC State University in my district.

Go Pack.

She is an inspiration to women and girls everywhere who want to pursue a career in a field that has been dominated by men.

Artemis II reminds us of the power of investing in space, science, and innovation, and, as Christina shared, the power of a crew. These four extraordinary astronauts set the stage for the future of the space program and for future generations of scientists.

Let's continue to make robust investments in science that will propel us to new heights.

□ 1410

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIGAN) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives: OFFICE OF THE CLERK, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Washington, DC, April 17, 2026.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON, The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 17, 2026, at 11:15 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8322.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill and joint resolution were signed by the Speaker on Friday, April 17, 2026:

H.R. 8322, to amend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 to extend the authorities of title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 through April 30, 2026, and for other purposes; and

H.J. Res. 140, 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.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM) at 4 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.

FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2026

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7386) to amend the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 to reauthorize the First Responder Network Authority, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7386

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act of 2026”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Reauthorization of First Responder Network Authority.
- Sec. 3. Authority of NTIA over First Responder Network Authority.
- Sec. 4. Board of First Responder Network Authority.
- Sec. 5. Associate Administrator.
- Sec. 6. Components of nationwide public safety broadband network.
- Sec. 7. Flexibility in establishing fee amounts.
- Sec. 8. Reports to Congress on First Responder Network Authority.
- Sec. 9. Business continuity and disaster recovery plan.
- Sec. 10. Outage notifications.
- Sec. 11. Submission to Congress of FirstNet contract.
- Sec. 12. Definitions.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY.

Section 6206 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1426) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f), by striking “the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this title” and inserting “September 30, 2037”; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking “Not later than 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act” and inserting “Not later than 7 years after the date of the enactment of the First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act of 2026”; and

(B) by striking “15-year sunset” and inserting “termination”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: “Such report shall also contain recommendations for Congress and the NTIA regarding preparations for the expiration of any contract between the First Responder Network Authority and the FirstNet contractor with respect to building, operating, or maintaining the nationwide public safety broadband network.”.

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF NTIA OVER FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 6204(a), by striking “as an independent authority”; and

(2) in section 6206—

(A) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (e), (f), (g), and (h), respectively;

(B) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) ACTIONS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF NTIA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any action taken by the First Responder Network Authority shall be subject to the approval of the NTIA.

“(2) MANNER OF APPROVAL.—

“(A) PRIOR APPROVAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the First Responder Network Authority may not take an action unless the NTIA has provided prior approval for such action.

“(B) ACTIONS FOR WHICH PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED.—The First Responder Network Authority may take any of the following actions without prior approval by the NTIA:

“(i) Deploying emergency response capabilities and resources to emergencies and disasters.

“(ii) Setting strategic priorities and conducting planning activities with respect to the nationwide public safety broadband network.

“(iii) Maintaining and updating the First Responder Network Authority Strategic Plan and Roadmap or a similar document with respect to the growth, evolution, and advancement of the nationwide public safety broadband network.

“(iv) Establishing performance expectations and investment priorities with respect to the nationwide public safety broadband network.

“(v) Developing and adopting the annual budget of the First Responder Network Authority and outlining all network reinvestment decisions and task orders with respect to the nationwide public safety broadband network.

“(vi) Making written recommendations to the NTIA for action upon network reinvestment decisions and task orders with respect to the nationwide public safety broadband network.

“(vii) Managing the device and application ecosystem with respect to the nationwide public safety broadband network.

“(viii) Receiving reports from the Public Safety Advisory Committee or other advisory committees established by the First Responder Network Authority.

“(ix) Communicating with and conducting outreach to public safety entities and public safety professionals.

“(x) Reporting to and briefing Congress, in accordance with this subtitle.

“(xi) Such other actions as the NTIA may specify.

“(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to alter the requirement of subsection (c) of section 6208 that fees may only be assessed under such section if approved by the NTIA.”; and

(C) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated), by striking “subsection (f)” and inserting “subsection (g)”; and

(3) in section 6208(d)—

(A) by striking “The First Responder Network Authority” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The First Responder Network Authority”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) NTIA ACTION ON NETWORK REINVESTMENT DECISIONS AND TASK ORDERS.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the NTIA receives a written recommendation from the First Responder Network Authority for action upon a network reinvestment decision or task order with respect to the nationwide public safety broadband network, the NTIA shall take action upon such network reinvestment decision or task order.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 6205(b)(2) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1425(b)(2)) is amended by striking “If” and inserting “Subject to section 6206(d), if”.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to—

(1) except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, actions taken by the First Responder Network Authority on or after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) in the case of paragraph (2) of section 6208(d) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job

Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1428(d)), as added by this section, written recommendations received by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 4. BOARD OF FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY.**

(a) **PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS.**—Section 6204(b)(2)(A) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1424(b)(2)(A)) is amended by amending clause (iv) to read as follows:

“(iv) ensure that, on and after the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of the First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act of 2026, the Board includes not fewer than 5 individuals serving as State, local, or Tribal public safety professionals in the fields of fire response services, emergency medical services, emergency management services, law enforcement, or 9–1–1 services.”.

(b) **STAGGERED TERMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 6204(c)(2) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1424(c)(2)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “3 years” and inserting “not more than 3 years”; and

(B) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

“(D) **STAGGERED TERMS.**—In making appointments under subsection (b)(1)(D), the Secretary of Commerce shall ensure that the terms of office of individuals so appointed are staggered, as the Secretary considers appropriate to reduce the likelihood that the terms of office of more than 4 such individuals will expire at the same time.”.

(2) **APPLICABILITY.**—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to appointments made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 5. ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 6204 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1424) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) **ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The First Responder Network Authority shall have an Associate Administrator, who shall be a career appointee (as defined in section 3132(a) of title 5, United States Code) in the Senior Executive Service and who shall be appointed by the Assistant Secretary from among 3 individuals nominated by the Board. The Assistant Secretary shall make such appointment under the merit procedures applicable to appointing such career appointees under subchapter II of chapter 31 of such title 5.

“(2) **DUTIES.**—The Associate Administrator shall do the following:

“(A) Subject to the direction of the Board and approval by the Assistant Secretary under section 6206(d), manage the staff and operations of the First Responder Network Authority in order to ensure that the duties and responsibilities of the First Responder Network Authority are carried out.

“(B) Serve as a liaison between the Board and the Assistant Secretary, including with respect to ensuring compliance by the First Responder Network Authority with section 6206(d).

“(3) **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS.**—The NTIA, in consultation with the Chair of the Board and any committee of the Board relating to governance and risk, shall conduct an annual performance review of the Associate Administrator.”.

(b) **CONTINUATION IN OFFICE.**—The individual serving as the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the First Responder Network Authority on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act may serve as the Associate Administrator under subsection (h) of section 6204 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1424), as added by

subsection (a), on and after such date of enactment without the need for appointment under such subsection (h).

**SEC. 6. COMPONENTS OF NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND NETWORK.**

Section 6202(b) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1422(b)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “and initially consists of” and inserting “and consists of such technologies and services as necessary to enable secure, interoperable, resilient, and prioritized broadband communications for public safety entities, including”.

**SEC. 7. FLEXIBILITY IN ESTABLISHING FEE AMOUNTS.**

Section 6208(b) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1428(b)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(or other period specified by the First Responder Network Authority)” after “for each fiscal year”; and

(2) by striking “the fiscal year involved” and inserting “such fiscal year (or other period)”.

**SEC. 8. REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY.**

(a) **ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY AUDIT REPORT.**—Section 6209(b)(2) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1429(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

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

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) an evaluation of the performance of the FirstNet contractor under the contract in building, operating, and maintaining the nationwide public safety broadband network.”.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—Subtitle B of title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.), as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 6214. ANNUAL REPORTS ON FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY.**

“(a) **REPORT ON NETWORK MATTERS.**—The NTIA shall submit to Congress an annual report that includes information on cyberattacks, cyber defense efforts, and unscheduled service outages of all causes with respect to the nationwide public safety broadband network. Each such annual report—

“(1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex; and

“(2) at the request of the Board, shall include a statement from the Board with respect to such information.

“(b) **REPORT ON ADOPTION RATES.**—The NTIA shall submit to Congress an annual report on adoption rates, by profession and geographic area, with respect to the nationwide public safety broadband network that, at the request of the Board, shall include a statement from the Board with respect to such adoption rates.”.

(c) **ANNUAL BRIEFING.**—Subtitle B of title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.), as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 6215. ANNUAL BRIEFINGS ON FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY.**

“Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the NTIA shall provide to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a briefing on activities with respect to the First Responder Network Authority that, at the request of the Board, shall include the participation of the Chair of the Board (or a designee thereof).”.

**SEC. 9. BUSINESS CONTINUITY AND DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN.**

Subtitle B of title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.), as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 6216. BUSINESS CONTINUITY AND DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN.**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and every 5 years thereafter, the FirstNet contractor shall submit to the NTIA for approval, and to the Board for review, a business continuity and disaster recovery plan to ensure rapid restoration of the nationwide public safety broadband network following an outage resulting from a natural disaster or other emergency.

“(b) **TIMING OF APPROVAL OR REQUEST FOR RESUBMISSION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the NTIA receives a plan submitted under this section, the NTIA, in consultation with the Board, shall—

“(1) approve such plan; or

“(2) provide to the FirstNet contractor a written notice of—

“(A) the reasoning for not approving such plan; and

“(B) the timeframe and process, as determined by the NTIA, for resubmitting such plan for approval.”.

**SEC. 10. OUTAGE NOTIFICATIONS.**

Subtitle B of title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.), as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 6217. OUTAGE NOTIFICATIONS.**

“In the case of any unscheduled service outage with respect to the nationwide public safety broadband network—

“(1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 30 minutes, after the FirstNet contractor has confirmed such outage, the FirstNet contractor shall notify the First Responder Network Authority of such outage; and

“(2) the FirstNet contractor shall provide to the departments and agencies that use such network a network status tool that provides timely information on such outage.”.

**SEC. 11. SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS OF FIRSTNET CONTRACT.**

Subtitle B of title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.), as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 6218. SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS OF FIRSTNET CONTRACT.**

“Not later than 7 days after receiving a request, in writing, from the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, or from the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to such Committee any contract between the First Responder Network Authority and the FirstNet contractor with respect to building, operating, or maintaining the nationwide public safety broadband network.”.

**SEC. 12. DEFINITIONS.**

Section 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (15) through (33) as paragraphs (16) through (34), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (14) the following:

“(15) **FIRSTNET CONTRACTOR.**—The term ‘FirstNet contractor’ means the entity that, under contract with the First Responder Network Authority, builds, operates, and maintains the nationwide public safety broadband network.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) and the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ALLEN. 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 in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, H.R. 7386, the First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act, led by Representative DUNN. The First Responder Network Authority, FirstNet, was born to solve the problems first responders faced during the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

In 2012, Congress established FirstNet as the dedicated network for first responders so they would never again suffer the severe communication failures that undermined their ability to coordinate and respond to the attacks. Nearly 15 years later, FirstNet has become a vital tool for first responders nationwide, and it is time for Congress to reauthorize this program so they can continue to do their lifesaving work.

Plain and simple, this legislation reauthorizes this important tool for first responders and makes improvements to ensure long-term success of the network, while increasing transparency and accountability within the program.

This legislation has strong bipartisan support. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7386, the First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act, and I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

On 9/11, first responders faced tremendous challenges in trying to communicate with each other and coordinate their response to the terrorist attacks. There was no dedicated network for public safety communications.

In 2012, Congress fixed that problem by authorizing the creation of the First Responder Network Authority, or FirstNet. FirstNet has become a cornerstone of our Nation's public safety communications. It ensures that first responders, no matter where they serve, have access to a reliable, interoperable, and resilient broadband network that prioritizes public safety when it matters most.

Today, that mission is more critical than ever. As natural disasters, extreme weather events, and emergencies grow more frequent and more complex, our first responders need communica-

tion capabilities supported by infrastructure they can depend on without fail.

This bill takes an important step forward, on a bipartisan basis, toward that goal. It reauthorizes FirstNet for 10 years, providing certainty for the public safety community for the foreseeable future. At the same time, it strengthens oversight, transparency, and the accountability of the FirstNet Authority, ensuring that this vital network remains responsive, effective, and worthy of the trust placed in it by first responders.

The bill also provides important clarity about the relationship between the board and the FirstNet Authority, ensuring that public safety officials remain at the core of decisionmaking.

Importantly, it strikes the right balance: preserving speed and operational continuity while ensuring that governance keeps pace with the scale and importance of the network. Oversight and stability are not competing goals. They complement one another for the benefit of public safety.

I thank Ranking Members PALLONE and MATSUI, Chairmen GUTHRIE and HUDSON, and my colleague Mr. DUNN of Florida for their leadership and partnership on advancing this bill.

This is a strong, bipartisan product, shaped through regular order in the Committee on Energy and Commerce with input from stakeholders. Ultimately, this legislation is grounded in a shared commitment to support those who put their lives on the line every single day.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7386, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DUNN), my good friend.

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to be here in support of this bipartisan, common-sense bill to reauthorize the First Responder Network Authority.

I thank Chairman GUTHRIE and Chairman HUDSON for their work throughout this process, along with my colleague on the other side of the aisle, my friend Representative JENNIFER MCCLELLAN of Virginia, for co-leading this legislation with me.

The First Responder Network Authority, known as FirstNet, was established by Congress with a clear objective in mind: to build a preemptive network for the first responders that they can rely on in any emergency.

The brave men and women who risk their lives day in and out for our communities deserve nothing less than a resilient and dependable communication system.

FirstNet has delivered on this promise, and today, it is the backbone of public safety communication in the United States.

The authority governing FirstNet is set to expire in February 2027. Without

proper action, we are putting the safety of our first responders and our communities at risk.

This crucial legislation would extend that authority through September 2037, giving FirstNet the long-term certainty it needs to continue investing in our Nation's safety.

In the wake of some of the most destructive natural disasters in recent memory, the importance of this network could not be more clear.

My home State of Florida understands all too well how devastating these natural disasters can be. My district has endured literally dozens of hurricanes and tropical storms in the last 10 years, most notably Hurricane Michael in 2018.

In those moments when every second counts, when innocent lives are on the line, the question of whether or not first responders can communicate with one another should never be in doubt.

At this time, I would like to take a moment to recognize the brave men and women who step forward when others step back.

I give a special thank-you to Walton County's very own Sheriff Michael Adkinson for his leadership in underscoring the imperative nature of FirstNet.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), my good friend.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as chairman of the Fire Services Caucus and as a former firefighter myself to speak in support of the reauthorization of FirstNet.

This bill is about making sure that the people are on the front lines and can do their jobs safely and effectively.

This year, we mark the 25th anniversary of 9/11, one of the darkest days in American history. After September 11, we learned what happens when communications fail. Firefighters, police, and EMS could not talk to each other across agencies. That breakdown made an already dangerous situation even worse.

Congress created FirstNet to fix that by building a dedicated nationwide network just for public safety. The legislation keeps the network in place and makes it stronger. It extends FirstNet for another 10 years so departments aren't left guessing about whether the system will still be there. It increases public safety representation on the board of FirstNet from three to five members, which means more firefighters and first responders helping guide how the network is built and improved.

□ 1610

It also allows the network to invest in newer technology, not just what was defined over a decade ago.

Anyone who is in the fire service knows the tools change. Communications systems have to keep up, or they fall behind very quickly.

There are also real accountability measures here such as annual reports on cybersecurity, independent evaluations of the contractors, and requiring plans to restore service after disasters.

If there is an outage, departments have to be notified within 30 minutes. That is the kind of standard first responders expect.

When I first joined the fire service, we did not always have dedicated networks like this. You were dealing with radios that did not always connect across jurisdictions. You were relaying messages instead of getting them directly. A system like this would have cut through that and made the response more coordinated.

This is not complicated. Better communications lead to better coordination, and that saves lives.

This passed out of committee 51-0. This agreement shows how important it is. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this effort.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 7386, the First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act.

Again, this not only implements the lessons learned from 9/11, but this bill strengthens the FirstNet Authority so that ultimately a network that could not have been imagined in 2001 now will be always available, dedicated, and interoperable for our first responders so that they know they can do their job and not worry about their communication system going down.

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Virginia for her support of this important legislation.

Like I said, this is a bipartisan bill, and I urge support of this bill and ask for immediate passage.

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 Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7386, 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.

#### MYSTIC ALERTS ACT

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7022) to provide for the transmission of emergency alerts by satellite, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7022

*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 "Mystic Alerts Act".*

#### SEC. 2. TRANSMISSION OF EMERGENCY ALERTS BY SATELLITE.

(a) SERVICE PROVIDER ELECTION.—

(1) REQUIRED FILING.—Not later than 60 days after the effective date of the final rule required to be issued under subsection (b), each covered service provider shall file an election with the Federal Communications Commission with respect to whether the provider intends to transmit emergency alerts by satellite to the subscribers of the commercial mobile service of the provider who receive such service on devices capable of receiving such alerts, in addition to the transmission of emergency alerts under the Warning Alert, and Response Network Act.

(2) NOTIFICATION; AGREEMENT.—If a provider elects to transmit emergency alerts to subscribers by satellite under paragraph (1), the provider shall—

(A) notify the Commission of that election; and

(B) agree to transmit such alerts in a manner consistent with the technical standards, protocols, procedures, and other technical requirements implemented by the Commission.

(3) ELECTION NOT TO TRANSMIT.—If a provider elects not to transmit emergency alerts by satellite under paragraph (1), the provider shall provide notice to new and existing subscribers described in such paragraph of that election in the same manner that is required under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 602(b)(1) of the Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act.

(4) CONSUMER CHOICE TO OPT OUT.—If a provider elects to transmit emergency alerts to subscribers of such service by satellite under paragraph (1), the provider shall prevent the device of any such subscriber that opts out of receiving emergency alerts pursuant to section 602(b)(2)(E) of the Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act, or classes of such alerts, from receiving such alerts by satellite.

(5) NO FEE FOR SERVICE.—If a provider elects to transmit emergency alerts to subscribers by satellite under paragraph (1), the provider may not impose a separate or additional charge for such transmission or capability.

(b) SATELLITE ALERT REGULATIONS.—

(1) NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall publish a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to establish any requirements necessary to facilitate the satellite alerting capability of covered service providers.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) take into account the capability of—

(i) satellites to transmit emergency alerts; and

(ii) mobile devices to receive and display such alerts; and

(B) minimize the impact of emergency alerting on other voice and data communications, including 9-1-1 communications.

(3) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, issue a final rule establishing the requirements described under paragraph (1).

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE OF RULE.—

(A) DATE.—The effective date of the final rule described under paragraph (3) shall be the later of—

(i) 36 months after publication of the final rule in the Federal Register; or

(ii) 12 months after the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Administrator of the Federal

Emergency Management Agency implement any standards, protocols, or procedures necessary to support the transmission of emergency alerts from alert originators to covered service providers, the Secretary and the Administrator shall notify the Commission of such implementation.

(B) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall notify the Commission of the implementation of any standards, protocols, or procedures described under subparagraph (A)(ii) for the purpose of determining the effective date of the final rule described under paragraph (3).

(c) LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any covered service provider (including its officers, directors, employees, vendors, and agents) that transmits emergency alerts by satellite and meets its obligations under this Act shall not be liable to any subscriber to, or user of, such person's service or equipment for—

(A) any act or omission related to or any harm resulting from the transmission of, or failure to transmit, an emergency alert by satellite; or

(B) the release to a government agency or entity, public safety, fire service, law enforcement official, emergency medical service, or emergency facility of subscriber information used in connection with delivering such an alert.

(2) ELECTION NOT TO TRANSMIT ALERTS BY SATELLITE.—The election by a covered service provider under subsection (a)(3) not to transmit emergency alerts by satellite shall not, by itself, provide a basis for liability against the provider (including its officers, directors, employees, vendors, and agents).

(d) COVERED SERVICE PROVIDER.—In this Act, "covered service provider" means a provider of commercial mobile service that—

(1) voluntarily elects to transmit emergency alerts under section 602(b) of the Warning, Alert, and Response Network Act (Public Law 109-347; 42 U.S.C. 1201); and

(2) makes satellite voice and data communications service available to subscribers of the commercial mobile service of the provider.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, H.R. 7022, the Mystic Alerts Act, led by Representative PFLUGER.

While we work to increase cell phone connectivity across the country, there are and may always be certain areas of this country that do not have access to that connectivity.

That can be a problem in times of natural disasters or other emergencies. If you don't have a connection, you may not be able to receive a wireless emergency alert or other emergency notifications. Satellite technology is beginning to bridge that gap with our

cell phones, and it could bring a huge benefit for public safety.

This legislation would kick-start the process for mobile service providers to utilize satellite connectivity to send alert messages in areas that may not have access to terrestrial cell network coverage.

This legislation has strong bipartisan support. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7022, the Mystic Alerts Act.

Emergency alerting capabilities have come a long way in recent decades as a direct byproduct of innovation and breakthroughs in wireless technology.

Not long ago, 911 calls predominantly were made from landline phones, and emergency alerts were received primarily over broadcast television and radio channels.

Both capabilities still exist and have an important role in emergency communications, but I expect for most Americans, they make their 911 calls and receive their emergency alerts on their cell phone, a smartphone.

The creation of the Wireless Emergency Alert, or WEA, in 2012 marked a significant leap forward in our ability to disseminate warning and alert messages to the public.

Prior to 2012, Americans needed to already be tuned into broadcast programming to receive an alert being distributed for any number of important situations. In the case of a hurricane or a winter storm that was forecasted in advance, for instance, the Emergency Alert System was critical for broadly distributing public safety updates and instructions to viewers. But we know that not all emergencies announce themselves days in advance.

All across the country, natural disasters like tornadoes, wildfires, and flash floods show up with little or no advance warning. One tragedy after another has demonstrated that when a wildfire spreads or floodwaters rise rapidly without warning, being able to push emergency warning information out directly to cell phones in a danger zone is one of the most powerful tools we have to save lives.

The WEA system allows alerting authorities at nearly every level of government the ability to reach Americans where they are. Cell phones are ubiquitous today, and if we avoid falling into the traps of unclear and over-alerting, it will only continue to be more effective as wireless providers and alerting authorities take steps forward to improve geotargeting and location accuracy.

H.R. 7022 directs the FCC to take steps that will open up the WEA system so that satellite communication providers can leverage direct-to-cell capabilities to deliver wireless emergency alerts to cell phones in terrestrial dead zones where mobile carriers don't have coverage.

This is incredibly important for Americans who enjoy spending time in our beautiful national parks and forests, skiing in the mountains, and exploring other natural areas where connectivity is limited but where being without emergency information can be deadly, as we saw with Mystic this summer.

I thank Representatives FLETCHER and PFLUGER for their leadership on this effort to not only expand the reach of lifesaving emergency alerts but to turn tragedy into a victory to ensure more families don't suffer the same tragedy.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7022, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), my good friend.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the bipartisan H.R. 7022, the Mystic Alerts Act introduced by Congressman PFLUGER.

Public safety is one of Congress' most serious responsibilities, and this bill addresses a clear and urgent gap in our emergency communication system. Recent disasters have reminded us that when lives are on the line, emergency alerts must work immediately, reliably, and everywhere.

But too often, that is not guaranteed. In moments of crisis, terrestrial communication networks can be damaged, overloaded, or simply unavailable. When that happens, families may not receive the warnings they need until it is too late.

□ 1620

Like Congressman PFLUGER, my family was directly impacted by the Camp Mystic flooding in Texas. As we all know, I had two granddaughters who were there. They lost one of their cousins, Janie Hunt.

That tragedy showed in the clearest possible terms how fast conditions can deteriorate and how devastating the consequences can be when warnings do not reach people in time.

The Mystic Alerts Act takes an important step forward by directing the FCC to establish standards and requirements for delivering emergency alerts through satellite connectivity. That means building redundancy into the system so that when traditional networks fail, alerts can still get through.

That matters for rural communities. It matters for disaster zones. It matters for places where geography, infrastructure damage, or network congestion can leave people isolated at the worst possible moment. It matters for every American who expects that, in an emergency, the government will do everything it can to get critical warnings into their hands.

This legislation will help modernize our emergency alerting framework, strengthen resilience, and improve our

ability to save lives during floods, wildfires, hurricanes, and other disasters. It also honors the victims of the Camp Mystic flood by ensuring that we will not simply mourn tragedy but learn from it and act.

I commend Congressman PFLUGER for his leadership and for bringing forward a practical, bipartisan solution. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7022, the Mystic Alerts Act.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 7022, the Mystic Alerts Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia for her support of this bill. I, too, encourage all Members to vote for H.R. 7022 for immediate passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BICE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7022, 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.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Matthew Hanley, one of his secretaries.

#### EXPEDITING FEDERAL BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT REVIEWS ACT

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1681

*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 "Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment Reviews Act".

#### SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERAGENCY STRIKE FORCE.

(a) INTERAGENCY STRIKE FORCE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall establish an interagency strike force to ensure that each Federal land management agency, including each organizational unit of the agency, prioritizes the review of requests for communications use authorizations.

(2) MEMBERS.—The strike force shall be composed of—

(A) the Assistant Secretary;

(B) the head of each Federal land management agency;

(C) a designee of the Secretary of Agriculture, other than the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(D) a designee of the Secretary of the Interior, other than the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(3) DUTIES.—The duties of the strike force shall include—

(A) conducting periodic calls between the members of the strike force to ensure that each Federal land management agency, including each organizational unit of the agency, prioritizes the review of requests for communications use authorizations;

(B) establishing objective and reasonable goals for the review of requests for communications use authorizations; and

(C) monitoring, and facilitating the accountability of, each Federal land management agency, including each organizational unit of the agency, with respect to meeting such goals.

(4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effectiveness of the strike force in ensuring that each Federal land management agency, including each organizational unit of the agency, prioritizes the review of requests for communications use authorizations.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(3) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY.—The term “communications facility” has the meaning given the term “communications facility installation” in section 6409(d) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(d)).

(4) COMMUNICATIONS USE.—The term “communications use” means the placement and operation of a communications facility.

(5) COMMUNICATIONS USE AUTHORIZATION.—The term “communications use authorization” means an easement, right-of-way, lease, license, or other authorization—

(A) provided by a Federal land management agency;

(B) to locate or modify a communications facility on covered land; and

(C) for the primary purpose of authorizing the occupancy and use of such land for communications use.

(6) COVERED LAND.—The term “covered land” means—

(A) public lands; and

(B) National Forest System land.

(7) FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The term “Federal land management agency” means each of the following:

(A) The Bureau of Land Management.

(B) The Forest Service.

(8) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term “National Forest System” has the meaning given that term in section 11(a) of the Forest

and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

(9) ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT.—The term “organizational unit” means—

(A) with respect to the Bureau of Land Management—

(i) a State office;

(ii) a regional office;

(iii) a district office; or

(iv) a field office; and

(B) with respect to the Forest Service—

(i) a regional office;

(ii) a management unit; or

(iii) a ranger district office.

(10) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands” has the meaning given that term in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

(11) STRIKE FORCE.—The term “strike force” means the interagency strike force established under subsection (a)(1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) and the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. McCLELLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ALLEN. Madam 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 into the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1681, the Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment Reviews Act, sponsored by Representatives EVANS and CRAIG.

This legislation establishes an interagency strike force to help prioritize permitting reviews for deploying broadband on Federal lands.

Broadband has become an essential part of everyday life. We need broadband for work, to stay connected with loved ones, and even for healthcare and education. However, too many Americans still lack access to broadband. Thus, Congress has provided billions of dollars to ensure that every American gets connected.

Deploying on Federal lands is a critical part of closing the digital divide. Many unserved communities are near Federal lands, and thus broadband providers must transverse these lands to reach these unserved homes and businesses.

Unfortunately, deploying broadband on Federal lands can be burdensome, particularly when it comes to the permitting process. Providers have testified that this complicated process moves slowly, and they are often left in the dark on the status of their applications. As a result, unserved communities are left without the broadband they need as providers wait for agencies to approve their permits.

We need to reform the broadband permitting process. Not only do we need to streamline how we review permits,

we need to ensure the agencies that manage Federal lands prioritize these reviews. H.R. 1681, the Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment Reviews Act, will help ensure this happens.

H.R. 1681 directs the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to create an interagency strike force that includes the head of each Federal land management agency to ensure that they are prioritizing the review of broadband-permitting applications. In addition to holding periodic calls, the strike force will establish goals for the review of the requests, and monitor and hold each agency accountable for these goals.

This strike force is necessary to expedite the permitting process so that every American has access to broadband.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, I thank the sponsors, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1681, the Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment Reviews Act, which was introduced by Representatives CRAIG and EVANS.

When communications providers deploy broadband infrastructure, efficiency is critical to stretching their capital investments as far and to as many homes and businesses as possible. In the course of developing and comparing different ways to carry out a project, providers may determine that the most direct route to lay broadband infrastructure requires traversing lands owned and managed by the Federal Government.

At the Energy and Commerce Committee, we have heard testimony from witnesses and hearings about delays and inefficiencies handling permit applications that are pending at the various agencies overseeing Federal lands. While environmental and historic preservation protections will always be of paramount importance to me, we should always strive to ensure that our agencies operate as efficiently as possible.

With H.R. 1681, Congress can ensure agencies dispense with applications to deploy communications infrastructure more quickly, where no additional environmental or historic preservation due diligence is required.

This bill requires the administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, or NTIA, to establish an interagency strike force that will improve collaboration between NTIA and the agencies and departments responsible for reviewing and approving communications use applications.

Our intent is for NTIA to bring relevant parties together to identify obstacles and inefficiencies that have slowed progress in the past and collaborate on solutions to address these barriers going forward. This will ultimately expedite the deployment of

broadband infrastructure to the rural and remote areas that are still most in need.

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. EVANS) to speak on the bill.

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of my bipartisan bill, the Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment Reviews Act. This legislation, which I am proud to lead with my colleague from Minnesota, will help streamline broadband permitting to help deliver fast, reliable internet to the communities that need it most by creating a new system for prioritizing broadband deployment requests on or across Federal land.

It is a commonsense piece of legislation that, as we have heard, directs the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to establish a strike force to support Federal land management agencies' review of requests to deploy broadband across and through Federal land.

My home State of Colorado is the heart of the Rocky Mountain West with more than 24 million acres of Federal land, which is about the size of Indiana. Roughly 36 percent of the total acreage of Colorado is Federal land, and it serves countless roles, from conservation and recreation to other activities. These diverse uses also mean that multiple agencies have jurisdiction over these 24 million acres from the National Park Service to the United States Forest Service to the Bureau of Land Management. These agencies often have duplicative or redundant permitting processes which can delay what should be a simple permit.

In all parts of Colorado, from the Front Range to the Western Slope, rural communities are often surrounded by Federal lands which means they face greater difficulty building out infrastructure, including broadband. These are the communities that are often left behind when it comes to critical service such as internet access and easy communication.

It is 2026. Reliable, high-speed internet should not be considered a luxury. It is a necessity. Families, students, and small businesses need to be able to easily access this important service.

As a cop for 10 years, I also know that law enforcement and public safety rely on broadband access to promptly identify and interdict threats in our communities and respond to natural disasters. Without these reliable services, public safety operations are going to be less coordinated, which causes first responders to face delays and disorganization.

□ 1630

By law, Federal agencies are required to grant or deny broadband applications within 270 days, but these dead-

lines are often missed. The U.S. Government Accountability Office recently reported that roughly half of the communications use applications submitted to BLM and the United States Forest Service from 2018 to 2022 either exceeded the 270-day deadline or didn't have enough information to reveal whether the deadline had even been met.

As a result, broadband developers report that deploying fiber in rural areas can take an average of 5 to 10 years to complete. This is completely unacceptable, and it is a complete slap in the face to rural communities that are already underserved.

