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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 27, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF CRANK 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.

RECOGNIZING ZACH AND TESA STINSON

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, with pride and admiration, I rise to congratulate Zach and Tesa Stinson of Chambersburg on their impressive performances in the 130th Boston Marathon.

Zach dominated the handcycle division to win his fourth Boston Marathon title, and Tesa finished her first-ever Boston Marathon.

Zach, a previous champion in 2021, 2023, and 2024, covered the 26.2-mile course in just over an hour.

A United States Marine Corps veteran, Zach lost his legs after stepping on an IED while serving in Afghanistan in 2010. He began competing in marathons in 2012 and has made eight appearances in Boston.

The day before the marathon, both Zach and Tesa threw out the ceremonial first pitches at Fenway Park.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate both Zach and Tesa for their achievements that reflect athletic ability, endurance, and personal strength.

HONORING MCCARTNEY'S OF ALTOONA

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor McCartney's of Altoona as they commemorate two milestones of success—100 years of family ownership in 2026 and 140 years of operation in 2027.

McCartney's was founded in 1887 by Thomas McCartney. In 1926, the business was purchased by John Tracey. Today, McCartney's is owned by Randy Green, who is John Tracey's great-grandson.

As workplaces adapted to changing needs over the years, the product lines at McCartney's have also expanded.

Defined by a commitment to personal service, McCartney's has cultivated a loyal customer base throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Randy Green and his entire team at McCartney's on these milestones. I express my personal gratitude for his enduring contributions to economic development as a valued family-owned business.

SUPPORTING DAIRY PRODUCTS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of a bipartisan bill that I reintroduced last week known as the DAIRY PRIDE Act. This legislation will restore honesty in how we label the foods that Americans rely on every day.

As a doctor, I have seen firsthand how proper nutrition shapes long-term health. Dairy products provide essential nutrients that support strong bones, brain function, and muscle health.

Today, consumers are increasingly faced with products labeled as milk, cheese, or yogurt that do not meet the same nutritional standards.

This is not just a labeling issue. It is a public health issue. When families are misled at the grocery store, they cannot make fully informed decisions about their nutrition.

The DAIRY PRIDE Act both supports our hardworking dairy farmers and protects the American consumer.

Mr. Speaker, as this enters the legislative process, I urge all of my colleagues to support this commonsense reform.

IMPROVING MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicare Advantage Improvement Act, a bipartisan, commonsense effort to strengthen a program that millions of seniors rely on.

Medicare Advantage has grown rapidly, but with that growth, serious concerns have arisen. Across our country, seniors are facing unnecessary delays, burdensome prior authorization requirements, and inappropriate denials of care.

These hurdles are harmful. They take away time from the doctor-patient relationship, and in some cases, they actually delay critical treatment.

This legislation is about ensuring that when a doctor and patient determine that a patient needs a specific care, that care is delivered without interference from unnecessary red tape.

Medicare is a promise to our seniors, and we, in Congress, have a responsibility to uphold that promise.

This legislation would protect our seniors, strengthen accountability, and ensure that Medicare Advantage works in the way that it was intended.

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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FUND THESE GRANTS

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, places of worship and nonprofit centers have always been sanctuaries of hope, spirituality, and community in our country, but violence and hate continue to be on the rise. Places of worship are increasingly becoming targets.

Between 2021 and 2023, attacks on churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques increased by nearly 100 percent. Overall, hate crimes in the U.S. are up more than 80 percent since 2015, and 2025 was ranked as the fifth highest year for hate crimes in the FBI's 34-year history of tracking this data.

We need to do more, and that is why I am calling on my colleagues to continue to support nonprofit security grants and other hate prevention programs. We need to help nonprofit organizations, especially houses of worship and religious community centers, enhance physical security against terrorist attacks and threats to them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to call out the rise we are seeing in hateful rhetoric. It has no place in our communities, and it certainly has no place in the Halls of Congress.

Let's fund this effort. Let's continue to support and protect our places of worship.

STOP THE MOVE

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, we can all agree that the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service is critical to keeping our food safe and protecting us from foodborne illnesses. This administration is trying to undermine this office and our country's ability to prevent foodborne illness.

Just last week, the USDA announced that it is moving its food safety headquarters from D.C. to another part of the country. Now, 200 food safety experts will have to choose between uprooting their lives or staying in their jobs.

We have seen this before. The last time the administration moved a USDA office across the country, it was two research-focused offices, and moving them was a complete disaster for the work of those offices. They lost over a third of their full-time staff, particularly the most experienced people, and they saw steep declines in agency productivity. It completely disrupted the grants and research that they do.

This administration claims that the food safety office continues operating without interruption during this move, but we know from experience that is just not true. In every other case, the people who resigned were the people who had the most experience, the people we needed the most.

Mr. Speaker, the American people can't afford to have an inexperienced, understaffed, and unproductive food safety office, so the USDA needs to stop this move and stop jeopardizing our Nation's food safety.

TSA AGENT CUTS

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing for weeks now about how the DHS shutdown needs to end because TSA workers need to get paid, and I agree.

TSA workers have now been working with sporadic pay for 10 weeks. They may even get furloughed again until we decide to end this shutdown by putting the Senate Bill on the floor.

I want to draw your attention to the President's budget. While the President and his administration talk about the importance of TSA workers and keeping lines short at the airport, the President's own budget suggests cutting almost 10,000 TSA agents.

This is all part of a larger plan to get rid of the TSA altogether. For those keeping score at home like me, this is chapter 5 of Project 2025.

Cutting these TSA jobs would mean a lot of things, like worse quality service, cuts to employee pay and benefits, customer dissatisfaction, and a higher risk of errors at places like our airports, where there is no room for error.

Mr. Speaker, I could keep going. The next time the President or any administration official talks about how we need to end this shutdown to support TSA workers, just look at the President's budget.

PROTECTING DATA CENTERS

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, data centers hold critical information we use every day and keep the internet running.

Whether it is AI, blockchain, or any other innovations in technology, data centers are going to be a key part of this.

Because data centers are so critical, they are becoming targets during wars. Look at the Russian-Ukrainian war. Russia is attacking Ukrainian data centers. Iran has struck commercial data centers in the UAE and has said that data centers are military targets now.

My district is home to hundreds of data centers, and families, schools, parks, and places of worship are all close to data centers in my district. People living around these data centers shouldn't have to worry about being a target anymore.

That is why I am introducing the Data Infrastructure Risk Reduction Act. This bill would direct the Department of Homeland Security to develop a strategy to protect data centers and the communities around them from being targeted during attacks.

The government needs to do everything possible to protect these communities because Americans deserve to know that if a data center is going to be built next to them, we will protect that community, and they won't be a target at that point.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and pass this bill.

FINANCIAL FRAUD IS A PLAGUE

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, financial fraud is a plague. Financial fraud is one of the fastest growing crimes in this country, harming families and seniors across the Nation.

Last year alone, Americans lost more than \$12.5 billion to scams. These crimes steal hard-earned savings and retirement funds. They destroy lives, and they undermine confidence in our financial system.

That is why it is critical for every American to take simple steps to protect themselves. Never share banking or personal information unless you have verified the source. Be cautious of unsolicited calls and emails. Review bank statements regularly, and use and develop strong passwords and multi-factor authentication to secure your accounts. If you suspect fraud, report it immediately to law enforcement or the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, I have a mission to protect both Arkansans and all Americans from financial crime. It remains a top priority.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO FIRST SERVICE BANK OF ARKANSAS

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express appreciation to First Service Bank of Arkansas for their contributions to our beloved, respected Arkansas military community through their annual Operation Red, White, and Brave.

This program has raised both awareness and funds that provide resources for home modifications and financial assistance efforts for both veterans and current Active-Duty members and their families throughout our central Arkansas area.

This program raises money through donations, events, and an annual charity golf clinic.

Mr. Speaker, every day, I love representing the amazing volunteers and generous citizens across our Second District. Local community businesses like First Service Bank that dedicate time and effort to help our veterans and the people of Arkansas are a real feature and strength of central Arkansas.

CONGRATULATING RANDY MASSANELLI

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Randy Massanelli on his retirement as vice chancellor of the Government and Community Relations unit at the University of Arkansas and to thank him for his dedicated service to his community and our proud State.

As a native of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and a proud graduate of the University of Fayetteville, Mr. Massanelli served in the United States Army for 15 years, rising to the rank of major before moving to higher education.

While in the Army, Randy served in numerous assignments as the officer in charge of ground convoy movements for the Pershing II missiles in Europe and a combat tour in the Persian Gulf

war, earning countless honors, including the Bronze Star for service and sacrifice.

In 2014, Mr. Massanelli joined the University of Arkansas and has been bringing his keen judgment and personal experience, working tireless hours to help obtain important research grants and funding for the University of Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Randy Massanelli, for his years of service and commitment to Arkansas. His work is a model for future generations of public servants, and his devotion to our State is truly commendable.

□ 1215

PENN STATE WRESTLING TEAM

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Penn State wrestling team for winning the NCAA Division I wrestling tournament last month. This historic achievement marks the Nittany Lions' fifth consecutive title and Penn State's 13th team title over the last 15 seasons.

The NCAA wrestling tournament, hosted in Cleveland, Ohio, saw the Lions qualify all 10 wrestlers for the 3-day event, with 7 wrestlers placing as top seeds.

The team scored 181.5 points, breaking their own record of 177 points, which they set last year.

To conclude championship weekend, four Nittany Lions earned individual national titles. In addition, Mitchell Mesenbrink was named the 2026 NCAA Championship Outstanding Wrestler.

Much of this success is a testament to the leadership of Head Coach Cael Sanderson, who has been with the team since 2010. Cael, a former collegiate wrestler and Olympic athlete, knows exactly what it takes to deliver a championship-level team. As the university's head coach for more than 10 years, Cael has delivered the team from strength to strength. Another accolade that the team can tout is winning the Big Ten championship for the fourth consecutive year.

As a former high school wrestler myself and a Penn State alum, I love seeing the success that the Nittany Lions have had each year. Penn State wrestling brings together the student body, Penn State alum, and State College residents to watch an exciting evening of matches. There is nothing quite like a packed Bryce Jordan Center on a Saturday evening.

I was a former wrestler at Bald Eagle Area High School under the leadership of Coach Dick Rhoades, and in 2015 I was honored to be recognized by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. The leadership and discipline that I learned during practice have stuck with me throughout my life.

I know that all young men at Penn State will be able to take the lessons

that they learn through wrestling and apply them to other aspects of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, the athletes, the coaches, and the staff should all be proud of this amazing accomplishment, and I wish the team the best as they continue working towards their goals next season.

GERRYMANDERING: A PLAGUE ON DEMOCRACY

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

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, last week yet another State returned to the era of gerrymandering, marking a further regression for democracy in America.

This entire redistricting war has been a total disaster for our country. What is more, it has been utterly pointless. As was predicted, neither side is really going to come out ahead. Every side has lost.

Meanwhile, the whole conflict that has spread from State to State to State has caused partisanship in this country to truly bubble over. It has destabilized representation across the country. It has further eroded trust in the fairness of our political process. It has further eroded the idea of representation and government by the people.