I am proud to serve as a leading voice for permitting reform in this Congress, not just for broadband but for many other types of permits, such as energy generation and distribution, that rely on broadband.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is key to fixing our broken permitting process. I am proud that it is bipartisan. I am proud that it is commonsense. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1681, the Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment Reviews Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN) for her support of this important legislation. I, too, urge a "yes" vote on this important bill, H.R. 1681, for immediate approval.

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 Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1681.

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. ALLEN. 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.

FEDERAL BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT TRACKING ACT

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1343) to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a plan for the Assistant Secretary to track the acceptance, processing, and disposal of certain Form 299s, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1343

*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 "Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act".

SEC. 2. PLAN FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO TRACK THE ACCEPTANCE, PROCESSING, AND DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN FORM 299S.

(a) PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan containing a description of—

(1) the process by which the Assistant Secretary proposes to—

(A) track the acceptance, processing, and disposal of each Form 299 for communications use authorization;

(B) provide applicants additional transparency with respect to the status of the applicable Form 299 for communications use authorization; and

(C) most expeditiously implement the plan; and

(2) any potential barriers to implementing the plan that are identified by the Assistant Secretary.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term "Assistant Secretary" means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(3) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY.—The term "communications facility" has the meaning given the term communications facility installation in section 6409(d) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(d)).

(4) COMMUNICATIONS USE.—The term "communications use" means the placement and operation of a communications facility.

(5) COMMUNICATIONS USE AUTHORIZATION.—The term "communications use authorization" means an easement, right-of-way, lease, license, or other authorization—

(A) provided by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture;

(B) to locate or modify a communications facility on covered land; and

(C) for the primary purpose of authorizing the occupancy and use of such covered land for communications use.

(6) COVERED LAND.—The term "covered land" means—

(A) public lands; and

(B) National Forest System land.

(7) FORM 299.—The term "Form 299" means the form established under section 6409(b)(2)(A) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(b)(2)(A)), or any successor form.

(8) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term "National Forest System" has the meaning given the term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

(9) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term "public lands" means land under the management of—

(A) the Bureau of Land Management;

(B) the National Park Service;

(C) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; or

(D) the Bureau of Reclamation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) and the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ALLEN. Madam 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 materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1343, the Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act, sponsored by Representatives PFLUGER and SOTO.

This bill requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to develop a plan for tracking the broadband permitting application on Federal lands.

Broadband is essential to participate in everyday activities. Most Americans rely on their broadband connection for their work, healthcare, education, and more.

Congress has provided billions of dollars to close the digital divide. Indeed, NTIA is in the process of administering the BEAD Program to connect every unserved and underserved American.

Too often, broadband deployment is delayed or prevented due to unnecessary red tape in the form of burdensome permitting requirements. Federal agencies are some of the biggest culprits behind this red tape, delaying the deployment of broadband to the communities that most need it.

The process of application and approval for some of these permits has, unfortunately, become duplicative, ineffective, and time-consuming. Worse, there is no transparency in this process.

Opaque Federal permitting review processes leave applicants in the dark on whether their application is complete, where it is in the review process, and when they can expect a final decision. This uncertainty is not good for the planning of projects.

The Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act addresses these concerns by requiring NTIA to develop a plan to improve the tracking of Federal broadband permit applications. This plan would include a process to give applicants transparency into the status of their reviews, which would improve the speed and disposition of applications. This is essential to provide clarity into the Federal permitting process.

This is an important moment in time, and we must do all that we can to ensure that every American can access reliable broadband.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I thank the sponsors for their work on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1343, the Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act.

It should come as no surprise that many of the communities lacking internet access are rural, remote, and in sparsely populated areas. Bringing this critical infrastructure to them will, in many cases, require crossing large geographic areas. This is especially true in many of our Western States, where significant amounts of territory are owned and managed by the Federal Government.

In recent years, the Energy and Commerce Committee has heard testimony about inefficiencies in Federal permitting. Specifically, witnesses acknowledge difficulty accessing information about the status and progress of applications to deploy communications infrastructure on publicly owned and managed lands.

To help address these issues, H.R. 1343 requires NTIA, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, to develop and implement a plan to assist communication providers in navigating the burdens of deploying communications infrastructure on public lands.

Ultimately, this bill should lead to more robust collaboration between those responsible for reviewing permit applications for Federal lands and the communication providers that are trying to bring high-speed internet to all of our constituents.

I thank Representatives SOTO and PFLUGER for their leadership on this issue. This bipartisan legislation is a product of regular order, and I am pleased to see it taken up by the full House today.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, H.R. 1343, the Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia for her support for H.R. 1343, and I urge a "yes" vote on this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1343.

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.

## EMERGENCY REPORTING ACT

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5200) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5200

*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 "Emergency Reporting Act".

## SEC. 2. REPORTS AFTER ACTIVATION OF DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM; IMPROVEMENTS TO NETWORK OUTAGE REPORTING.

(a) REPORTS AFTER ACTIVATION OF DISASTER INFORMATION REPORTING SYSTEM.—

(1) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—

(A) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Commission shall hold not less than 1 public hearing relating to all events during the preceding 1-year period for which the System was activated for not less than 7 days.

(B) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN HEARINGS.—For each public hearing held under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall consider including—

- (i) representatives of State governments, local governments, or Indian tribal governments in areas affected by such events;
- (ii) residents of the areas affected by such events, or consumer advocates;
- (iii) providers of communications services affected by such events;
- (iv) faculty of institutions of higher education;
- (v) representatives of other Federal agencies;
- (vi) electric utility providers;
- (vii) communications infrastructure companies; and
- (viii) first responders, emergency managers, or 9-1-1 directors in areas affected by such events.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which a public hearing held under paragraph (1) concludes, the Commission shall issue a report that includes, with respect to the events to which such hearing relates and to the extent known without requiring the collection of additional information—

- (A) the number and duration of any outages of—
  - (i) broadband internet access service;
  - (ii) interconnected VoIP service;
  - (iii) commercial mobile service; and
  - (iv) commercial mobile data service;

(B) the approximate number of users and the amount of communications infrastructure potentially affected by an outage described in subparagraph (A);

(C) the number and duration of any outages that prevent emergency communications centers from receiving caller location or number information or receiving emergency calls and routing such calls to emergency service personnel; and

(D) any recommendations of the Commission on how to improve the resiliency of affected communications services or networks.

(3) DEVELOPMENT OF REPORTS.—In developing a report required by paragraph (2), the Commission shall consider information collected by the Commission with respect to the events to which such report relates, including information collected through the System and the relevant public hearing.

(4) PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Commission shall publish each report required by paragraph (2) on the website of the Commission upon the issuance of such report.

(B) EXCLUSION.—In publishing a report under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall exclude information that is otherwise exempt from public disclosure under the

rules of the Commission or that was submitted to the Commission with a proper request for confidential treatment as described in section 0.459 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(b) IMPROVEMENTS TO NETWORK OUTAGE REPORTING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall conduct an investigation and publish on the website of the Commission a report on—

(1) the value to public safety agencies of originating service providers including visual information to improve situational awareness about outages in the notifications provided to emergency communications centers, as required by the rules of the Commission;

(2) the volume and nature of 9-1-1 outages that may go unreported under the outage notification thresholds of the Commission;

(3) the balance between the value described in paragraph (1) to public safety agencies and the burden and practicality for originating service providers of including visual information in outage notifications as described in such paragraph; and

(4) recommended changes to the rules of the Commission to address the matters reported under paragraphs (1) and (2).

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide the Commission or any other person authority over any provider of broadband internet access service beyond what is specifically authorized under this section.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—The term “broadband internet access service” has the meaning given such term in section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(2) COMMERCIAL MOBILE DATA SERVICE.—The term “commercial mobile data service” has the meaning given such term in section 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401).

(3) COMMERCIAL MOBILE SERVICE.—The term “commercial mobile service” has the meaning given such term in section 332(d) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d)).

(4) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(5) EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “emergency communications center” means—

(i) a facility that—

(I) is designated to receive a 9-1-1 request for emergency assistance; and

(II) performs 1 or more of the functions described in subparagraph (B); or

(ii) a public safety answering point (as defined in section 222 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 222)).

(B) FUNCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The functions described in this subparagraph are the following:

(i) Processing and analyzing 9-1-1 requests for emergency assistance and information and data related to such requests.

(ii) Dispatching appropriate emergency response providers.

(iii) Transferring or exchanging 9-1-1 requests for emergency assistance and information and data related to such requests with 1 or more other emergency communications centers and emergency response providers.

(iv) Analyzing any communications received from emergency response providers.

(v) Supporting incident command functions.

(6) INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT; LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The terms “Indian tribal government” and “local government” have the meanings given such terms in section 102 of

the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

(7) INTERCONNECTED VOIP SERVICE; STATE.—The terms “interconnected VoIP service” and “State” have the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

(8) OUTAGE.—The term “outage” has the meaning given such term in section 4.5 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(9) SYSTEM.—The term “System” means the Disaster Information Reporting System of the Commission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) and the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. McCLELLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, H.R. 5200, the Emergency Reporting Act, led by Representative MATSUI.

The reliability and resiliency of our emergency communications infrastructure are paramount. This legislation would direct the FCC to hold hearings and issue reports related to 911 outages after natural disasters and to make recommendations to improve outage reporting, bolster resiliency, and enhance coordination with State and local emergency officials. This will help make our communications systems stronger in the face of natural disasters.

Madam Speaker, this legislation has strong bipartisan support. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1640

Ms. McCLELLAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5200, the Emergency Reporting Act. This important bill would improve the way we assess communication failures that keep Americans in the dark with no access to 911 or emergency information during and after natural disasters.

When disaster strikes, the ability to dial 911 for help or to receive an emergency alert with potentially lifesaving information depends on networks being up and running during that event. The network staying up, in turn, depends on the strength and resiliency of our communications infrastructure and whether networks are being built and maintained to withstand increasingly powerful elements.

Every Member of this body represents a district that is susceptible to natural disasters. Hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, flash floods, earthquakes, and many more have destroyed whole communities and decimated infrastructure serving entire regions.

Madam Speaker, because we know they will continue to wreak havoc on the places we represent, it is critical that we put systems in place to gather the best information in the aftermath of natural disasters about what went wrong and why.

This bill requires the Federal Communications Commission to more closely examine communications failures in the aftermath of disaster periods so that we, as policymakers, can use information about recurring trends to help make networks more hardened and resilient in the face of future disasters. It is essential for Congress and Federal agencies to prioritize efforts to make networks more reliable so they work for all Americans when they need them most.

I thank Ranking Member MATSUI and Representative BILIRAKIS for their leadership on this important bill. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5200, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. McCLELLAN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI).

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5200, the Emergency Reporting Act, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Emergencies can happen anywhere at any time, and in those moments every second counts. When a family calls 911, they should never be met with silence.

During major disasters, we have seen communications fail, and too often we are left without clear answers about what went wrong or how to prevent it from happening again.

That is why I am proud to lead the Emergency Reporting Act, a bipartisan bill, with Congressman BILIRAKIS that helps fix this. My bill directs the FCC to report after natural disasters on the extent to which people couldn't reach 911 and to recommend ways to improve outage reporting, resiliency, and coordination with State and local officials.

It also addresses unreported outages, so 911 call centers and first responders aren't left in the dark when services are disrupted.

I am really glad that we are advancing this bill today alongside other bipartisan efforts to strengthen our emergency communications systems and save lives.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

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

Ms. McCLELLAN. Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to vote

in favor of H.R. 5200, the Emergency Reporting Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I thank Ms. MATSUI and my colleague from Virginia for their support of this bill. In closing, I encourage a “yes” vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5200.

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. ALLEN. 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.

### KARI'S LAW REPORTING ACT

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5201) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to publish a report on implementation of the Kari's Law Act of 2017, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5201

*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 “Kari's Law Reporting Act”.

#### SEC. 2. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF KARI'S LAW ACT OF 2017.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall publish on the website of the Commission a report regarding the enforcement by the Commission of section 721 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 623), which shall include—

(1) a summary of the extent to which multi-line telephone system manufacturers and vendors have complied with such section;

(2) potential difficulties and obstacles in complying with such section;

(3) potential ways, if necessary, to improve the policies of the Commission to better enforce such section; and

(4) recommendations to Congress, if necessary, on further legislation that could mitigate problems like those that are addressed by such section.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM.—The term “multi-line telephone system” has the meaning given such term in section 721(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 623(f)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ALLEN. Madam 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 in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, H.R. 5201, Kari's Law Reporting Act, led by Representative MATSUI.

Kari's Law, enacted in 2018, was named in honor of Kari Hunt, who was killed in a motel room in Marshall, Texas, in 2013. Ms. Hunt's 9-year-old daughter tried to call 911 for help four times from the motel room phone, but the call did not go through because the phone system required dialing 9 for an outbound call before dialing 911.

The law requires multiline telephone systems, such as those in offices, campuses, and hotels, to allow direct 911 dialing without extra digits when a 911 call is made. This legislation would require the FCC to issue a report within 180 days to determine the extent to which multiline telephone system manufacturers are complying with Kari's Law Act of 2017. Requiring these systems in large buildings or campuses will help save lives in case of an emergency.

This legislation has strong bipartisan support. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5201, the Kari's Law Reporting Act. This is an important bill that follows up on legislation signed into law in 2018.

The original Kari's Law was prompted by the tragic story of a young child unable to reach 911 when it mattered most. During what became a fatal domestic dispute in a hotel room, she repeatedly dialed 911 to call for help, but the call was never connected because the hotel system required guests to dial a prefix to make an external call. The young daughter of the victim did exactly as she was taught and correctly dialed 911, but that one digit ultimately stood between Kari Hunt and the help that she needed that day.

Kari's Law requires providers of multiline telephone systems, which serve entities like office buildings and hotels, to reconfigure their systems to enable callers to simply dial 911 without a prefix to reach emergency assistance.

Today, however, it is evident that providers have yet to fully comply with Kari's Law, and so this legislation will provide Congress and the FCC with the tools necessary to track down delinquent providers and ensure they comply with the law. This is critically im-

portant so that tragedies like that of Kari Hunt do not happen again.

I thank Ranking Member MATSUI and Representative BILIRAKIS for their leadership on this important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5201.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), the ranking member.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I rise in support of H.R. 5201, Kari's Law Reporting Act.

In an emergency, there is no room for confusion or delay. Every second counts, and every American should have confidence that when they dial 911, help is on the way.

This is why Congressman BILIRAKIS and I partnered in this bipartisan bill. It builds upon Kari's Law, which Congress passed in 2018, to require multiline telephone systems to allow direct dialing of 911 without needing to dial an extra digit.

That law came from the tragic murder of Kari Hunt when her daughter couldn't reach emergency services from a hotel phone because she didn't know she needed to dial an extra 9 first.

Our bill helps ensure the law is working as intended by directing the FCC to report on compliance in hotels, offices, and facilities nationwide.

That kind of accountability matters, and we need to make sure these life-saving protections are being followed and practiced.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the Kari's Law Reporting Act.

□ 1650

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 5201, the Kari's Law Reporting Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their support of this bill and Ms. MATSUI for her work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a “yes” vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIMENEZ). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5201.

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. ALLEN. 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.

### RURAL BROADBAND PROTECTION ACT OF 2025

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S.

98) to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 98

*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 “Rural Broadband Protection Act of 2025”.

**SEC. 2. VETTING PROCESS FOR PROSPECTIVE HIGH-COST UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND APPLICANTS.**

Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(m) VETTING OF HIGH-COST FUND RECIPIENTS.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘covered funding’ means any new offer of high-cost universal service program funding, including funding provided through a reverse competitive bidding mechanism provided under this section, for the deployment of a broadband-capable network and the provision of supported services over the network; and

“(B) the term ‘new covered funding award’ means an award of covered funding that is made based on an application submitted to the Commission on or after the date on which rules are promulgated under paragraph (2).

“(2) COMMISSION RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding to establish a vetting process for applicants for, and other recipients of, a new covered funding award.

“(3) CONTENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In promulgating rules under paragraph (2), the Commission shall provide that, consistent with principles of technology neutrality, the Commission will only award covered funding to applicants that can demonstrate that they meet the qualifications in subparagraph (B).

“(B) QUALIFICATIONS DESCRIBED.—An applicant for a new covered funding award shall include in the initial application a proposal containing sufficient detail and documentation for the Commission to ascertain that the applicant possesses the technical, financial, and operational capabilities, and has a reasonable business plan, to deploy the proposed network and deliver services with the relevant performance characteristics and requirements defined by the Commission and as pledged by the applicant.

“(C) EVALUATION OF PROPOSAL.—The Commission shall evaluate a proposal described in subparagraph (B) against—

“(i) reasonable and well-established technical, financial, and operational standards, including the technical standards adopted by the Commission in orders of the Commission relating to Establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection (WC Docket No. 19-195) (or orders of the Commission relating to modernizing any successor collection) for purposes of entities that must report broadband availability coverage; and

“(ii) the applicant’s history of complying with requirements in Commission and other government broadband deployment funding programs.

“(D) PENALTIES FOR PRE-AUTHORIZATION DEFAULTS.—In adopting rules for any new covered funding award, the Commission shall set a penalty for pre-authorization defaults of at least \$9,000 per violation and may not limit the base forfeiture to an amount less

than 30 percent of the applicant’s total support, unless the Commission demonstrates the need for lower penalties in a particular instance.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) and the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. McCLELLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ALLEN. 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 into the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 98, the Rural Broadband Protection Act. The House version of this bill, led by Representative HOUCHIN, passed the House by voice vote last year.

The Federal Communications Commission’s Universal Service Fund provides funding to support the deployment and operation of broadband networks in our rural communities. Although most recipients of this support fulfill their deployment obligations, there have been cases in the past where commitments were unmet.

The Rural Broadband Protection Act requires the FCC to establish a process for upfront vetting of broadband providers seeking USF funds to ensure they are qualified to uphold their obligations. It also directs the FCC to set penalties for those providers that do not build out where they promised.

These new steps will ensure that USF support only goes to qualified providers and that those providers follow through on their commitments to serve rural Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative HOUCHIN for her leadership on this bill and encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 98, the Senate companion to H.R. 2399, or the Rural Broadband Protection Act, which passed the House in 2025.

This legislation would direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a process to more thoroughly vet internet service providers participating in the Universal Service Fund’s High Cost program.

For years, it has been clear that Congress must step in to enact reforms to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in the High Cost program. Following an investigation by Energy and Commerce Democrats in 2017, the Government Accountability Office opened its own inquiry into reports of abuse of High Cost support.

In a scathing report, the GAO identified a remarkable lack of oversight by the FCC and recommended greater accountability to ensure precious USF dollars are spent on the mission of deploying high-speed broadband to unserved and underserved communities.

Since then, we have seen modest progress to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the High Cost program, but more accountability is needed.

I commend Representatives KELLY and HOUCHIN for their work on this legislation to bring greater oversight and accountability to the High Cost program and protect the integrity of USF funds, every dime of which must go to help unserved and underserved communities still lacking high-speed internet.

I believe this legislation will help address critical gaps in the vetting process for High Cost recipients and curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the program, so I urge my colleagues to support S. 98.

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN).

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 98, the Rural Broadband Protection Act, a bill I authored and passed out of the House as H.R. 2399 and an issue I have long championed.

In April, we passed the House version of this bill. In June, the Senate passed the identical text, sponsored by my friend Senator CAPITO also by voice vote. Today, we have a chance to finish the job and send this legislation to the President’s desk.

Across Indiana and rural America, families, farmers, students, and small business owners still struggle with slow and unreliable internet access, and it is more than an inconvenience. It is a barrier to opportunity, to education, to healthcare, and to economic growth.

When Congress invests in rural broadband, we have an obligation to make sure those dollars reach the communities they are meant to serve and that the providers that are receiving them are capable of getting the job done.

That is exactly what the Rural Broadband Protection Act does.

It directs the Federal Communications Commission to vet applicants for broadband funding based on their experience, their technical capability, and their demonstrated ability to deploy. It brings accountability and transparency to the grant review process, ensuring taxpayer dollars go to real, shovel-ready projects, not phantom providers or empty promises.

This is smart, bipartisan, common-sense legislation. It passed the Energy and Commerce Committee 51-1. It passed the House by a voice vote last April. It passed the Senate by voice in June.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Senator CAPITO for her leadership on the Senate side

and my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee for moving this bill with overwhelming bipartisan support. Today, we have a chance to deliver a long-overdue win for rural America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on S. 98. Let’s get this bill to the President’s desk where it can finally become law.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of S. 98, the Rural Broadband Protection Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their support. In closing, I encourage a “yes” vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 98.

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.

#### ADJUSTING IMPORTS OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS INTO THE UNITED STATES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-150)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Consistent with applicable law, including section 232(c)(2) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1862(c)(2)) (section 232), I am submitting to the Congress this written statement of the reasons why I have decided to take action to adjust imports of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients so that such imports will not threaten to impair the national security of the United States.

On January 5, 2026, the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), in accordance with section 232, transmitted to me a report on his investigation into the effects of imports of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients on the national security of the United States. Based on the facts considered in that investigation, the Secretary found and advised me of his opinion that pharmaceuticals and associated active pharmaceutical ingredients, including key starting materials, are being imported into the United States in such quantities and under such circumstances as to threaten to impair the national security of the United States.

In Proclamation 11020 of April 2, 2026 (Adjusting Imports of Pharmaceuticals

and Pharmaceutical Ingredients Into The United States) (Proclamation), after considering the Secretary’s report, the factors in section 232(d) (19 U.S.C. 1862(d)), and other relevant factors and information, among other things, I concurred with the Secretary’s finding that pharmaceuticals and associated pharmaceutical ingredients are being imported into the United States in such quantities and under such circumstances as to threaten to impair the national security of the United States. In my judgment, and in light of the Secretary’s report, the factors in section 232(d) (19 U.S.C. 1862(d)), and other relevant factors and information, I determined that it is necessary and appropriate to adopt a plan of action to adjust such imports of pharmaceuticals and associated pharmaceutical ingredients so that such imports will not threaten to impair the national security of the United States. In particular, I determined that it is necessary and appropriate for the Secretary and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and any senior official they deem appropriate, to pursue or continue pursuing negotiations of agreements to address the threatened impairment of the national security with respect to imported pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients. In the Proclamation, I noted that depending on the status or outcome of those negotiations, I may take other measures to adjust the imports of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients to address the threat to the national security found in the Proclamation. I also determined that it is necessary and appropriate to impose an immediate *ad valorem* duty rate on the import of certain patented pharmaceuticals and associated pharmaceutical ingredients to address the national security threat found in the Proclamation.

I am enclosing a copy of the Proclamation that I have issued. The Proclamation further explains the circumstances underlying the threat to impair the national security of the United States posed by imports of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients and the actions taken in the Proclamation to eliminate that threat.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 16, 2026.

□ 1700

#### 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 5 o’clock and 1 minute 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. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1681; and

H.R. 5200.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

#### EXPEDITING FEDERAL BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT REVIEWS 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. 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 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 Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 9, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 125]

YEAS—384

Adams	Cammack	Davids (KS)
Aderholt	Carbajal	Davidson
Aguilar	Carey	Davis (IL)
Alford	Carson	Davis (NC)
Allen	Carter (GA)	Dean (PA)
Amo	Carter (LA)	DeGette
Arrington	Carter (TX)	DeLauro
Auchincloss	Case	DeBene
Babin	Casten	Deluzio
Bacon	Castor (FL)	DeSaulnier
Balderson	Castro (TX)	DesJarlais
Barragán	Cherfilus	Dexter
Barrett	McCormick	Diaz-Balart
Baumgartner	Chu	Dingell
Bean (FL)	Ciscomani	Doggett
Beatty	Cisneros	Donalds
Begich	Clark (MA)	Downing
Bell	Clarke (NY)	Dunn (FL)
Bentz	Cleaver	Edwards
Bera	Clyburn	Elfreth
Bergman	Cohen	Elzey
Beyer	Cole	Emmer
Bice	Collins	Escobar
Biggs (SC)	Comer	Espallat
Bilirakis	Conaway	Estes
Bishop	Correa	Evans (CO)
Boebert	Costa	Evans (PA)
Bonamici	Courtney	Ezell
Bost	Craig	Fallon
Boyle (PA)	Crane	Fedorchak
Bresnahan	Crank	Feenstra
Brown	Crawford	Fields
Budzinski	Crockett	Figures
Bynum	Crow	Fine
Calvert	Cuellar	Finstad

Fischbach	Latta	Rogers (KY)
Fitzgerald	Lawler	Rose
Fitzpatrick	Lee (FL)	Ross
Fleischmann	Lee (NV)	Rouzer
Flood	Lee (PA)	Ruiz
Fong	Leger Fernandez	Rulli
Foster	Letlow	Rutherford
Foushee	Levin	Ryan
Fox	Liccardo	Salazar
Frankel, Lois	Lieu	Salinas
Franklin, Scott	Lofgren	Sánchez
Friedman	Loudermilk	Scalise
Frost	Lucas	Scanlon
Fry	Luna	Schmidt
Fulcher	Luttrell	Schneider
Fuller	Lynch	Scholten
Garamendi	Mackenzie	Schrier
Garbarino	Magaziner	Schweikert
Garcia (CA)	Malliotakis	Scott (VA)
Garcia (IL)	Maloy	Scott, Austin
Garcia (TX)	Mann	Scott, David
Gill (TX)	Mannion	Sessions
Gillen	Mast	Sewell
Jimenez	Matsui	Sherman
Golden (ME)	McBath	Shreve
Goldman (TX)	McBride	Simon
Gonzalez, V.	McClain Delaney	Simpson
Gooden	McClellan	Smith (MO)
Goodlander	McClintock	Smith (NE)
Gosar	McCollum	Smith (NJ)
Graves	McCormick	Smith (WA)
Gray	McDonald Rivet	Smucker
Green, Al (TX)	McDowell	Sorensen
Grijalva	McGarvey	Spartz
Grothman	McGovern	Stansbury
Guest	McIver	Stanton
Guthrie	Meeks	Stauber
Hageman	Menefee	Steil
Hamadeh (AZ)	Menendez	Steube
Harder (CA)	Messmer	Stevens
Haridopolos	Meuser	Strickland
Harrigan	Miller (IL)	Strong
Harris (MD)	Miller (OH)	Stutzman
Harris (NC)	Miller (WV)	Subramanyam
Harshbarger	Miller-Meeks	Min
Hayes	Moolenaar	Suozzi
Higgins (LA)	Moore (AL)	Sykes
Hill (AR)	Moore (NC)	Takano
Himes	Moore (UT)	Taylor
Hinson	Moore (WI)	Tenney
Horsford	Moore (WV)	Thanedar
Houchin	Moran	Thompson (CA)
Houlahan	Morelle	Thompson (MS)
Hoyer	Morrison	Thompson (PA)
Hoyle (OR)	Moskowitz	Timmons
Hudson	Mirvan	Titus
Huffman	Mullin	Tlaib
Huizenga	Murphy	Tokuda
Hunt	Nadler	Tonko
Hurd (CO)	Neal	Torres (CA)
Issa	Neguse	Torres (NY)
Ivey	Newhouse	Trahan
Jack	Norcross	Tran
Jackson (IL)	Nunn (IA)	Turner (OH)
Jackson (TX)	Obernalte	Underwood
Jacobs	Ocasio-Cortez	Valadao
James	Ogles	Van Drew
Jayapal	Olszewski	Van Duyn
Jeffries	Omar	Van Epps
Johnson (GA)	Onder	Van Orden
Johnson (TX)	Owens	Vargas
Jordan	Pallone	Vasquez
Joyce (OH)	Palmer	Veasey
Joyce (PA)	Panetta	Velázquez
Kaptur	Pappas	Vindman
Keating	Patronis	Wagner
Kelly (IL)	Pelosi	Walberg
Kelly (MS)	Perez	Walkinshaw
Kelly (PA)	Peters	Wasserman
Kennedy (NY)	Pettersen	Schultz
Khanna	Pfluger	Waters
Kiggans (VA)	Pingree	Watson Coleman
Kiley (CA)	Pocan	Weber (TX)
Kim	Pou	Westerman
Knott	Pressley	Whitesides
Krishnamoorthi	Quigley	Wied
Kustoff	Ramirez	Williams (GA)
LaHood	Randall	Williams (TX)
LaLota	Raskin	Wilson (SC)
Landsman	Reschenthaler	Wittman
Langworthy	Riley (NY)	Womack
Larsen (WA)	Rivas	Yakym
Larson (CT)	Rogers (AL)	Zinke
Latimer		

NAYS—9

Brecheen	Clyde
Burlison	Kennedy (UT)
Cloud	Massie

Rose	Amodei (NV)	Fletcher	Meng
Rouzer	Ansari	Goldman (NY)	Mfume
Ruiz	Baird	Gomez	Mills
Rulli	Balint	Gottheimer	Moulton
Rutherford	Barr	Griffith	Nehls
Ryan	Biggs (AZ)	Hern (OK)	Norman
Salazar	Brownley	Johnson (SD)	Schakowsky
Salinas	Buchanan	Kamlager-Dove	Stefanik
Sánchez	Burchett	Kean	Tiffany
Scalise	Casar	Mace	Webster (FL)
Scanlon	Cline	McCaul	Wilson (FL)
Schmidt	Crenshaw	McClain	
Schneider	De La Cruz	McGuire	

NOT VOTING—37

Amodei (NV)	Fletcher	Meng
Ansari	Goldman (NY)	Mfume
Baird	Gomez	Mills
Balint	Gottheimer	Moulton
Barr	Griffith	Nehls
Biggs (AZ)	Hern (OK)	Norman
Brownley	Johnson (SD)	Schakowsky
Buchanan	Kamlager-Dove	Stefanik
Burchett	Kean	Tiffany
Casar	Mace	Webster (FL)
Cline	McCaul	Wilson (FL)
Crenshaw	McClain	
De La Cruz	McGuire	

□ 1859

Messrs. BURLISON and SELF changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. STEVENS changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 20, 2026.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter received from Ms. Donna Barber, Executive Director, with the New Jersey Division of Elections indicating that, according to the unofficial results for the Special General Election held on April 16, 2026, the Honorable Analilia Mejia was elected Representative to Congress for the Eleventh Congressional District of New Jersey.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
*Clerk.*

Enclosure.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Trenton, New Jersey, April 17, 2026.

Hon. KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
*Clerk, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MCCUMBER: This is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Thursday, April 16, 2026 for a Representative in Congress from the Eleventh Congressional District of New Jersey, show that Analilia Mejia received 77,708 or 59% of the total number of votes cast for that office.

It would appear from these unofficial election results, of the ballots counted so far, that Analilia Mejia has received the highest number of votes for the office of Representative in Congress from the Eleventh Congressional District.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election. The deadline to file an election contest is May 18, 2026.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by County Clerks involved, the Board of State Canvassers will meet to certify the Official Special General Election results. Furthermore, an official Certificate of

Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law after the State Board of Canvassers has certified the results of the election.

Sincerely,  
DONNA BARBER,  
*Executive Director, NJ Division of Elections.*

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE ANALILIA MEJIA, OF NEW JERSEY, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentlewoman from New Jersey, the Honorable Analilia Mejia, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

Her certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to her election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the New Jersey delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise her right hand.

Ms. MEJIA appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

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

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 119th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE ANALILIA MEJIA TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I cannot overemphasize the level of enthusiasm that I and the New Jersey delegation express today on the swearing in of Congresswoman MEJIA. I cannot. We are so enthusiastic, and I think you can tell from her own constituents who came here today.

I just want you to understand that her leadership was so important, her reaching out to the grassroots, her reaching out and standing up for working families, but even more so for young people. Young people were so enthused by her.

Many of us are concerned about the future of our democracy and whether younger people are going to vote, whether they are going to participate. ANALILIA made it clear that that was so important to her, and so we had—She got so many people who were younger to come out to vote, to actually participate in the election, to knock on doors, and all the things that are so important to our democracy.

She talked about solutions. She didn't just say: We want you to come out. She talked about solutions for working people that would actually make a difference. This is what is really important.

The reason that we are so enthused is that we see someone who reaches out to young people, who is a grassroots organizer, and who understands the problems of working families.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the new member of our New Jersey delegation, the gentlewoman, Congresswoman MEJIA.

Ms. MEJIA. Mr. Speaker, good evening. It is a privilege and an honor to stand before this Chamber. We, the privileged few, are honored with the responsibility to represent the interests of our fellow Americans at home and across the world.

I thank my new colleagues for their warm welcome and the great people of New Jersey's 11th Congressional District for their trust. I thank, of course, my husband, Robert, and my two children, Langston and August, for being my best supporters. The three of them mean the world to me. I also thank my sister, Anaisa, and my two mothers, Luz and Michele, and my dearly departed father, Francisco, for always standing alongside me.

My presence in this Chamber is, in many ways, an unlikely reality. I am the daughter of a Dominican factory worker and a Colombian seamstress who knew struggle. Yet, I stand before you, representing the great 11th Congressional District of New Jersey, a place rich in history and eager to make more.

I bring greetings from Morristown, where George Washington led through the harsh winters of the Revolutionary War.

I bring greetings from Bloomfield, New Jersey, as well, which led the way on access to public education for all. In fact, I send greetings from every corner of my district. My constituents are eager to hear how we shall work together to improve the lives of the many I am honored to represent.

Mr. Speaker, there is an African proverb that says: If you wish to know the end, you must strive to understand the beginning. This proverb feels timely as I begin my tenure in this lauded space, at the precipice of our Nation's 250th anniversary. As I address this body, I am ever present to the fact that it was conceived and designed as the people's House, a counterweight at critical moments, where people may have the fullest say.

I stand before you on this day, the 20th of April. I want to remind you that on this date in 1871, an "Act to enforce the Provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other Purposes," otherwise known as the Ku Klux Klan Act, was signed as an attempt by we the people to make true the promise of freedom and equity hard earned through conflict and peacemaking.

The third in a series of Enforcement Acts, it was designed to protect the

civil and political rights of individuals, under threat by the violence of vigilante groups intent to deny the protections of the Constitution for those who earned it through blood, sweat, and tears.

The 14th Amendment defined citizenship and guaranteed due process and equal protection of the law to all Americans. Vigilante groups like the Klan, however, threatened by the idea of expansive freedom, used violence to undermine the Republican Party's plan for Reconstruction.

The Ku Klux Klan Act made it a Federal crime to deny any group or individual "any of the rights, privileges, or immunities or protections named in the Constitution."

In a moment in which a State-sanctioned vigilante group threatens due process and equal protection, and our highest Court questions citizenship, clearly defined in the Constitution, it is important for us to strive to understand the beginning so that we may protect what we hold most dear all the way through to the end.

I join you today with a message delivered by the people of New Jersey's 11th Congressional District but echoed nationally: Stand up, defend, restore not only our democracy, but also a just economy that actually works for working people.

Stand up for folks like Bob, a retired fire captain who served at Ground Zero, struggling to access healthcare because of staffing cuts and hiring freezes.

Stand up for Mary, who alongside her husband, dropped her own health coverage just to afford their child's college tuition.

Think about and stand up for Larry and Joe, who work hard every day and deserve a just retirement in their golden years.

These are not just abstract policies or debates. These are real consequences of the decisions made in this Chamber. At a time when our Constitution and our rights are under strain, we are called not just to serve, but to stand up, to protect, and to deliver on the promise of equal protection and justice under our great laws. That is the work ahead of us. That is the work that we must take on.

□ 1910

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath of office to the gentlewoman from New Jersey, the whole number of the House is 432.

#### EMERGENCY REPORTING ACT

The SPEAKER. 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. 5200) to direct the Federal Communications Com-

mission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 7, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 126]

YEAS—386

Adams	Dean (PA)	Higgins (LA)
Aderholt	DeGette	Hill (AR)
Aguilar	DeLauro	Himes
Alford	DeBene	Hinson
Allen	Deluzio	Horsford
Amo	DeSaulnier	Houchin
Amodei (NV)	DesJarlais	Houlahan
Arrington	Dexter	Hoyer
Auchincloss	Diaz-Balart	Hoyle (OR)
Babin	Dingell	Hudson
Bacon	Doggett	Huffman
Balderson	Donalds	Huizenga
Balint	Downing	Hunt
Barragan	Dunn (FL)	Hurd (CO)
Barrett	Edwards	Issa
Baumgartner	Elfreth	Jack
Bean (FL)	Ellzey	Jackson (IL)
Beatty	Emmer	Jackson (TX)
Begich	Escobar	Jacobs
Bell	Espallat	James
Bentz	Estes	Jayapal
Bera	Evans (CO)	Jeffries
Bergman	Evans (PA)	Johnson (GA)
Beyer	Ezell	Johnson (TX)
Bice	Fallon	Jordan
Biggs (SC)	Fedorchak	Joyce (OH)
Bilirakis	Feenstra	Joyce (PA)
Bishop	Fields	Kaptur
Boebert	Figures	Keating
Bonamici	Fine	Kelly (IL)
Boyle (PA)	Finstad	Kelly (MS)
Brecheen	Fischbach	Kelly (PA)
Bresnahan	Fitzgerald	Kennedy (NY)
Brown	Fitzpatrick	Kennedy (UT)
Budzinski	Fleischmann	Khanna
Bynum	Flood	Kiggans (VA)
Calvert	Fong	Kiley (CA)
Cammack	Foster	Kim
Carbajal	Foushee	Knott
Carey	Foxx	Krishnamoorthi
Carson	Frankel, Lois	Kustoff
Carter (GA)	Franklin, Scott	LaHood
Carter (LA)	Friedman	LaLota
Carter (TX)	Frost	Landsman
Case	Fry	Langworthy
Casten	Fulcher	Larsen (WA)
Castor (FL)	Fuller	Larson (CT)
Castro (TX)	Garamendi	Latimer
Chu	Garbarino	Latta
Ciscomani	Garcia (CA)	Lawler
Cisneros	Garcia (IL)	Lee (FL)
Clark (MA)	Garcia (TX)	Lee (NV)
Clarke (NY)	Gill (TX)	Lee (PA)
Cleaver	Gillen	Leger Fernandez
Clyburn	Gimenez	Letlow
Clyde	Golden (ME)	Levin
Cohen	Goldman (TX)	Liccardo
Cole	Gonzalez, V.	Lieu
Collins	Gooden	Lofgren
Comer	Goodlander	Loudermilk
Conaway	Gosar	Lucas
Correa	Graves	Luna
Costa	Gray	Luttrell
Courtney	Green, Al (TX)	Lynch
Craig	Grijalva	Mackenzie
Crane	Grothman	Magaziner
Crank	Guest	Malliotakis
Crawford	Guthrie	Maloy
Crockett	Hageman	Mann
Crow	Hamadeh (AZ)	Mannion
Cuellar	Harder (CA)	Mast
Davids (KS)	Haridopolos	Matsui
Davidson	Harris (NC)	McBath
Davis (IL)	Harshbarger	McBride
Davis (NC)	Hayes	McClain Delaney

McClellan	Perry	Steube
McClintock	Peters	Stevens
McCollum	Pettersen	Strickland
McCormick	Pfuger	Strong
McDonald Rivet	Pingree	Stutzman
McDowell	Pocan	Subramanyam
McGarvey	Pou	Suozi
McGovern	Pressley	Sykes
McIver	Quigley	Takano
Meeks	Ramirez	Taylor
Mejia	Randall	Tenney
Menefee	Raskin	Thanedar
Menendez	Reschenthaler	Thompson (CA)
Messmer	Riley (NY)	Thompson (MS)
Meuser	Rivas	Thompson (PA)
Miller (IL)	Rogers (AL)	Timmons
Miller (OH)	Rogers (KY)	Titus
Miller (WV)	Rose	Tlaib
Miller-Meeks	Ross	Tokuda
Mills	Rouzer	Tonko
Min	Ruiz	Torres (CA)
Moolenaar	Rulli	Torres (NY)
Moore (AL)	Rutherford	Trahan
Moore (NC)	Ryan	Tran
Moore (UT)	Salazar	Turner (OH)
Moore (WI)	Salinas	Underwood
Moore (WV)	Sanchez	Valadao
Moran	Scalise	Van Drew
Morelle	Scanlon	Van Duyne
Morrison	Schmidt	Van Epps
Moskowitz	Schneider	Van Orden
Mrvan	Scholten	Vargas
Mullin	Schrier	Vasquez
Murphy	Schweikert	Veasey
Nadler	Scott (VA)	Velázquez
Neal	Scott, Austin	Vindman
Neguse	Scott, David	Wagner
Newhouse	Sessions	Walberg
Norcross	Sewell	Walkinshaw
Nunn (IA)	Sherman	Wasserman
Oberholte	Shreve	Schultz
Ocasio-Cortez	Simon	Waters
Ogles	Simpson	Watson Coleman
Olszewski	Smith (MO)	Weber (TX)
Omar	Smith (NE)	Westerman
Onder	Smith (NJ)	Whitesides
Owens	Smucker	Wied
Pallone	Sorensen	Williams (GA)
Palmer	Soto	Williams (TX)
Panetta	Spartz	Wilson (SC)
Pappas	Stansbury	Wittman
Patronis	Stanton	Womack
Pelosi	Stauber	Yakym
Perez	Steil	Zinke

NAYS—7

Burlison	Harris (MD)	Self
Cloud	Massie	
Harrigan	Roy	

NOT VOTING—38

Ansari	De La Cruz	McClain
Baird	Fletcher	McGuire
Barr	Goldman (NY)	Meng
Biggs (AZ)	Gomez	Mfume
Bost	Gottheimer	Moulton
Brownley	Griffith	Nehls
Buchanan	Hern (OK)	Norman
Burchett	Ivey	Schakowsky
Casar	Johnson (SD)	Smith (WA)
Cherfilus-	Kamlager-Dove	Stefanik
McCormick	Kean	Tiffany
Cline	Mace	Webster (FL)
Crenshaw	McCaull	Wilson (FL)

□ 1919

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today, due to a commitment in my Congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 125 and YEA on Roll Call No. 126.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded today on Roll Call Nos. 125 and 126. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call Nos. 125 and 126.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE ELIOT ENGEL

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today, alongside my colleagues in the New York delegation, to mourn the loss of our dear friend and former colleague, Eliot Engel.

Over the course of a lifetime in public service, including more than three decades in Congress, Eliot was a tireless champion for the people of the Bronx, Westchester, and Rockland County.

Throughout his career, his hard work and fierce advocacy improved the lives of countless people in the United States and across the world.

As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, he was a leader on such issues as healthcare, energy, and consumer protection. Yet, Eliot had perhaps his greatest impact as chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, which he led with integrity and experience, lending strength and credibility to America's role in the world.

Among his many accomplishments, he played a crucial role in protecting the people of Kosovo and combating child labor.

Most of all, he will be remembered as an unwavering friend to Israel. As the Congressional Jewish Caucus noted upon his passing, Eliot Engel "is among the pantheon of champions of our people who have served with distinction in the Halls of Congress."

His legacy of service to New York, to the Nation, and to the world lives on through the issues he fought for and the lives he touched.

Our thoughts are with his wife, Pat, and all of his loved ones. May his memory be a blessing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members and staff rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of Chairman Eliot Engel.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR SLAIN SHREVEPORT FAMILY

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, our hearts are broken tonight, as they have been since Sunday morning. Everyone has seen the stories in the news out of my hometown of Shreveport, Louisiana, a city that is represented in part by Congressman CLEO FIELDS, who is here with me now.

We stand here with one voice as members of the Louisiana delegation to express our deep sorrow for the lives that were taken too soon. There were eight young, innocent children, all between the ages of 3 and 11, lost in a tragedy that can only be described as senseless, unspeakable evil.

Jayla Elkins was 3 years old; Shayla Elkins, 5; Kayla Pugh, 6; Layla Pugh, 7;

Markaydon Pugh, 10; Sariah Snow, 11; Khedarrion Snow, 6; and Braylon Snow, 5.

As the details of their killing unfold, it is difficult for us to put our emotions into words. This tragedy confounds the minds and hearts of every parent in America, and we have been thinking a lot about this. We encourage mothers and fathers to go home tonight and hold your loved ones extra close. I think all of us are doing that.

Life is a sacred gift from God. As this horrific event reminds us, it can be too short.

The entire community of Shreveport needs our prayers right now: the first responders and law enforcement who descended swiftly on the scene, the classrooms with empty seats and missing friends at school today, and, most of all, the families whose lives have been forever changed by this tragedy.

Hold all of them close in your hearts and your prayers, if you will, and we trust that God is close to the brokenhearted, as promised to us in Scripture.

If we could all please join in a moment of silence in honor of the eight young and precious lives who were lost far too soon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House now observe a moment of silence.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 7380

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 7380, a bill originally introduced by Representative SWALWELL of California, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRANK). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN JOINT MEETING HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting His Majesty King Charles III of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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

There was no objection.

**AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR AN EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA I**

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table S. Con. Res. 29, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 29

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),*

**SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR EVENT TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA I.**

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on June 7, 2026, for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2555**

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 2555.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is accepted.

□ 1930

**RECOGNIZING BOROUGH OF STATE COLLEGE**

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Borough of State College for its recent recognition as the Nation's Best Small College Town by USA Today.

For the first time in this decades-long poll, State College secured the top spot, a reflection of the borough's commitment to making this an area people love to live in.

Commonly known to Pennsylvanians as Happy Valley, State College is home to more than 40,000 residents. The borough shares a deep-rooted partnership with Penn State, where residents and visitors gather to celebrate the community's school spirit.

Beyond the Penn State campus, Centre County provides the perfect backdrop for people who want to explore the surrounding trails and parks.

Mr. Speaker, State College has grown significantly since the borough's founding more than 120 years ago. The downtown area is home to many thriving local businesses and restaurants that help make State College a welcoming town.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate State College on this fantastic achievement.

**RECOGNIZING DR. GENE BLUE**

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

Mr. STANTON, Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, Arizona lost one of our greatest and most impactful leaders. Today, I rise to honor Dr. Gene Blue, a man of profound and lasting impact on the State of Arizona.

For decades, Dr. Blue led Arizona Opportunities Industrialization Center on a mission as simple as it was powerful: Help people help themselves.

Under his leadership, OIC delivered GED programs, vocational training, career counseling, job placement, opening real pathways to self-sufficiency for tens of thousands of Arizonans who needed a second chance.

Across Arizona, Dr. Blue was best remembered for his service as chairman of the State's Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration Committee, a role he held for over two decades.

Year after year, he organized the torch run, the breakfast, the march, bringing greater Phoenix always closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community.

He did not seek recognition. He sought results. He wanted to be remembered for the lives he touched, and there were countless Arizonans who are better for having crossed his path.

Dr. Blue was a foundational figure and a true public servant. Today, I am proud to join his family and all Arizonans in honoring his extraordinary legacy.

**CONGRATULATING RORY McILROY**

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my sincerest congratulations to an esteemed champion, Rory McIlroy, on his remarkable victory at the 2026 Masters Golf Tournament.

Each year, during the first full week of April, golf fans, professionals, and patrons from across the world travel to Georgia's 12th District and the Augusta National Golf Club for a tradition unlike any other.

Once again, this year's historic tournament reminded the world why Augusta stands as the true pinnacle of championship golf. With determination and grit, Rory McIlroy secured his second straight green jacket, a feat only three of golf's all-time greats have accomplished.

The story behind Rory's historic victory is not one of usual stature. Last year, overcoming an 11-year major championship drought, Rory completed the career Grand Slam at Augusta, only to go with back-to-back championships this year. His resilience provides a powerful message to the next generation: Success belongs to those who persevere.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate and thank Chairman Fred Ridley, members and staff of Augusta National, and volunteers for presenting another outstanding competition where the greats like Rory McIlroy can make history.

**HONORING WILLIAM O'NEILL McCURDY, SR.**

(Ms. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of William O'Neill McCurdy, Sr., affectionately known to many simply as Billy.

Billy was a prominent figure in Las Vegas, a long-time pastor, entrepreneur, and community activist, among so much more.

A true Las Vegas icon, he was an influential community figure with decades of civic and political ties across the State. Although he never held public office himself, he had an immense influence in the community and in Nevada politics.

The McCurdy family has been a fixture on the historic Westside and the entire State of Nevada for seven decades. Nevada is so honored to have felt his impact throughout the years, and we will continue to feel that impact through his family and his son, William McCurdy II, the Clark County Commissioner.

Billy McCurdy will forever be remembered and greatly missed by the entire Las Vegas community.

**CONGRATULATING DONELLS CANDIES ON 70 YEARS**

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mike Stepp and his family on 70 years of sweetening Casper's history with Donells Candies.

The Stepp family opened their candy shop in 1956 on a busy strip in northeast Casper. Success followed, with the business moving to downtown 40 years later.

A family tradition started by Don and Elma Stepp with chocolates in the fifties has since expanded to selling ice cream and espresso in the 21st century.

While Elma passed before her beloved shop's first relocation, her family has continued the candy-making legacy to the delight of everybody in the community. Every Casper resident has indulged in the Stepp family's candies,

satisfying a sweet tooth as a ritual of another success story for the American Dream on Main Street.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mike Stepp and his entire family for reaching 70 years in business.

ICE DETENTION CENTERS

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my outrage over the conditions that are in place at the growing number of immigrant detention centers established by ICE and the Trump administration nationwide.

Aside from holding individuals without judicial warrants, oftentimes detaining American citizens illegally, the centers clearly have not prioritized incarcerating just rapists and violent criminals as advertised. Reports from coast to coast reference centers where Members of Congress have visited and found insufficient bathroom access, inadequate sleeping accommodations, and general overcrowding, all dismissed by the management of ICE.

In a month where this President has picked a fight with the Pope, the leader of the Catholic Church worldwide, and put himself on the social media meme as if he were a divine figure, these policies are far from divine, Christian, or humane.

Obsessed by putting one's own name on buildings to assure everlasting fame, I assure you this name will never be forgotten as the architect and advocate of a system of inhumanity. The world is watching.

HONORING GARY SIDES

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

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today we honor Gary Sides, pictured here beside me, a man who gave over a decade of public service to Union County, North Carolina. As a former Union County commissioner, he spent years not only serving, but truly changing lives.

Gary was a constant champion for students, especially those with special needs. He stood beside families of every kind. He showed up again and again for his community.

In December of 2024, Gary Sides was sworn in as a Union County commissioner, a role that reflected the trust our community had in him and his dedication he had already proven.

Just 4 months after he was sworn in, Gary received a devastating diagnosis, stage IV glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer. Yet, even in the face of an unimaginable heartbreak, Gary's life remains a testament not to hardship, but to service.

He lived a life that put others first. Every single day, he served the people

of Union County with humility, compassion, and purpose. He focused on what mattered most: education, public safety, and the well-being of Union County. If something needed to be done, Gary was there to do it.

Beyond his work, Gary was a man of deep faith, a man who walked with God, was led by faith, and who found strength in something greater than himself. In that, we find peace in knowing that he is now in heaven with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Today, let us remember Gary Sides and not only remember him, but let us learn from him. Let us live in a way that when our time comes, we too will be remembered as someone who gave back more than they took.

Above all, let us keep our faith at the center of all we do just as Gary did every day.

□ 1940

HONORING PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with pride to honor an extraordinary group of women from Arizona's Seventh Congressional District, the Pima Community College women's basketball team, NJCAA Division II National Champions.

Last month, they made history, defeating Kirkwood 64-58 to secure the program's first ever national title representing southern Arizona and Tucson with excellence.

This team faced adversity all season but stayed resilient, united, and found a way to win and are now champions.

Tournament MVP, Melicia Nelson, led the charge with 20 points and 11 rebounds. From Window Rock, she carries the pride of the Navajo Nation and now stands as the best player in the tournament.

To Coach Todd and the entire team, "congratulations"; "felicidades." I thank you so much for inspiring us all. Southern Arizona is proud.

CONGRATULATING JULIE AND JUERGEN GRIEB

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Julie and Juergen Grieb of Treveri Cellars for their recognition as "influencers" and "trailblazers" in Sip Magazine.

It all began in 2008 when Juergen first suspected that central Washington and Yakima Valley grapes might make a delicious sparkling wine.

Well, he put that theory to the test, and the wine was so good that when Julie tried it, she was blown away.

That led them to working together to open Treveri Cellars, Washington's first sparkling winehouse.

Today, Treveri is a highly respected, multigenerational, family-owned business that produces over 50,000 cases of sparkling wine a year.

I congratulate Julie and Juergen again for this well-deserved outstanding recognition. Cheers to you both.

HONORING 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF W.K. KELLOGG ARABIAN HORSE CENTER

(Mrs. TORRES of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center in Pomona, California.

Founded in 1925 by Will Keith Kellogg, this remarkable institution began as one man's bold vision to pair education with purpose and inspire lives through the beauty of Arabian horses.

That vision grew far beyond the ranch, helping lay the foundation for Cal Poly Pomona, a university rooted in access, equity, and hands-on learning.

For a century, the Kellogg Arabian Horse Center has been a gateway to opportunity. Through programs like Sunday Shows, Foal Watch, and Horses for Heroes, students truly learned by doing, developing skills in leadership and service that carry them far beyond the classroom.

As we celebrate this milestone, we honor not just the historic institution but the transformative power of education and philanthropy.

I congratulate the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center on a century of excellence and impact, and cheers to the next 100 years.

PUTIN BOMBS UKRAINIAN CHURCH

(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, on Friday, I sadly received this message from a courageous friend in Ukraine: "Dear brother Joe, today our hearts are heavy. Just a few hours ago, Russian troops struck a Baptist church in Zaporizhzhia. This was not just a building. It was a beautiful house of prayer that believers built over many years, sacrificing their own finances and strength. For more than 300 people, it became a spiritual home, a place of worship, fellowship, and family.

"Now it lies in ruins.

"We already know of at least five victims, including one minister Ruslan Utyuzh who was inside the church at the moment of the strike. . . .

"Please stand with us in prayer and action. This must be stopped."

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is continuing to reinstitute peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting and mocking Trump with war criminal Putin bombing churches to intimidate Ukrainians, but war criminal Putin is a loser as Ukrainians will achieve victory.

I congratulate Congressman NEAL DUNN on the birth of a granddaughter an hour ago, Nora Amelia Dunn. Grateful parents are David and Isabel Dunn of Phoenix, Arizona.

#### HUNGARIAN ELECTIONS

(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 recognize the victory in the fight for liberty on the continent of Europe, our closest tested allies.

Earlier this month, the people of Hungary voted in record numbers to end the repressive rule of its former Russia-leaning Prime Minister.

As co-chair of the Congressional Hungarian Caucus, I cheered with Hungarian Americans and just was thrilled at the victory of liberty in Hungary in the person of its new Prime Minister Peter Magyar.

For 16 years, Hungarians endured a cadre of kleptocrats that plundered their country and sold it out to the interests of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin. Shocking tapes reveal how Orban's top officials plotted with Russia to undermine neighboring Ukraine and the rest of Europe and even help the Ayatollah in Iran.

The former Prime Minister's betrayal of the Hungarian people and the NATO Alliance is why Congressman DON BACON and I introduced the BLOCK PUTIN Act to hold these corrupt officials accountable.

Thank God the people of good will won in Hungary.

When Soviet Russia invaded the beautiful country in 1956, it took decades before they got a victory for democracy.

You have friends in America, our dear, dear friends in Hungary. We love liberty, too. Bravo. Onward.

#### HONORING THOMAS ELRED BRADFORD

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

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Thomas Elred Bradford, a man who truly embodied servant leadership.

A Birmingham native and graduate of Ramsay High School, Tom served in the United States Air Force after college before joining his family business.

After a successful career in business, instead of retiring, Tom founded the

National Christian Foundation of Alabama.

Tom was deeply committed to his faith and community, serving as an elder at Briarwood Presbyterian Church and in leadership roles in numerous civic, charitable, and Christ-centered organizations across Birmingham.

Most importantly, he was a devoted husband to Mary Anne and a loving father.

Tom was always searching for ways to invest in those around him, and I was fortunate enough to benefit from his mentorship. Tom gave me my first job in Birmingham, and years later when I came to him with the idea to start a profamily think tank, he agreed to serve as the founding board chairman of the Alabama Family Alliance, which later became the Alabama Policy Institute.

Tom was always a tremendous source of advice and godly counsel and became like a second father to me. Tom was truly a force for good. He will be missed.

#### CONGRATULATING PATRICIA GUERRA-FRAZIER

(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 today to congratulate Patricia Guerra-Frazier for her appointment as mayor of Union Township in New Jersey's 10th Congressional District.

Mayor Frazier has made history, becoming the first Latina to hold this role. She has displayed her dedication to serving her community by focusing on improving the quality of life for Union residents.

Since being sworn in, she has focused on cultural investment, community parks, public safety, and development.

Mayor Frazier has also brought something very special to this role: her experience serving her community as a teacher for 23 years.

On behalf of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District, I congratulate our new mayor of Union Township, and I wish her all the best as she continues to serve Union.

□ 1950

#### HONORING LIFE AND LEGACY OF BERKS COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS JEFF BUCK AND ROBERT SHICK

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the life and legacy of Berks County Fire Chiefs Jeff Buck and Robert Shick who tragically lost their lives in the line of duty.

On April 4, Walnuttown Fire Chief Jeff Buck and Assistant Chief Robert Shick were participating in a missing

person search when they were struck and killed by a man driving under the influence.

Chief Buck and Assistant Chief Shick served the Berks County community with distinction for many years. The outpouring of sorrow and support from the entire community reflects the respect and admiration held by all. Beyond their outstanding service to the community, Chief Buck and Assistant Chief Shick were also both dedicated family men.

I want to extend my deepest condolences and prayers to their surviving wives, children, and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, this unspeakable tragedy highlights the dangers our first responders face every day. I know the entire Berks County community will never waver in their commitment to honor the legacy of these brave heroes, and I urge Congress to follow their example by never failing to support our first responders, firefighters, and police.

#### CHERRY POINT VISIT

(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, at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, I have seen firsthand what makes eastern North Carolina strong: our marines, our civilian workers, and our community and their commitment to being mission ready.

As the Air Station of the Year, with a 24/7 airfield operation, Cherry Point isn't just about national defense. It is about jobs, families, and the future of Havelock and our region.

The STARBASE program provides students with hands-on STEM experiences and real opportunities to learn and succeed. I am so proud to support \$40 million for the F-35 Aircraft Sustainment Center, strengthening our national security.

I thank our marines, their families, the Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow, and Mayor Will Lewis for an incredible visit. When we stand with our marines, we are also standing for eastern North Carolina.

#### HONORING GACKS' 102ND BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. JACK. Mr. Speaker, I intended to address the House last Friday, on April 17, but our legislative calendar shifted, and the House was not the session.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 102nd birthday of someone very special to me, my grandmother, whom my family affectionately refers to as Gacks.

My grandmother was born on April 17, 1924, in Des Moines, Iowa, and today she resides in Georgia, blessed with incredible health. At the early age of 102,

my grandmother still drives a car, shops at the grocery store, and attends a weekly exercise class with her friends.

I am my grandmother's only grandchild, which is notable because she will forever have a perfect record of having her grandchildren elected to Congress.

Since her 95th birthday, we have celebrated her birthday in very special ways. This year, my grandmother is watching at home with family as we wish her, from the floor of the United States House of Representatives, a very happy 102nd birthday.

#### REMEMBERING THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE OKLAHOMA BOMBING

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of something that happened 31 years ago in Oklahoma City at the Federal building that we refer to as the Murrah Building when an act of unimaginable horror took place and the lives of 168 of our fellow Americans were taken in almost an instant.

That was one of those experiences that forever reshaped my community and my neighbors. It reshaped the country at the time, and that is what I and my colleagues rise this evening to discuss those 31 years ago and how our communities responded and where we went from there.

I was an 11-month Member of Congress at the time. My district office was 1½ blocks away from the Murrah Building, and the force and the magnitude of the explosion that day were so incredible that not only did it blow the interior out of the Murrah Building, leaving just a shell, but it also damaged buildings blocks away, literally creating chaos and confusion all over central Oklahoma City.

Sometimes, in the chaos of the modern world, we forget that we are Americans, we are Oklahomans, we are fellow human beings, and we rise to the occasion. That response, beginning almost instantly and covering hours, days, and weeks, reflected that Oklahoma standard, that Oklahoma way of doing things—but not just Oklahoma, our great Nation.

This evening for a little bit, we together will discuss the things that we have dealt with since then, things we observed in those moments, and how it made a real difference in the lives of the survivors and those who were so critically injured.

My friend, Congressman COLE, was Secretary of State in the State of Oklahoma, a central member of Governor Keating's cabinet. When the emergency response programs were activated, he was a part of the State's response to help local government in interacting with FEMA.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Oklahoma, my distinguished colleague and extraordinary leader in that moment, Mr. LUCAS, for yielding.

Like my friend, we don't need a lot of notes to talk about that day 31 years ago to the day yesterday. We remember what was the darkest day in Oklahoma history, the worst act of domestic terrorism ever performed on American soil.

My friend, Mr. LUCAS, as he said, was only 11 months in as a new Congressman representing that area, that district, and we are very lucky there was not a loss of life in his office, as close as they were to the disaster site. I had been in office less than 100 days working for our friend, Frank Keating.

I will never forget that day. I was walking into my office, and I could feel a little shudder. The capitol is about 2½ miles away from the disaster site. I sat down in my chair, and my secretary immediately walked into my office.

She said: Something terrible has happened in downtown Oklahoma City. Your wife—who was three blocks away working as a paralegal at the time—has just called and said that something terrible has happened. She is on the phone.

I got on the phone, and she described to me what she could see from the 18th floor of an office tower at a law firm three blocks away.

She said: I don't know what has occurred, but there has been a horrific explosion. There are hundreds of people in the street. People are screaming, and something awful has happened.

Immediately I walked upstairs to the Governor's office. Frank Keating was our new Governor at the time. He obviously had been in office less than 100 days, as well. If you walked into the Governor's office, Mr. Speaker, there is a press office immediately to your right. I looked to the right. I saw the Governor and his chief of staff, my good friend, Clinton Key.

They were watching the disaster as it unfolded because there were already helicopters flying over the disaster site, and one of the news commentators was speculating: Well, this was a natural gas explosion.

Frank Keating had been an FBI agent in the early part of his career as a law enforcement official and later an Associate Attorney General of the United States under President Reagan. He was looking at this. One of his first jobs as a young FBI officer in the 1960s had been to investigate acts of terrorism associated with the Vietnam war on the West Coast.

I will never ever forget him watching this. He said that is not a natural gas explosion. That is a car bomb, and it is probably some act of terrorism.

He knew immediately what we were dealing with. As we watched that horrific day unfold where we lost 168 lives,

I marveled every single day at the extraordinary leadership that Frank Keating and our first lady, Cathy Keating, showed for the State of Oklahoma. He not only knew what had happened, he knew instinctively what he needed to do.

We had an emergency meeting in the Governor's office. We decided there is always a debate in one of those things: Do you go to the site? Do you lead from the capitol?

Frank Keating said: You go to where the action is. I am going downtown and assign various tasks to the rest of us. Then he headed down.

□ 2000

I joined him later that day. He saw this horrific explosion that had taken 168 lives and injured hundreds and hundreds more people. We watched the unfolding relief effort.

As bad as the day was for Oklahoma, I don't think I ever was more proud of the State and, quite frankly, the country as it dealt with the tragedy unfolding in front of us in those opening hours on April 19, 1995.

Our first responders in Oklahoma City—police officers and the fire department—immediately sprang into action, immediately trying to get people out of the building, trying to contain the disaster. Over 300 buildings around the site had been heavily damaged.