It is past time for Congress to take responsibility for the fairness of our own elections throughout this country. We can do that in two ways.

Number one is by passing my bill to end mid-decade redistricting. I introduced this last year, and it passed last year. We could have avoided this whole thing, but we can still pass it now to make sure that nothing like this ever happens again.

Number two is by the time of the next Census when we are supposed to do redistricting, we can pass legislation to end gerrymandering in this country once and for all. The way I am proposing we do this is by setting up a truly independent commission in every State, much like California had before it was sidelined last year.

Mr. Speaker, gerrymandering is a plague on democracy, and it is well past time that the United States moves past it and ensures fair elections and fair representation for every citizen in our country.

CALIFORNIA'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE REVIEW
2025

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, a new report titled: "California's Economic Performance Review 2025" paints an absolutely alarming picture of our State's current economic performance.

Just to give you a few of the highlights, or really lowlights, Mr. Speaker, California right now has the highest unemployment rate in the Nation at 5.5 percent with over 1 million unemployed workers.

There were 181,700 private-sector jobs lost in 2025 and 432,900 private-sector

jobs lost in the last 3 years. Meanwhile, almost all of the actual job growth has come from government. There are now 1.9 unemployed workers per job opening in California. That is the worst ratio in the country, with layoffs and separations up by 57 percent in 2025.

Net business establishments in 2025 were down almost 90 percent since before Governor Newsom took office, and almost all of the new firms that were rated were sole proprietorships with almost no employees.

California, meanwhile, has the highest cost of living of any State, with 6 of the 10 most expensive metropolitan areas in the country. Electricity rates in our State are nearly double the rest of the country for homes and almost triple for industry. We also, of course, have the highest gas prices by far in the country.

California has the highest poverty rate in the Nation at 16.4 percent. California had 1.9 million residents lost to other States over the last 7 years, and that includes 409,000 workers lost in job-to-job migration over the last 5 years.

All this time, the budget grew by 68.2 percent since 2019, with a structural deficit that is now \$20 billion to \$35 billion annually.

By the way, there has been nearly a 50 percent drop in the number of high earners filing tax returns over \$10 million just in the last 5 years, and that number is going to go up a lot with this entire wealth tax scheme that is being proposed right now.

Mr. Speaker, California is the greatest State in the country. We have more to offer than any State in the country. With our State's abundance of natural resources, its amazing companies, people, and culture, there is absolutely no reason we should not be outperforming every other State. Instead, we are underperforming every other State by a lot, to the detriment of our own citizens.

So I am, once again, calling upon leaders in Sacramento to chart a different course, one that is proworker, pro-opportunity, and progrowth. I am also encouraging those of us here in the House to look at what California has done wrong because it provides us a good roadmap of what we should be doing in order to get the economy and the cost of living right.

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 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Great is Your faithfulness, O God our Father. New every morning are the mercies You offer unto us. Even as we remember and honor the life of our friend and colleague, David Scott, our souls are saddened by his passing. But this we call to mind, and in this we have hope: that Congressman David Scott, Your son and servant, was one who sought You daily.

The remarkable life he lived which began in the tobacco fields of South Carolina was marked by an exceptional intellect, evident in both his academic accomplishments, his business acumen, his political service in Georgia, and his noteworthy tenure on the Hill, all of which was undergirded by the firm foundation of his faith in You.

Those who knew him well knew that he believed, without doubt, that You were his portion. He walked quietly and faithfully with an inward calm, a peace that passed all understanding, and a faith that looked through death to the hope of a larger life beyond the grave.

Thank You for raising up among us such a stalwart example of how You, O Lord, are good to those whose hope is in You, to the ones who seek You, to those who wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

May we in faith follow David Scott's lead.

In Your eternal name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

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

TRUMP DELIVERS TAX RELIEF

(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, led by House Republicans with our leader and Speaker MIKE JOHNSON and President Donald Trump, this year millions of Americans received larger tax cuts.

By signing the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, President Trump has allowed

53 million hardworking Americans to keep more of their own money, creating jobs.

Sadly, every single Democrat in the House voted to oppose the tax relief, promoting taxes to rise by 22 percent on working families. Democrats want Big Government. Republicans promote limited government.

Millions of Americans have already benefited from no tax on tips, no tax on overtime, and no tax on Social Security. Promises made, promises kept.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump as war criminal Putin has subverted the Government of the Republic of Georgia with the Georgian Dream Party collaborating with the Iranian regime as Iranians meet today with war criminal Putin in Moscow to coordinate death to America.

RECOGNIZING PASCAGOULA
POLICE CHIEF TERRY SCOTT, JR.

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

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible accomplishment by one of our own from the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Pascagoula Police Chief Terry Scott, Jr.

At 60 years old, Terry made history by becoming the oldest heavyweight boxer to win a professional, sanctioned fight, earning a world record in the process. That is an extraordinary achievement and a testament to his grit, discipline, and perseverance.

Success like this doesn't come easy. It takes years of hard work, sacrifice, and an unwavering commitment to your craft. Terry Scott, Jr., has shown what it means to stay focused, push through challenges, and defy expectations.

His story is a reminder that determination has no age limit and that it is never too late to chase and achieve something remarkable.

South Mississippi is proud of Terry, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on this historic accomplishment and wishing him continued success.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF WEST
GEORGIA WOLVES MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

(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, over the past 3 weeks in college basketball, a national champion was crowned, the transfer portal opened and closed, and the 2025–2026 season officially ended.

I proudly represent the University of West Georgia. I am a passionate supporter of their basketball program, led by Coach Dave Moore, a natural leader,

and his talented staff: Andy Young, Mark Schult, Willie Evans, and Jalen Sasser, and administered by Athletic Director Jason Carmichael and President Dr. Michael Johnson.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a few of the West Georgia Wolves who are leaving next season, having exceeded expectations and built a program poised for future success.

Shelton Williams-Dryden was named First Team-All Atlantic Sun, averaging 20.7 points and 9.1 rebounds per game.

Josh Smith was named the Atlantic Sun's Sixth Man of the Year, averaging 16.2 points per game.

Kolten Griffin averaged 7.7 points per game and set a record for the most games played in the history of the program.

Malcolm Noel averaged 8.1 points per game and will graduate after three seasons with the Wolves.

Mr. Speaker, the West Georgia Wolves are a source of great inspiration for many across my district, and I am immensely proud to represent them in Congress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD). 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 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1459

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EZELL) at 2 o'clock and 59 minutes 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.

SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH
RESPECT TO SUSPECTED VIOLATIONS
OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4930) to expand the sharing of information with respect to suspected violations of intellectual property rights in trade, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4930

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

SECTION 1. SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO SUSPECTED VIOLATIONS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

Section 628A of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1628a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “suspects” and inserting “has a reasonable suspicion”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “, packing materials, containers,” after “its packaging” the first place it appears;

(ii) by striking “and its packaging and labels” after “images of the merchandise” and inserting “, its packaging, packing materials, containers, and labels”; and

(iii) by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) may provide to the person nonpublic information about the merchandise that was generated by an online marketplace or other similar market platform, express consignment operator, freight forwarder, or any other entity that plays a role in the sale or importation of merchandise, or the facilitation thereof, into the United States that has been provided to, shared with, or obtained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

“(4) in the case of the provision of nonpublic information described in paragraph (3), shall provide to the person notification of the information transmitted, in accordance with such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) any other party with an interest in the merchandise, as determined appropriate by the Commissioner.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) for his support of this piece of legislation that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) and I have proposed today for consideration. I will share a few remarks on this, but again, I appreciate the committee and the entire staff for the work that they have done to make this possible.

I am very pleased, Mr. Speaker, that my bill, H.R. 4930, which I am calling the counterfeit notification act, has been slated for floor consideration

today. I introduced this bill with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) to target the influx of counterfeit goods entering the United States and to equip our Customs and Border Patrol officers to share real-time information with businesses, e-commerce platforms, and logistics companies.

To put things into perspective, in fiscal year 2023, Customs and Border Protection seized more than \$2.7 billion worth of counterfeit goods at the U.S. border. More than 46 percent of seizures originated from China and Hong Kong.

This poses serious national security threats and risks to citizens due to products of poor quality, hazardous material, or unknown production conditions, such as, of course, forced labor.

My bill addresses a key gap in CBP’s ability to spot and halt the flow of counterfeit goods into the U.S. under current law. When CBP suspects a shipment may be counterfeit, they are allowed only to publicize limited information. They are unable to share labels, invoices, or packing slips that identify the products of the country of origin with key stakeholders. This leaves the business community, e-commerce platforms like Etsy and Amazon, and logistics carriers like DHL, UPS, or FedEx in the dark when counterfeit activity is happening right under their nose.

To solve the issue, the counterfeit notification act gives CBP explicit authority to share relevant information with companies, carriers, and platforms when they receive a potentially counterfeit shipment.

This will include shipping labels and tracking numbers, invoices and shipping manifests, outer packaging images, or sender and recipient addresses.

The bill also broadens the range of parties with whom CBP can share information, such as e-commerce sites from which the products in question may be sold. This means that CBP will be able to recognize and flag patterns of behavior, like repeat senders of mass shipments, drop addresses used by organized counterfeiters, or common entry points or air routes for suspected counterfeit goods.

For example, if a counterfeit shipment from China repeatedly enters the U.S. via the Port of Los Angeles using the same fake return address, CBP will be able to share these patterns with carriers like UPS, DHL, and FedEx so they can intercept future parcels before they arrive on American soil.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense bill that will strengthen U.S. national security, kneecap bad actors, and protect the IP of American companies.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the support of my colleagues on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4930, introduced by the Representative from Utah (Mr. MOORE), my

colleague and friend. I join him in praising our staffs, who worked together. It is good to see us working on a commonsense solution.

H.R. 4930, the counterfeit notification act, gives U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents the ability to share information about counterfeit goods with retailers and manufacturers.

The bill clarifies U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s authority to share information about packaging, product specifications, and packing materials when their agents encounter a shipment of suspected counterfeit goods entering the United States.

Sharing this information with retailers, manufacturers, and logistics companies will help them better identify fraudulent shipments and target organized counterfeiting operations.

The bill also allows CBP agents to work directly with the intellectual property owners and with parties involved in the supply chain to better intercept counterfeit goods and track their country of origin.

Protecting intellectual property is essential for sustaining innovation, economic growth, and global competitiveness, especially in my district, which is home to some of the largest companies developing the next generation of medical technologies.

We know that counterfeit products can be dangerous to consumers and present serious safety and public health hazards.

In fiscal year 2024, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized more than 32 million counterfeit and pirated items across more than 300 ports of entry, which, all told, were valued in excess of \$5 billion.

In the past 5 years, the number of illicit goods seized by CBP has more than doubled, while the value of those seized goods has grown by more than 400 percent.

The members of the International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition note that the cost of trafficking counterfeit goods is not only measured in dollars but also in the injuries caused by dangerous products, jobs lost to unfair competition, and the threats such products pose to our national security.