They performed heroically and magnificently because, frankly, we thought at the time that there might be other bombs there and that there might be other explosions coming.

By about 11 o'clock that morning, we had the Governor back, and we convened at the capitol complex in Oklahoma City.

About 1 o'clock, we got a call from the President of the United States, Bill Clinton. Most people don't know this, but President Clinton and Governor Keating had gone to Georgetown University together. When the Governor was president of the senior class, then-sophomore class member Bill Clinton was president of the sophomore class. They knew one another extraordinarily well.

There was already lots of speculation that it might be terrorist activity directed from overseas. The President asked the Governor: Governor, do we have any earthly idea who did this? He said: No, Mr. President, we don't. You will hear a lot of speculation, but obviously, we don't know at this point who did this deed.

I will never forget the response of President Clinton, who said immediately: Well, I hope it is not a for-eigner who did something like this.

I remember thinking: Well, gosh, how could you want it to be an American? The President said something very insightful. It actually came back to me when we as a country went through 9/11. He said: If this was done by somebody overseas, we will be at war someplace in the world in the next 6 months. He, too, knew immediately

what the consequences of this awful act were.

In the days ahead, again, our firefighters, our National Guard, our police, and all the surrounding police officers and fire departments did an extraordinary job as we struggled to find out who had done this, what we could do to save lives, and whether there were still survivors left in there.

At every point, Governor Keating showed leadership, but he was not alone. The mayor of Oklahoma City, Ron Norick, a good friend of Congressman LUCAS and mine, also performed magnificently, directing the response effort.

Much more importantly than that for us, the people of Oklahoma responded instinctively and heroically, not only in sending the relief efforts that we initially needed, but also in rallying around the victims, giving blood, and trying to see that whatever was needed would be done.

I then recall all the other Americans from all over the country who were immediately moving in our direction to help. We had relief units. I met the captain of the New York Fire Department, who later lost his life responding to 9/11. I met relief and rescue workers from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. People came from all over America because it is what Americans do when they face a tragedy: You help other Americans.

Finally, I will tell you that the Clinton administration responded spectacularly. President Clinton sent every bit of aid that we requested and then some. When our First Lady decided that we needed to grieve while we were dealing with disaster, she came up with the idea of the prayer service, which was attended immediately by Billy Graham, by the President of the United States, obviously by our local dignitaries, and by our neighbor, the newly elected Governor of the State of Texas, George Bush. You saw all Americans coming and working together.

Over the course of that, something called the Oklahoma Standard was developed and is still very famous amongst first responders. This is how our community, a State, and, frankly, a country is supposed to respond when confronted with an unspeakable act of evil. So as terrible as it was, it became a rallying point for the people of Oklahoma, and it became an incident where you could see the goodness and decency of the American people overcoming a terrible act of evil.

We got help from all over the world. I still have prayer beads sent to us from Germany that the nuns had made. People just responded and stepped up.

We will never forget in Oklahoma the horror of those days, the worst days I ever lived through. We will never forget the decency of both the people of Oklahoma, certainly of Oklahoma City, decent people from all across the country who helped us, and a great and compassionate government that was immediately available. Sometimes, the government is a pretty controversial

thing these days. You will never know how lucky you are as an American as when something terrible like this happens and all the resources and all the compassion of a great and good people are immediately at your disposal to help you get through a disaster: FBI, FEMA, law enforcement personnel, more rescue teams. That went on for day after day after day.

Out of that came a thought that the Governor had: What can we do to help the survivors? What can we do for all the children who are now orphans? He set up with the First Lady, Cathy Keating, a foundation which, frankly, raised the money and provided for the education of every child who lost a parent. College, technical education, whatever they needed, we would be there to fulfill the role of the parents who were taken from very young children at an age and in a way that they couldn't possibly comprehend. Frankly, none of us could ever understand what happened behind it and what the reasons for it were.

I think about that day quite often, and I think about it particularly on the anniversary dates. There was an enormous celebration yesterday in Oklahoma City, prayer services, a memorial marathon that we run every year connected with this event, and the Day to Remember. Again, out of that terrible thing, many good things have happened.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly commend my friend. I was assigned the job, as secretary of state, of being the liaison with the Federal Government. That meant I was working through my congressman and friend FRANK LUCAS to try to make sure that the Federal Government played its appropriate role, not only in the response—and, believe me, they did. I could not have, again, asked any more from President Clinton. I have expressed that to him on many occasions and on this floor on multiple occasions. Anything we asked for, he made sure that we had.

I also think of all the decent people who rallied around and helped us. We saw superb leadership at the public level. My friend was at the heart of making sure that Oklahoma City got all the help that it needed.

We were trying to struggle with what it would take to rebuild Oklahoma City. I remember talking to my counterparts in the Federal Government at the time whom President Clinton had dispatched. The normal relief in a situation like that, a disaster, is a 75/25 split. I remember telling one of them that this isn't a natural disaster. This is an attack on a Federal facility in the middle of Oklahoma City.

□ 2010

They thought about it. They said: You know, you are right, this is really a Federal responsibility. The generosity of the people of the United States of America helped rebuild Oklahoma City, and that very same concept was used when our friends in New

York, who had been so quick to send us help, went through an even more horrific ordeal on 9/11.

These disasters were meant to hurt the State of Oklahoma. They were meant to hurt our faith and our system, and they were meant to damage the American people profoundly. They did exactly the opposite. They reminded us that whatever our differences politically, whatever differences we have in different parts of the country, in the end we are all Americans, and in the end Americans stick together and look after their own.

Frankly, as I said, we got help from all over the world. We got help from every point on the political spectrum. We got the assistance of folks who decided they would not give in to horror, they would not give in to terrorism, they would not allow evil to overcome the innate decency of the people.

As I pause and reflect, I do remember it as the worst day of my life. I do remember it as the worst day in the history of my State. But I remember it also as an example of the compassion, decency, and the enormous capability of the American people to look after their own in a terrible situation.

I thank my friend for organizing this memorial to this horrific event because it is really something we should never forget, but it is something we should always be proud of. We should be proud of the response of those very first police officers and firemen, just as at 9/11, not knowing exactly what had happened, but throwing themselves in harm's way.

We should be proud of the political leadership that we had at the time. We were very fortunate to have the Governor we had, the First Lady that we had, Frank and Cathy Keating, the mayor we had in Oklahoma City, the Congressmen we had that represented that area and worked with us not just in those days and weeks but, frankly, in the months and years that followed to make sure that Oklahoma City recovered.

We should be proud of a people that never ever will forget what occurred that day and never ever will let the forces of evil overcome the forces of good and the decency of the American people.

I have seen enough in my lifetime to know when good overcomes evil and that in the end it always does because I saw it in Oklahoma City. I saw it with friends and colleagues. I saw it from strangers all across the country. I saw it from political leaders at every point in the political spectrum. What was our worst day as a State was probably our best day in terms of showing what we were capable of when we were challenged and reminding the world that all of America stands together against terrorism and all of America works together to help people not only deal with the immediate tragedy but to overcome, to heal, and to move on.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for setting up this fitting memorial discussion this evening.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman who represents the Second District of Oklahoma, Congressman BRECHEEN. Clearly, he, too, cares about all Oklahomans and all of our fellow citizens.

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Speaker, I find myself in an unfortunate status. I was a Coalgate High School young adult. A Member of Congress was dealing with this at the time that I was in high school, and the Secretary of State was dealing with this at the time I was in high school. I, of course, had friends who lost a loved one. I would later have a college roommate that I would discover—people I went to church with for years—his father was an APHIS, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, veterinarian for USDA. We would room together at Oklahoma State University. I never learned this story while we were going to church together; it took going to college.

I heard the story of how his wife accidentally put the notice of him being called to the headquarters office, she covered it up accidentally, and he didn't show up for one of the sides of the building that would be most impacted. There are some very famous photos.

A few years later, I would be State FFA president, and we would start the 168 Pennies campaign on behalf of career tech. While these men were serving in State leadership roles, the youth were responding to try to find ways to assist and be a part of the good will that was spoken of just a minute ago.

I will close just by saying that it reminds us, this incident, of the need to fulfill what George Washington in a 1789 statement talked about: That it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor.

That incident was a first for a Nation that had enjoyed quietness on the home front, and it shattered us. Years later, we would have 9/11, but it reminds us today, as we pause and remember what happened in Oklahoma 31 years ago, taking the lives of 168 innocent people, the need for us to have bended knees and pray Psalms 91-type protection over this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LUCAS for setting this up. I truly appreciate it.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, my grandparents' generation could tell you where they were when they heard the news that Wiley Post and Will Rogers had been lost in that plane crash in Alaska in 1935. They could also tell you exactly what they were doing when the news came of the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December of 1941.

My parents, who were young men, kids at the time, could tell you exactly where they were when that same news about Pearl Harbor came. They could

tell you exactly what they were doing when they discovered that President Kennedy had been assassinated.

For my generation, there have been many things that imprint the mind that will mark the memory forever, but that day 31 years ago that took the lives of 168 of our fellow citizens is my equivalent to those earlier tragedies.

I and the Oklahoma delegation were all together in Dallas-Fort Worth for a meeting of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, BRAC, when the tragedy occurred at 9:02 a.m. I will never forget having a reporter from one of the Oklahoma City news radio stations tap me on the shoulder, and he said: Congressman, don't you have an office in the Federal Building?

I said: Chris, I do, but there are three Federal buildings. Are you talking about Murrah, the Federal Courthouse, or the United States Post Office?

He said: We have a report that there has been some kind of an explosion at the Federal Building in Oklahoma City, and it is gone.

Now, at that moment, I jumped up and charged out of the auditorium, and in the lobby were the television screens even in that day with the live coverage. I immediately recognized the Murrah Building. My people were a block and a half away in the U.S. Post Office Building, but I immediately recognized the building. The core of this building had been blown out. It had been designed in the 1960s during the antiwar period to withstand an attack, but not the magnitude of this attack.

Senator Nickles, who led the delegation that day to the BRAC hearing, hurriedly went down and discussed with the leadership of the BRAC Commission and the two State delegations ahead of us, and they were able to accelerate our abbreviated testimony. We left Dallas and came back to Oklahoma City as fast as we could.

I will never forget walking up the street from the south, I believe Harvey, coming by what was then our old Sixth District office in the U.S. Post Office Building. This is a block and a half away on the opposite side of the blast, down the street. The shock wave was big enough that it blew all of our windows in and took down our ceilings.

Now, I had people buried under rubble, I had people thrown across rooms, but everyone was okay. We were lucky. In the delegation, we proceeded, J.C. and I and several staffers, on up the street and around the corner to behold what we saw, it was just the most amazing thing.

□ 2020

My colleagues are right, the response from almost the first instant was amazing. A lot of times people think that when you have a tragedy, a natural disaster, that the Federal Government is going to come in and save you. That is not the system.

The system is for local government to function and for local government to call upon county and State government

to support them. If the need is great enough, they then turn to the Federal Government and FEMA to back them up. That is exactly the way it worked in Oklahoma City. The mayor, the police chief, and fire chief triaged the situation, knew they had more than they could handle, called upon county government, State government, the Governor, Secretary Cole, who then turned to FEMA and the President of the United States. It was a textbook example of how things were supposed to work in the most hideous and horrible of circumstances.

I don't ever want anyone to go through something of that nature or magnitude ever again. It took 5 years of the Federal delegation working with those Federal employees who had survived, many of whom had been physically or emotionally injured, and their families to sort out what were they going to do next, what did they want to do, and what were they capable of doing.

Mr. Speaker, call it compassionate work if you want, call it treating your fellow citizens in a decent way, but we worked for 5 years to work our way through that.

I will also say that Congressman COLE referenced the outflowing of love and support from across the country. The emergency management teams and all of the entities that came pouring in to help. It was amazing. However, about 3 or 4 months after the immediate tragedy was over, I got a call from one of our colleagues, a congressman in New Jersey by the name of Jim Saxton. Jim told me that his community had been raising money and they wanted to give it to Oklahoma City to help. Would I come to New Jersey with him and see his folks and accept their gift.

I didn't know what to expect, but I thought the world of Congressman Saxton, and if his people were trying to help my people, absolutely. We went up to New Jersey. In a high school auditorium near a military base, the bands and the cheerleaders and the school kids and the adults in the community—it was quite an event—they had done car washes and bake sales. They donated money. They raised cash, and they presented me with a huge check—now, this is 31 years ago—for \$100,000.

That is a lot of money now, but that was an incredible amount of money in 1995 to give to people you had never met and that you didn't know but you knew you cared about. That is another one of those moments I will never forget, \$100,000.

Bottom line is this: From that great tragedy came the foundation to educate people about these issues, from that tragedy came the memorial memorializing, honoring, and remembering those 168 lost people.

If you are ever even remotely close to Oklahoma City, you should go and walk through that somber memorial. You should go through all of the educational exhibits at the foundation. It is just the most amazing thing.

Am I different today still after all this time than I was before the moment the tragedy struck? I will always be different. I will always be different. When you have seen the worst of what humanity can do to itself, followed by the best of what humanity can do for itself, you can't help but be a changed person.

Mr. Speaker, again, to my friends, I thank them for everything that they did. I thank them for working so diligently for all those good folks in Oklahoma City and everybody across the country.

My grandparents could tell you when Wiley and Will had their tragedy. My father could quote you where he was standing in Elk City when they saw on the TV screen that President Kennedy has been assassinated. I will forever have burned in my memory that reporter tapping me on the shoulder, "We have a report. There has been an explosion. The Federal building is gone. Where is your office?" I will never forget that.

Mr. Speaker, one last time, I thank everyone who helped us in Oklahoma City. I express my sympathy for everyone who lost someone in Oklahoma City, but thank goodness, we are Oklahomans. Most importantly, we are Americans.

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

#### CELEBRATING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. MCCLELLAN of Virginia was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCCLELLAN. 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 subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MESSMER). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to anchor this Special Order hour on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus in honor of Black Maternal Health Week.

For the 10th year in a row, the Black Mamas Matter Alliance led Black Maternal Health Week last week to address the high rates of preventable maternal mortality among Black women who are more than three times as likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than White women.

Black Maternal Health Week focuses on advocacy, community building, and policy change. This year's theme, Rooted in Justice & Joy, highlights the need for both systemic change to address racial disparities and the celebration of Black motherhood and strength.

This Special Order hour is an opportunity for the Congressional Black Caucus to discuss the ongoing crisis facing our Nation's Black mothers and to explore solutions to protecting our communities' Black women.

Tonight, I start this Special Order hour with identifying the state of Black maternal health in our Nation. In a nutshell, we are in crisis, and the Black maternal health crisis is not just statistics.

Eleven years ago next week, I nearly became one of those statistics when my daughter and I both nearly died when my placenta ruptured 9 weeks before my due date. I needed an emergency C-section. I had placenta previa, and because I had health insurance and access to pre- and postnatal care, I was one of the lucky ones, but too many Black women in America aren't so lucky. Compared to other high income countries, the U.S. still has the highest rate of maternal deaths.

In 2023, the most recent year for which data is available, the national maternal mortality rate actually declined, but Black women were still more than three times as likely as White women to experience a pregnancy-related death and 87 percent of these deaths were preventable.

In my own State of Virginia, after significant improvements from peak deaths in 2021, Virginia's maternal mortality rate got worse in 2023.

We face a complex road ahead as we seek solutions to protect Black women and families against this loss. The maternal health crisis connects healthcare with insurance policy, reproductive freedom, environmental policy, and so much more. These issues don't exist in a vacuum, and many of them are rooted in decades, I would say, centuries of inequity.

These issues require a holistic approach to bring down the mortality rate and save lives, but recent rollbacks at the Federal level risk deepening this maternal health crisis. Medicaid cuts and the expiration of the enhanced premium tax credits over the Affordable Care Act have driven up the cost of maternal care for millions, making this vital care inaccessible for those unable to pay for it out of pocket.

The Supreme Court's decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* caused one in three women of childbearing years to live in States with abortion bans or extreme restrictions, and in those States, States with bans, women are two times more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes.

Again, it is not just statistics. We have seen tragic stories of women like Amber Thurman and Candi Miller, who died suffering miscarriages awaiting simple procedures that could have saved their life, but the hospitals weren't sure if they fit within the exceptions to the ban.

□ 2030

On top of this, the Trump administration has doubled down on making it

harder to secure justice for Black families and address the maternal health crisis in Black communities with President Trump's executive order banning diversity, equity, and inclusion practices, limiting the Federal Government's ability to enforce hospital accountability for treatment of Black mothers weeks after the Biden administration reached a historic settlement agreement to uphold these guidelines and provide training for hospital staff to address bias.

Under the Trump administration, funding cuts and mass layoffs have left agencies like the Department of Health and Human Services without the resources or staff needed to conduct research and implement policies that save lives. Thousands of datasets that have helped to identify the maternal mortality factors and track how we are doing with policies to address them can no longer be accessed.

Now, President Trump wants to go even further, as his proposed budget for 2027 calls for over \$800 million in cuts to maternal and child health programs at HHS.

The proposal would eliminate many essential programs entirely, including the Healthy Start program, which serves mothers and infants in high-risk communities; the maternal mortality review committees; the Perinatal Quality Collaboratives; and other programs that track maternal mortality and share solutions for reducing it. This is not acceptable, and the Congressional Black Caucus will do everything within our power to oppose this proposed budget.

Mr. Speaker, in the face of these setbacks at the Federal level, we will continue to push for change. As a member of not only the Congressional Black Caucus but the Black Maternal Health Caucus, and especially as a mom who faced that crisis personally, I am fighting back as we continue to push forward because we cannot afford to wait. We certainly can't afford to sit back and do nothing.

That is why I am cosponsoring the omnibus, a package of 14 bills that aims to address the root causes of maternal health challenges, provide support to mothers, and study how we can build a better system for every American family in need of care.

The Black Maternal Health Caucus has fought for this legislation for years. We will not stop until it becomes law. It must become law now.

Our fight remains far from over, but legislators and advocates alike continue to work toward tangible change to eradicate this Black maternal health crisis. I am proud to stand and work alongside Members, like the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative YVETTE CLARKE.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE).

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia, my esteemed colleague Congresswoman JENNIFER MCCLELLAN,

for sharing her story and for being so pointed in the ways in which Black women have been disadvantaged with respect to Black maternal health and for anchoring this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour.

Good evening. I am Congresswoman YVETTE D. CLARKE, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and proudly representing New York's Ninth Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York.

I rise tonight with my colleagues of the CBC because the state of Black maternal health in America is not just a public health issue. It is a moral crisis.

In the wealthiest Nation in the world, American women suffer the highest rates of maternal mortality. This crisis falls hardest on Black women. We know the facts. In the United States, Black women are still three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than White women. The vast majority of complications are preventable with timely, high-quality care.

Too many families are left grieving. Too many warnings have gone unheard. Behind every statistic is a name, a story, and a family forever changed. These stories demand more than sympathy. They demand action.

These disparities are the outcome of deep inequities in access to healthcare, structural racism, and a system that too often fails Black women at every stage of pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum recovery.

These deaths are preventable. Yet, instead of preventing them and improving maternal health, Republicans are stripping coverage that mothers rely on, worsening an already deadly crisis. Efforts to dismantle healthcare, undermine reproductive health services, and strip away critical protections will continue to disproportionately harm Black women around our Nation.

Now is the time when we should be building on progress, not continuing the pattern of neglect and disregard for our health and our lives. We must continue to invest in community-based care; diversify the maternal health workforce; address implicit bias in our healthcare system; and ensure that every woman, no matter her ZIP Code, has access to quality, affordable care.

The Congressional Black Caucus will continue to fight for policies that center equity, protect access, and save lives.

Black maternal health is about more than healthcare. It is about justice. It is about dignity. It is about whether this country is willing to value Black women the way that we deserve to be valued.

We will not stop until Black mothers are safe, supported, and able to thrive before, during, and after giving birth.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for anchoring this on behalf of the Congress-

sional Black Caucus, and I thank her so much for her passionate words and her lived experience. Unfortunately, her story is not a rare story. It is all too common, especially for women of color.

As a mother, grandmother of three women, and great-grandmother of three great-grandbabies, this is really personal to me. I have a real stake in this fight, which is one of the reasons why I really want to implore my colleagues to pass the omnibus.

Mr. Speaker, this crisis demands immediate action. Black women, as you have heard, are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than White women. Over 80 percent of these deaths are preventable.

These are not just data. There is stuff behind there. This is not done in a vacuum. This is because of the systemic failure of our healthcare system and its structural failures.

The thing is that the part that irks me so much is the fact that I said 80 percent. The gentlewoman said that 87 percent of these deaths are preventable in the wealthiest country in the world.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of the reasons, when I look at our omnibus and think of all the bills that are in the bill, I think of women being served at every single phase of their pregnancy. You could look at one of the initiatives that I have, expanding the perinatal workforce, really wanting to provide doulas and people to help guide vulnerable women with vulnerable pregnancies through their pregnancies.

In our omnibus, we are dealing with things like Mrs. LUCY MCBATH's Extending WIC for New Moms Act, which would provide WIC support for postpartum and breastfeeding mothers.

We even have initiatives to intervene in pregnancies that occur with incarcerated women.

I have an initiative with Senator BALDWIN over in the other Chamber to provide, with no cost-sharing, for women's mental health not only during the 9 months of pregnancy but for 1 year postpartum. We are finding that so many of these deaths are occurring because of poor mental health among Black women without the appropriate interventions and healthcare.

□ 2040

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, we can't cut Medicaid at the tune of \$1.2 trillion and propose \$1.4 billion cuts in WIC for fruits and vegetables because we know that this is science-backed data that tells us you just really can't starve a woman during pregnancy and expect good health outcomes.

So what is missing? What is missing, Mr. Speaker and Madam Convener of us tonight, is that we just don't have the sense of urgency about taking care of our children.

As a founding member of the Black Maternal Health Caucus, we have come up with some commonsense and science- and evidence-based legislation, like the omnibus, that would truly make America healthier.

We have a roadmap. The Congressional Black Caucus and the Black Maternal Health Caucus, we have a roadmap for change. The time for action, Mr. Speaker, is yesterday, and we must pass the omnibus. Black mamas can't wait. We know what the solutions are, and we just have to get to work.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD).

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, last week, we marked the 10th Annual Black Maternal Health Week, a week of action, engagement, and advocacy with the goal of ending our Nation's maternal health crisis and the disparities that disproportionately impact Black women.

Moms across America are demanding a comprehensive solution to this crisis. While it affects moms from every community, of every demographic, we know that there are significant inequities across racial and ethnic lines.

Black women die from pregnancy-related complications at three to four times the rate of their White counterparts, a disparity that exists across income brackets and education levels.

Personal losses and staggering statistics like these are why 7 years ago, I cofounded the Black Maternal Health Caucus with my sister and colleague, Congresswoman ALMA ADAMS.

Today, the Black Maternal Health Caucus is one of the largest bipartisan caucuses on Capitol Hill. Our flagship legislation, which I am proud to lead along with Congresswoman ADAMS, is the omnibus, a comprehensive package of 14 evidence-based bills designed to address every clinical and nonclinical factor leading to preventable maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities in the United States.

This legislation is designed to solve America's maternal health crisis and end the disproportionate risks faced by Black women. This is not a Band-Aid. This is the solution, and Congress must pass it now.

Over the last 7 years, we have made incredible progress on maternal health and moving the priorities in the omnibus forward. We have gotten hundreds of millions of dollars signed into law to fund lifesaving research on maternal health and to support the organizations nationwide who are putting that knowledge to use on the front lines of the crisis.

We have even passed the first omnibus bill into law, the Protecting Moms Who Served Act, which helps our veterans receive the quality maternal care that they deserve. Yes, these are meaningful steps forward, but our work is not done.

Moms are dying every single day, and it is time for us to come together and deliver a comprehensive solution because our moms deserve better:

Moms like Dr. Janell Green Smith, a nurse-midwife, a DNP, a professor, and maternal health advocate who we tragically lost in January to childbirth complications days after delivering her daughter, Eden. She deserved better.

Moms like Mercedes Wells, who survived giving birth by the side of the road minutes after being turned away from a hospital while in active labor in December. She deserved better.

Moms like Kiara Jones, who was ignored while she sat in active labor, crying out and doubled over in pain in a hospital waiting room. She deserved better.

To end this crisis once and for all and to ensure that all moms have access to the respectful and competent care they deserve, we must pass the whole *momnibus*: the comprehensive solution to address maternal mortality in America. This is a fight that we cannot lose.

Black Maternal Health Week is a reminder that every mom of every background has a right to a safe pregnancy and postpartum period. Bringing new life into the world should be a time of celebration, not fear, not grief.

This year's Black Maternal Healthcare Week theme, *Rooted in Justice & Joy*, reflects the incredible resilience of the moms, families, and advocates who are working every day to make that vision a reality for women across the country.

As we have the Congressional Black Caucus recognizing Black Maternal Health Week through this Special Order hour, I am so pleased that we have the opportunity as a Congress to celebrate the progress we have made together. However, we also must rededicate ourselves to doing the work.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SYKES).

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Black Maternal Health Week.

A moment to reflect on a reality that should alarm every one of us in this Chamber: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause in this country than White women. That is not a small disparity. It is a systemic failure.

In my home State of Ohio, the data tells us an even more painful story. While maternal mortality has risen for all women over time, the rate for Black mothers has more than doubled from 29.3 to 59.7 deaths per 1,000 live births.

These are not just numbers on a page. These are mothers who should be here today. These are families that should not be grieving. These are children growing up without the care, stability, and the love of the person who brought them into this world.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said before, enough is enough. Black mothers deserve to feel safe and supported throughout their pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum period. Every mother deserves high-quality, affordable healthcare. Addressing maternal mortality is not a partisan issue. It is a human issue.

That is why, long before I came to Congress, I worked on this issue at the

State level. As the minority leader of the Ohio House, I helped cofound the first Ohio Black Maternal Health Caucus. It was the first of its kind in the country, because we could not ignore this crisis unfolding in our communities.

Now, in Congress, I continue that work as a member of the Congressional Black Maternal Health Caucus and as chair of the Reproductive Justice Task Force.

However, leadership is not just about titles and task forces. It is about action. That is why I am an original sponsor of the Black Maternal Health *Momnibus Act*—legislation that will save lives by investing in community care, strengthening the workforce, improving data, and addressing the root causes of maternal mortality.

It is why I have introduced and supported legislation to protect access to emergency and labor care under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, better known as EMTALA, ensuring that no woman is turned away during childbirth and labor.

It is why I fought against the spread of dangerous disinformation through the Stop Anti-Abortion Disinformation Act, because misleading women during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives has no place in a healthcare system built on trust and safety.

We must also confront the role that access, or lack thereof, plays in these healthcare outcomes. In Ohio, Black mothers are more likely to rely on Medicaid to cover their births. That means decisions, including the \$1 trillion cut to the Medicaid program that Republicans in this Chamber made as part of the one big, ugly bill, are not abstract budget choices. These are risks imposed upon real people.

They are decisions about whether these women can see a doctor, whether they can receive prenatal care, whether complications will be caught in time, and whether or not they live or die.

In my home State of Ohio, 13 out of 88 counties are considered maternity care deserts, leaving tens of thousands of women without reasonable access to obstetric services. Imagine being told you are bringing a life into this world and then discovering that the nearest hospital that can safely deliver your baby is hours away. That is a reality that far too many families face today.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot accept this as normal.

Black maternal health is not just what happens inside of the doctor's office, because if it were so, we would have figured this out and solved this crisis decades ago. It is what happens outside of the hospital: the social determinants of health, the things that are going on in our communities, education, clean air, clean water, and access to upward mobility.

□ 2050

All of these things impact the ability for a woman to conceive and deliver a baby successfully.

One thing that most people don't seem to know, or maybe they do know and just don't like to talk about it, is that the leading cause of death for pregnant women is violence.

A Harvard study said that homicide deaths among pregnant women are more prevalent than deaths from hypertension, hemorrhage, and sepsis. And gun violence has been called a health emergency for pregnant women.

So, Mr. Speaker, we can and must do more to protect pregnant women, not just inside the hospital, not just outside the hospital, but also within the intimate relationships that oftentimes women find themselves in creating deadly circumstances in which mothers and babies cannot live.

Mr. Speaker, we stand on this floor often. We fight about a lot, but one thing should be very easy: protecting women, protecting babies, encouraging life and prosperity should not be something that is challenging or hard for us all to do together.

For that reason, we are here to celebrate Black mothers, honor Black Maternal Health Week, and ensure that all of our colleagues across the aisle are supporting the *Momnibus Act*.

I thank my colleague from the Commonwealth of Virginia for holding and hosting this Special Order.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, the threat to our hospital OB/GYNs is not theoretical. Centra Southside in Farmville, Virginia, announced the closure of its labor and delivery unit, and it ended OB/GYN services at their Centra Southside Community Hospital on December 19, 2025, citing a combination of significant financial and operational challenges, including the recently enacted reductions in healthcare funding and the Medicaid cuts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. MCIVER).

Mrs. MCIVER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia for yielding.

I rise today to stand alongside my colleagues in honor of Black Maternal Health Week.

This time is about confronting inequities and downright racism in maternal care and ending our Nation's maternal health crisis.

Pregnancy should never cause a mother to fear for her life, but this is a reality for Black women.

We know the statistics far too well. In the United States, Black women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than White women, and in New Jersey, Black women are seven times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than White women.

The greatest tragedy lies in the fact that 80 percent of these deaths are preventable. These deaths are rooted in racism.

Many of the Black women in our lives can speak to hospital experiences where their pain was not taken seriously or their care was delayed.

For too long, the experiences and concerns about Black women have been cast to the side in our healthcare system. Today, they are being flat-out ignored.

This administration has directed programs to erase words like “Black” from funding applications. The question that my colleague Representative SUMMER LEE asked the Health and Human Services Secretary last week demands an answer: How can we solve the Black maternal mortality crisis, if we can’t say the word “Black”?

The silence is loud and intentional.

With every statistic, there are real human costs behind them, and when the concerns of Black women are written off, our voices are erased.

Behind every number is a family impacted forever. We don’t want to be valued with words without that rhetoric being followed up with action.

Black women have been witnessing a coordinated and vicious assault on the foundations of our freedom and history. And there are moments when the weight of these disparities feels overwhelming, when the statistics feel relentless, and the stories feel too familiar.

But I think about the women who came before us, who fought for dignity in healthcare they were never meant to receive and who insisted that their lives were worth protecting even when the system said otherwise.

So along with my CBC colleagues, I will continue to bring attention to this crisis until our Nation starts to treat it like one. We will continue to demand action to close the health gap for Black mothers, expand access to prenatal and postpartum care, and confront the bias that exists in our hospitals today.

The time for intervention is now. We refuse to wait until another tragedy is added to the list.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MENEFE).

Mr. MENEFE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from the Commonwealth of Virginia for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I speak today because Congress must do all it can to end the disparities in Black maternal health outcomes in this country.

Moriah Ballard was 22 years old, a Houston woman, who was 7 months pregnant. She was ready. She and her husband had just bought a four-bedroom house. The nursery was set. The baby shower was planned. They had clothes, the onesies, and the books, until she went to the hospital with a headache one day and had some dizziness.

Doctors found her blood pressure was dangerously high. She had preeclampsia. They transferred her to a larger hospital, one of the most celebrated medical institutions in the entire country.

Over the next 3 days, her pain became unbearable. Her vision started to fail. Her blood pressure climbed to an untenable level. She kept pressing the

call light in her room and kept pressing it, but nobody came. She lost her son in that experience—delivered still-born. She woke up from surgery blind in one eye. Doctors later told her they wished that they had acted sooner.

That Houston woman’s story is not a tragedy. It is a pattern.

Across this country, Black women die from pregnancy-related causes at three times the rate of White women. The CDC tells us that more than 80 percent of those deaths are preventable—not inevitable, but preventable.

In Texas it is even worse. In my district, it is the worst in the Nation. Harris County leads this Nation right now in Black maternal deaths.

From 2016 to 2020, the maternal mortality rate for Black women in Harris County was 83.4 per 100,000 live births, the highest in the Nation.

And it is only getting worse.

Harris County’s maternal morbidity rate climbed nearly 35 percent between 2019 and 2024, outpacing the Texas statewide increase every single year.

This is happening in the shadow of the largest medical complex in the entire world.

So what do we do about this?

We as a body must act. We pass legislation like the Momnibus Act, which invests in the full spectrum of solutions that this crisis demands.

We address the social determinants of health: stable housing, nutritious food, mental health care. You cannot have a healthy pregnancy in an unstable life.

We grow the perinatal workforce, so every woman giving birth has access to a midwife, a doula, a community health worker who looks like them, who understands their culture, and we extend postpartum coverage through Medicaid and WIC because a mother’s health does not stop mattering the moment she leaves the delivery room.

Too many Black women walk into a hospital wondering if they will walk out with an ailment or if they will walk out at all. My wife wondered that when she was giving birth to our youngest son and her blood pressure dropped to a dangerous level. I looked her in the eye and saw not just tears flowing but fear and the question of whether she would leave that hospital alive at all.

Moriah Ballard wondered that when she pressed the call light, and she prayed and she prepared herself to die.

No woman should ever have to do that—not in Houston, not in America, not ever.

This body has the power to change that.

There have been Black women who have been leading this Special Order hour today, and I wanted to be here to make sure that they knew that the Black men in this body have their back.

□ 2100

We are going to do every single thing we can to pass the momnibus act to

end these disparities in maternal health outcomes, and I intend to make sure that we do so.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, when I began, I said that the Black maternal health crisis was not just about statistics. That is because behind every statistic is a mom who didn’t make it to raise her child.

I want to tell one such story now of Kira Johnson. Kira was already a mom, a mom to Langston and Charles Jr., and wife to Charles. She was a Ph.D. student at Pepperdine. On April 12, 2016, she was admitted to Cedars-Sinai Hospital at about 12:30 p.m. for a routine C-section delivery. At 2:33 she gave birth to her son Langston. At 3 p.m. Kira was out of the operating room and was taken to a post-anesthesia care unit. Shortly before 5 p.m., blood-tinged urine was seen in Kira’s Foley catheter. By 5:24 p.m. Kira’s Foley catheter was draining bright, red blood.

Her doctor was made aware of Kira’s situation, but it wasn’t until 6:44 p.m. that a surgical emergency CT scan was ordered, but it was ultimately not performed.

At 11:42 p.m., two physicians were at Kira’s bedside and one performed an ultrasound that found an expanding hematoma and now free fluid. They recommended taking Kira to surgery to identify the source of the bleeding, but her physician, Dr. Naim, who was also at the bedside at this time, wished to continue expectant management at this time.

By 12:30 a.m., as Kira’s condition began to rapidly decline, her husband, Charles, pleaded for help. Kira was finally taken to surgery about 12:30 a.m. on April 13, 2016, 10 hours from the time when the family initially realized that something was wrong.

At 2:22 a.m., during surgery, Kira was found to have three liters of blood in her abdomen and did not survive the blood loss. She was pronounced dead at 2:22 a.m. on April 13, 2016. The autopsy stated that the cause of death was due to hemorrhagic shock due to acute hemoperitoneum, or massive internal bleeding, post C-section.

Now, Cedars-Sinai Hospital signed an agreement and reached a historic settlement agreement with the Biden administration’s HHS Office for Civil Rights. It entered into a resolution agreement on January 6, 2025, to take significant steps toward ensuring that no other family has to go through what Kira’s did.

The agreement required Cedars-Sinai to provide training on the hospital’s obstetric hemorrhage management policy, create a pain management protocol for assessing and managing acute pain for birthing patients, update guidelines for trial of labor after C-section delivery and continue to track the vaginal birth after C-section success rate, administer an online bias reporting tool to document incidents of bias or suspected bias experienced by patients and the public, require staff to

complete respectful care training, and develop and implement a program to provide doula resources in patients.

A week later, President Trump signed his executive order banning diversity, equity, and inclusion practices. Because the settlement agreement promotes diversity and equity efforts and is grounded in healthcare nondiscrimination protections, it is under risk.

That is just one example of how the actions of the Trump administration last year is making the maternal health crisis, particularly for Black women, worse.

I spent a lot of time as a member of the senate in Virginia working on addressing Black maternal health as a member of the Joint Commission on Healthcare. Through our maternal mortality review teams, we were able to track and identify the differences between rates of death of White women, Black women, and indigenous women, and we found the reasons were different.

Using national datasets through the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, or PRAMS, which is an entire CDC team that monitors risks associated with pregnancy, we were able to determine that, at least in Virginia, Black women were more likely to die due to cardiovascular issues, an underlying health issue, before they got pregnant; whereas, White women were more likely to die from suicide or drug overdose related to mental health issues.

With those different datasets and understanding these differences, we were able to focus on policies that addressed the underlying root causes to eliminate Black maternal deaths for both Black and White women.

We began to see some progress, but, again, the very team managing PRAMS and the datasets we were using to identify the root causes and the differences is now gone. The staff that oversaw the HHS Health Resources & Services Administration, which is a national maternal mental health hotline that can help field calls from new moms seeking mental health support was cut. DOGE canceled funding for several Black maternal health projects. The Trump administration defunded research at Morehouse School of Medicine on how to improve the health of Black pregnant and postpartum women, it cut research on how stress influences racial and ethnic differences in maternal health outcomes for women with hypertensive disorders, and it cut studies on uterine fibroids which disproportionately impact Black women.

It wasn't just HHS and CDC that removed datasets. There was data from the Census Bureau and the EPA as well as the CDC that were detailing racial and ethnic data broken out by other factors that helped show some of the risk factors that led to differences in these underlying health outcomes and maternal health outcomes.

Without these datasets, how are we going to track the causes which change over time, put policies in place to address the causes, and then track to see if those policies are working?

It is very frustrating, again, as someone who nearly bled to death giving birth to my daughter, that we are not able to address this and there doesn't seem to be an urgency, as Congresswoman MOORE said, to address these underlying causes.

The Medicaid cuts are going to make it worse. Medicaid finances about 65 percent of births from Black mothers, and these cuts are only going to increase the disparity in maternal mortality rates and lead to more deaths as millions of Americans lose their health insurance.

This health insurance is relied upon by pregnant women across the country for prenatal visits, ultrasounds, screenings for conditions such as preeclampsia, gestational diabetes, and postpartum depression. It also helps them get annual physicals that will identify cardiovascular issues.

The President's DEI executive order also makes it more difficult to address bias in medicine. We have seen medical schools that taught students for decades that Black people can tolerate more pain, which led to tragic outcomes. We have heard story after story after story of women in the hospital who said, after giving birth, that something is wrong. They were ignored, and something was wrong.

This disparity also occurs in other health areas, but, again, I want to connect the correlation between heart health and maternal health.

I remember being in a conference discussing the disparity in heart health where a woman said that she had her first heart attack after she became a mother. After giving birth, she went home, and she felt odd. The more she thought about it, she said: I think I am having a heart attack.

She went to the emergency room, and the doctor said: No, you are not having a heart attack. You don't meet the risk factors. You are only 36 years old. You have never had a history of heart disease. Come back later. You are not having a heart attack.

She went home. She was having a heart attack. Fortunately, she was able to get back to the hospital before she died.

□ 2110

That is just one example. We have heard many, whether you are Serena Williams or Kira Johnson, where you know something's wrong, yet the hospital and the doctors don't listen. That happens more and more to Black women. We have to do something about it.

You heard today that the Black Maternal Health Caucus has put forward, under Representative UNDERWOOD and Representative ADAMS' leadership, the momnibus act.

What is that? It is a comprehensive package of 14 individual bills that will

make critical investments in the social determinants of health that influence maternal health outcomes, like housing, transportation, nutrition, and pollution. It will extend WIC eligibility in the postpartum and breastfeeding periods. It will provide funding to community-based organizations working to improve maternal health outcomes and promote equity. It will increase funding for programs to improve maternal healthcare for veterans; to grow and diversify the prenatal workforce to ensure that every mom in America receives maternal healthcare and support from people they trust; to improve data collection processes and quality measures to better understand the causes of the maternal health crisis in the United States and to form solutions to address it; to support moms with maternal mental health conditions and substance abuse disorders; to improve maternal healthcare and support for incarcerated moms; to invest in digital tools to improve maternal health outcomes in underserved areas, particularly rural areas; to promote innovative payment models to incentivize high-quality maternal health and nonclinical support during and after pregnancy; to invest in Federal programs to address maternal and infant health risk during public health emergencies; to invest in community-based initiatives to reduce levels and exposure to climate change-related risks for moms and babies; to promote maternal vaccinations to protect the health of moms and babies; and to make critical investments in research to reduce preventable causes of maternal deaths and improve healthcare for women, before, during, and after pregnancy.

This bill has 205 House cosponsors and has been endorsed by 313 national organizations across a variety of issues.

We hope that this will be the year, that this 10th anniversary of Black Maternal Health Month will be the year we make progress. We have already regressed and can't afford to wait a moment longer.

I would be remiss if I didn't reiterate yet again the importance of reproductive freedom. When a woman is told, as I was, that if you get pregnant again, you could die, the decision from that point on—well, really, the decision at any point of when, whether, and how to get pregnant should be with her and her partner and whom she wants to have part of the decision, and not her government.

The decision of what type of contraception to get access to should be hers and her doctor's. When you reach a certain age, some contraception is more risky, yet the forms that are best for you, some politicians—not doctors, politicians—don't think you should have access to them.

These abortion bans that have exceptions for the life of the mother, we have seen, particularly in Texas and Georgia, that has led to tragedies,

where women show up in the midst of a miscarriage, in the midst of bleeding out, and the hospital has to wonder whether they are close enough so that they can provide the care that they need, or do they have to wait until they are septic. Well, once they are septic, it is probably too late.

These are things that we had been warning about before the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Unfortunately, our warnings have come true.

We have to think through the impact of when politicians make decisions about healthcare, and not physicians and patients. It can have tragic results.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus and the Black Maternal Health Caucus will continue to fight for Black moms everywhere. We will continue to fight so that we don't need Black Maternal Health Week anymore. We will continue to fight, Rooted in Justice & Joy, so that no other mother has to worry, when they get the best news, that it is going to end tragically. We are here to make sure that it doesn't.

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

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill and joint resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker on Friday, April 17, 2026:

H.R. 8322. An act to amend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 to extend the authorities of title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 through April 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 140. 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend

the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 119th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

Analilia Mejia, Eleventh District of New Jersey.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3327. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementing First Responders Passport Act To Exempt Certain First Responders From Passport Fees [Public Notice: 12947] (RIN: 1400-AG19) received April 9, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3328. A letter from the Fishery Management Specialist, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's inseason modification of 2025-2026 management measures — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modification of the West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #1-#5 [Docket No.: 250512-0084; RTID 0648-XE941] received April 9, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3329. A letter from the Branch Chief, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the South Atlantic; 2025 Commercial Closure of Red Snapper in the South Atlantic [Docket No.: 250606-0095; RTID 0648-XF107] received April 9, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3330. A letter from the Branch Chief, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock Fishing in the Winter Herring Savings Area of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 250312-0036; RTID 0648-XF193] received April 9, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3331. A letter from the Branch Chief, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's inseason modification of 2025-2026 management measures — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modification of the West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #6-#8 [Docket No.: 250512-0084; RTID 0648-XF028] received April 9, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3332. A letter from the Branch Chief, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Adminis-

tration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 250312-0037; RTID 0648-XF239] received April 9, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3333. A letter from the Branch Chief, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the South Atlantic; Re-Opening of Commercial Harvest for Blueline Tilefish in the South Atlantic [Docket No.: 140501394-5279-02; RTID 0648-XF190] received April 9, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3334. A letter from the Regulatory Services Branch Chief, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From North Carolina to Massachusetts [Docket No.: 241203-0308; RTID 0648-XF335] received April 9, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3335. A letter from the Fishery Management Specialist, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From Massachusetts to Rhode Island [Docket No.: 241203-0308; RTID 0648-XF260] received April 9, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3336. A letter from the Fishery Management Specialist, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Dusky Rockfish in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 250312-0037; RTID 0648-XF011] received April 9, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6955. A bill to make improvements to the Federal banking laws, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-617). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ROY: Committee on Rules. H. Res. 1189. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4690) to amend the Energy Conservation and Production Act to repeal certain Federal building energy efficiency performance standards, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1182) expressing support for rural communities across the United States as stewards of the environment, major suppliers of United States energy resources, critical providers of food production and manufacturing capacity, and drivers of national economic stability, and recognizing the work of the House of Representatives in the 119th Congress in support of those vital communities; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1897) to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to optimize conservation

through resource prioritization, incentivize wildlife conservation on private lands, provide for greater incentives to recover listed species, create greater transparency and accountability in recovering listed species, streamline the permitting process, eliminate barriers to conservation, and restore congressional intent; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5587) to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to waive the requirement for a Federal drilling permit for certain activities, to exempt certain activities from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-618). Referred to the House Calendar.

## 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. FROST:

H.R. 8363. A bill to establish youth advisory councils for the purpose of providing recommendations to the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Commerce with respect to environmental issues as those issues relate to youth communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEIL (for himself and Mr. MORELLE):

H.R. 8364. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize the increase of the retirement age in the United States Capitol Police; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BIGGS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. FRY, and Mr. NEHLS):

H.R. 8365. A bill to provide for conditions on the appointment of monitors by courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 8366. A bill to protect the religious freedom of pharmacists choosing not to dispense or sell abortion-inducing drugs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CAMMACK:

H.R. 8367. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance outreach to first responders in the implementation of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. MOSKOWITZ):

H.R. 8368. A bill to appropriate funds for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Relief Fund, 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 Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK:

H.R. 8369. A bill to prohibit Federal education funds from being made available to any educational agency or institution that

releases any education records or other student information for purposes of immigration enforcement; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. DEXTER:

H.R. 8370. A bill to improve transparency and the availability of information regarding dietary supplements by amending the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require manufacturers of dietary supplements to list dietary supplements with the Food and Drug Administration; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 8371. A bill to evaluate U.S. Customs and Border Protection's implementation of an integrated biometric entry and exit data system in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ESCOBAR (for herself and Mr. LUTTRELL):

H.R. 8372. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide to certain congressional committees a briefing on the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in El Paso, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and Ms. TLAIIB):

H.R. 8373. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury, acting through the Director of the Office of Consumer Policy, to establish a program to award grants to eligible entities to provide financial coaching services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. WIED, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. FINE, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. CLYDE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. PERRY, Mr. OGLES, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. SELF, Mr. ROY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 8374. A bill to strike references to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in Federal law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. BERA, and Ms. VAN DUYN):

H.R. 8375. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain reforms under the Medicare Advantage program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 8376. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the policy for coverage under the Medicare program for palliative dialysis services, and clarify separate payment for such palliative dialysis services, furnished by renal dialysis facilities and providers of services to certain individuals electing hospice care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each

case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 8377. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans, to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to limit the implementation of payment models testing prior authorization under traditional Medicare, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself, Mr. CROW, Ms. TITUS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. TLAIIB, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Ms. UNDERWOOD):

H.R. 8378. A bill to modify the reasonable requirements that may be imposed on pet owners living in public housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. LETLOW:

H.R. 8379. A bill to prohibit diversity, equity, and inclusion in Federal hiring and employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK (for himself, Mr. COLE, Mrs. BICE, and Ms. MALOY):

H.R. 8380. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to establish certain procedures for consideration of annual appropriation bills, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, 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 Ms. MENG:

H.R. 8381. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide an option for virtual periodic appearances for aliens pending a decision on whether the alien is to be removed from the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 8382. A bill to prohibit the manufacture and conveyance of certain products for children that incorporate an artificial intelligence chatbot, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 8383. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish certain requirements related to proxy voting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. OWENS (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Ms. MALOY, and Mr. KENNEDY of Utah):

H.R. 8384. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Utah National Guard located in Lehi, Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Ms. DELAURO):

H.R. 8385. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to strengthen requirements related to nutrient information on food labels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 8386. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the payment reduction for certain multiple therapy

services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. SELF, Mr. OGLES, Mr. FINE, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. GILL of Texas):

H.R. 8387. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to limit alien eligibility for admission and naturalization and enable deportation and denaturalization for any membership, affiliation, or advocacy of socialist, communist, Chinese communist, Marxist, or Islamic fundamentalist doctrines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 8388. A bill to prohibit a sitting President, or officer or employee on behalf of a sitting President, from naming or designating a public building after such President; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 8389. A bill to establish a uniform definition of "rural area" for all rural development programs administered by the Department of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 8390. A bill to provide for the establishment or expansion of Food as Medicine programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 8391. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require coverage of certain food and nutrition services under the Medicare and Medicaid programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCANLON:

H.R. 8392. A bill to amend the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure to provide for when the government may move the court to dismiss an indictment, information, or complaint, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SYKES (for herself, Mr. GOODEN, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 8393. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to make the filing of a petition for relief under chapter 11 that is objectively futile or in subjective bad faith a cause for dismissal of the case, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 8394. A bill to streamline the process for institutions of higher education to research marijuana; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Agriculture,

and 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. PERRY (for himself and Mr. ROY):

H.J. Res. 157. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program: Standards for 2026 and 2027, Partial Waiver of 2025 Cellulosic Biofuel Volume Requirement, and Other Changes"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H. Con. Res. 86. Concurrent resolution directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities with Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H. Res. 1188. A resolution expressing support for the work of open water lifeguards as first responders and emergency response providers; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. RILEY of New York, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. MANN, Mrs. BICE, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H. Res. 1190. A resolution supporting the designation of April 19 through April 25, 2026, as "National Crime Victims' Rights Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CROW (for himself, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. NEGUSE, and Ms. PETERSEN):

H. Res. 1191. A resolution commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Columbine Day of Service and honoring the memories of the victims, survivors, and their families; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Ms. SIMON, and Ms. PETERSEN):

H. Res. 1192. A resolution recognizing the roles and the contributions of care workers in the United States and expressing support for the designation of April 2026 as "Care Worker Recognition Month"; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MACE:

H. Res. 1193. A resolution providing for the expulsion of Representative Cory Mills from the United States House of Representatives; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mr. MANN (for himself, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. KING-HINDS, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. CAREY, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H. Res. 1194. A resolution recognizing April 2026 as "Distracted Driving Awareness Month" and promoting efforts to help prevent tragic and preventable crashes, deaths, and injuries caused by distracted driving; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MCCORMICK:

H. Res. 1195. A resolution supporting the designation of May as "National Myositis Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio (for himself, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. SALAZAR, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. BEAN of Florida, and Mr. CAREY):

H. Res. 1196. A resolution recognizing April as Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MILLS:

H. Res. 1197. A resolution providing for the expulsion of Representative Nancy Mace from the United States House of Representatives; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mrs. RAMIREZ (for herself, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIIB, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FROST, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. PETERS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. CARSON, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. DEXTER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and Mr. MENEFE):

H. Res. 1198. A resolution recognizing that stable housing keeps families together; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROUZER (for himself, Ms. ROSS, Mr. FLOOD, Ms. PEREZ, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. RULLI, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. COSTA, Mr. EZELL, Ms. FOX, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. RYAN, Mr. KEAN, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. BOST, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. DONALDS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CARSON, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. CLINE, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mr. GUEST, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. CAREY, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. RUTHERFORD):

H. Res. 1199. A resolution recognizing linemen, the profession of linemen, the contributions of these brave men and women who protect public safety, and expressing support for the designation of April 18, 2026, as "National Lineman Appreciation Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H. Res. 1200. A resolution supporting the designation of March 2026 as Endometriosis Awareness Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers

granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. FROST:

H.R. 8363.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. STEIL:

H.R. 8364.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

“To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. BIGGS of Arizona:

H.R. 8365.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 9 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 8366.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. CAMMACK:

H.R. 8367.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana:

H.R. 8368.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK:

H.R. 8369.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. DEXTER:

H.R. 8370.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 8371.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 8372.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 8373.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina:

H.R. 8374.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 8375.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 8376.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 8377.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 8378.

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. LETLOW:

H.R. 8379.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. McCLINTOCK:

H.R. 8380.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 8381.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 8382.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 8383.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 8384.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the authority to enact this legislation pursuant to Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States (the Property Clause), which grants Congress the power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States. This legislation is further supported by Congress's authority under Article 1, Section 8 to provide for the common defense and to organize, arm, and discipline the militia, including the National Guard.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 8385.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: [The Congress shall have Power] To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 8386.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 (Taxing and Spending Clause)

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 8387.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 8388.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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. RUIZ:

H.R. 8389.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 8390.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 8391.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Ms. SCANLON:

H.R. 8392.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mrs. SYKES:

H.R. 8393.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 8394.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. PERRY:

H.J. Res. 157.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 17: Mr. MENEFE.  
 H.R. 40: Mr. MENEFE.  
 H.R. 210: Mr. MOULTON and Ms. SIMON.  
 H.R. 425: Mr. HARRIGAN and Mr. KNOTT.  
 H.R. 516: Mr. FINSTAD and Mr. FIGURES.  
 H.R. 569: Ms. LETLOW.  
 H.R. 645: Mr. SCHWEIKERT and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.  
 H.R. 669: Mr. CISNEROS.  
 H.R. 685: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Mr. CLINE.  
 H.R. 718: Mr. PANETTA.  
 H.R. 764: Mr. SORENSEN.  
 H.R. 925: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. BEAN of Florida.  
 H.R. 929: Mr. WALKINSHAW.  
 H.R. 941: Mr. ROSE.  
 H.R. 1065: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.  
 H.R. 1085: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
 H.R. 1132: Mr. LIEU and Ms. SANCHEZ.  
 H.R. 1138: Mr. CASE and Ms. HOULAHAN.  
 H.R. 1163: Mr. LAWLER.  
 H.R. 1189: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM and Mr. HUIZENGA.  
 H.R. 1227: Mr. MULLIN.  
 H.R. 1300: Ms. PINGREE.  
 H.R. 1340: Mr. MFUME.  
 H.R. 1518: Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
 H.R. 1529: Ms. SALAZAR and Mrs. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 1557: Mr. THANEDAR.  
 H.R. 1564: Mr. RILEY of New York.  
 H.R. 1585: Mr. COHEN.  
 H.R. 1707: Mrs. WAGNER.  
 H.R. 1732: Mr. MILLS and Ms. SIMON.  
 H.R. 1769: Mr. BURCHETT.  
 H.R. 1783: Mrs. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 1808: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.  
 H.R. 1810: Mrs. HAYES.  
 H.R. 1828: Ms. MORRISON.

- H.R. 1954: Ms. STEVENS.  
H.R. 1957: Ms. SIMON.  
H.R. 1965: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.  
H.R. 1986: Mr. HUNT.  
H.R. 2028: Ms. TLAIB, Ms. STANSBURY, and Ms. SIMON.  
H.R. 2055: Ms. SIMON.  
H.R. 2086: Mr. TRAN, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. MFUME, and Mr. FOSTER.  
H.R. 2089: Ms. GOODLANDER.  
H.R. 2095: Mr. VAN ORDEN.  
H.R. 2102: Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mrs. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 2103: Mr. THANEDAR.  
H.R. 2120: Mr. TRAN.  
H.R. 2348: Ms. CRAIG, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. LANDSMAN.  
H.R. 2352: Mrs. FOUSHEE.  
H.R. 2470: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York and Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.  
H.R. 2487: Ms. ESCOBAR.  
H.R. 2527: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.  
H.R. 2536: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 2555: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.  
H.R. 2585: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.  
H.R. 2623: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.  
H.R. 2636: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 2675: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 2715: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Ms. DELAURO.  
H.R. 2717: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.  
H.R. 2763: Mr. MENEFE.   
H.R. 2854: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 3070: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.  
H.R. 3104: Ms. TITUS.  
H.R. 3111: Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 3144: Mr. CARSON and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.  
H.R. 3145: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 3146: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 3151: Mr. EZELL.  
H.R. 3178: Ms. MATSUL.  
H.R. 3243: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York and Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 3269: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.  
H.R. 3443: Mr. BILIRAKIS.  
H.R. 3469: Mr. VARGAS and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.  
H.R. 3513: Mr. LANDSMAN.  
H.R. 3514: Mrs. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 3526: Mr. MFUME.  
H.R. 3622: Mr. THANEDAR.  
H.R. 3708: Mrs. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 3747: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
H.R. 3757: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ and Ms. WATERS.  
H.R. 3784: Mr. MAGAZINER.  
H.R. 3868: Mr. MENEFE.   
H.R. 4023: Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.R. 4053: Mr. FRY and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.  
H.R. 4069: Mrs. FOUSHEE.  
H.R. 4086: Mr. HUIZENGA and Mr. STANTON.  
H.R. 4145: Mr. STAUBER and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.  
H.R. 4166: Mr. KENNEDY of New York.  
H.R. 4167: Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
H.R. 4168: Ms. MORRISON.  
H.R. 4192: Ms. MORRISON.  
H.R. 4231: Ms. BALINT and Mr. DELUZIO.  
H.R. 4382: Mr. HERN of Oklahoma and Mr. AGUILAR.  
H.R. 4392: Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 4505: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.  
H.R. 4588: Mr. KENNEDY of New York.  
H.R. 4615: Mr. LANDSMAN.  
H.R. 4620: Mr. BEAN of Florida.  
H.R. 4655: Mr. STAUBER.  
H.R. 4719: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 4763: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. THANEDAR.  
H.R. 4780: Mr. MORAN.  
H.R. 4936: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.  
H.R. 5217: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 5269: Mr. LAHOOD.  
H.R. 5271: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. CISNEROS.  
H.R. 5309: Mr. SOTO.  
H.R. 5330: Mr. CLINE.  
H.R. 5351: Mr. FLOOD, Mrs. BICE, and Mr. BAIRD.  
H.R. 5364: Mr. CLINE.  
H.R. 5390: Mr. MENEFE.   
H.R. 5408: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. WATERS, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. BROWN, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. WALKINSHAW, Mr. POCAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MFUME, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. ELFRETH, and Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 5434: Ms. WATERS and Ms. ADAMS.  
H.R. 5437: Mr. GILL of Texas.  
H.R. 5470: Mr. HERN of Oklahoma.  
H.R. 5476: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.  
H.R. 5512: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.  
H.R. 5543: Ms. POU, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 5544: Mr. BUCHANAN.  
H.R. 5566: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.  
H.R. 5605: Mr. FROST and Mr. RASKIN.  
H.R. 5645: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Ms. GILLEN.  
H.R. 5658: Mr. TORRES of New York.  
H.R. 5731: Mrs. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 5797: Ms. TITUS.  
H.R. 5800: Mr. CLINE.  
H.R. 5817: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.  
H.R. 5835: Mr. LEVIN.  
H.R. 5853: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 5940: Mr. THANEDAR.  
H.R. 6130: Ms. MENG, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. OWENS.  
H.R. 6151: Ms. WATERS.  
H.R. 6166: Mrs. HAYES.  
H.R. 6181: Ms. WATERS and Mrs. HAYES.  
H.R. 6199: Ms. BALINT and Mr. DELUZIO.  
H.R. 6214: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 6259: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 6403: Mr. THANEDAR.  
H.R. 6438: Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 6444: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.  
H.R. 6466: Mr. CLINE.  
H.R. 6485: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia and Mr. SUOZZI.  
H.R. 6593: Mrs. HAYES.  
H.R. 6604: Mr. MACKENZIE.  
H.R. 6624: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 6672: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 6716: Mr. MOYLAN.  
H.R. 6766: Mr. MAGAZINER.  
H.R. 6856: Ms. MALOY and Ms. TITUS.  
H.R. 6989: Mr. MFUME.  
H.R. 6996: Mr. HUIZENGA.  
H.R. 6998: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. MCDOWELL.  
H.R. 7003: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 7014: Mrs. FOUSHEE.  
H.R. 7037: Mrs. BICE.  
H.R. 7100: Mr. GARBARINO.  
H.R. 7120: Mr. PATRONIS.  
H.R. 7126: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.  
H.R. 7146: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.  
H.R. 7186: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.  
H.R. 7204: Mr. THANEDAR.  
H.R. 7247: Mr. POCAN and Ms. McBRIDE.  
H.R. 7312: Mr. TIMMONS.  
H.R. 7322: Mrs. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 7333: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.  
H.R. 7361: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mr. GRAY.  
H.R. 7391: Mrs. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 7402: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 7495: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.  
H.R. 7531: Mr. MENEFE.   
H.R. 7539: Mr. BOST.  
H.R. 7553: Mr. WIED.  
H.R. 7622: Mr. SCHMIDT and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.  
H.R. 7645: Ms. ROSS.  
H.R. 7676: Ms. DELAURO and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 7698: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.  
H.R. 7718: Mr. RASKIN.  
H.R. 7733: Ms. STANSBURY.  
H.R. 7768: Mr. FIGURES.  
H.R. 7779: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia and Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
H.R. 7802: Ms. MORRISON.  
H.R. 7828: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. TONKO, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. MULLIN.  
H.R. 7830: Mr. IVEY, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. TOKUDA.  
H.R. 7848: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 7853: Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. STANTON, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. CARSON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mrs. HAYES.  
H.R. 7867: Mr. MAGAZINER.  
H.R. 7920: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.  
H.R. 7932: Mr. SCHMIDT and Mr. FULLER.  
H.R. 7938: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 7941: Mr. MACKENZIE.  
H.R. 7962: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 7966: Mr. BEYER and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.  
H.R. 7974: Mr. CLINE.  
H.R. 7977: Ms. POU, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. CROCKETT.  
H.R. 8002: Ms. ADAMS.  
H.R. 8034: Mr. HERN of Oklahoma.  
H.R. 8036: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 8041: Mr. BACON.  
H.R. 8072: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.  
H.R. 8076: Ms. FEDORCHAK and Ms. PEREZ.  
H.R. 8092: Mr. FLOOD.  
H.R. 8103: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas and Ms. RANDALL.  
H.R. 8104: Mr. BACON.  
H.R. 8119: Mr. KILEY of California and Mr. BERGMAN.  
H.R. 8153: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. POU, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MAGAZINER, and Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 8169: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 8170: Mr. MORAN.  
H.R. 8202: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 8205: Mr. BACON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. COLE, and Mrs. FOUSHEE.  
H.R. 8212: Mr. HUIZENGA.  
H.R. 8213: Mr. OWENS.  
H.R. 8222: Ms. TITUS, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Ms. KAPTUR.  
H.R. 8226: Mr. SUOZZI.  
H.R. 8241: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. LATIMER.  
H.R. 8268: Ms. HOULAHAN.  
H.R. 8275: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CASE, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 8283: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 8284: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 8285: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 8287: Mr. MEEKS.  
H.R. 8288: Mr. MEEKS and Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 8294: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.  
H.R. 8295: Ms. HAGEMAN, Ms. VAN DUYN, Ms. MACE, and Mr. FEENSTRA.  
H.R. 8300: Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, and Mr. FULLER.  
H.R. 8303: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 8311: Mr. SOTO.  
H.R. 8312: Mr. TIMMONS.  
H.R. 8313: Mr. YAKYM.  
H.R. 8320: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 8321: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 8332: Mr. COLLINS and Mr. CRANE.  
H.R. 8333: Mrs. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 8341: Mr. BABIN, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. FULLER.  
H.R. 8357: Ms. JAYAPAL.  
H.R. 8358: Mr. MACKENZIE.