Whether we are talking about baby products, fashion goods, pharmaceuticals, or even electronics, this bill presents a commonsense solution to strengthen our country’s ability to detect counterfeit goods and to keep the American people safe.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE), my friend and colleague, for working with me on H.R. 4930. I was proud to see this bill pass out of the Ways and Means Committee last year with a unanimous bipartisan vote.

Mr. Speaker, this bill gives U.S. Customs agents the tools they need to identify counterfeit goods, investigate supply chains, and better protect Americans from dangerous counterfeit products.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) for his partnership on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 4930, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, our intellectual property rights have secured over two centuries' worth of leadership and innovation. They form the foundation upon which opportunity for entrepreneurship is built and which makes the U.S. economy the envy of the world.

This legislation addresses the current weakness in our IP protections by ensuring those at CBP on the front lines of defending our national interests are better aligned with the businesses and workers that define our economic might.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of our colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4930, 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.

BARCODE AUTOMATION FOR REVENUE COLLECTION TO ORGANIZE DISBURSEMENT AND ENHANCE EFFICIENCY ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6956) to require electronically prepared tax returns to include scannable code when submitted on paper, and to require the use of optical character recognition technology for paper documents received by the Internal Revenue Service, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6956

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 "Barcode Automation for Revenue Collection to Organize Disbursement and Enhance Efficiency Act" or the "BARCODE Efficiency Act".

SEC. 2. SCANNING AND DIGITIZATION OF TAX RETURNS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

(a) RETURNS PREPARED ELECTRONICALLY AND SUBMITTED ON PAPER.—With respect to any Federal tax return which is prepared electronically, but is printed and filed on paper—

(1) such return shall be formatted in a manner that is compatible with the scanning technology referred to in paragraph (2), and

(2) subject to subsection (b)(1)(B), the Internal Revenue Service shall use scanning technology to convert the data included in such return to electronic format.

(b) OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION SOFTWARE.—With respect to—

(1) any Federal tax return which—

(A) is not prepared electronically and is printed and filed on paper, or

(B) is described in subsection (a)(1) but, for any reason, the data included in such return cannot be accurately converted into electronic format, or

(2) any correspondence which is received by the Internal Revenue Service in a paper form (with the exception of any such correspondence which has been received by the Internal Revenue Service in electronic format), the Internal Revenue Service shall use optical character recognition technology (or any functionally similar technology) to transcribe such return or correspondence.

(c) EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) or (b) shall not apply to the extent that the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate determines that the technology described in such subsection is slower or less reliable than—

(A) the process of manually transcribing returns or correspondence received in a paper form, or

(B) any other process that the Internal Revenue Service is using or would otherwise use.

(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Any exception to the application of subsection (a) or (b) pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not take effect unless the Secretary provides a report to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate regarding the determination made under such paragraph within 30 days of such determination.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply to—

(1) any individual income tax return (as defined in section 6011(e)(3)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) received on or after January 1 of the first calendar year beginning more than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act,

(2) any estate tax return (as described in section 6018 of such Code) or gift tax return (as described in section 6019 of such Code) received on or after January 1 of the first calendar year beginning more than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and

(3) any other return or correspondence received on or after January 1 of the first calendar year beginning more than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

□ 1510

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6956, the Barcode Automation for Revenue Collection to Organize Disbursement and Enhance Efficiency Act, also known as the BARCODE Efficiency Act, which is a bipartisan piece of legislation introduced by Representatives RUDY YAKYM and BRAD SCHNEIDER.

Many government agencies have had to be dragged kicking and screaming into the 21st century. The IRS is no exception. However, in the case of the BARCODE Efficiency Act, all we are really asking the IRS to do is to adopt technology that has been around for decades.

By requiring the IRS to deploy scanning technology for certain returns and correspondence, this bill will streamline the tax filing process for millions of Americans and go a long way to improving accuracy over the previous method of manually entering data from paper tax returns.

This most recent tax filing season, where Americans saw a historic 11 percent increase in refunds, with the average refund of over \$3,200, has just concluded. Had this legislation been in law already, Americans would have gotten back what they were owed even faster.

As a key leader on the Ways and Means Committee's oversight efforts, Representative YAKYM has been a strong advocate for improving customer service at the IRS and battling to save taxpayers time and money.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6956, the BARCODE Efficiency Act, which I am proud to introduce with my friend and colleague, Representative YAKYM from Indiana.

This bill would help expedite the digital transition at IRS, requiring the IRS to implement scanning technology to speed up paper return processing. In tax year 2023, the IRS reports that around 7 percent of tax returns were filed on paper. Now, 7 percent may sound like a small number, Mr. Speaker, until you realize it represents approximately 10 million paper returns to be opened and processed. That is more than the entire population of New York City, our most populous city. In fact, that is more than the population of all but 10 U.S. States.

This bill will help expedite the process of these 10 million returns by directing the IRS to adopt barcode scanning and optical character recognition, or OCR, technology.

For those wondering why this bill is necessary, you only need to learn about the current intake process for paper returns in the IRS. Millions of Americans still use paper returns, including both returns prepared electronically but printed and filed on paper and any handwritten returns and paper correspondence.

Currently, when a paper return arrives at the IRS, an employee manually transcribes the data into IRS systems line by line by line by line. This process is not only time-consuming, it is costly and often inaccurate. Data entry errors from manual transcription are common and cost the American taxpayers money.

Return processing delays translates directly into refund delays, needlessly

causing financial hardship for taxpayers with limited savings or fixed incomes.

Data transcription errors can lead to prolonged disputes, and the issues compound from there. A data entry error can cause math error notices requiring taxpayers to respond to the IRS if they disagree with the adjustments made. Errors also cause taxpayers to wait even longer for resolution, requiring more documentation from the taxpayer, more calls, and more correspondence to the IRS as delays continue to build. These extra steps all add to the backlog at the IRS costing all taxpayers more money and eroding trust in the overall tax system.

The good news is that we have a solution. The BARCODE Efficiency Act will require the IRS to implement scanning technology and dramatically reduce the number of paper tax returns that require manual data entry, thereby accelerating processing and improving taxpayer service.

IRS' problems with digitization and processing paper returns have long been an area of focus for the National Taxpayer Advocate, which listed the IRS' challenges in processing and digitization as the first and second most serious problems at the IRS in last year's annual report to Congress.

I, again, extend my appreciation to my friend, Representative YAKYM, for his partnership working to address this problem with commonsense solutions. I thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member NEAL for their support of this bipartisan legislation.

I also extend my thanks to the Taxpayer Advocate Service for their recommendation that led to the creation of this bill and for their critical, ongoing work to reduce taxpayer burden and improve the IRS' performance.

I am proud that this bill has the support of both the National Taxpayers Union and the American Coalition for Taxpayer Rights, the national trade association made up of retail tax preparation and tax software companies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill to help the IRS operate more efficiently and better serve the American taxpayer, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YAKYM), who is the co-lead of this legislation and who is a critical member of the Ways and Means Committee fighting for oversight and keeping his eye on the IRS.

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6956, the BARCODE Efficiency Act. I am proud to co-lead this act with my friend from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER).

This is a simple but powerful bill that will make tax return processing faster, more accurate, and more efficient. E-filing taxes is becoming even more common. In 2009, two-thirds of taxpayers e-filed their returns. By 2015, it was up to 85 percent. Last year, 94

percent of taxpayers e-filed their returns. That remaining 6 percent still accounts for 10 million tax returns.

There are good reasons to file a paper return. I actually found myself in such a position last year. After I electronically filed my taxes, as most taxpayers do, the IRS continued to kick back my return, trying to convince me that I owed the IRS less money than I actually did.

We reran the numbers time and time again, but we still came up with the same results. We had a few choices at this point. We could either file the return, as the IRS suggested, and risk later on owing a lot of money in penalties and interest and things like that, or we could call them up and get into an argument with somebody at the IRS, or we could just simply print it off and file the return. That is exactly what we chose to do.

The problem is once we file that return, and my return this last year was 202 pages, there is someone at the IRS who actually manually enters in every single digit on all 202 pages. Just imagine the problems that could create, Mr. Speaker. If someone transposes a number, then all of a sudden, you have an inaccurate return and the IRS can later come after you for an audit. Or, Mr. Speaker, you may have substantial delays in receiving your refund because of the amount of time it takes to manually key in all that data. It is just simply a waste of time and a waste of resources.

There are better ways of handling that, and, frankly, I think it is time for the IRS to come into the 21st century. That is why my colleague, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and I have introduced the bipartisan BARCODE Efficiency Act. This would require that the IRS increase its usage of scanning technology, particularly for paper or handwritten returns. No more manual entry would be needed or required. This will certainly complement efforts already underway by the Trump administration to phase out the use of paper and to adopt scanning technology. Scanning technology has been recommended by the taxpayer advocate as well as the GAO, and it has been used by State tax agencies for years.

Paper returns will still be necessary at times, but we can do better, Mr. Speaker, because there is proven commercially available technology that can end the hand entry of tax returns. It will increase the speed, the efficiency, and the accuracy of processing. It will get refunds out the door quicker so Hoosiers, whom I serve, can get their money back faster.

Again, quite simply, it is time for the IRS to come into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague across the aisle Mr. SCHNEIDER for his great work in getting this bill introduced. I would also like to thank Chairman SMITH and Chairman SCHWEIKERT for their partnership as well as Senators YOUNG and WARNOCK.

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

□ 1520

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

I am proud that we are here today to advance this seemingly modest, bipartisan bill that will have an outsized impact to improve service at the IRS.

I have long championed investing in modernization at the IRS to improve taxpayer service and make government more efficient. The archaic, manual transcription process that IRS currently uses to process paper returns results in significant delays that can last months or even years and cause severe hardship.

It is long past time that the IRS implement scanning technology to improve the speed and accuracy of processing these returns. Implementing a modernization process is a commonsense change with bipartisan support that will reduce refund delays, all the while lowering administrative costs.

No matter how Americans file their taxes—digitally or by paper—they should be able to rely on timely resolution and quality service from our IRS.

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

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

Many Americans have had to endure frustration and anxiety at the hands of the IRS bureaucracy when it comes to filing or waiting on their tax returns to be processed. Anything we can do to make this process more efficient and user-friendly for the American taxpayer is well worth our time.

If we are reforming our tax code to provide more relief to working families, we should be modernizing our tax agency to get that relief to them as soon as possible.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6956, 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.

TAXPAYER EXPERIENCE IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7971) to provide for modernization and technological improvements of services provided by the Internal Revenue Service, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7971

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; ETC.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Taxpayer Experience Improvement Act”.

(b) **REFERENCES TO SECRETARY.**—For purposes of this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; etc.
- Sec. 2. Establishment of dashboard to inform taxpayers of backlogs and wait times.
- Sec. 3. Expansion of electronic access to information about returns and refunds.
- Sec. 4. Expansion of callback technology.
- Sec. 5. Expansion of online accounts.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF DASHBOARD TO INFORM TAXPAYERS OF BACKLOGS AND WAIT TIMES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall require the Internal Revenue Service to provide in real time on its public website, to the extent practical, the following:

(1) Separately with respect to each applicable phone number extension—

(A) the number of callers connected to speak directly with a representative of the Internal Revenue Service,

(B) the number of callers connected to speak with an automated system,

(C) the number of callers who are waiting to be connected to speak directly with a representative of the Internal Revenue Service or an automated system,

(D) the longest amount of time that any caller has been waiting to be connected to speak directly with a representative of the Internal Revenue Service, and

(E) whether callback service is currently available, and if not, when such service is scheduled to be available.