H.R. 8359: Mr. CLEAVER.  
H.R. 8362: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.  
H.J. Res. 153: Ms. JAYAPAL.  
H.J. Res. 154: Mr. FROST and Ms. NORTON.  
H.J. Res. 156: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine and Mr. SUOZZI.  
H. Res. 50: Mr. GILL of Texas.  
H. Res. 166: Mr. BALDERSON.  
H. Res. 862: Mr. SCHMIDT.  
H. Res. 925: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H. Res. 1063: Mr. THANEDAR.  
H. Res. 1109: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.  
H. Res. 1141: Mr. OBERNOLTE.  
H. Res. 1148: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY and Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.  
H. Res. 1177: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mrs. FOUSHEE.  
H. Res. 1179: Mr. BERA.

**DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM  
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 2555: Mr. BISHOP.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 172

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026

No. 69

## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TED BUDD, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, thank You that Your mercies endure forever. Show us Your ways and teach us Your paths as You lead us with Your truth. Today, set the hearts of our lawmakers on Heaven's way. In all of their actions, may they seek Your celestial approval. Remind them that You are the only constituent they absolutely must please. May our Senators stand on Your promises, lean on Your grace, and trust in Your guidance. Lord, thank You for Your mercy. You lift the lowly, satisfy the thirsty, and fill the hungry with good things. And Lord, continue to comfort Senator WARNER and his wife Lisa as they grieve the loss of their daughter Madison.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 20, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TED BUDD, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. BUDD thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### TAXES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, tax day was last week, and I would like to read a brief excerpt from a Washington Post article.

The title of this article: "Tax refunds shoot up as Americans take advantage of new deductions."

And here is the excerpt:

Karen Richardson, 68, has had a predictable tax return since she retired from her job administering government benefits four years ago. She lives on a fixed income and usually owes some money at tax time, so she was surprised to get a \$1,000 refund this year due to the senior deduction. "The Big Beautiful Bill worked for me," she said, "I didn't think it applied to more than the richer people. . . . I really didn't think it applied to me."

Well, as Ms. Richardson and many other hard-working Americans have

discovered, the Big Beautiful Bill, the Working Families Tax Cuts, does indeed apply to them. It worked for them this tax season, and it will work for them in future tax seasons.

In 2017, Republicans overhauled our outdated Tax Code so that it would work better for our economy and for American families alike.

We cut tax rates across the board, doubled the child tax credit, and nearly doubled the standard deduction. And all of this made a significant difference to working families' tax bills. But this relief was scheduled to expire at the end of 2025, which meant that starting this January, Americans would have seen a lot more of their paychecks going to the Federal Government.

Republicans were determined not to let that happen. And so last summer, we passed the Working Families Tax Cut to prevent a massive \$2.6 trillion tax hike on Americans making less than \$400,000.

But we didn't just prevent a tax hike. In addition to ensuring that Americans can keep enjoying lower tax rates, Republicans passed a number of additional tax relief measures. We boosted the standard deduction again. We increased the child tax credit and linked it to inflation so its value will never go down. We instituted no tax on tips. We instituted no tax on overtime and more.

And hard-working Americans are reaping the benefits. This tax season more than 30 million seniors claimed the new bonus deduction for older Americans. More than a million taxpayers bought an American-made car and were able to deduct an average of \$1,800 in auto loan interest on that new vehicle. More than 25 million American workers were able to deduct overtime pay from their taxes, resulting in substantial tax savings.

And more than 6 million workers were able to deduct their tips from their taxes. And that doesn't even count the parents who were able to

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



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take advantage of the enhanced child tax credit or the new tax-advantaged accounts for their child or all the Americans, all of the Americans who benefited from our further increase in the standard deduction.

The Working Families Tax Cut is working for working families. The New York Times recently interviewed a number of taxpayers. The Times reported:

Many of the taxpayers said they had received their largest refund in years, money that is going toward paying down credit card debt, catching up on bills, padding savings accounts or covering the cost of a vacation.

“money that is going toward paying down credit card debt, catching up on bills, padding savings accounts or covering the cost of a vacation.”

That was our goal with this bill, to take some of the pressure off, to free up money that families could use to do things like pay down debt or put away for a rainy day or take a much-needed vacation. Thanks to the Working Families Tax Cut, Americans now have a little more breathing room in their budget.

And whether we are passing tax relief, new measures to make prescription drugs more affordable at the pharmacy counter, or legislation to address the cost of housing, Republicans will continue to work to make life more affordable for hard-working Americans.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### REMEMBERING MADISON WARNER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to express my deepest and dearest sympathies for our friend MARK WARNER, his wife Lisa, and the rest of their family as they mourn the terrible loss of their daughter Madison.

I know how close the family was to Madison, and the depth of that loss is unfathomable. The Warner family should know that we are keeping them in our prayers. We are wishing them strength. May Madison's memory be a blessing.

#### KASH PATEL

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Kash Patel, the American people expect competence from the President's

Cabinet, not the unmitigated and continuing chaos we see every day.

Over the weekend, more damning reports about FBI Director Kash Patel's disorderly, drunken, and deranged behavior came to light. The Atlantic's reporting only confirmed what Senate Democrats have said from the start: Kash Patel is not simply unqualified, he is a grave risk to the rule of law and to American national security.

I have called on Acting Attorney General Blanche to preserve all records, all communications, and other evidence regarding Kash Patel's dangerous behavior before the Trump administration tries to brush it under the rug again.

We are asking—we are calling on Acting Attorney General Blanche to preserve all records, communications, and other evidence regarding Kash Patel's dangerous behavior before the Trump administration tries to brush it under the rug.

The Atlantic interviewed dozens of people who have observed Patel's erratic behavior, his excessive drinking. Apparently, Patel frequently misses key briefings and meetings because he is too hungover to attend. Patel's security detail often struggles to wake him up after his nights of partying and once even had to ask for breaching equipment because Patel was unresponsive behind a locked door.

All of this is made even worse by the reports of Kash Patel's constant jet-setting on the taxpayers' dime, his illegal crusade against Trump's political enemies, and his purge of countless counterintelligence officers focused on Iran just days before Trump launched this reckless war.

Americans deserve steady, sober leadership from their FBI Director, and they are not getting it—it seems—in any way.

Kash Patel's job is to protect the American people and our Constitution, not to party on the job. Patel must resign immediately. Every day he remains in office subjects America to serious and unnecessary risks.

#### IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Donald Trump continues to demonstrate that he has no plan to end his disastrous war of choice with Iran and no idea just how badly the American people are hurting because of him.

Companies and airlines are charging Americans an Iran war surcharge. Mortgage rates are climbing. Gas is still over \$4 a gallon.

Over the weekend, Trump's Energy Secretary said that gas prices won't be normal until 2027. If you don't believe Chris Wright, believe Donald Trump. Trump said gas prices will be “around the same” or “maybe a little bit higher”—his quote—by November—his words, not mine.

Just the other day, Trump said that \$4 for a gallon of gas is “not very high”—that is what he said—and that “everything's doing really well.”

Really, Mr. President, spoken like a man who doesn't have to fill up his own tank.

Try telling the American people, who will spend an average of \$740 more this year on gas because of this war, that “everything's doing really well.”

And, unfortunately and sadly, there is no end in sight. The Strait of Hormuz remains closed. Iran fired on commercial ships over the weekend. The United States seized an Iranian vessel.

According to Trump, JD VANCE will be on his way to Pakistan soon. But it is unclear whether the Iranians will even agree to meet with him, let alone agree to open up the Strait.

Mr. President, 51 days into this war, and Donald Trump still does not have an objective, strategy, or exit plan. The American people have questions. Congress must demand answers.

Last week, Senate Republicans had their fourth opportunity to support our War Powers Resolution, and for the fourth time, Senate Republicans acquiesced to Donald Trump and gave this historic blunder their stamp of approval.

Tomorrow, Senate Democrats will force a fifth vote on our War Powers Resolution. We will continue to force votes on our resolution every single week that Trump's war continues.

The most important vote a Senator can take is whether to go to war. Senate Republicans cannot sit on the sidelines while our servicemembers are risking their lives on the frontlines.

I don't know how Trump's war will end, but I do know that Trump's war cannot end soon enough.

#### RECONCILIATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, what does this majority choose to spend our time on instead?

Any hour now, Republicans are expected to release a budget resolution that adds tens of billions of dollars to the national debt and pumps colossal sums into ICE and Border Patrol without any reforms, all while doing absolutely nothing to lower costs for hard-working Americans.

We need to pause and examine how we got to this moment, because in a well-functioning Congress, the majority focuses on solving people's problems, not constantly cleaning up their own messes and shoveling tens of billions more into unaccountable rogue Agencies.

Remember, last year, in Donald Trump's “Big Ugly Betrayal,” Republicans rammed through \$75 billion for ICE and tens of billions more for Border Patrol, with virtually no guardrails, minimal training standards, and no real idea of what they were unleashing. Well, that led to disaster, as could have been predicted.

In January, Federal immigration officers in Minneapolis murdered two American citizens in broad daylight, triggering a reckoning across the country. After the murders of Alex Pretti

and Renee Good, the American people wanted change.

Democrats told our Republican colleagues we needed to work together to rein in ICE and Border Patrol and prevent this kind of violence from happening again. We put forth common-sense reforms modeled on guardrails law enforcement already follows in the States: no masked agents in unmarked vehicles, no bursting into people's homes without warrants, and body cameras for all agents.

But after weeks of back and forth, it became painfully obvious that Republicans were not serious about reform. Instead of listening to the people, Senate Republicans listened to Donald Trump and Stephen Miller. Even when Democrats offered to narrow the reforms to a small, targeted set of proposals in exchange for funding, Republicans, afraid of Trump, afraid of Miller, said no.

Leader THUNE eventually brought a bill to the floor that would fund the rest of the Department of Homeland Security, while leaving ICE and Border Patrol aside, as negotiations on reform continued. Democrats unanimously supported this bill. It was something we had been pushing for weeks because we believed FEMA, the Coast Guard, CISA, TSA, and the other four Agencies of DHS must be able to serve the American people.

But that agreement is now collecting dust in the House. Speaker JOHNSON and House Republicans refuse to move it.

And that brings us to where we are today. It is Republicans who have chosen to keep FEMA, the Coast Guard, CISA, TSA, and all other DHS Agencies shut down. It is Republicans' own divisions and their own inability to govern that have led to the longest shutdown of an Agency in American history.

Even now, instead of working with Democrats, Republicans want to waste even more time by going it alone through reconciliation. Any moment now, they are expected to release a budget resolution that would tee up more than \$75 billion over 3 years for ICE and Border Patrol through reconciliation, while doing nothing—absolutely nothing—to lower costs for hard-working Americans.

Let's be clear. What the Republicans are doing is not how a well-functioning Congress should be spending its time. We should be debating legislation to help people pay for groceries, afford the rent, and bring down electric bills. We should be focused on outrageous gas prices and on retiring Donald Trump's costly military endeavors. Instead, Republicans are preparing to spend precious time bogging the Senate down by partisan bickering.

And at a moment when President Trump claims we cannot afford Medicare or daycare, Republicans somehow think that we can give ICE and Border Patrol a blank check. Isn't that amazing? People are suffering because they can't pay for their healthcare needs,

and, instead, the Republicans want to send more money to ICE and Border Patrol.

One thing is clear—one thing is very clear: Americans cannot afford the cost of Republicans' continued chaos.

#### HAITI

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on Haiti, after spreading hateful, bigoted lies on the campaign trail, Trump continues to target the Haitian community as President. Despite ongoing violence—gang violence—civil instability, terrible medical infrastructure, and poor food access in Haiti, Trump directed Kristi Noem to strip Haitian immigrants of their TPS—their temporary protected status—disregarding the process Congress set into law.

Last week, a bipartisan majority in the House—bipartisan—passed legislation on a discharge petition to extend temporary protected status for Haitian immigrants.

In New York, home of the largest Haitian-American community in the Nation, we cherish our Haitian neighbors and value the many contributions they have made to America. I will do everything I can to protect the Haitian community.

There are many Haitians in New York and beyond who anxiously await word on whether they will be forced to return to the dangerous circumstances they fled in Haiti.

That is why I will rule XIV this bill, so that the Senate can give this issue the consideration that it deserves without delay. I urge Leader Thune to put this legislation on the floor.

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 1689

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (H.R. 1689) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate Haiti for temporary protected status.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### KASH PATEL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, when Kash Patel was confirmed as head of the FBI, I said that he had neither the experience, the judgment, nor the temperament for the job. Fourteen months later, Director Patel has confirmed my worst fears about his integrity and competency.

Director Patel has spent his tenure at the FBI weaponizing the world's preeminent investigative Agency to serve the political interests of one person—Donald Trump. Patel has fired dozens of career law enforcement agents simply because they were assigned to work on investigations related to President Trump's and his allies' misconduct. These firings have deprived the FBI of decades of experience at a time when our Nation is facing growing threats not only at home but overseas.

Director Patel has timed these politicized purges to shield himself from allegations of misconduct. After his embarrassing actions at the Olympics and whistleblower disclosures to my office describing how his misuse of FBI aircraft has negatively impacted high-profile criminal investigations, Director Patel tried to save face by firing even more people at the FBI who worked on President Trump's mishandling of classified documents.

Several of the fired agents at the FBI were part of a global counterintelligence squad whose responsibilities included investigating espionage and cyber threats from Iran. Just days before the war began, Director Patel deliberately undermined the FBI's ability to counter Iranian threats—all to distract from his own failings and mismanagement as Director.

An article recently published in *The Atlantic* revealed that Director Patel's behavior has been even more erratic and irresponsible than previously reported. Current and former FBI officials are worried that Director Patel has become a national security risk due to his chronic absenteeism and his personal lifestyle. Those at FBI headquarters and field offices often find the Director absent at critical moments, delaying time-sensitive decisions on important investigations that require his approval.

These accusations would be concerning for any government official, but for one of the people principally responsible for keeping America safe, they are downright disqualifying. Director Patel should be replaced immediately. Our country's safety is too important to be left in the hands of an unqualified and undependable individual who is loyal only to the President and not to the people of this Nation.

#### FISA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, known as FISA, is a valuable, important national security tool

for collecting foreign intelligence. The problem is that the government is also using section 702 as a backdoor for warrantless spying on Americans here at home.

FISA section 702 allows the intelligence community to collect the communications of foreigners who are overseas without a warrant. The justification for bypassing the Constitution's warrant requirement is that foreigners overseas are not protected by the Fourth Amendment. American citizens certainly are. But the government isn't just collecting the communications of foreigners; they are also collecting millions, if not billions, of communications of innocent Americans in touch with those foreigners as well. Our government then searches those private emails, phone calls, and text messages of Americans without a warrant. Congress has repeatedly failed to fix this end run around the Constitution's protection.

Unsurprisingly, without court approval for such searches, the independent Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board and the FISA Court have documented shocking abuses of section 702 by our government. The intelligence community has used this authority to spy on American businesses, American religious leaders, political parties, campaign donors, journalists, and protesters across the political spectrum. And this was all before we had an administration which was expressly intent on targeting its political enemies.

In April 2024, Congress enacted the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act, which reauthorized section 702 for 2 years with reforms that were meant to rein in past abuses. However, these reforms failed to prohibit warrantless searches of Americans' communications collected under section 702. In fact, warrantless searches of Americans increased in 2025, with the FBI alone conducting more than 7,000 warrantless searches on Americans last year.

Just as troubling is the increase in so-called sensitive queries by the FBI under Kash Patel's leadership. These are warrantless searches of section 702 data that target religious leaders or organizations, politicians or political organizations, or journalists. In 2025, the FBI conducted over three times as many sensitive queries as in 2024.

These statistics are troubling enough, but with the Trump administration closing oversight offices, firing compliance staff, dismantling the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, and failing to testify, the full scope of their abuses remains unknown.

The administration is also keeping the latest FISA Court ruling on section 702 secret from the American people. The administration acknowledged that the court found "deficiencies" with how the government is conducting 702 searches. Yet it hasn't released the court's opinion or the details of these "deficiencies" to the American people.

Meanwhile, POLITICO reports that Stephen Miller—the architect of President Trump's immigration crackdown in Minneapolis, Chicago, and beyond—is the White House's chief advocate for extending section 702.

Miller reportedly views section 702 as "critical to a variety of homeland security missions." Why does Stephen Miller view section 702—a statute designed to collect foreign surveillance and intelligence—as critical to homeland security inside the United States? Well, in 2024, Congress quietly expanded section 702 to allow it to be used for immigration vetting.

How is the President exploiting this expansion of section 702 to carry out his mass deportation campaign? We don't know because the administration refuses to testify about the use of this authority.

Congress should not give Donald Trump, Stephen Miller, and Kash Patel unchecked power to spy on Americans.

Last week, the House rightly rejected on a bipartisan basis attempts to renew section 702 without safeguards. Congress instead enacted a 10-day extension so it could reach an agreement on reform needed to protect our constitutional rights.

As in the past, some may argue that that is not enough time to enact reform before section 702 expires, but section 702 surveillance operates under yearlong certifications approved by the FISA Court. Even if 702 were to expire today, the law makes it clear that surveillance may continue under the current certification until March of 2027. There is no emergency excusing Congress from getting this right.

Congress should reform section 702 to protect Americans' constitutional rights and prevent further abuses. Senator MIKE LEE of Utah—a conservative Republican—and I have proposed the bipartisan SAFE Act to do just that. Our bill includes a warrant requirement for conducting searches of U.S. persons' communications collected under section 702. This safeguard ensures that a judge, not the executive branch of government, approves the search.

There are exceptions for emergencies and other legitimate security needs to ensure that we can protect security and liberty at the same time. If the government has a legitimate basis for the search, they can make that case to the judge. If they do not, then they should not be rifling through private communications of Americans.

For too long, Congress has renewed section 702 without this basic protection from arbitrary government searches. Enough is enough. Congress should reauthorize 702 with sensible reforms to protect Americans from threats to their security and to their basic constitutional rights.

I yield the floor.

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

#### TRIBUTE TO KEITH RILEY

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, the residents of Hill City, KS, a county seat town in Northwest Kansas will experience something new next winter: a new boys basketball coach will be on the sidelines for the Hill City Ringnecks. After 58 seasons as the head coach of Hill City High School, Keith Riley has officially retired.

Today, I pay tribute to his career, not just as a coach on the basketball court and the track field, but also as a teacher in the classroom.

His success was the result of his genuine interest in the well-being of the students who walked the halls of Hill City High School. Whether kids played for him or simply took his industrial arts classes, Coach Riley sought to help them achieve their full potential.

Like so many educators, he cared about his students, and they knew he cared. He freely gave his time to kids who asked to spend an extra hour in the evening shooting hoops or a Sunday afternoon in the spring learning to pole-vault.

When class projects were due at the end of the school year, he stayed in the woodworking shop late into the evening so his students could apply that last coat of varnish.

Under his leadership, Coach Riley's team won more than 800 games and 3 State titles—plus another 6 track and field championships—and his students won class projects; they won competitions there.

In those seasons where there was less success, his expectations for his players remained unchanged. Talent wasn't required to play hard and do the fundamentals well.

Teaching basketball over decades required him to be a student of the game himself. He would watch KU practice under Ted Owens, Larry Brown, Bill Self and take those ideas home to Hill City from Lawrence. He learned from other peers at coaching clinics and befriended many of them. His own work ethic and that of his players would result in him being inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2018. But for Coach Riley, personal accolades were far less important than the success of his kids, in high school and beyond.

Many of his players went on to become teachers and coaches too, no doubt running the same plays they learned from him. His assistant coaches became head coaches and won State titles on their own. Those who pursued other professional paths also credit Coach Riley's impact on their lives.

For Coach and his wife Merriel, his players were like their boys, in addition to their sons Brian and Geoff both who played for him. Players from his first year as coach still call him to check in, or if they are in town, they drop by his house.

He has always credited any success to those who played for him. I lived briefly in Hill City shortly after Coach

Riley won his second State basketball championship. The Mid-Continent League was known for its football towns, like Smith Center and Plainville and Norton, but under Coach Riley, Hill City was definitely a basketball town. You knew where most of the community would be on Tuesday and Friday nights during the winter.

While Coach's voice will no longer ring out from the sidelines, the gym in which he spent countless hours teaching kids the game he loves appropriately bears his name. Keith Riley Fieldhouse boasts many State title banners, won over nearly six decades, but his true legacy can be seen in the lives he changed along the way.

Coach Riley, congratulations on a legendary career, and I wish you and Merriel all the very best in your retirement.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. MORAN assumed the Chair.)

(Mrs. BRITT assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

SHOOTING IN SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, all of us have experienced someone in our life who has died, but the murder of a child defies comprehension and can't be measured, understood, or compared to anything else. It is, in a word, awful.

Today, the Shreveport community in Louisiana grieves the loss of eight children. A man shot seven of his own and a cousin between the ages of 3 and 11. He shot the mothers. I am told they are hospitalized and in serious condition but expected to survive. A 13-year-old was injured jumping off the roof to escape.

Now, I asked people in my office: Why do we grieve so much? People die all the time. And I think what we agreed upon is that they look to their parents for protection and not to be killed.

And it is, if you will, a sacrifice of a sacred bond between a parent and a child. And, of course, when that comes to mind, what is sacred? And then also when we read of these dying, we think of our own children, and we feel protective of them. And we know, no matter how much emotion we feel, they died.

Now, we thank the officers who acted quickly and bravely to pursue the shooter and stop him from doing it again. We pray for the families, for the communities, that they can recover as much as family and communities can recover from something so horrific.

I request a moment of silence for these eight young souls, for Shreveport, and for us all.

(Moment of silence.)

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

NOMINATION OF ANDREW B. DAVIS

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, today the Senate will vote to confirm Andrew

Davis of Texas to be a U.S. district judge for the Western District of Texas.

Andrew Davis was born and raised in Texas. And after graduating from Lubbock High School, Andrew attended Rice University and, later, Columbia Law School, where he was a James Kent Scholar.

He then went on to clerk for two Federal judges: Judge Sidney Fitzwater, former chief judge of the Northern District of Texas, and Judge Reena Raggi of the Second Circuit.

As an assistant solicitor general of Texas, Andrew represented the State of Texas before the Texas Supreme Court, the Fifth Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court, handling some of the most consequential legal questions facing the State.

After his work as an assistant solicitor general, Andrew came to Washington to serve on the Senate Judiciary as my chief counsel. I worked for years with Andrew. He is a man of integrity, discipline, and commitment to the rule of law.

He has deep respect for the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and he handled sensitive matters with precision and humility. His preparation was meticulous, and his counsel was highly trusted.

President Trump nominated Andrew Davis because he embodies what we should demand of every Federal judge: independence, seriousness, and an unwavering commitment to the rule of law.

A Federal judgeship is a calling of public service, one that requires patience, restraint, and an enduring commitment to the Constitution. Andrew has answered that call time and time again, choosing public service over easier paths in private life.

Andrew Davis will serve the Western District of Texas with honor. He will be faithful to the Constitution and Bill of Rights, and I strongly support his nomination.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Andrew B. Davis, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

NOMINATION OF ANDREW B. DAVIS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Andrew Bray Davis to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas. I am deeply concerned Mr. Davis will not be able to put aside his partisan advocacy if he is confirmed to the bench.

Mr. Davis has repeatedly argued that the qui tam provision of the False

Claims Act, FCA—a law that Senate Judiciary Chairman CHUCK GRASSLEY has championed for many years—violates the Constitution.

Whistleblowers who bring qui tam actions play an important role in holding accountable those who defraud the Federal Government. Of \$6.8 billion in FCA settlements and judgments last year, qui tam actions comprised \$5.3 billion in recoveries.

I am also troubled by Mr. Davis' refusal to disavow his controversial college writings. As just one example, he defended racist commentary from conservative pundit and former Republican official Bill Bennett, who said, "I do know that it's true that if you wanted to reduce crime, you could, if that were your sole purpose, you could abort every black baby in this country, and your crime rate would go down."

Mr. Davis defended this statement as "essentially accurate." I recognize that nominees often write things in college that no longer reflect their views today. However, when I asked Mr. Davis whether he still believed that Mr. Bennett's statement was "essentially accurate," Mr. Davis refused to answer.

Mr. Davis' failure to disavow his article is unacceptable. How can people of color have faith that Mr. Davis will treat them fairly in his courtroom if he is confirmed?

I urge my colleagues to oppose this nomination.

VOTE ON DAVIS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Davis nomination?

Mr. BANKS. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 86 Ex.]

YEAS—47

Armstrong	Cramer	Hyde-Smith
Banks	Crapo	Johnson
Barrasso	Cruz	Justice
Blackburn	Curtis	Kennedy
Boozman	Ernst	Lankford
Britt	Fischer	Lee
Budd	Graham	Lummis
Capito	Hagerty	Marshall
Cassidy	Hawley	McConnell
Cornyn	Hoeben	McCormick
Cotton	Husted	Moody

Moran	Schmitt	Tillis
Moreno	Scott (FL)	Tuberville
Paul	Scott (SC)	Wicker
Ricketts	Sullivan	Young
Rounds	Thune	

## NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Collins	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Galleo	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	

## NOT VOTING—7

Daines	Murkowski	Warner
Fetterman	Risch	
Grassley	Sheehy	

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

## ADAMS HOUSE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate a historic milestone in one of our Nation's oldest diplomatic partnerships as we look toward America's 250th anniversary. Recently, in The Hague, Netherlands, the United States Ambassador's residence was officially designated as Adams House.

This designation honors a remarkable legacy of American statesmanship, that of our second President John Adams and his son John Quincy Adams. In 1782, as the foundations of our Republic were still being laid, the elder Adams secured the Dutch recognition and financial support that proved essential to our independence. He knew then, as we hold true today, that American liberty is fortified by strong, principled alliances. This house further honors the torch passed to his son John Quincy Adams, who served as U.S. Minister Resident to the Netherlands before his own storied tenure as Secretary of State and our sixth President.

For my fellow Texans, this relationship is not just a matter of history; it is a cornerstone of our modern pros-

perity. The Netherlands is one of the top foreign investors in the State of Texas. From the energy corridors of the Gulf Coast to the tech hubs in Austin, Dutch innovation and Texas industry work hand-in-hand.

We even see this heritage in the names of our own communities, like Nederland, TX, founded by Dutch settlers whose legacy of hard work and resilience remains part of the fabric of our State.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our Nation, Adams House serves as a permanent reminder that our diplomatic presence in The Hague was the first building the United States ever owned on foreign soil. It is a symbol of a friendship that has never broken.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this designation and in reaffirming the vital strategic, economic, and cultural bond between the United States and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## RECOGNIZING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MEMPHIS ZOO

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a milestone for one of west Tennessee's greatest treasures, the Memphis Zoo. Earlier this month, on April 4, 2026, the Memphis Zoo celebrated the 120th anniversary of its founding. I am delighted to acknowledge this important occasion for one of the world's first-class zoos, which attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors from across the globe every year.

On April 4, 1906, the Memphis Park Commission allocated \$1,200 to establish the Memphis Zoo. Over the past 120 years, the Memphis Zoo has expanded to include over a dozen exhibits, including Cat Country, Animals of the Night, the Herpetarium, the Aquarium, the Northwest Passage, Teton Trek, and the Zambezi River Hippo Camp. Additionally, in April 2003, the zoo opened a noteworthy exhibit that was home to two giant pandas for nearly 20 years. In total, the Memphis Zoo contains more than 3,500 animals representing over 500 different species.

Because of these world-class exhibits and facilities, the Memphis Zoo has consistently been ranked as one of our Nation's premier zoological attractions, including earning the ranking of "#1 Zoo in the U.S." in 2008, as well as multiple Top Zoo rankings from various publications. Located in Overton Park in the heart of Memphis, the zoo has served for over a century as one of Tennessee's finest tourist attractions. I congratulate the Memphis Zoo on this historic anniversary, and I recognize its tremendous benefit to the Memphis community.●

## RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF PITTSBURG, KANSAS

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate

the 150th anniversary of the city of Pittsburg, KS, a remarkable milestone that coincides with the 250th birthday of the United States of America.

Originally named New Pittsburgh, the city was founded in 1876 along a railroad line connecting Joplin, MO, to Girard, KS. It quickly became a bustling industrial hub for coal mining, brick and tile manufacturing, and zinc smelting. Pittsburg continued to grow as its population increased, drawing people from around the country and across the world.

Pittsburg is the proud home to historic institutions and enduring industries that have shaped its identity. The Pittsburg & Midway Coal Company, established in 1885, is among the Nation's oldest continually running coal companies. Meanwhile, Pittsburg State University, founded in 1903, continues to educate Kansans and prepare them for success.

As the United States celebrates 250 years since its founding, downtown Pittsburg is adorned with "150" and "250" banners, marking its important role in the great American story. To commemorate the occasion, the local community has organized a series of events to bring residents together and celebrate Pittsburg's legacy.

The anniversary reflects the dedication of citizens, businesses, and local leaders who preserve Pittsburg's past while building a stronger future. As Pittsburg celebrates its sesquicentennial, I invite all Americans to visit and experience its rich history firsthand.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Pittsburg, KS, on its 150th anniversary and in celebrating Pittsburg alongside America's 250th birthday.●

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

## PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

NOTICE OF THE REASONS FOR ACTION TO ADJUST IMPORTS OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS SO THAT SUCH IMPORTS WILL NOT THREATEN TO IMPAIR THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES IN RELATION TO PROCLAMATION 11020 OF APRIL 2, 2026—PM 59

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Consistent with applicable law, including section 232(c)(2) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1862(c)(2)) (section 232), I am submitting to the Congress this written

statement of the reasons why I have decided to take action to adjust imports of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients so that such imports will not threaten to impair the national security of the United States.

On January 5, 2026, the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), in accordance with section 232, transmitted to me a report on his investigation into the effects of imports of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients on the national security of the United States. Based on the facts considered in that investigation, the Secretary found and advised me of his opinion that pharmaceuticals and associated active pharmaceutical ingredients, including key starting materials, are being imported into the United States in such quantities and under such circumstances as to threaten to impair the national security of the United States.

In Proclamation 11020 of April 2, 2026 (Adjusting Imports of Pharmaceuticals and Pharmaceutical Ingredients Into The United States) (Proclamation), after considering the Secretary's report, the factors in section 232(d) (19 U.S.C. 1862(d)), and other relevant factors and information, among other things, I concurred with the Secretary's finding that pharmaceuticals and associated pharmaceutical ingredients are being imported into the United States in such quantities and under such circumstances as to threaten to impair the national security of the United States. In my judgment, and in light of the Secretary's report, the factors in section 232(d) (19 U.S.C. 1862(d)), and other relevant factors and information, I determined that it is necessary and appropriate to adopt a plan of action to adjust such imports of pharmaceuticals and associated pharmaceutical ingredients so that such imports will not threaten to impair the national security of the United States. In particular, I determined that it is necessary and appropriate for the Secretary and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and any senior official they deem appropriate, to pursue or continue pursuing negotiations of agreements to address the threatened impairment of the national security with respect to imported pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients. In the Proclamation, I noted that depending on the status or outcome of those negotiations, I may take other measures to adjust the imports of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients to address the threat to the national security found in the Proclamation. I also determined that it is necessary and appropriate to impose an immediate *ad valorem* duty rate on the import of certain patented pharmaceuticals and associated pharmaceutical ingredients to address the national security threat found in the Proclamation.

I am enclosing a copy of the Proclamation that I have issued. The Proclamation further explains the circumstances underlying the threat to

impair the national security of the United States posed by imports of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients and the actions taken in the Proclamation to eliminate that threat.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 16, 2026.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

##### ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the Secretary of the Senate, on April 17, 2026, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill and joint resolution:

H.R. 8322. An act to amend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 to extend the authorities of title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 through April 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 140. 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.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the enrolled bills were signed on April 17, 2026, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mrs. BRITT).

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 4344. A bill to extend section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 for 3 years.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 1689. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate Haiti for temporary protected status.