(2) An application or tool embedded on the website which—

(A) displays all of the information described in paragraph (1), and

(B) estimates the approximate wait time to speak directly with a representative of the Internal Revenue Service.

(3) An application programming interface which allows any person to access the information described in paragraph (1) using automation and to create an application or tool embedded on a website to display such information.

(4) For each applicable phone number extension, a summary of the information described in paragraph (1) with respect to the prior month, including—

(A) the average and median length of calls,

(B) the average and median amount of time that callers were speaking directly with a representative of the Internal Revenue Service,

(C) the number and percent of calls that were directed to an automated system,

(D) the number and percent of calls that were disconnected or terminated by the Internal Revenue Service,

(E) the number of callers who were transferred to another applicable phone number extension after the call was initially answered by a representative of the Internal Revenue Service,

(F) the average and median amount of time that callers described in subparagraph (E) were on hold following the transfer, and

(G) the number and percent of callers who indicated that they received the answers or service for which they were contacting the Internal Revenue Service.

(b) **DETECTION OF AUTOMATED CALLS.**—The Secretary shall require the Internal Revenue Service to use technology to detect and screen out automated calls.

(c) **INFORMATION REGARDING DELAYS.**—For any week in which there was a significant delay with respect to any applicable item (referred to in this subsection as an “applicable week”), the Secretary shall require the Internal Revenue Service to provide on its public website, during the week subsequent to the applicable week, information with respect to each such applicable item regarding the earliest date on which any such applicable items that were processed during the applicable week were received by the Internal Revenue Service.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section—

(1) **APPLICABLE ITEM.**—The term “applicable item” means each category of tax return, claim, statement, or other document filed with the Internal Revenue Service.

(2) **APPLICABLE PHONE NUMBER EXTENSION.**—The term “applicable phone number extension” means any extension or application which may be reached by calling a phone number which is listed by the Internal Revenue Service on any website, publication, form, or instruction which is available to the public and—

(A) operated by the Internal Revenue Service accounts management function,

(B) operated by the Internal Revenue Service automated collection function,

(C) managed by the Internal Revenue Service Joint Operations Center,

(D) managed and staffed by a contractor on behalf of the Internal Revenue Service, or

(E) received not less than 200,000 calls during the preceding calendar year.

(3) **SIGNIFICANT DELAY.**—The term “significant delay” means, in the case of any applicable item for any week, the failure to process all of such applicable items which were received by the Internal Revenue Service at least 21 days before the first day of the week.

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The requirements of this section shall apply to periods beginning after the date which is 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT RETURNS AND REFUNDS.

Not later than January 1 of the first calendar year beginning more than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, through a website and mobile application, the Secretary shall provide individualized, specific, and up-to-date information to taxpayers regarding their tax returns and amended returns, including information with respect to whether the Internal Revenue Service has—

(1) received such return and entered such return into their systems,

(2) completed processing such return, including—

(A) the date on which the Internal Revenue Service issued any refund of any overpayment of tax,

(B) the estimated date on which the taxpayer can expect to receive such refund, and

(C)(i) if the refund will be issued by electronic fund transfer, the financial account to which such refund will be deposited, including—

(I) the partial or full account number for such account, and

(II) the name and routing number of the financial institution, or

(ii) if the refund will be issued by paper check, the address to which the check will be mailed, or

(3) suspended processing such return, including—

(A) the reason for the suspension, and

(B) in the case of any information which was requested by the Internal Revenue Service—

(i) the information requested,

(ii) the form and manner for submission of such information, and

(iii) the date on which such information is due to be submitted to the Internal Revenue Service.

SEC. 4. EXPANSION OF CALLBACK TECHNOLOGY.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) taxpayers contacting the Internal Revenue Service should have the option to receive a callback, and

(2) not later than calendar year 2028, the Internal Revenue Service should provide any taxpayer (including any taxpayer residing outside of the United States) the option to receive a callback for any call made by the taxpayer to an applicable phone number extension (as defined in section 2(d)(2) of this Act) which has not been answered within 5 minutes.

SEC. 5. EXPANSION OF ONLINE ACCOUNTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than January 1 of the first calendar year beginning more than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall make available a website or mobile application which allows any taxpayer (including any taxpayer residing outside of the United States) the ability to—

(1) in a manner consistent with any applicable limitations under section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, view any return (as defined in section 6103(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), document, notice, or letter (with the exception of any educational item which has no legal effect) which, during the applicable period (as defined in subsection (d)), has been—

(A) sent by the Internal Revenue Service to such taxpayer, or

(B) filed with (or, in the case of any document not required to be filed, sent to) the Internal Revenue Service—

(i) by such taxpayer,

(ii) by a person described in subsection (c) of section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to such taxpayer, or

(iii) with respect to such taxpayer in a manner described in subsection (e) of such section,

(2) with respect to any document, notice, or letter sent to such taxpayer by the Internal Revenue Service, respond to such document, notice, or letter by uploading or otherwise transmitting the taxpayer’s response through the website or mobile application, and

(3) in the case of—

(A) any representative of such taxpayer who is authorized to practice before the Department of the Treasury pursuant to section 330 of title 31, United States Code,

(B) any tax return preparer (as defined in section 7701(a)(36) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) with an identifying number (as described in section 6109(a)(4) of such Code), or

(C) any qualified reporting agent,

permit such representative, preparer, or agent, to the extent authorized by the taxpayer, to access the information described in paragraph (1) or transmit any information described in paragraph (2).

(b) **AVAILABILITY FOR VIEWING.**—With respect to any return, document, notice, or letter described in paragraph (1) of subsection (a), such return, document, notice, or letter shall be made available for viewing by the taxpayer (or, pursuant to paragraph (3) of such subsection, any representative, tax return preparer, or qualified reporting agent authorized by the taxpayer) as soon as is practicable and within such periods as are established pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

(c) **ACCESS TO MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS BY REPRESENTATIVE, PREPARER, OR AGENT.**—For purposes of subsection (a)(3), the website or mobile application shall allow a representative, tax return preparer, or qualified reporting agent to be able to access information for multiple taxpayers who have provided permission under such subsection without any requirement to individually and separately access the account of each such taxpayer.

(d) **APPLICABLE PERIOD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), for purposes of subsection (a)(1), the term “applicable period” means the preceding 6-year period.

(2) **PROSPECTIVE APPLICATION.**—The term “applicable period” shall not include any years ending before the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) QUALIFIED REPORTING AGENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term “qualified reporting agent” means a person—

(A) which is properly authorized as an agent to sign and file employment tax returns, make related payments and deposits, and perform such other acts on behalf of a taxpayer under procedures set forth by the Secretary,

(B) which has met such requirements as may be established by the Secretary, and

(C) for which authorization has not been revoked or suspended by the Secretary pursuant to procedures established by the Secretary.

(2) EMPLOYMENT TAX RETURN.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(A), the term “employment tax return” means—

(A) any return required to be filed by an employer to report the obligations of the employer and its employees under section 3101, 3111, 3301, or 3402 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and

(B) such other returns as designated by the Secretary.

(f) PREVENTING UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION BY PERSONS DESIGNATED BY TAXPAYERS.—Not later than January 1 of the first calendar year beginning more than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) establish a program to investigate and address—

(A) any access, use, or disclosure of return information (as defined in section 6103(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) by any person which is in excess of the authorization permitted to such person pursuant to subsection (a)(3), and

(B) any related misconduct, and

(2) annually publish, on the public website of the Internal Revenue Service, the actions undertaken pursuant to the program described in paragraph (1), such as the number of complaints investigated, the number of persons whose access was revoked, and other relevant statistical data.

(g) FOCUS GROUPS.—For purposes of subsection (a), prior to the date that the website or mobile application described in such subsection is made available, the Secretary shall conduct focus groups with taxpayers and tax professionals to ensure that any amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for such purposes are expended in an appropriate manner.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7971, the Taxpayer Experience Improvement Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee chair, Representative SCHWEIKERT, and Representative DON BEYER.

In 2023, the Government Accountability Office found that roughly one-

third of IRS information technology applications and over 20 percent of agency IT software were anywhere from 25 to 64 years old. That means some of the systems in place at the IRS today were in operation before the Apollo 11 crew landed on the Moon.

This bill responds to that reality by imposing much-needed transparency on the IRS and requiring the agency to be more accessible for taxpayers, including folks who are seeking information about the status of their tax refunds or data on how the agency is performing when it comes to responding to taxpayers.

Our Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee Chairman SCHWEIKERT has been a leading voice in Congress on deploying new technology to bring government into the modern era, and I appreciate his leadership on this issue.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, firstly, I thank my friend and colleague from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for his leadership on the Taxpayer Experience Improvement Act, and I am proud to support him on this.

The IRS has made great strides since the pandemic to improve customer service for taxpayers, contributing to a successful filing season last year. The agency was able to process more than 165 million income tax returns and deliver refunds to 104 million taxpayers, the overwhelming majority on time and with no issues.

This is in large part thanks to the funds provided to the IRS through the Inflation Reduction Act, which reversed decades of underinvestment in the agency.

However, even during what was a relatively smooth filing season, millions of taxpayers experienced delays receiving their refunds or difficulties communicating with the IRS due to issues on the agency's side.

It is hard to overstate how disruptive delayed refunds and unresolved notices can be for taxpayers. Families structure their annual budgets around the timely arrival of the refund checks, and a lengthy delay can throw their budget into chaos, particularly if the taxpayers aren't able to find out when they can expect to receive a check.

Similarly, a notice from the IRS to the taxpayer can cause enormous confusion or anxiety, especially when an individual is unable to get in touch with the agency quickly enough to answer their questions and address unresolved issues.

While this bill wouldn't reverse the recent ill-advised staffing and funding cuts pushed by this administration that are undermining the progress we made with the IRA, it will go a long way toward alleviating the harm to taxpayers.

The provisions in this bill aim to reduce the long-term demands on the agency by increasing the level of infor-

mation available to taxpayers online and facilitating plans to digitize tax returns and correspondence.

It would also require the IRS to provide personalized electronic updates to taxpayers regarding the status of their returns and refunds, which should reduce the agency's incoming call volume.

Additionally, it would push the agency to implement customer callback technology and add a real-time service dashboard to its website to display call volumes, wait times, and promote the availability of its callback services. All these add up to an improved taxpayer experience and a more efficient IRS.

I greatly appreciate Mr. SCHWEIKERT's efforts with this bill to improve the IRS, and I hope that we can build on our success here and give the agency the resources it needs to provide the stellar customer service the American people deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this measure. I urge a “yes” vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), the sponsor of this legislation, who as our Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee chairman is a tireless advocate for embracing new technology to improve services at the IRS.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask the chairman whether it is tireless or annoying. It is one or the other.

Look, I have an absolute fixation, and I have got to thank my Democratic colleague and a number of the team here for tolerating my fixation on the fact that one of the ways you work within the IRS budget to make things more efficient is the adoption of technology.

Imagine a world—because it is the one we live in—where some of the number one calls we get to my district office are IRS questions: Where is my refund? Do I owe money? I can't get someone to pick up the phone. How do I get information?

This piece of legislation is a great start. It will provide wonderful visibility. The concept that on this thing we all walk around with, this super-computer we have in our pocket, I can go on and actually see the dashboard. I can see: Hey, I owe money. I have money coming back. Here is where it is in process. Here are my different years. The ability to actually have a system that calls you back.

In many ways, these are technologies the private sector has had for a decade. In many ways, these are actually technologies that we have been talking about in the Ways and Means Committee for almost a decade, but now we finally have a fairly simple piece of legislation here that means that taxpayers in the next couple of years will be able to log on an absolutely private login system, so we protect their identity, protect their privacy, but they will be able to see the information. By

the ability to see that dashboard, that dashboard means they don't have to be picking up the phone and calling the IRS. They don't have to be sitting there on hold for hours. They don't have to be—I would argue, if you want taxpayer participation in a voluntary tax system as we are, make it easy to understand where you are at, what you owe, and what is owed to you.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank the Ways and Means staff. I would like to go further, but this is a terrific start.

□ 1530

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

The American people deserve a first-rate customer experience when they interact with the IRS. This legislation will help the agency reach that goal.

The IRS has been under tremendous pressure to do more with less in recent years, and based on the success of last year's filing season, it has proven it can rise to the challenge.

This bill will focus the agency's efforts on providing timely information to taxpayers, speed the digitization of forms and correspondence, and implement other resource- and time-saving measures. These provisions will take some of the load off of the IRS, its limited resources, and overworked staff, all while improving the experience for the taxpayers.

I greatly appreciate the bipartisan support for this bill and the leadership of tireless and annoying Congressman SCHWEIKERT. I hope that the success of this initiative will lead to more bipartisanship on tax administration going forward, and I look forward to working with my colleagues across the aisle to further improve the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing, though sadly not surprising, that we have to legislate to modernize an agency like the IRS so that its operations are more user-friendly to the American taxpayer, but that is the reality that we are facing.

The Taxpayer Experience Improvement Act pushes the IRS to be an agency more worthy of the taxpayers it serves and more responsive to their needs, whether it is tracking a tax refund, receiving a call back from the agency, or making a payment.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7971, 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.

IRS WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7959) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements with respect to the treatment of whistleblowers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7959

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; ETC.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “IRS Whistleblower Program Improvement Act”.

(b) *AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.*—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment is expressed in terms of an amendment to a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) *REFERENCES TO SECRETARY.*—For purposes of this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; etc.

Sec. 2. Standard and scope of review of whistleblower award determinations.

Sec. 3. Whistleblower privacy protections.

Sec. 4. Modification of IRS whistleblower report.

Sec. 5. Interest on whistleblower awards.

Sec. 6. Correction regarding deductions for attorney's fees.

SEC. 2. STANDARD AND SCOPE OF REVIEW OF WHISTLEBLOWER AWARD DETERMINATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Paragraph (4) of section 7623(b) is amended—

(1) by striking “appealed to” and inserting “reviewed by”, and

(2) by adding at the end the following: “Any review by the Tax Court under the preceding sentence shall be de novo and shall be based on the administrative record established at the time of the original determination and any additional newly discovered or previously unavailable evidence.”.

(b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—The heading of paragraph (4) of section 7623(b) is amended by striking “APPEAL” and inserting “REVIEW”.

(c) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by this section shall apply to petitions under section 7623(b)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which are pending on, or filed on or after, the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. WHISTLEBLOWER PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Paragraph (6) of section 7623(b) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) *WHISTLEBLOWER ANONYMITY BEFORE THE TAX COURT.*—Notwithstanding sections 7458 and 7461, a whistleblower may elect to proceed anonymously before the Tax Court for all proceedings under this section absent a finding by the Tax Court that a societal interest exists for disclosing the whistleblower's identity which exceeds the potential harm disclosure could cause to the whistleblower.”.

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by this section shall apply to petitions under section 7623(b)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which are pending on, or filed on or after, the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF IRS WHISTLEBLOWER REPORT.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 406(c) of division A of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 is

amended by striking “such use,” in paragraph (1) and inserting “such use (which shall include a list and descriptions of the top tax avoidance schemes, not to exceed 10, disclosed by whistleblowers during such year)”.

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by this section shall apply to reports for fiscal years ending after the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. INTEREST ON WHISTLEBLOWER AWARDS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 7623(b) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) *INTEREST.*—

“(A) *IN GENERAL.*—If the Secretary has not provided notice to an individual described in paragraph (1) of a preliminary award recommendation before the applicable date, the amount of any award under this subsection shall include interest from such date at the overpayment rate under section 6621(a).

“(B) *EXCEPTION.*—No interest shall accrue under this paragraph after the date on which the Secretary provides notice to the individual of a preliminary award recommendation.

“(C) *APPLICABLE DATE.*—For purposes of this paragraph, the applicable date is the date that is 12 months after the first date on which—

“(i) all of the proceeds resulting from actions subject to the award recommendation have been collected, and

“(ii) either—

“(I) the statutory period for filing a claim or suit for refund has expired, or

“(II) the taxpayers subject to the actions and the Secretary have agreed with finality to the tax or other liabilities for the periods at issue, and either the taxpayers have waived the right to file a claim or suit for refund or any claim or suit for refund has been resolved.”.

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) *SPECIAL RULE.*—If, as of the date described in paragraph (1)—

(A) the Secretary has not provided notice to the individual of a preliminary award recommendation as described in paragraph (7)(A) of section 7623(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by this Act, and

(B) the applicable date provided in paragraph (7)(C) of such section, as so added, has passed, the applicable date for purposes of such paragraph (7)(C) is the date that is 12 months after the date described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 6. CORRECTION REGARDING DEDUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 62(a)(21)(A)(i) is amended by striking “7623(b)” and inserting “7623”.

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years ending after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7959, the IRS Whistleblower Program Improvement Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by the Ways and Means Tax Subcommittee chairman, Mr. MIKE KELLY, and the subcommittee's ranking member, Mr. MIKE THOMPSON.

The IRS relies in part upon whistleblowers who have the courage to report bad actors who are committing tax fraud, tax evasion, and other similar crimes they witness occurring in the private sector.

The IRS Whistleblower Program is one of the many government efforts that is crucial to combat the epidemic of fraud and stop bad actors from stealing hard-earned dollars from American taxpayers. Since 2007, this program has led to the collection of over \$7 billion in unpaid taxes.

At a time when it appears we need a comprehensive approach to combating fraud across various government programs, Ways and Means Tax Subcommittee Chairman KELLY is building on his longstanding commitment to reform and improve the IRS Whistleblower Program to better protect whistleblowers and appropriately reward them for their contributions to combating fraud.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan legislation and thank my colleague MIKE KELLY for working with me on this effort. Our bill is a good one.

Mr. Speaker, let's be honest about where we are right now. We ask Americans to comply with one of the most complex tax systems in the world. We expect them to report accurately, pay what they owe, and follow the rules to the letter. The vast majority of Americans do exactly that, but we also know that there are individuals and entities who exploit that complexity to cheat the system. They hide income, manipulate structures, and take advantage of gaps that ordinary taxpayers would never even know exist. Too often, they get away with it.

At the same time, the enforcement side of the equation is under real strain. Between staffing losses and reduced enforcement capacity, the reality is that the system is not catching everything that it should.

Whether we say it out loud or not, we are increasingly relying on whistleblowers to help fill that gap. These are the people on the inside. They are the people who see the fraud firsthand and are willing to step forward and take a risk to do the right thing. If that is the system we are operating under, then it has to be a system that actually works, and right now, it doesn't.

Whistleblowers face uncertainty. They face long delays and, in some cases, face real personal and professional risks just for coming forward. That is not how you encourage people

to expose wrongdoing. That is how you discourage it.

This bill makes targeted improvements to fix those problems. First, it protects whistleblower privacy. If someone is exposing tax fraud, they should not have to fear retaliation or public exposure just to be heard.

Second, it strengthens fairness in the process. It ensures that whistleblowers receive meaningful, independent review of their claims, not just a rubberstamp of prior decisions.

Third, it addresses delays head-on. When the government takes too long to act, whistleblowers should not be the ones paying the price. Providing interest on delayed awards is not a bonus. It is basic fairness.

This is about making sure the rules we already have are actually enforced because when tax cheats get away with it, everyone else pays more or gets less. When whistleblowers are ignored, discouraged, or exposed, fewer people will come forward the next time. That is how you undermine confidence in the entire system.

If we want a tax system that is fair, enforcement has to be credible. If enforcement depends, in part, on whistleblowers, then we need to treat them like they matter. This bill does exactly that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. KELLY for his good work and urge a "yes" vote.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), the sponsor of this legislation and our Ways and Means Tax Subcommittee chairman, who has fought for some time to make these reforms to improve efforts to combat fraud.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the IRS Whistleblower Program Improvement Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and counterpart on tax policy, Mr. THOMPSON. We worked very closely on this. We have a genuine concern that we get this right, so the American people understand that we are not overlooking what is taking place.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank our committee chairman for his recognition of the important role whistleblowers play at the IRS and his support for getting the bill before the House today.

Our tax system depends on voluntary compliance, and that only works when Americans trust that the system is fair and enforced evenly. When bad actors cheat and get away with it, that trust erodes for everyone else who plays by the rules.

The IRS Whistleblower Program Improvement Act builds on a proven program that delivers results for our taxpayers. Since 2007, the program has recovered more than \$7.37 billion in unpaid taxes, narrowing the tax gap and holding bad actors accountable.

□ 1540

This is real money returned to the Treasury that would otherwise have

been lost. In many cases, these are complex, high-dollar schemes that would not have been identified without insider information, proving that whistleblowers play an essential role in upholding the integrity of our tax code.

When individuals come forward to expose wrongdoing by tax cheats and fraudsters, they help to ensure our volunteer tax system remains fair for all Americans.

The IRS cannot fully close the tax gap through traditional audits alone. The IRS Whistleblower Program leverages insider knowledge to identify noncompliance that would otherwise have gone undetected.

Whistleblowers help the IRS to target enforcement resources toward high-value cases, improving efficiency and accountability across the system. This program directs those resources toward the highest-value, highest-probability cases, maximizing the impact and improving efficiency. It allows the IRS to focus on those who are actively evading taxes, rather than casting a wide net over the vast majority of Americans who are trying to comply with the law.

Strengthening this program is a commonsense way to increase the return on an investment and recovering more unpaid taxes without expanding broad-based enforcement. Just as important, the program serves as a powerful deterrent, discouraging sophisticated tax evasion before it happens by increasing the likelihood that it would be exposed.