#### 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-3173. A communication from the Chief Operating Officer, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2025 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3174. A communication from the Director, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2025 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002

(No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3175. A communication from the Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's fiscal year 2025 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3176. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Contract Year 2027 and Certain Contract Year 2026 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage Program, Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program, and Medicare Cost Plan Program" (RIN0938-AV63) (CMS-4212-F) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3177. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Announcement of Calendar Year (CY) 2027 Medicare Advantage (MA) Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies" (RIN0938-ZC02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3178. A communication from the Social Insurance Specialist, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of Obsolete Regulations Addressing Drug Addiction and Alcoholism Under Titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act" (RIN0960-AJ05) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3179. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Fiscal Year 2025 Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) and Privacy Management Requirements; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3180. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the authorization of danger pay in Belize and the Dominican Republic; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3181. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Scarlett's Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3182. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fourth Temporary Extension of COVID-19 Telemedicine Flexibilities for Prescription of Controlled Medications" ((RIN1117-AB40) (RIN1117-AB78) (RIN1117-ZA07) (Docket No. DEA-407)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3183. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Extension of Temporary Placement of CUMYL-PEGACLONE in Schedule 1 of Controlled Substances Act" ((21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA-1511)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3184. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definition of 'Cannabimimetic Agents' and Assignment of an Administration Controlled Substances Code number for all 'Cannabimimetic Agents'" (Docket No. DEA-368) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3185. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Extension of Temporary Placement of 4F-MDMB-BUTICA, ADB-4en-PINACA, 5F-EDMB-PICA, and MMB-PUBICA in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act" ((21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA-1604)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 4345. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to collect data and report to Congress on the cost to the Medicaid program from hospital and emergency room visits related to marijuana use; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 4346. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to make the filing of a petition for relief under chapter 11 that is objectively futile or in subjective bad faith a cause for dismissal of the case, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 4347. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in agricultural research; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BANKS:

S. 4348. A bill to repeal the 90/10 rule as it pertains to proprietary schools under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 4349. A bill to ensure responsible age assurance practices within the mobile ecosystem, particularly concerning the protection of minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. Res. 680. A resolution commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Columbine Day of Service and honoring the memories of the victims, survivors, and their families; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. ARMSTRONG):

S. Res. 681. A resolution relating to the life and death of Chuck Norris; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. Res. 682. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate by condemning the handling of the 2019 Ukraine Whistleblower Complaint, calling for the Department of Justice to initiate an investigation and prosecution of the matter, and declaring the impeachment of President Donald J. Trump by the House of Representatives lacks legitimacy; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 478

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 478, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from transmitting certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 1287

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1287, a bill to establish a centralized system to allow individuals to request the simultaneous deletion of their personal information across all data brokers, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to increase loan limits for loans made to small manufacturers, and for other purposes.

S. 1565

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1565, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow expenses for parents to be taken into account as medical expenses, and for other purposes.

S. 2029

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2029, a bill to protect the privacy of personal reproductive or sexual health information, and for other purposes.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2667, a bill to prevent violence in the West Bank and authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person endangering United States national security and undermining prospects for a two-state solution by committing illegal violent acts.

S. 2907

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2907, a bill to prohibit health care professionals, hospitals, or clinics from participating in the chemical or surgical mutilation of a child and to provide a private right of action for children and the parents of children whose healthy body parts have been damaged by medical professionals practicing chemical and surgical mutilation.

S. 2924

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2924, a bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study and rulemaking on the definition of the term "small entity" under the securities laws for purposes of chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 3031

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3031, a bill making continuing appropriations for essential Federal Aviation Administration and Transportation Security Administration pay and operations in the event of a Federal Government shutdown, and for other purposes.

S. 3470

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) 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.

S. 3492

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3492, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the intellectually disabled, and inpatient rehabilitation facilities to permit essential caregivers access during any period in which regular visitation is restricted.

S. 3581

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3581, a bill to prohibit the payment of certain legal settlements to any individual convicted of assaulting a law enforcement officer in connection with breaching the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

S. 3582

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3582, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to compensate individuals who were prosecuted for their involvement in the attack on the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, and for other purposes.

S. 3747

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3747, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to recognize students who have completed secondary school education in a home school setting as high school graduates, and for other purposes.

S. 3868

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3868, a bill to direct the Attorney General to submit to the Congress a report on Federal criminal offenses, and for other purposes.

S. 4066

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4066, a bill to provide that the approved application under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for the drug mifepristone for the purpose of the termination of intrauterine pregnancy is deemed to have been withdrawn, to establish a Federal tort for harm to women caused by chemical abortion drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 4177

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4177, a bill to establish rules regarding eligibility of student athletes for intercollegiate athletics, and for other purposes.

S. 4182

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4182, a bill to amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to modify rural housing financing under that Act.

S. 4280

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4280, a bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to reauthorize and reform certain authorities and to provide greater transparency and oversight.

S. 4329

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4329, a bill to amend title X of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit family planning grants from being awarded to any entity that performs abortions, and for other purposes.

S. 4341

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4341, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use commercial codes and standards instead of or in addition to Federal codes and standards in the construction or alteration of facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 114

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 114, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

S.J. RES. 163

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 163, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

S.J. RES. 171

At the request of Mr. KIM, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 171, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

S.J. RES. 181

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 181, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

S.J. RES. 184

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 184, a joint resolution to direct the removal

of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

S. RES. 675

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 675, a resolution supporting the designation of the week of April 11 through April 17, 2026, as "Black Maternal Health Week", founded by Black Mamas Matter Alliance, Inc., to bring national attention to the maternal and reproductive health crisis in the United States and the importance of reducing maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women and birthing people.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 4347. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in agricultural research; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4347

*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 "America Grows Act of 2026".

#### SEC. 2. FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to each funding recipient described in subsection (b) for the programs, projects, and activities of such funding recipient, the following amounts:

(1) For fiscal year 2027, the amount equal to 105 percent of the amount of new budget authority made available in appropriation Acts for that funding recipient for fiscal year 2026, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during fiscal year 2026, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(2) For each of fiscal years 2028 through 2036, the amount equal to 105 percent of the amount appropriated to that funding recipient under this subsection for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during such previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(3) For fiscal year 2037, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during such previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(b) FUNDING RECIPIENTS DESCRIBED.—The funding recipients described in this subsection are—

- (1) the Agricultural Research Service;
- (2) the Economic Research Service;
- (3) the National Agricultural Statistics Service; and
- (4) the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

(c) AVAILABILITY.—Each amount appropriated under subsection (a) shall remain available for obligation through the last day of the fiscal year for which such amount is appropriated.

### SEC. 3. EXEMPTION FROM SEQUESTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 255(g)(1)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 905(g)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after “Advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund and Other Funds (16–0327–0–1–600).” the following:

“Appropriations made available under section 2(a) of the America Grows Act of 2026.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any sequestration order issued under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

### SEC. 4. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 680—COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLUMBINE DAY OF SERVICE AND HONORING THE MEMORIES OF THE VICTIMS, SURVIVORS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 680

Whereas, on April 20, 1999, 13 individuals, including 12 students and 1 teacher, were murdered in a shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado;

Whereas another 24 individuals sustained physical injuries;

Whereas the tragic events resulted in profound trauma for countless members of the Columbine community that they continue to navigate today;

Whereas we must continue to remember and honor the 13 victims whose lives were tragically cut short, and those whose lives were irrevocably changed by this senseless act of violence;

Whereas a Columbine Day of Service was established in recognition of the students, staff, alumni, first responders, and community members who reacted to the tragedy by pouring love into the Columbine community with dignity, compassion, and solidarity;

Whereas the Columbine Day of Service is a celebration of community and resilience;

Whereas the Columbine Day of Service encourages participants to remember the lives lost, reflect on the lives forever changed, and recommit to acts of service in their communities;

Whereas the global impact of the shooting is reflected in the outpouring of support for Columbine to this day, turning the Columbine Day of Service into a global movement committed to kindness, selflessness, and community building;

Whereas communities from 6 States and 10 countries engaged in the Columbine Day of Service in 2024, which exceeded 60 projects and over 1,600 participants worldwide;

Whereas the State of Colorado recognizes April 20 annually as a Day of Recommitment, demonstrating widespread enthusiasm for community service and redefining the Columbine legacy as one of hope and rebirth; and

Whereas April 20, 2026, marks the 10th anniversary of the Columbine Day of Service; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the remembrance of the Columbine High School shooting and honors the memories of the victims, survivors, and their families;

(2) expresses heartfelt condolences to all those whose lives were forever altered by the Columbine tragedy;

(3) commemorates the 10th anniversary of the Columbine Day of Service and recognizes community service as a fundamental tool used by the Columbine community and others across the world to rebuild from tragedy and strive for new beginnings;

(4) reaffirms the Columbine legacy as one that celebrates the selfless contributions of thousands of students, staff, alumni, first responders, and community members, redefining Columbine beyond the tragic events of April 20, 1999;

(5) urges the community to continue its efforts to empower individuals across the world to invest in their communities and to participate in acts of community service; and

(6) encourages every United States citizen to remember the victims of the Columbine tragedy, commit to acts of gratitude, and participate annually in the Columbine Day of Service.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 681—RELATING TO THE LIFE AND DEATH OF CHUCK NORRIS

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. ARMSTRONG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 681

Whereas Carlos Ray “Chuck” Norris was born in Ryan, Oklahoma, on March 10, 1940, and passed at the age of 86 on March 19, 2026, in Hawaii;

Whereas, at age 12, Norris moved to Torrance, California;

Whereas, in 1958, Norris enlisted in the United States Air Force and was given the occupational specialty of air police, now called Air Force Security Forces;

Whereas Norris spent 1 year at an Air Force base in Arizona and then deployed to Osan Air Base in South Korea;

Whereas, while stationed in South Korea, Norris learned the disciplines of Judo and Tang Soo Do, eventually earning a black belt in Karate;

Whereas, in 1962, Norris was honorably discharged from the military and resumed Judo training;

Whereas, in 1968, Norris won his first Professional Middleweight Karate Champion title;

Whereas, in 1968, Norris made his acting debut in “The Wrecking Crew”;

Whereas, in 1972, Norris starred in his first major film, “The Way of the Dragon,” alongside Bruce Lee;

Whereas, in 1974, Norris decided to retire from martial arts after winning his sixth consecutive Professional Middleweight Karate Championship;

Whereas Norris continued to act in more than 20 movies, including “Missing in Action,” “The Delta Force,” and “Sidekicks”;

Whereas, in 1993, Norris made his television debut in the series “Walker, Texas

Ranger” and starred in the series for 9 seasons;

Whereas, in 2005, Norris reprised his role as Ranger Cordell Walker, starring in “Walker, Texas Ranger: Trial by Fire”;

Whereas Norris started a charitable organization called “Kickstart” to provide martial arts training to middle-school students, teach them respect and discipline, and improve their self-esteem;

Whereas, in 1990, Norris created a new martial arts style called “Chun Kuk Do”;

Whereas, in 2001, Norris received the Veteran of the Year Award from the United States Air Force;

Whereas Norris paid his respects to veterans, oftentimes visiting troops overseas;

Whereas, in 2007, Norris was made an honorary marine by Marine Corps Commandant General James T. Conway;

Whereas, in 2010, former Texas Governor Rick Perry named Norris an honorary Texas Ranger, and in 2017, the Texas Senate named Norris an honorary Texan for his role in “Walker, Texas Ranger”;

Whereas Norris was known for both his inspirational and humorous quotes, including—

(1) “When I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior, it changed my life forever.”;

(2) “There is no substitute for hard work. Always be humble & hungry.”; and

(3) “When the boogeyman goes to sleep he checks the closet for me.”; and

Whereas Norris leaves behind his wife, Gena, children, and grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Chuck Norris; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 682—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE BY CONDEMNING THE HANDLING OF THE 2019 UKRAINE WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT, CALLING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO INITIATE AN INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF THE MATTER, AND DECLARING THE IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LACKS LEGITIMACY

Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 682

Whereas, on April 13, 2026, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard declassified and released documents and transcripts revealing serious procedural failures and concealments in the handling of the August 2019 whistleblower complaint regarding President Trump’s July 25, 2019, telephone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky;

Whereas, the complaint, which was filed by an analyst of the Central Intelligence Agency who had no firsthand knowledge of the aforementioned telephone call, relied entirely on second- and third-hand accounts, with key witnesses admitting the alleged quid pro quo was “clear only in hindsight” and required “reading between the lines”;

Whereas, although the whistleblower self-disclosed significant potential biases, including registration as a member of the Democratic Party, close professional work with

then-Vice President Joe Biden on Ukraine matters (including travel to Ukraine with Vice President Biden and participation in discussions on Ukrainian Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko's corruption), and personal grievances stemming from his service on the National Security Council during the first Trump presidency, former Inspector General of the Intelligence Community Michael Atkinson redacted or concealed these deeper conflicts from investigators from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives during his testimony on 2019 in which he disclosed only limited information;

Whereas, the whistleblower admitted to misleading investigators about prior contacts with Democratic staff of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and requested that the complaint be hidden from Republican members of the committee;

Whereas, in 2016, then-Vice President Joe Biden publicly boasted of withholding \$1,000,000,000 in United States loan guarantees to pressure Ukraine into firing Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin, an action that occurred while Biden's son Hunter served on the board of Burisma Holdings, raising legitimate questions about potential conflicts of interest that the whistleblower's complaint sought to shield from scrutiny;

Whereas, these concealed biases, procedural irregularities, and reliance on unsubstantiated claims formed the very basis of the 2019 impeachment proceedings, which resulted in the impeachment of President Trump by the House of Representatives on December 18, 2019; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the concealment of material bias information and the use of a flawed complaint to initiate impeachment proceedings against a sitting President;

(2) calls upon the Department of Justice to promptly initiate a thorough, independent investigation into the handling of the 2019 Ukraine whistleblower complaint, including potential violations related to false statements, improper redactions, abuse of the whistleblower process, and coordination with congressional staff;

(3) urges the Attorney General to pursue appropriate criminal prosecutions to the extent warranted by the evidence, consistent with the rule of law and without regard to political affiliation, to restore public confidence in the integrity of the intelligence community and congressional oversight;

(4) declares that the 2019 impeachment of President Donald J. Trump by the House of Representatives, which was predicated on a concealed and deficient complaint, lacks legitimacy and the facts and circumstances upon which Articles of Impeachment were based neither met the burden of proving that President Trump committed "high Crimes and Misdemeanors" nor established that President Trump engaged in "insurrection of rebellion against the United States"; and

(5) commends Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard for her transparency

and accountability in declassifying these materials and sharing the truth with the American people.

#### AUTHORITY FOR A COMMITTEE TO MEET

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee was authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4344

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for a second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4344) to extend section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 for 3 years.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

#### RELATING TO THE LIFE AND DEATH OF CHUCK NORRIS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 681, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The senior legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 681) relating to the life and death of Chuck Norris.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 681) was agreed to.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY APRIL 21, 2026

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 21; 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, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. 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 6:33 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 10 a.m.

#### CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate April 20, 2026:

##### THE JUDICIARY

ANDREW B. DAVIS, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REVEREND JOHNNIE JOHNSON, JR.

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 20, 2026*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man whose life was a testament to courage, faith, and selfless service: Reverend Johnnie Johnson, Jr. An event to celebrate his courage and remarkable life is being held today, Monday, April 20, 2026, at Crew Quarters in Albany, Georgia.

Born May 28, 1940, in Albany, Georgia, the eldest of nine children, Johnnie Johnson learned early the value of work, family, and faith. He joined Bethel A.M.E. Church as a boy, married the love of his life, Thelma Champion, in 1958, and raised five children. Yet it was his willingness to stand, even when standing cost him everything, which marks his life as extraordinary.

In 1972, Reverend Johnson became the primary plaintiff in a class action suit against the City of Albany and its officials to challenge entrenched, unjust employment practices that denied Black men and women the dignity of equal work and fair wages. He did not bring that fight for glory or gain. He brought it because he believed—with every fiber of his being—that every person deserves to be judged by their ability, not the color of their skin; that fairness is the birthright of a free people.

He led a courageous walkout of some 260 Black city employees, demanding what was rightfully theirs. The court found in favor of the plaintiffs, and the decision opened doors that had long been locked. But the victory was bitter-sweet. Reverend Johnson paid a steep personal price. He was not rehired by the city. He faced economic hardship, rumors meant to shame him, and the pain of displacement that comes when a community you love turns its back on you for doing right.

For a time, he sought work and refuge in Charleston, South Carolina, where he found only temporary solace and short-term employment. Yet the news of his stand in Albany followed him, and the pull of home—and the cause he served—drew him back. Reverend Johnson mustered the courage to return to Albany despite the risks to his reputation and employability, choosing fidelity to his family and community over the easier path of exile.

His return marked a new chapter of resilience. He became a barber and earned master barber certification. He transformed a barber's chair into a sanctuary of counsel, dignity, and hope. Countless customers were touched by him, and many young barbers learned their trade and their character under his tutelage.

Answering a divine call in 1996, he was licensed to preach on June 10, 1996, blending

his roles as barber, reverend, and civil rights champion without a trace of bitterness. As the late Congressman John Lewis counseled those who move the Nation forward, "Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble." Reverend Johnson's life embodied that counsel—he made the necessary trouble to open doors for others, and he bore the consequences with dignity.

On January 11, 2000, Albany lost a beloved son, but his legacy lives on through those that he touched by his one act of courage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife Vivian and I, along with the 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring the life of Reverend Johnnie Johnson, Jr. His life reminds us that the work of justice is often carried forward by ordinary people who do extraordinary things. He taught us that sacrifice for the common good is never in vain and that dignity can never be taken from a man who refuses to let hatred define him.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Johnson's memory—a memory that calls us to rededicate ourselves to the ideals he lived: courage in the face of intimidation, compassion in the face of suffering, and an unflinching belief in the worth of every human being. May God bless his legacy and may we all strive to walk in his footsteps.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LIVER FOUNDATION

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 20, 2026*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of American Liver Foundation.

For half a century, American Liver Foundation has been at the forefront of liver health. Established in 1976, American Liver Foundation is the largest patient advocacy organization for people with all types of liver disease. They remain dedicated to helping people improve their liver health. American Liver Foundation provides guidance and life-saving resources, they are a beacon for the 100 million Americans affected by liver disease. They prioritize educating patients, families, caregivers, healthcare professionals, advocating for patient rights, funding medical research, and promoting public awareness campaigns about liver health.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor American Liver Foundation for their unwavering commitment to those living with liver disease. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating American Liver Foundation on 50 years of supporting patients with liver disease. I look

forward to seeing all that American Liver Foundation achieves in the next 50 years.

RECOGNIZING THE KIWANIS CLUB OF LINDSAY ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 20, 2026*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kiwanis Club of Lindsay as it celebrates its 100th anniversary, and to commend its century of dedicated service to community improvement, support for local youth, and the promotion of education.

Since its founding on April 5, 1926, the Kiwanis Club of Lindsay has worked tirelessly to strengthen the community through service, leadership, and fellowship. From physicians and medical providers to farmers and retail workers, members from every part of the Lindsay community came together with the goal of inspiring residents to engage in service above self. From the beginning, the club has played a vital role in enriching the lives of local children by sponsoring and organizing events such as horse shows, Boy Scout meetings, youth sports, and community entertainment. Beyond its local impact, the club has extended its reach internationally, partnering with charitable groups to provide financial aid, scholarships, and livestock to children in need. Shortly after, local Kiwanians helped establish the Lindsay-Ono Sister City Program, offering students the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to immerse themselves in Japan's rich culture and traditions.

In the 1990s, Ellen Hendricks-Blumer made history as the club's first female member and, just four years later, was elected club president. During this time, the club also supported efforts to refurbish the Lindsay Memorial Building and helped bring back the iconic "Giant Olive," which now stands proudly near the Olive Tree Inn along Highway 65.

The Kiwanis Club of Lindsay has remained steadfast in its commitment to education, providing hundreds of thousands of dollars in loans and scholarships to high school students from Lindsay and Strathmore. Its dedication to service is equally evident in its ongoing efforts, including community cleanups, food distribution, family events, and city improvement projects.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Kiwanis Club of Lindsay on 100 years of outstanding service. Through its unwavering commitment to youth, education, and community, the club continues to help shape the next generation of leaders in the Central Valley and across our Nation.

• 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.

HONORING ROCKWALL AND BRIN  
CHURCH OF CHRIST'S 130TH AN-  
NIVERSARY

**HON. LANCE GOODEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 20, 2026*

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 130th anniversary of Rockwall and Brin Church of Christ in my hometown of Terrell, Texas—a congregation that has been a meaningful part of my life since childhood. With humble beginnings in a town of cotton farmers, this congregation has been a faithful fixture in Terrell since 1896, when a small group of Christians gathered in homes and the Odd Fellows Hall on Nash Street to worship.

In 1900, Peter Breeden donated land and built a small structure on College Street to serve the growing congregation. Over the years, the church has remained on that property, expanding and rebuilding after a fire in the spring of 1994. On February 12, 1995, construction began on the building that still stands today at Rockwall and Brin. For more than a century, this congregation has faithfully served both near and far—through local outreach, mission work abroad, and partnerships with the Terrell Share Center and Boles Home for Children.

I congratulate the elders—Wynne Breeden, Ty Burnes, and Steve Rogers—on this milestone. This congregation will continue to be a source of faith, service, and strength for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE NEHEMIAH AL-  
LIANCE NATIONAL 52-DAY RE-  
BUILD INITIATIVE

**HON. MARLIN A. STUTZMAN**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 20, 2026*

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Nehemiah Alliance for launching the National 52-Day Rebuild Initiative, calling the people of the United States to an extended time of unified prayer, fasting, and repentance for the purpose of rebuilding the spiritual walls of blessing and protection around our fifty states and our Nation.

From its founding, the United States of America has been shaped by enduring Judeo-Christian principles of faith, liberty, and justice, and has long understood itself to be One Nation under God. Throughout history, Americans have turned to these principles in moments of challenge to seek renewal, unity, and moral clarity.

From the earliest days of the Republic, our leaders have issued calls to prayer and humility, reflecting a longstanding historical precedent of seeking divine guidance during significant moments in the life of our Nation. The founding ideals of the United States affirm principles of faith, liberty, justice, accountability, and the dignity of the human person, values that continue to inspire citizens across generations.

This initiative emphasizes personal responsibility, civic virtue, reconciliation, and service, encouraging individuals to strengthen their homes, neighbors, and communities through

prayerful engagement. The Nehemiah Alliance draws inspiration from the biblical account of Nehemiah, who rebuilt the broken walls of Jerusalem in fifty-two days, and in that same spirit, during America's two hundred fiftieth Anniversary, this Initiative calls Americans to recognize that the moral, cultural, and spiritual foundations of our society require our attention and action.

Indiana, known as The Crossroads of America, has long stood at the intersection of commerce, community, and faith, and throughout its history Hoosiers have valued prayer, personal responsibility, and service to neighbors as essential foundations for a flourishing society. Citizens of Indiana have historically participated in national seasons of prayer and reflection, recognizing that the strength of a Nation is rooted not only in its institutions but also in the character, humility, and faith of its people.

Beginning at sundown on September 10, 2026, and concluding at sundown on All Saints' Sunday, November 1, 2026, this Initiative invites people across our Nation to humble themselves before Almighty God through prayer, repentance, and periods of fasting as each person is individually led.

The purpose is to rebuild our walls, restore our homes, revive our hearts, and renew liberty and justice for all, reunifying us as One Nation under God. The mission of the Nehemiah Alliance is grounded in the call of Scripture, including the promise recorded in 2 Chronicles 7:14 that as His people pray and repent, He will hear from Heaven and heal our land.

Participants are encouraged to serve as modern-day gatekeepers, interceding for their families, neighbors, schools, churches, businesses, and leaders in authority. During the fifty-two days, focused prayers will be made for spheres of culture, the fifty states and territories, the Nation's Capital, Congress, the Supreme Court, the President, and the consequential midterm elections.

On October 31, 2026, and All Saints' Sunday, November 1, 2026, people of faith will gather online and in person, including in Washington, D.C. on the National Mall, in sacred assembly to pray and stand.

I commend the Nehemiah Alliance for its leadership in advancing the National 52-Day Rebuild Initiative and I encourage the citizens of the State of Indiana to participate in this national call to prayer, fasting, repentance, and spiritual renewal.

RECOGNIZING SARAH AGUILAR AS  
CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRES-  
SIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 20, 2026*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, each year, I have the honor of recognizing women on the Central Coast whose leadership, service, and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community through the Women of the Year Award. This year, it is my pleasure to recognize Sarah Aguilar of Oak View, for her outstanding contributions to animal welfare, public service, and community engagement.

Sarah Aguilar became Director of Santa Barbara County Animal Services in September

2022 and has since transformed the agency through innovative leadership, transparency, and collaboration. With a background in business and prior leadership roles in animal welfare organizations across the country, she brought a collaborative approach to an agency that had long faced significant challenges. Under her stewardship, the care of more than 6,000 animals at county's three shelters annually has been reimagined through programs that prioritize humane outcomes, community partnership, and transparency, helping change the atmosphere for volunteers and staff in a positive way.

Among her most notable achievements is the creation of the "Dog Day Fostering" program, an initiative that has enabled more than 2,000 community members to provide shelter dogs with enrichment, socialization, and exposure to potential adopters. This has reduced stress on animals, increased adoption rates, and strengthened community investment in the wellbeing of shelter pets.

Ms. Aguilar has also demonstrated leadership through securing a \$200,000 grant from the UC Davis Koretz School of Shelter Medicine to establish a "Pawsitive Care Coordinator." This bridges the gap between human social services and animal care, ensuring that individuals facing hardships are not forced to surrender beloved pets due to lack of resources.

Her dedication extends beyond policy and program development to direct, hands-on action. In one instance, Ms. Aguilar personally intervened to rehabilitate and transport a high-risk shelter dog to a safe, permanent home hours away. An act of courage and compassion that not only saved that animal's life but inspired ongoing rescue efforts for others in need.

In a field often challenged by limited resources and complex public demands, Ms. Aguilar has remained steadfast, advocating for sustainable funding, developing fundraising strategies, and maintaining a solutions-oriented approach in the face of fiscal uncertainty.

I am proud to recognize Sarah Aguilar as a Woman of the Year for her inspiring leadership, her deep commitment to both people and animals, and the lasting difference she continues to make in the Santa Barbara County community.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LOIS  
BRUINOOGUE

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 20, 2026*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary constituent and pay special tribute to Lois Bruinoogue, who retires from The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) this month after 20 years of dedicated service to the organization. TLGV is a non-profit organization connecting residents to the Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor, a landscape of farmland and forest spanning 35 towns across Eastern Connecticut and South-central Massachusetts. As TLGV transitions to new leadership under Ms. Francesca Kefalas, I would like to recognize Ms. Lois Bruinoogue for her dedication to protecting the Last Green Valley.

Ms. Bruinooge began her career serving as an environmental lawyer protecting waters and woods with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. She later joined TLGV as a deputy director in 2006 and was promoted to executive director in 2014. Her command of environmental law and leadership drove her to success in spearheading efforts to care for the last stretch of dark night sky between Boston and Washington, D.C.

Ms. Bruinooge has led impressive initiatives to educate people about the environment. In 2009, she led the effort to paddle the entire Thames as a part of the TLGV *Source to Sea* Program. She also expanded TLGV's water quality monitoring, created a trail assessment program, and bald eagle monitoring. Moreover, she encouraged resident and youth participation in TLGV's programming. One of her most impressive accomplishments was organizing the annual Walktober event, attracting up to 120,000 visitors to participate in over 250 hikes, bikes, and paddles each year.

Ms. Bruinooge's time at TLGV was one of transformational, positive change for the organization. She forged ties between TLGV and agricultural, land trust, historical, and cultural organizations to build stronger conservation and sustainability efforts. In 2016, TLGV received over \$6 million from USDA and millions more from regional programs to preserve their forests. In turn, TLGV has provided over \$4 million in grants to local partners. Her collaboration with financial partners has increased revenue, created endowment funds, and heightened investments into environmental conservation. Her passion for outreach, financial expertise, and creativity have set TLGV on a path of undeniable success.

Ms. Bruinooge is a graduate of Boston College Law School and a resident of Waterford, Connecticut.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member serving the 2nd District of Connecticut, I have had the pleasure of seeing the impact of TLGV on the environment of Eastern Connecticut. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the American people, I express deep gratitude for Ms. Bruinooge's contributions during her two decades of service with The Last Green Valley. I join Ms. Bruinooge's family, friends, and colleagues in wishing her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING  
MRS. CAROL KITMAN FOR HER  
HUGE IMPACT

**HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN**  
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 20, 2026*

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Carol Kitman, a stalwart supporter, a trusted friend, and a maternal figure whose presence has been a constant in my childhood, my life, and my family.

I first met Mrs. Kitman in 1980, on the streets of Brighton Beach in Brooklyn, the year my family immigrated to New York from Ukraine in search of a better life. She saw my brother Alexander and me playing and asked our grandmother if she could take a photo—a small moment that marked the beginning of a lifelong connection.

In that moment, Mrs. Kitman did more than take a photograph. She took the time to speak

with us, to listen, and to understand our story. Carol was deeply touched by our Jewish family's journey to the United States and chose to remain a part of our lives.

Over the years, she became someone I looked up to, admired and deeply trusted. My brother and I went to her house for trick-or-treating, get-aways to the suburbs, and began to understand what the American dream could be for us. We forged a life-long bond with her and her husband, Mr. Marvin Kitman, an American television critic, humorist, and award-winning author.

The Kitmans were present for so many of our milestones, including our weddings, graduations, holidays, and family celebrations, always capturing those moments through Mrs. Kitman's lens. They attended my Pentagon ceremony, where I was honored with a promotion to rank of lieutenant colonel in the United States Army.

Through her kindness, dedication, and generosity of spirit, Mrs. Kitman made a lasting impact on my life. She was far more than a photographer known for documenting the lives of my brother and me. From our very first meeting, she became a vital part of my life. Throughout her 96 years, she touched many lives across New York and New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me honoring and remembering Mrs. Carol Kitman and her husband Marvin, who played such meaningful role in my life. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Kitmans' children and their entire family. I am honored to have known them.

RECOGNIZING MASTER SERGEANT  
JEFFREY PAUTZ

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 20, 2026*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master Sergeant (MSgt) Jeffrey Pautz upon the auspicious occasion of his retirement from the Pennsylvania Air National Guard (PAANG) after more than 30 years of service to our Nation.

MSgt Pautz enlisted in February 1996. After completing basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, he returned to Fort Indiantown Gap to join the 553d Air Force Band, now known as the Air National Guard Band of the Northeast, wherein he served as an Instrumentalist for a multitude of bands, including the Concert Band, Ceremonial Band, German Band, "Guardsmen" Big Band, and the "Brass in Blue" Brass Quintet, performing on trumpet and the French horn.

MSgt Pautz also served in myriad other duty positions, including: Assistant Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Supply; Additional Duty Unit Training Manager; Unit Information Systems Security Officer; Unit Equipment Custodian; Unit Computer Equipment Custodian; Assistant Director, Commander's Support Staff; and Director—Supply.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize and commend MSgt Jeffery Pautz upon his retirement from the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and on a job extremely well done. His dedicated, tireless, and selfless service to his fellow Airmen, the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, the United States Air Force, and our

United States of America set the standard by which all should be judged.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT  
ROBERT B. KIELY, JR.

**HON. MATT VAN EPPS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 20, 2026*

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly exceptional American, Master Sergeant Robert B. Kiely, Jr., United States Army, retired, on the occasion of his induction into the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Medical Hall of Honor. This recognition is a fitting tribute to a career that reflects the very best of our Nation's military service and the enduring strength of our Special Operations Forces.

For more than 26 years, Master Sergeant Kiely devoted himself to the defense of our country and the care of those who stand on the front lines. His service culminated at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he served as the Senior Enlisted Medical Advisor for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), a unit renowned for its precision, courage, and unwavering commitment to mission success.