Mr. Speaker, this bill reinforces the program's foundation with targeted, practical updates by ensuring that the U.S. Tax Court can consider all relevant evidence by providing a more favorable standard of review in whistleblower appeals, establishing a presumption of anonymity for whistleblowers to help protect individuals from retaliation, encouraging timely administration from the IRS by requiring the payment of interest on delayed awards, strengthening transparency and oversight by improving reporting to Congress and allowing administrative review of award determinations, and aligning the tax treatment of attorneys' fees for whistleblowers with other whistleblower programs.

These reforms keep the program focused, predictable, and effective, addressing longstanding delays and improving program credibility.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Ways and Means Committee staff on both sides of the aisle for working so hard on this because they did a great job, not just for Mr. THOMPSON and myself but for all of the taxpayers. The American taxpayers deserve this oversight, and I am glad we are working on it. Mr. THOMPSON did a great job.

This bill passed out of the Ways and Means Committee last month with unanimous support, reflecting broad agreement on the need to strengthen this program. Ensuring a fair shake for all taxpayers is what it comes down to.

I thank the National Whistleblower Center, Empower Oversight, Taxpayers

Against Fraud, the National Taxpayers Union, and other organizations who have spoken out in support of this bill. A strong whistleblower program is essential to a credible tax system, one that rewards honesty, deters misconduct, and holds bad actors accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH, Mr. KELLY, and Ranking Member NEAL for the good work that was done. I concur with Mr. KELLY that staff on both sides have done, as always, a fantastic job.

Mr. Speaker, this bill comes down to fairness and enforcement. When people cheat the tax system and get away with it, honest taxpayers are the ones who pay the price. If we expect whistleblowers to help close the gap, we need to protect them, treat them fairly, and ensure that the system works.

This is a practical, bipartisan step to strengthening enforcement and restoring confidence in the system.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, whistleblowers play a critical role in government oversight, whether it be uncovering bad actors within government or, in the case of the IRS Whistleblower Program, alerting the IRS to those in the private sector who are defrauding American taxpayers.

This Congress, the Ways and Means Committee and this administration have made combating fraud a key priority, and I welcome this opportunity to strengthen and impose a key tool in that effort.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7959, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. 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.

TAXPAYER NOTIFICATION AND PRIVACY ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6495) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for specific taxpayer notice when informa-

tion is sought from third parties, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6495

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 "Taxpayer Notification and Privacy Act".

SEC. 2. SPECIFICITY OF THIRD-PARTY CONTACT NOTICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 7602(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (A),

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C),

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

"(B) in any case in which the information sought to be obtained from such other persons is related to determining tax liability, has not been previously requested from the taxpayer, and could reasonably be provided by the taxpayer, identifies each specific item of information intended to be sought from such persons, and", and

(4) by amending subparagraph (C), as redesignated by paragraph (2), to read as follows:

"(C) except as otherwise provided by the Secretary, provides the taxpayer with reasonable opportunity and a period of not less than 45 days (or more, if the taxpayer requests additional time and shows reasonable cause) to respond before contact is made with such other persons."

(b) EXCEPTION.—Section 7602(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively, and by moving such clauses 2 ems to the right,

(2) by striking "EXCEPTIONS.—This subsection" and inserting "EXCEPTIONS.—"

"(A) IN GENERAL.—This subsection", and

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

"(B) EXCEPTION FOR INFORMATION SPECIFICITY.—Subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) shall not apply to information sought from a person other than the taxpayer if the Secretary determines that such information is necessary."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to notices provided under section 7602(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 after the date that is 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6495, the Taxpayer Notification and Privacy Act, bipartisan legislation in-

troduced by Representatives GREG STEUBE and JIMMY PANETTA.

When the IRS seeks information about a taxpayer, the agency should not be able to go behind their back without their knowledge. Yet, right now, the IRS can do just that.

Currently, the IRS is not required to notify a taxpayer who is under review or investigation about what information the agency is seeking; who it may have contacted; or, for that matter, give the taxpayer the opportunity to provide the information themselves. This puts the individual taxpayer in a situation where their privacy, their livelihood, or their reputation could all be unduly harmed.

That is unacceptable. Thanks to Representative STEUBE—a tireless advocate for the American taxpayer—who has been focused on holding a powerful agency like the IRS accountable, taxpayers will be better protected.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and Representative GREG STEUBE for their work together with me on the Taxpayer Notification and Privacy Act.

It is commonsense, bipartisan legislation, passed unanimously out of the Ways and Means Committee, that would ensure that the IRS respects the privacy and the dignity of every taxpayer when collecting needed information.

As you heard from the chairman, under current law, the IRS must notify taxpayers before reaching out to third parties, like banks, employers, or even neighbors, to gather information. Yet, these notices are often vague. They fail to specify exactly what they want. At times, they don't even give taxpayers any opportunity to defend themselves or for the taxpayers to provide the information themselves.

The National Taxpayer Advocate Service has warned that the current approach falls short. It leaves honest Americans blindsided, and it can put people's reputations at risk in close-knit communities, where a whisper about IRS investigations can chill businesses and damage livelihoods.

The Taxpayer Notification and Privacy Act changes that. It would implement a National Taxpayer Advocate's recommendation to mandate tailored notices in which the IRS clearly—clearly states what information it needs and from exactly whom.

□ 1550

It then grants the taxpayer a full 45 days to supply that information. This empowers families. This empowers businesses to resolve issues privately with the IRS, protecting their reputation and relationships with local banks and other vendors.

This bill also includes certain exceptions for circumstances where the information is determined to be necessary or when the information is

sought specifically to collect tax liability.

This strikes the balance we want in legislation creation between allowing taxpayers to resolve issues privately and ensuring that these notices cannot be used to avoid taxes.

Ultimately, taxpayers who have followed the law should not have to fear the IRS soliciting sensitive data behind their backs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6495, the Taxpayer Notification and Privacy Act.

At its core, this commonsense legislation is a simple due process idea: Before the IRS goes to your bank, your employer, your vendor, or another third party for information about you, when you can reasonably provide that information yourself, you should be told what they are looking for and given a fair chance to respond.

Under current law, taxpayers can receive a general third-party contact notice, but too often those notices aren't specific enough to let a person meaningfully respond. When the IRS reaches out to third parties, it can create real-world consequences: reputational harm, confusion, or stress for families and small businesses, especially when the taxpayer could have simply produced the records directly.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is about building a healthier relationship between taxpayers and their government. Our citizens deserve a Federal Government that respects privacy and due process while still ensuring the IRS can do its job.

This bill does not stop the IRS from obtaining information it truly needs. It simply ensures taxpayers receive meaningful notice and a fair opportunity to provide the information themselves when appropriate.

For law-abiding Americans, compliance is already complicated enough. The least we can do is ensure that when the IRS intends to go outside the taxpayer to gather information the taxpayer can provide, the taxpayer gets clarity—what exactly is being sought—and a fair chance to respond.

This is a bipartisan effort, and I am honored to work with Congressman PANETTA on this legislation because protecting taxpayers and improving procedural fairness should not be partisan. I also thank Senator BARRASSO of Wyoming for being the leader on this issue in the Senate, and I hope this bill can receive quick consideration in the Senate and sent to the President's desk.

I thank Chairman SMITH for his leadership in creating a more efficient, more transparent tax administration that works better for all taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Taxpayer Notification and Privacy Act.

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

Just briefly, again, I thank Representative STEUBE and Chairman SMITH for their leadership on this legislation, and I urge the House to pass this commonsense legislation.

The Taxpayer Notification and Privacy Act will ensure that taxpayers are treated with transparency, with dignity, and with fairness that we all deserve.

By giving Americans a clear chance to provide information to the IRS first, we can protect their privacy, their reputations, and their relationships. This will reduce unnecessary third-party probes, saving resources and protecting taxpayers. This strengthens trust between our constituents and the government while ensuring that taxes are properly collected.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I urge a “yes” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Among the supporters of this bill is the National Taxpayer Advocate, the independent organization tasked with helping taxpayers solve problems with the IRS. Their recommendations align with the changes this legislation would enact to strengthen taxpayer rights.

It is not only about protecting a right to privacy but also the principle of fairness that all Americans should be afforded under the law.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6495, 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.

DOUG LAMALFA FEDERAL DISASTER TAX RELIEF CERTAINTY ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5366) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to codify and extend the rules for personal casualty losses arising from major disasters and the rules for the exclusion from gross income of compensation for losses or damages resulting from certain wildfires, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5366

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 “Doug LaMalfa Federal Disaster Tax Relief Certainty Act”.

SEC. 2. CODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF RULES FOR CASUALTY LOSSES ARISING FROM MAJOR DISASTERS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 165(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) *SPECIAL RULE FOR QUALIFIED NET DISASTER LOSSES.*—

“(A) *IN GENERAL.*—If an individual has a qualified net disaster loss for any taxable year, the amount determined under paragraph (2)(A)(ii) shall be the sum of—

“(i) such qualified net disaster loss, and

“(ii) so much of the excess referred to in the matter preceding clause (i) of paragraph (2)(A) (reduced by the amount in clause (i) of this subparagraph) as exceeds 10 percent of the adjusted gross income of the individual.

“(B) *QUALIFIED NET DISASTER LOSS.*—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘qualified net disaster loss’ means the excess (if any) of—

“(i) qualified disaster-related personal casualty losses, over

“(ii) personal casualty gains reduced by the portion of such gains taken into account under paragraph (5)(B)(i).

“(C) *QUALIFIED DISASTER-RELATED PERSONAL CASUALTY LOSSES.*—For purposes of this paragraph—

“(i) *IN GENERAL.*—The term ‘qualified disaster-related personal casualty losses’ means losses described in subsection (c)(3) (determined after application of paragraph (1)) which arise in a qualified disaster area on or after the first day of the incident period of the qualified disaster to which such area relates, and which are attributable to such disaster.

“(ii) *QUALIFIED DISASTER AREA.*—The term ‘qualified disaster area’ means any area with respect to which a major disaster has been declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act if the incident period of the disaster with respect to which such declaration is made begins on or after December 28, 2019, and before January 1, 2027.

“(iii) *QUALIFIED DISASTER.*—The term ‘qualified disaster’ means, with respect to any qualified disaster area, the disaster by reason of which a major disaster was declared with respect to such area.

“(iv) *INCIDENT PERIOD.*—The term ‘incident period’ means, with respect to any qualified disaster, the period specified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as the period during which such disaster occurred.”.

(b) *DOLLAR LIMITATION.*—Section 165(h)(1) of such Code is amended by striking “\$500 (\$100 for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2009)” and inserting “\$100 (\$500 in the case of any qualified disaster-related personal casualty losses (as defined in paragraph (6)(C))”.

(c) *DEDUCTION ALLOWED TO INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT ELECT TO ITEMIZE DEDUCTIONS.*—Section 63(b) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (6) and inserting a comma,

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (7) and inserting “, and”, and

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

“(8) so much of the deduction allowed by section 165(a) as is attributable to the qualified net disaster loss (as defined in section 165(h)(6)(B)).”.

(d) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.

(2) *COORDINATION WITH SUPERCEDED PROVISIONS.*—Section 304(b) of the Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020 (division EE of Public Law 116–260) and section 70438 of Public Law 119–21 shall not apply to any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2024.