Throughout his career, Master Sergeant Kiely demonstrated extraordinary leadership and an unrelenting dedication to the health and readiness of Special Operations Forces soldiers. His work went far beyond the expectations of duty. He was instrumental in shaping not only the physical preparedness of the force, but also the culture of care, resilience, and excellence that defines these elite units.

As a pioneer in the development of the Special Operations tactical flight paramedic program, Master Sergeant Kiely helped revolutionize the way medical support is delivered in some of the most demanding and dangerous environments imaginable. His contributions have undoubtedly saved lives on the battlefield and strengthened the operational effectiveness of our forces around the globe.

Equally important was his devotion to mentoring and leading the next generation of non-commissioned officers and flight medics. He instilled in them the highest standards of professionalism, courage, and selfless service, ensuring that his legacy will endure far beyond his own years in uniform.

Master Sergeant Kiely's unwavering loyalty, steadfast devotion to duty, and lifetime of selfless service reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Army, our Special Operations community, and the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we pause to recognize individuals like Master Sergeant Robert B. Kiely, Jr., whose quiet professionalism and extraordinary contributions often go unseen by the public, yet are indispensable to our national security.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service and recognizing his induction into the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Medical Hall of Honor.

HONORING GARFIELD VOLUNTEER  
FIREFIGHTER EDWARD KOVACH

**HON. NELLIE POU**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 20, 2026*

Ms. POU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward S. Kovach of Garfield, New Jersey, as he marks an extraordinary milestone: 50 years of active service as a volunteer firefighter and a lifetime of dedication to protecting others and strengthening his community.

A lifelong resident of Garfield, Ed joined Garfield Volunteer Fire Company No. 5 in 1976 at just 18 years old. From that moment on, he answered the call, time and again, whenever his neighbors needed him most. Over the decades, he has served with distinction in many leadership roles, including 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant, and Captain, as well as Secretary, President, and Treasurer of the company, a position he continues to hold today.

Fifty years of service is a rare and remarkable achievement. Volunteer firefighters give their time, their energy, and place themselves in harm's way to keep their neighbors safe. They respond in moments of crisis and bring calm in the face of danger without asking for recognition in return. Their work requires courage, discipline, and an abiding sense of duty, all qualities Mr. Kovach has shown throughout his career.

Beyond the firehouse, Mr. Kovach has been an active and engaged member of the Garfield Fire Department's broader community, contributing to its traditions and friendship, including through years of involvement in the department's softball league and service in the Fire Department Relief Association.

Mr. Speaker, Edward Kovach's 50 years of service reflect the very best of New Jersey and of what it means to serve others. I am proud to recognize his extraordinary commitment and to thank him, along with his wife Jeanne and family, for the countless sacrifices they have made in support of his service and Garfield.

I wish Ed continued health and happiness in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE VIENNA COMMUNITY  
CENTER

**HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 20, 2026*

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Vienna Community Center, a historic and enduring gathering place that has served the Town of Vienna and Northern Virginia for generations.

Since opening its doors in 1966, the Vienna Community Center has served as a shared space for residents of all ages to gather, learn, and stay active. Its creation was the result of a sustained community effort that began decades earlier, when local leaders and organizations came together to raise funds and support the vision of a shared space for the growing town.

Since its founding, the center has played a central role in the daily life of Vienna residents. As the home of the Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation Department, it has provided space for educational programs, recreational activities, and community events that bring people together and strengthen local connections.

Over the years, the Vienna Community Center has evolved to meet the needs of a growing community. Through renovations and expansions, including a major modernization project that enhanced its facilities and services, the center has remained both a historic landmark and a modern resource for residents.

Today, the Vienna Community Center continues to serve as a gathering place where neighbors connect, families participate in programs, and community traditions are built and sustained. Its enduring presence reflects the values of collaboration, civic engagement, and community pride that define the Town of Vienna.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Vienna Community Center on its 60th anniversary and in recognizing its lasting contributions to the Town of Vienna and the Northern Virginia region.

HIGHLIGHTING THE STATE OF  
MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE IN  
HAWAII

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 20, 2026*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the critical need to address seriously aging and increasingly failing physical infrastructure in Hawaii across all services. This can no longer be chalked up or explained away as deferred maintenance; it requires Congressional action considering the Department's negligent administration and budgeting to address clear risks to personnel safety, mission readiness, and ultimately our ability to deter and prevail in the Indo-Pacific.

Hawaii has served as a linchpin of our Nation's presence in the Indo-Pacific since 1875, when King Kalākaua granted the United States the right to enter Pearl Harbor and establish a coaling and repair station. Today, Hawaii is the Indo-Pacific home to every service—the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Space Force—along with a significant presence of our Nation's intelligence community. It is our Nation's Indo-Pacific headquarters, hosting U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pacific Air Forces, U.S. Army Pacific, Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Special Operations Command Pacific, Space Force Indo-Pacific and the National Security Agency Hawaii. It also has many key military installations including Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Schofield Barracks, Fort Shafter, the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Pōhakuloa Training Area, and various other locations. These installations support key operating forces based in Hawaii, including nuclear attack submarines, surface combatants, an Army infantry division, F-22s, MV-22s, C-17s, fuel tankers, Apaches, a Marine Corp regiment, and approximately 60,000 Department of Defense (DoD) personnel plus families.

This presence requires significant physical infrastructure investments that are sometimes difficult to maintain. Hawaii's geographic isolation makes everything from fuel to concrete significantly more expensive because they must be transported across thousands of miles of oceans. Our tropical location with buildings on or close to the ocean is also incredibly stressful on infrastructure. We face constant exposure to salt-laden air and high humidity, that can quickly cause metal to rust and lead to shorter lifespans than identical structures built on the mainland.

Despite generosity from the House Armed Services and Appropriations Committees in recent years, we must face the hard truth that the Department is not prioritizing critical repair and maintenance on its own. A 2023 Congressional Budget Office (CBO) study found that Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam alone requires almost \$5 billion to properly renovate and modernize—twice that of the next closest Navy base needing major upgrades. A 2022 CBO study found that U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii and Fort Bragg essentially tied with a \$1.5 billion deferred maintenance backlog, and a 2024 CBO report noted that Marine Corps Base Hawaii was among the “top” three Marine Corps bases with the worst backlog of deferred maintenance. Failing to perform such maintenance will accelerate the degradation of real property and increase the cost of future renovations and repairs.

The effects of avoiding infrastructure investments for years are now having real world consequences in Hawaii. For example, our aging waste water treatment systems at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Marine Corps Base Hawaii have repeatedly spilled raw and insufficiently treated sewage into our oceans, and power outages and water main breaks have become all too real occurrences with potentially major impacts on service members' safety, especially when it affects Tripler Army Medical Center—the military's largest medical facility in the Indo-Pacific.

For far too long we have also ignored the need for major new construction. The Marine Corps' three-star command headquarters for the Indo-Pacific operates in the 1940s era 'Aiea Heights Naval Hospital that lacks sufficient classified spaces and secure connections. Special Operations Command Pacific, which serves as the functional component for all special operations missions throughout the Indo-Pacific, has personnel spread across 19 locations in O'ahu due to facility space limitations at its primary headquarters at Camp H. M. Smith. Space Forces Indo-Pacific is operating out of temporary buildings, which are little more than trailers. The 25th Infantry Division's Headquarters lacks sufficient Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility spaces and a modern headquarters facility. Failing to invest in these headquarters units now will make command and control more difficult in a time of war.

Further, the modern equipment used by our troops is in desperate need of new modern buildings to house them. The 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment does not have a magazine for the new weapons it needs, lacks sufficient climate-controlled facilities for its modern equipment, and has insufficient classified workspaces. Army helicopters operate out of World War II era hangers without modern climate control that often lead to spare parts being rusted and unusable. The Air Force's runways

and taxiways at Hickam Field have gotten so bad that waivers are requested for all routine landings, and aircraft stationed in Hawaii have longer depot periods because there is not even an adequate aircraft wash facility. Piers throughout Pearl Harbor should have been fully replaced years ago as many cannot support the cranes needed to maintain our vessels, and most piers and wharves cannot be used to refuel our vessels.

Finally, housing remains a major concern for too many. The barracks at U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii and Marine Corps Base Hawaii do not meet modern standards, and there is a strong desire from both the military and State of Hawaii to move more service members back onto base to alleviate high stress on the civilian housing supply, yet military housing is essentially full and many older buildings face ongoing maintenance issues, especially related to air conditioning that leads to dangerous mold when left unaddressed.

Mr. Speaker, the failure to address these infrastructure issues is placing our Nation's presence and mission in the Indo-Pacific at risk, and I ask for your help to address it. Given the depth of the problem, it will likely take many years and actions to address the challenge, but some of our first steps can include:

Investing in Critical Conflict-Related Infrastructure. The FY 2026 NDAA conference report mandated a study on the infrastructure investments required to support potential conflict-related needs in Hawaii. Congress must carefully review this forthcoming report and act on recommendations that can prepare Hawaii for any future contingency.

Funding Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM). Congress has wisely required the military to no longer short-change FSRM accounts. We must ensure this happens over multiple years and prevent further backsliding.

Support Unfunded Priorities. Far too often the military has been reluctant to fund projects in Hawaii because they are expensive. However, many projects make the unfunded priorities list, a sign that the military needs Congressional help to address critical shortfalls. When justified and executable, we must authorize these projects.

Reforming Pacific Deterrence Initiative (PDI). Despite the need for investments to support U.S. military power in the Indo-Pacific, rarely do Hawaii construction projects carry a PDI "label." The Government Accountability Office reviewed the DoD's PDI budget and concluded that the PDI does not consistently reflect department-wide priorities or requirements and generally presents an inconsistent mix of programs and funding. We need to reform the PDI budget presentation rules so readiness projects critical to the Indo-Pacific are properly considered and funded.

Creating Infrastructure "Tiger Teams." Given workforce shortages in key public works departments, we need small, specialized, and cross-functional group of high-level experts assembled temporarily to investigate and develop actionable plans to address our infrastructure woes in Hawaii. These teams bypass standard slow-moving hierarchies and create plans for action.

Resolving Joint Infrastructure Issues. Much of the military's infrastructure in Hawaii has a joint element especially since the services need to share installations given the limited

land available in our islands. For example, Pōhākūloa Training Area is used by all the services and could use improvement to its airfield and temporary barracks. However, there are often disagreements over how to move forward in a joint manner as illustrated by ongoing disagreements over how to prioritize and fund Air Force infrastructure needs at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam that have remained unresolved for years. Given the joint nature of Hawaii's military infrastructure, it needs leadership from a joint perspective to ensure all interests are considered and supported.

We must face the hard truth that the status quo for military infrastructure in Hawaii is unsustainable. We can no longer expect our service members to project 21st-century power from 20th-century infrastructure. The fiscal and operational costs of continued neglect far outweigh the investment required to modernize these aging facilities. The steps I have proposed today represent a roadmap to restoring our regional readiness, but I stand ready to work with my colleagues to ensure the FY 2027 NDAA and appropriations bills provides the necessary resources to rebuild and protect our Nation's most critical Indo-Pacific location.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILLPORT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 20, 2026

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the historic 100th anniversary of the Millport Volunteer Fire Company, a vital institution of safety and service in Chemung County. For a century, this dedicated department has stood as a courageous shield for the residents of Millport and surrounding communities.

Throughout its storied hundred-year history, the Millport Volunteer Fire Company has been defined by the selfless spirit of neighbors helping neighbors. Since its founding, the company has remained unwavering in its mission to protect life and property. The bravery of members, both past and present, is a testament to the enduring strength of the volunteer fire service in Chemung County.

Under the steadfast commitment of its officers and volunteers, the company has fostered a legacy of reliability, integrity, and sacrifice. Their tireless efforts have not only ensured the safety of their district but have also deepened the sense of community through active civic engagement and local leadership. These volunteers routinely leave their homes and families to answer the call, embodying the very best of the American spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring the Millport Volunteer Fire Company on this momentous milestone, and in thanking its members for a century of heroic service to the community.

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, April 21, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 22

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Commerce. SD-192

Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of the Interior. SD-124

Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of the Treasury. SD-138

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine federal boxing laws. SR-253

Committee on Finance  
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Health and Human Services. SD-215

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine China's ongoing theft of U.S. innovation. SH-216

2 p.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Health and Human Services. SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for

fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Agriculture.

SD-106

Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Energy.

SD-124

3 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Senate Sergeant at Arms and United States Capitol Police.

SD-138

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

APRIL 23

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on anomalous health incidents.

SVC-217

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine The President's 2026 Trade Policy Agenda.

SD-215

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1572, to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Federal carjacking statute, S. 3062, to require artificial intelligence chatbots to implement age verification measures and make certain disclosures, S. 3966, to prohibit the enforcement of certain contractual clauses that restrict disclosure of sexual abuse of minors, and the nominations of Sheria Akins Clarke, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, Kathleen S. Lane, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana, Evan Rikhye, to be Judge for the District Court of the Virgin Islands for a term of ten years, Kara Marie Westercamp, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, and Kenneth Sorenson, to be United States Attorney for the

District of Hawaii for the term of four years.

SH-216

APRIL 27

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense missile defense activities in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

MAY 14

8 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold closed hearings to examine the posture of the United States Central Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by an open session in SD-G50.

SVC-217

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S1833–S1843*

**Measures Introduced:** Five bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4345–4349, and S. Res. 680–682. **Page S1840**

**Measures Passed:**

*Relating to the life of Chuck Norris:* Senate agreed to S. Res. 681, relating to the life and death of Chuck Norris. **Page S1842**

**Message from the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of the reasons for action to adjust imports of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients so that such imports will not threaten to impair the national security of the United States in relation to Proclamation 11020 of April 2, 2026; which was referred to the Committee on Finance. (PM–59) **Pages S1838–39**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 47 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 86), Andrew B. Davis, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

**Pages S1837–38**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S1839**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:** **Pages S1839, S1843**

**Measures Read the First Time:** **Pages S1835, S1839**

**Executive Communications:** **Page S1839**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S1840–41**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S1841–43**

**Additional Statements:** **Page S1838**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S1843**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—86) **Pages S1837–38**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:33 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1843.)

### Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

#### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Energy’s atomic energy defense activities and Department of Defense nuclear weapons programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from David E. Beck, Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, and Admiral William J. Houston, USN, Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, both of the National Nuclear Security Administration, and Timothy J. Walsh, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Management, all of the Department of Energy; and Robert P. Kadlec, Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Deterrence, Chemical, and Biological Defense Policy and Programs, General Dale R. White, USAF, Director, Critical Major Weapon Systems, Department of the Air Force, General Stephen L. Davis, USAF, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command, and Vice Admiral Johnny R. Wolfe, Jr., USN, Director for Strategic Systems Programs, Department of the Navy, all of the Department of Defense.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 32 public bills, H.R. 8363–8394; and 15 resolutions, H.J. Res. 157; H. Con. Res. 86; and H. Res. 1188–1200, were introduced. **Pages H2994–95**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H2996–98**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows: H.R. 6955, to make improvements to the Federal banking laws, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–617); and

H. Res. 1189, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4690) to amend the Energy Conservation and Production Act to repeal certain Federal building energy efficiency performance standards, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1182) expressing support for rural communities across the United States as stewards of the environment, major suppliers of United States energy resources, critical providers of food production and manufacturing capacity, and drivers of national economic stability, and recognizing the work of the House of Representatives in the 119th Congress in support of those vital communities; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1897) to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to optimize conservation through resource prioritization, incentivize wildlife conservation on private lands, provide for greater incentives to recover listed species, create greater transparency and accountability in recovering listed species, streamline the permitting process, eliminate barriers to conservation, and restore congressional intent; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5587) to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to waive the requirement for a Federal drilling permit for certain activities, to exempt certain activities from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–618).

**Pages H2993–94**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Weber to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2963**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:23 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H2965**

**Guest Chaplain:** The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Pastor Chad Weeks, Russell Baptist Church, Green Cove Springs, Florida. **Pages H2965–66**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:11 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H2967**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 5:01 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H2978**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act of 2026: H.R. 7386, amended, to amend the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 to reauthorize the First Responder Network Authority; **Pages H2967–70**

**Mystic Alerts Act:** H.R. 7022, amended, to provide for the transmission of emergency alerts by satellite; **Pages H2970–71**

**Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment Reviews Act:** 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, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 384 yeas to 9 nays, Roll No. 125; **Pages H2971–73, H2978–79**

**Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act:** H.R. 1343, to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a plan for the Assistant Secretary to track the acceptance, processing, and disposal of certain Form 299s; **Pages H2973–74**

**Emergency Reporting Act:** H.R. 5200, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 386 yeas to 7 nays, Roll No. 126; and **Pages H2974–76, H2980–81**

**Rural Broadband Protection Act:** S. 98, to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding. **Pages H2976–78**

**Oath of Office—Eleventh Congressional District of New Jersey:** Representative-elect Analilia Mejia presented herself in the well of the House and was administered the Oath of Office by the Speaker. Earlier, the Clerk of the House transmitted a copy of a letter received from Ms. Donna Barber, Executive Director, with the New Jersey Division of Elections indicating that, according to the unofficial results for the Special General Election held on April 16, 2026,

the Honorable Analilia Mejia was elected Representative to Congress for the Eleventh Congressional District of New Jersey. **Page H2993**

**Whole Number of the House:** The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlewoman from New Jersey, the whole number of the House is 432. **Page H2980**

**Order of Business:** Agreed by unanimous consent that, it may be in order at any time on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting His Majesty Charles the Third. **Page H2981**

**Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I:** The House agreed by unanimous consent to discharge from committee and agree to S. Con. Res. 29, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I. **Page H2982**

**Suspension—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

**Kari's Law Reporting Act:** H.R. 5201, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to publish a report on implementation of the Kari's Law Act of 2017. **Page H2976**

**Discharge Petition:** Representative Norcross presented to the clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1140) entitled, a resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5408) to accelerate workplace time-to-contract under the National Labor Relations Act (Discharge Petition No. 19).

**Presidential Message:** Read a message from the President transmitting a written statement of the reasons why he has decided to take action to adjust imports of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients so that such imports will not threaten to impair the national security of the United States—referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 119–150). **Page H2978**

**Senate Message:** Message from the Senate received by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H2979.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2978–79 and H2980–81.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of the Interior. Testimony was heard from Doug Burgum, Secretary, Department of the Interior.

### AMERICAN BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT ACT OF 2026; RELIABLE FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACT; HARNESSING ENERGY AT THERMAL SOURCES ACT OF 2026; ESA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2025; LEGISLATION ON EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES AS STEWARDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT, MAJOR SUPPLIERS OF UNITED STATES ENERGY RESOURCES, CRITICAL PROVIDERS OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND MANUFACTURING CAPACITY, AND DRIVERS OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC STABILITY, AND RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE 119TH CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF THOSE VITAL COMMUNITIES

*Committee on Rules:* Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2289, the “American Broadband Deployment Act of 2026”; H.R. 4690, the “Reliable Federal Infrastructure Act”; H.R. 5587 the “Harnessing Energy At Thermal Sources Act of 2026”; H.R. 1897, the “ESA Amendments Act of 2025”; and H. Res. 1182, expressing support for rural communities across the United States as stewards of the environment, major suppliers of United States energy resources, critical providers of food production and manufacturing capacity, and drivers of national economic stability, and recognizing the work of the House of Representatives in the 119th Congress in support of those vital communities. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 6–3, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4690, the “Reliable Federal Infrastructure Act”, H. Res. 1182, Expressing support for rural communities across the United States as stewards of the environment, major suppliers of United States energy resources, critical providers of food production and manufacturing capacity, and drivers of national economic stability, and recognizing the work of the House of Representatives in the 119th Congress in support of those vital communities, H.R. 1897, the “ESA Amendments Act of 2025”, and H.R. 5587, the “Harnessing Energy At Thermal Sources Act of 2026”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4690, the “Reliable Federal Infrastructure 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 Energy and Commerce 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 Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H. Res. 1182, Expressing support for rural communities across the United States as stewards of the environment, major suppliers of United States energy resources, critical providers of food production and manufacturing capacity, and drivers of national economic stability, and recognizing the work of the House of Representatives in the 119th Congress in support of those vital communities, under a closed rule. The rule provides that upon adoption of the resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider H. Res. 1182. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 1897, the “ESA Amendments Act of 2025”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–23 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 Natural Resources or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 5587, the “Harnessing Energy At Thermal Sources Act of 2026”, 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 Natural Resources 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 Natural Resources or their respective designees. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Representatives Guthrie, Pallone, Hageman, and Stansbury.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET REQUEST FOR COMPARTMENTED PROGRAMS

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request for Compartmented Programs”. This hearing was closed.

### Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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#### NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D393)

H.R. 8322, to amend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 to extend the authorities of title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 through April 30, 2026. Signed on April 18, 2026. (Public Law 119–84)

#### Joint Meeting

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:* to hold hearings to examine Iran’s support for Russia and lessons learned from Ukraine, 2:30 p.m., 2247 Rayburn Building.

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#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

##### Senate

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the National Guard and Reserves Forces, 10:30 a.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 2:30 p.m., SD–124.

*Committee on Armed Services:* to hold closed hearings to examine the posture of United States Indo-Pacific Command and United States Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by an open session at 9:30 a.m. in SD–G50, 8 a.m., SVC–217.

Subcommittee on Seapower, to hold hearings to examine maritime unmanned surface vessels, 2:30 p.m., SR-222.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kevin Warsh, of Florida, to be a Member and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 10 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for the fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Energy, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy, to hold hearings to examine the U.S. approach to counterterrorism in Africa, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on the Constitution, to hold hearings to examine Arctic Frost, focusing on conspiracy and coordination, 10:15 a.m., SH-216.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

### House

*Committee on Appropriations,* Full Committee, markup on the Fiscal Year 2027 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Bill; the Fiscal Year 2027 Financial Services and General Government Bill; and the report on the Interim Suballocations of the Budget Allocations for FY 2027, 11 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

*Committee on Armed Services,* Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation, hearing entitled "Cyber Posture of the Department of Defense", 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and Workforce,* Full Committee, business meeting to approve subcommittee assignments; and markup on H.R. 8210, the "A Stronger Workforce for America Act of 2026", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "The Fiscal Year 2027 Department of Health and Human Services Budget", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled "SAT Streamlining Act: Modernizing Satellite Licensing for the Final Frontier", 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Ethics,* Full Committee, hearing entitled "Ethics Committee Sanctions Hearing", 2 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

*Committee on Financial Services,* Full Committee, markup on H.R. 425, the "Repealing Big Brother Overreach Act"; H.R. 341, the "Small Lenders Exempt from New Data and Excessive Reporting Act"; H.R. 826, the "Protecting Americans' Retirement Savings from Politics Act"; and H.R. 8290, the "Exchange Rate Accountability Act of 2026", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security,* Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement; and Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, joint hearing entitled "Online Scams, Crypto Fraud, and Digital Extortion: An Examination of How Transnational Criminal Networks Target Americans", 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet, hearing entitled "Protecting U.S. Leadership in Codes Development and Enhancing Public Access", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources,* Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1501, the "Protecting Domestic Mining Act of 2025"; H.R. 1687, the "CLEAN Act"; H.R. 3756, the "FISH Act of 2025"; H.R. 4290, the "Downwinder Commemoration Act of 2025"; H.R. 5911, the "Crystal Reservoir Conveyance Act"; H.R. 5929, the "Critical Minerals Supply Chain Resiliency Act"; H.R. 6162, the "Albuquerque Indian School Act of 2025"; and H.R. 7618, the "American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act of 2026", 10:30 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology,* Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled "Robots Made in America: Advancing U.S. Leadership in Manufacturing and Automation", 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business,* Full Committee, hearing entitled "Independent Work, Real Opportunity: The Gig Economy and the Future of Entrepreneurship", 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs,* Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing on "Examining VA Benefits: Pension and Fiduciary, and VA Life Insurance Options", 1:15 p.m., 360 Cannon.

*Committee on Ways and Means,* Full Committee, hearing entitled "Protecting Patients and Taxpayers: Cracking Down on Medicare Fraud", 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence,* Subcommittee on the National Intelligence Enterprise, hearing entitled "Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Hearing for the Department of Energy", 10 a.m., HVC-304 Capitol. This hearing is closed.

Subcommittee on the Central Intelligence Agency, hearing entitled "Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request for the Central Intelligence Agency", 2 p.m., HVC-304. This hearing is closed.

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## CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of April 21 through April 24, 2026

### Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will be in a period of morning business. Roll call votes are expected during Tuesday's session of the Senate.

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 Appropriations:* April 21, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the National Guard and Reserves Forces, 10:30 a.m., SD-192.

April 21, Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related

Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 2:30 p.m., SD-124.

April 22, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Commerce, 10 a.m., SD-192.

April 22, Subcommittee on Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD-124.

April 22, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of the Treasury, 10 a.m., SD-138.

April 22, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Agriculture, 2:30 p.m., SD-106.

April 22, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Energy, 2:30 p.m., SD-124.

April 22, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Senate Sergeant at Arms and United States Capitol Police, 3 p.m., SD-138.

*Committee on Armed Services:* April 21, to hold closed hearings to examine the posture of United States Indo-Pacific Command and United States Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by an open session at 9:30 a.m. in SD-G50, 8 a.m., SVC-217.

April 21, Subcommittee on Seapower, to hold hearings to examine maritime unmanned surface vessels, 2:30 p.m., SR-222.

April 23, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on anomalous health incidents, 9:30 a.m., SVC-217.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* April 21, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kevin Warsh, of Florida, to be a Member and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 10 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* April 22, to hold hearings to examine federal boxing laws, 10 a.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* April 21, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for the fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Energy, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Finance:* April 22, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD-215.

April 23, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine The President's 2026 Trade Policy Agenda, 10 a.m., SD-215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* April 21, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy, to hold hearings to examine the U.S. approach to counterterrorism in Africa, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* April 22, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 2 p.m., SD-430.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* April 21, Subcommittee on the Constitution, to hold hearings to examine Arctic Frost, focusing on conspiracy and coordination, 10:15 a.m., SH-216.

April 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine China's ongoing theft of U.S. innovation, 10:15 a.m., SH-216.

April 23, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1572, to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Federal carjacking statute, S. 3062, to require artificial intelligence chatbots to implement age verification measures and make certain disclosures, S. 3966, to prohibit the enforcement of certain contractual clauses that restrict disclosure of sexual abuse of minors, and the nominations of Sheria Akins Clarke, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, Kathleen S. Lane, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana, Evan Rikhye, to be Judge for the District Court of the Virgin Islands for a term of ten years, Kara Marie Westercamp, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, and Kenneth Sorenson, to be United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii for the term of four years, 10:15 a.m., SH-216.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* April 21, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

April 22, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

## House Committees

*Committee on Appropriations,* April 23, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Commerce, 11 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

*Committee on Armed Services,* April 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled "U.S. Military Posture and National Security Challenges in the Indo-Pacific Region", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

April 22, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled "FY27 Budget Request for Nuclear Forces and Atomic Energy Defense Activities", 3 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

April 22, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces; and Subcommittee on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, joint hearing entitled "Revitalizing Shipbuilding and the Maritime Industrial Base", 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and Workforce*, April 22, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled “Profits Over Patients: The PBM Business Model Under Scrutiny”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, April 22, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Oversight of Activities, Priorities, and Fiscal Year 2027 Budget”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

April 22, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “Help or Hindrance? The Impact of U.S. Environmental Laws on Critical Material Supply Chains, National Security, and Economic Growth”, 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

April 22, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces; and Subcommittee on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the House Committee Transportation and Infrastructure, hearing entitled “Revitalizing Shipbuilding and the Maritime Industrial Base”, 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, April 22, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled “Diversifying Risk: The Benefits of Reinsurance and Credit Risk Transfers”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

April 22, Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions, hearing entitled “Evaluating the Effectiveness of U.S. Sanctions Programs”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, April 22, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 8202, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to provide for a ten-year statute of limitations for export control violations; H.R. 7962, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to the review of the interagency dispute resolution process; H.R. 4505, to strengthen enforcement of United States export controls by increasing the number of export control officers of the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce who are stationed in foreign regions; H.R. 7003, to authorize the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security to appoint certain personnel in order to attract highly qualified experts, and for other purposes; H.R. 5853, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to increase the civil penalties that may be imposed under such Act; H.R. 8288, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to provide assistance for compliance with that Act; H.R. 6331, to modify certain definitions under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018; H.R. 8285, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to require a competitive market review of applications for a license to export, reexport, or transfer in-country certain technology, and for other purposes; H.R. 4920, to require modernization of information technology systems and applications of the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce; H.R. 6624, to restrict the export to foreign entities of concern of United States intellectual property and sensitive information related to synthetic biology, and for other purposes; H.R. 6996, to facilitate the export of United States artificial intelligence systems, computing hardware, and standards globally; H.R. 5543, to require the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, to submit a report on emerging threats posed to the Republics of Estonia, Latvia, and

Lithuania, and for other purposes; H.R. 6058, to provide for multilateral semiconductor technology supply chain coordination, and for other purposes; H.R. 6322, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to establish a whistleblower incentive program and provide protections to whistleblowers; H.R. 8283, to prevent foreign adversaries from threatening the national security of the United States by extracting key technical features of closed-source, American-owned artificial intelligence models, and for other purposes; H.R. 8284, to enhance the administration of export control licenses under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018, and other purposes; H.R. 8287, to require the Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research to submit a comprehensive report on the impact and effectiveness of United States semiconductor export controls on the People’s Republic of China, and for other purposes; H.R. 8036, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to permit the Secretary of State, Defense, or Energy to submit proposed rules to the Export Administration Review Board, to require the Secretary of State to evaluate the military civil fusion strategy of the People’s Republic of China, and for other purposes; H.R. 8170, to provide for export restrictions on certain semiconductor manufacturing equipment and components therefor, and for other purposes; and H.R. 8289, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to ensure expeditious processing of license applications, and for other purposes; H.R. 8169, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to provide for expedited consideration of proposals for additions to, removals from, or other modifications with respect to entities on the Entity List, and for other purposes; H.R. 8321, to promote peaceful space exploration, expand participation in the Artemis Accords, establish norms for safe and sustainable space activities, and advance national security and economic competitiveness through leadership in space; and H.R. 8320, to require additional duties of the Ambassador at Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy with respect to United States diplomatic efforts ahead of certain international conferences, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, April 22, Full Committee, continue hearing on “Funding Lapse and Security Gaps: Assessing the Harmful Impacts of the DHS Shutdown on Americans”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on House Administration*, April 22, Full Committee, markup on legislation to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize the increase of the retirement age in the United States Capitol Police, 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, April 22, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 8352, the “Criminal History Access Act”; legislation on the Monitor Accountability Act of 2026; and Ratification of Subcommittee Assignments, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, April 22, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing entitled “EXPLORE America250: Enhancing Accessibility at Our National Parks and Public Lands”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

April 22, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled “Tribal Natural Resource Development: Barriers and Successes”, 10:15 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, April 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “A Review of the President’s Budget Request for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for Fiscal Year 2027”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, April 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Trump Administration’s

2026 Trade Policy Agenda with United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

### Joint Meeting

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe*: April 21, to hold hearings to examine Iran’s support for Russia and lessons learned from Ukraine, 2:30 p.m., 2247 Rayburn Building.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Tuesday, April 21

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Senate will be in a period of morning business. Roll call votes are expected during Tuesday's session of the Senate.

*(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)*

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Tuesday, April 21

## House Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Consideration of H. Res. 1189—Providing for consideration of H.R. 4690, Reliable Federal Infrastructure Act, H.R. 1897, ESA Amendments Act, H.R. 5587, Harnessing Energy At Thermal Sources Act of 2026, and H. Res. 1182, expressing support for rural communities across the United States as stewards of the environment, major suppliers of United States energy resources, critical providers of food production and manufacturing capacity, and drivers of national economic stability, and recognizing the work of the House of Representatives in the 119th Congress in support of those vital communities.

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