SEC. 3. CODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME OF COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES OR DAMAGES RESULTING FROM CERTAIN WILDFIRES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting before section 140 the following new section:

“SEC. 139M. COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES OR DAMAGES RESULTING FROM CERTAIN WILDFIRES.

“(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Gross income shall not include any amount received by an individual as a qualified wildfire relief payment.

“(b) *QUALIFIED WILDFIRE RELIEF PAYMENT.*—For purposes of this section—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The term ‘qualified wildfire relief payment’ means any amount received by or on behalf of an individual as compensation for losses, expenses, or damages (including compensation for additional living expenses, lost wages (other than compensation for lost wages paid by the employer which would have otherwise paid such wages), personal injury, death, or emotional distress) incurred as a result of a qualified wildfire disaster, but only to the extent the losses, expenses, or damages compensated by such payment are not compensated for by insurance or otherwise.

“(2) *QUALIFIED WILDFIRE DISASTER.*—The term ‘qualified wildfire disaster’ means any Federally declared disaster (as defined in section 165(i)(5)(A)) declared after December 31, 2014, and before January 1, 2027, as a result of any forest or range fire.

“(c) *DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title—

“(1) no deduction or credit shall be allowed (to the individual for whose benefit a qualified wildfire relief payment is made) for, or by reason of, any expenditure to the extent of the amount excluded under this section with respect to such expenditure, and

“(2) no increase in the basis or adjusted basis of any property shall result from any amount excluded under this section with respect to such property.”

(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of sections for part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by inserting before the item related to section 140 the following new item:

“Sec. 139M. Compensation for losses or damages resulting from certain wildfires.”

(c) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by this section shall apply to payments received in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 5366, the Doug LaMalfa Federal Disaster Tax Relief Certainty Act, bipartisan legis-

lation introduced by Representatives GREG STEUBE, MIKE THOMPSON, and JIMMY PANETTA and named after our late colleague, Mr. DOUG LAMALFA, who dedicated his life to public service and was a very strong advocate for helping so many of his constituents whose lives had been turned upside down by wildfires.

The chief sponsor of this legislation, Representative STEUBE, hails from the State of Florida, which is no stranger to the worst of natural disasters, including hurricanes that have devastated communities there and everywhere.

The bipartisan work that has been done in advancing this legislation speaks to the fact that no community in America is safe from a potential natural disaster. Every Member of this body has had to or will have to at some point respond to some level of devastation brought to the doorsteps of the folks who they represent because of a natural disaster.

This bill appropriately extends an existing provision within the law that allows taxpayers to deduct personal casualty losses stemming from a natural disaster while also excluding wildfire disaster relief payments from taxable income. These are the commonsense measures that ensure Americans recovering from a disaster have fewer tax burdens and more resources to navigate their recovery.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Doug LaMalfa Federal Disaster Tax Relief Certainty Act. I thank Mr. SMITH for his work on this bill, and I thank Mr. STEUBE for his partnership.

I represent communities in northern California that have been on the front lines of catastrophic wildfires for years. I sat with families who have watched their homes burn to the ground. I spoke with small business owners who lost not just their storefronts but their entire livelihoods. I met with farmers and growers who saw generations of work wiped out in a matter of hours.

After all of that, after the fire trucks leave, after the smoke clears, after the cameras are gone, those families are left to navigate through the aftermath.

They are dealing with insurance claims. They are trying to find temporary housing. They are figuring out how to rebuild their lives.

Then they run into the tax code.

In northern California, my constituents had to fight tooth and nail just to get basic, commonsense tax relief. Think about that.

Congressman LaMalfa and I had to fight to pass this relief, and we worked to mobilize victims to speak out and demand that that tax relief be forthcoming.

People who lost everything should not have to come to Washington, D.C.,

to fight for relief. We should not be asking disaster victims to lobby Congress in the middle of recovery. We should not be telling families that the help they receive to build their homes might come with a tax bill attached. We should not be forcing communities into uncertainty every single time disaster strikes.

This legislation ensures that when Americans receive disaster relief they are not penalized by paying tax on that relief.

□ 1600

This is not just about the past. It is about what is happening right now.

In Los Angeles, across southern California, in Hawaii, and in Colorado, families reeling from devastating fires are being forced to navigate the same uncertainty those in my district faced. They should not have to come back to Congress and ask for relief that we already know is necessary.

Disaster relief should not depend on your ability to navigate Congress. It should be automatic. It should be fair, and it should be there when you need it.

This bill is a step toward that goal. It reflects what we have learned from northern California. It reflects the realities facing communities in Los Angeles, Hawaii, and Colorado. This legislation is a great first step, and we should now work to make this relief permanent going forward.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE), the sponsor of this legislation, who has been a very strong advocate for recovering from natural disasters, including the citizens of his home State of Florida.

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5366, the Doug LaMalfa Federal Tax Relief Certainty Act.

When hurricanes, wildfires, floods, tornadoes, and other disasters strike, American families are left to rebuild their homes, their businesses, their communities, and their lives. When these moments arise, the last thing they need is the Federal Government making their recovery harder by taxing relief payments or denying fair treatment for disaster losses, nor should the government be creating uncertainty in the tax code.

This legislation provides certainty to disaster victims by extending and codifying commonsense tax relief for Americans impacted by federally declared disasters. It allows individuals to deduct qualified disaster-related casualty losses without having to itemize, removes burdensome limitations that can prevent families from receiving relief, and ensures certain wildfire relief payments are not treated as taxable income.

For families in Florida, this issue is not theoretical. We know all too well

what it means to rebuild after hurricanes, flooding, storm surge, and the aftermath of these disasters. Recovery does not happen overnight, and families should not be forced to navigate a confusing tax code, especially without certainty in what that code may be as they are still trying to repair their homes, replace their belongings, and get back on their feet.

No one understood this better than our former colleague Doug LaMalfa of California. For 13 years, Doug served in Congress as a tireless advocate for disaster victims and spent years fighting to ensure families impacted by wildfires specifically receive fair treatment under the tax code.

Last Congress, I was honored to fight along with Doug as I led a bipartisan coalition alongside our colleagues on the floor with us right now, JIMMY PANETTA, MIKE THOMPSON, and JILL TOKUDA, as well as former Representative Bill Johnson of Ohio.

Our historic efforts culminated with the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023 being signed into law on December 12, 2024, delivering billions in disaster tax relief to millions of Americans across 48 States.

The bill we are voting on today builds upon that legislation. Today is an opportunity to secure disaster relief certainty for the wildfire victims that Doug LaMalfa spent years fighting for. It is also an opportunity to secure relief for disaster survivors who have experienced a tragic event since July 4, 2025, and who may experience one in 2026.

With hurricane season on the horizon, it is critical that Floridians have certainty in the tax code.

I thank Chairman SMITH for his leadership in advancing this legislation through the Ways and Means Committee with unanimous bipartisan support. I also thank Senator RICK SCOTT for leading this bill in the Senate and being a tireless leader on this issue.

I also thank my aforementioned colleagues on the other side of the aisle, JIMMY PANETTA, MIKE THOMPSON, and JILL TOKUDA, for their commitment to securing disaster relief for their constituents and Americans regardless of political affiliation or geography.

Finally, I thank Doug LaMalfa for being an ally, a friend, and a fighter. Doug is deeply missed in this institution, and naming this bill in his honor is a simple but meaningful tribute.

Mr. Speaker, when Americans are recovering from disaster, they deserve clarity, certainty, and relief, not more red tape from Washington. I urge my colleagues to support the Doug LaMalfa Federal Disaster Tax Relief Certainty Act.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA), a valued member of the Ways and Means Committee and someone who has seen firsthand what devastating wildfires can do to your district.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. THOMPSON and Mr. STEUBE for al-

lowing me to speak on this topic. I support the Doug LaMalfa Federal Disaster Tax Relief Certainty Act.

I am a proud cosponsor, co-lead of this bill with Representatives GREG STEUBE and MIKE THOMPSON, a bill that would build on the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act which we passed last Congress, thanks to the leadership of Representative STEUBE, a bill that would ensure that those impacted by disasters nationwide have continued access to tax relief.

This is one of those bills, as you are going to hear from Representative STEUBE, from Mr. THOMPSON, and from Ms. TOKUDA, that is not a partisan topic when it comes to providing proper tax relief for our constituents who have been affected by natural disasters, disasters that don't just affect red States or blue States. They affect all American States. That is why this bill is so important.

It would extend the provisions of the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act through 2026 to, one, ensure that those affected by fires and natural disasters can claim the personal casualty loss deduction to help in the recovery. Two, would exempt fire settlements from taxation to avoid devastating tax bills on wildfire victims.

Unfortunately, after most natural disasters, there are limitations in the tax code that make it very difficult for survivors to claim the casualty loss deduction for uninsured losses.

Specifically, losses must be attributable to a federally declared disaster and exceed 10 percent of adjusted gross income. That prevents many from qualifying for tax relief. In fact, the tax code ends up penalizing fire victims by treating settlements from fires as income for tax purposes. That can trigger a bill, as we have heard, as large as 37 percent of the settlement.

Now, the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act that was signed into law last Congress addresses those issues by ensuring that those who received settlements for certain wildfires, including payments from the Fire Victim Trust, do not have to pay taxes on those payments.

It also designates certain federally declared disasters as qualified disasters for the purposes of determining personal casualty losses. That ensures that families who incurred uninsured losses due to a natural disaster, be it damage to their home or property, can declare that loss and lower their tax bill.

If we do not pass this bill, the thousands of people who survived the 2025 Los Angeles fires, who received settlements, risk a devastating tax bill and face limitations recouping uninsured losses.

That is why Congress is acting in a bipartisan way to prevent the tax code from penalizing constituents who are trying to rebuild after such disasters.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill to extend the Federal Disaster Tax Relief

Act, to help families all across America, from Hawaii to California to Florida and those in between, who are struck by natural disasters and get the necessary tax relief to recover, rebuild, and move forward with their lives.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FONG).

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman STEUBE for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Doug LaMalfa Federal Disaster Tax Relief Certainty Act, which includes my bill, the Doug LaMalfa Protect Innocent Victims of Taxation after Fire Extension Act, which was his bill that he originally fought for.

I thank the Ways and Means Committee chairman, Chairman SMITH, the members of the committee, and the committee staff who made this bill a priority.

In California, we are all too familiar with the devastation caused by wildfires. After these disasters strike in our community, survivors shouldn't have to worry about burdensome Federal taxes as they work to recover and rebuild.

Today, we have an opportunity to address that while honoring my friend the late Doug LaMalfa, who was a tireless champion of rural California and an advocate for those rebuilding after wildfires.

This section of the bill allows for wildfire victims to receive disaster aid incurred from a wildfire to have that payment exempted from gross income filings. This would exclude wildfire recovery payments from Federal income taxation through 2032.

Without this extension, victims of catastrophic wildfires would again have their relief payments subject to Federal income tax obligations. For families and individuals who have lost everything, this can make all the difference.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

□ 1610

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA). She has seen devastating wildfire that impacted her district and her constituents, and she has done great work to bring relief to them.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair and my colleagues who have co-lead and provided leadership on this important bill: Representative STEUBE, Representative THOMPSON, and Representative PANETTA.

I rise today, like so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to honor our friend Doug LaMalfa. He understood that the disaster after the disaster happens when families cannot recover and return to their hometowns because the funding and resources they receive just don't stretch far enough or, worse, are taxed and taken away from people who need absolutely every single dollar to be able to rebuild.

On Saturday, I stood above Lahaina, and for a moment—the briefest of moments—in the darkness, the town almost looked normal. Immediately, you realize that something is missing: no warm glow from homes and businesses, no kids riding bikes, and no neighbors gathering in garages.

The people of Lahaina were not counting on that day. They did not seek or ask to lose their homes, their businesses, their livelihoods, their history, or their loved ones.

They should be able to count on this: that every dollar and every resource meant to help them rebuild, recover, and return home stays with them in their pockets, not in government coffers.

As I stand here today wearing Doug's pin above my heart, I know he is up there smiling right now. Doug believed recovery should not come with a tax bill, and the Doug LaMalfa Federal Disaster Tax Relief Certainty Act makes sure of that.

As we all know too well, the burden of those touched by fire, flood, hurricane, tornado, or disaster is already too much to bear. It is already far too heavy. We should not be making it heavier.

Mr. Speaker, for my constituents, and disaster and wildfire survivors everywhere, let's stand with them in this moment and every moment to come. Let's show them some aloha. Let's make sure that we all vote "yes" on this bill.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is about basic fairness. When Americans lose their homes to wildfires or other disasters, the last thing they should face is a tax bill on the help they received to rebuild that home.

My constituents in northern California had to fight for that relief. Families in Los Angeles should not have to do the same, nor should they in Colorado, Hawaii, or anyplace else.

Let's pass this bill today and then do the work to make these protections permanent so no disaster victim has to come back to Congress for relief ever again.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is rightfully named after our former colleague and friend, Doug LaMalfa, who worked hard to protect his fire victims. We should pass this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, in 2024, Congress acted to provide critical tax relief for Americans hit hard by natural disasters. The goal was clear: Provide relief to those who need it most.

With this legislation before us today, we have the opportunity to continue

ensuring victims of natural disasters, including wildfires, continue to receive the relief that they deserve and the resources they desperately need to recover and rebuild.

I thank Representative STEUBE for this bill and for his hard work to appropriately pay tribute to our late colleague, Mr. LaMalfa, on an issue that was such a passion for him.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HURD of Colorado). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5366, 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.

SURVIVOR JUSTICE TAX PREVENTION ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2347) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2347

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 "Survivor Justice Tax Prevention Act".

SEC. 2. EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME OF ANY DAMAGES, OTHER THAN PUNITIVE DAMAGES, RECEIVED ON ACCOUNT OF SEXUAL ACTS OR SEXUAL CONTACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 104(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "on account of personal physical injuries or physical sickness;" and inserting "on account of—

"(A) personal physical injuries or physical sickness, or

"(B) any sexual act (as defined in paragraph (2) of section 2246 of title 18, United States Code, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this subparagraph) or sexual contact (as defined in paragraph (3) of such section, as so in effect), whether or not there are medical records or observable injuries of such act or contact;"

(b) BURDEN OF PROOF WITH RESPECT TO WHETHER DAMAGES ARE ON ACCOUNT OF SEXUAL ACT OR SEXUAL CONTACT.—Section 104 of such Code is amended by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e) and by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

"(d) BURDEN OF PROOF WITH RESPECT TO WHETHER DAMAGES ARE ON ACCOUNT OF SEXUAL ACT OR SEXUAL CONTACT.—For purposes of subsection (a)(2), if a decision or agreement states that any damages received therefrom are on account of a sexual act or sexual contact referred to in subsection (a)(2)(B)—

"(1) such statement shall be treated as credible evidence that such damages are so on account for purposes of section 7491(a), and

"(2) the taxpayer shall be treated as having met the requirements of section 7491(a)(2) with respect to the issue of whether such damages are so on account."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to amounts received pursuant to decisions made, and agreements entered into, after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR DECISIONS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a decision shall be treated as made after the date of the enactment of this Act if the first payment pursuant to such decision is received after such date.

(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR AGREEMENTS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), an agreement shall not be treated as entered into after the date of the enactment of this Act if such agreement replaces, supersedes, or revises an agreement entered into on or before such date.

(d) NO INFERENCE WITH RESPECT TO EFFECT OF MEDICAL RECORDS OR OBSERVABLE INJURIES ON DETERMINATIONS WITH RESPECT TO PERSONAL PHYSICAL INJURIES OR PHYSICAL SICKNESS.—No inference may be drawn from the amendment made by subsection (a) (or from section 104(a)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by subsection (a)) with respect to whether the term "personal physical injuries or physical sickness" as used in section 104(a)(2) of such Code includes injuries or sickness with respect to which there are no medical records or observable injuries.

(e) PROMOTION OF PUBLIC AWARENESS OF EXCLUSION.—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate), in consultation with the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women and other relevant Federal agencies, shall conduct a program to promote public awareness of the exclusion from gross income provided by section 104(a)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by this section.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2347, the Survivor Justice Tax Prevention Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by Representatives LLOYD SMUCKER and GWEN MOORE.

Survivors of sexual assault face a long road to recovery without having to battle with the IRS over keeping the compensatory damages or settlements that they receive.

Unfortunately, right now, the burden of proof that a sexual assault survivor would have to provide to the IRS, including medical records to prove that they deserve to have their settlement funds excluded from gross income for tax purposes, ignores the fact that such victims often do not have the same observable physical injuries that other victims of assault might have.

Mr. Speaker, this clarification in law is desperately needed. I thank Representatives SMUCKER and MOORE for the true compassion they have shown in fighting to right this wrong for victims of sexual assault.

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

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start out by thanking Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member NEAL for bringing this important bill to the floor for consideration during Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

As a survivor of sexual assault, I thank Mr. SMUCKER for teaming up with me to develop this important legislation that supports victims of sexual abuse who so often have no voice.

Mr. Speaker, at its core, this bill is about fairness, dignity, and justice for survivors.

I really don't have to go into detail about the problem that our Nation and, indeed, even this institution have with sexual abuse and assault.

Currently, settlement payments for sexual assault survivors are made on account of personal physical injuries or physical sickness, and they are excluded from gross Federal income and, therefore, not subject to taxation.

We all know that sexual abuse doesn't just cause physical harm. There is indelible mental harm that is caused by sexual assault. Yet, these survivors face challenges proving that sexual assault resulted in physical injuries because they don't have evidence of so-called "observable bodily harm" and have been denied the tax exemption.

Our bill, the Survivor Justice Tax Prevention Act, which I am, again, so proud to lead with Representative LLOYD SMUCKER, addresses this situation by allowing a tax exemption for all harms caused by sexual abuse.

□ 1620

Because the harm is real and lasting, even when it is not visible, we are working to ensure the survivors do not have to be retraumatized by proving so-called observable bodily harm or having to produce deeply personal records or to be abused on a settlement on which they have to pay taxes.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER), who is the sponsor of this legislation and who has done great bipartisan work in advancing a much-needed solution to support survivors of sexual assault.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH for the time and also for bringing this bill up to the Ways and Means Committee.

I thank Ms. MOORE for working with me cosponsoring and introducing this bill, and I thank the members of the

Ways and Means Committee who supported this on a unanimous basis because they realize the injustice that is occurring today in the way the IRS is applying the current tax code.

I think the chairman and Ms. MOORE both have described it really well. The core problem here, first of all, we believe our current law already says that any victim of physical abuse and any victim of sexual abuse who receives a settlement does not owe tax on that settlement, which makes complete sense. If you think of the trauma that these individuals have gone through, Mr. Speaker, if you think of the work they are doing to rebuild their lives, the last thing we should be doing is taking a portion of that settlement that they so desperately need to rebuild their lives for tax purposes. The law already says that settlement is not taxed.

However, the way the IRS has applied this, they require a proof of observable physical harm like bruises, cuts, or some other apparent evidence of damages to qualify that settlement as tax-free.

As you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, sexual violence doesn't always leave visible scars.

As a result, survivors who have already endured unimaginable trauma can face a second injustice under the current law or the way that the IRS is applying the law, and that is by being taxed on their compensation simply because their suffering doesn't meet some arbitrary standard.

Our bill fixes that problem. It fixes that injustice, and it helps these victims. It does it in a targeted way. It clarifies that payments related to sexual assault automatically are treated as tax exempt. This ensures that survivors are treated fairly and they are treated consistently under the law.

H.R. 2347 is about dignity. It is about clarity, and it is about making sure that survivors receive justice, not a tax bill, from the IRS.

I thank, again, the chairman, the leader, for bringing this bill up for a vote on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Once again, I thank Representative GWEN MOORE for her partnership on this important issue.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I will start by acknowledging the very passionate words of my cosponsor, Mr. SMUCKER. I am so pleased that he took this on with such generosity and passion.

Mr. Speaker, we hear all the time about the high-profile civil cases involving sexual abuse. I am thinking about the accounts of trusted gymnast physicians abusing star athletes and the victims of Jeffrey Epstein and many of his associates. We even hear about sexual assault that occurs within our own body, and we have to address that problem.

Let's just take a moment to acknowledge that all sexual abuse does not make the headlines. Every time a survivor comes forward, it takes extraordinary courage in the face of personal risk, scrutiny, and cost.

The Survivor Justice Tax Prevention Act takes a belt-and-suspenders approach to ensure that settlement payments, whether arising from a court judgment, private arbitration or mediation, that are made on account of sexual abuse are not subject to taxation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to support this effort to make the tax code better serve all survivors who receive settlements after prevailing against their abusers by not saddling them with a tax bill or having to fight the IRS.

We need to get this fix passed into law. I am so pleased to be standing here in this Chamber and asking for a vote by suspension of the rules. We need to pass this into law to ensure fair treatment of the tax law, dignity in the face of undue administrative burdens, and justice for survivors who prevail against their abusers.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is disturbing to think that the IRS is allowed to tax survivors of sexual assault on the compensatory damages or the settlements that they have received. Such victims should not have to relitigate their case before the agency, adding insult to the injuries that they have already suffered.

I encourage my colleagues to support this great piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2347, 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.

SUPPORTING EARLY-CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS' DEDUCTIONS ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5334) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow early childhood educators to take the educator expense deduction, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5334

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 "Supporting Early-childhood Educators' Deductions Act" or the "SEED Act".

SEC. 2. EDUCATOR EXPENSE DEDUCTION TO INCLUDE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 62(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “a kindergarten through grade 12 teacher” and inserting “an early childhood or kindergarten through grade 12 teacher”, and

(2) in subparagraph (B), to read as follows:

“(B) SCHOOL.—The term ‘school’ means—

“(i) in the case of early childhood education, any school or childcare facility which—

“(I) provides educational or childcare services for more than 2 individuals (other than individuals who reside at the school or facility) who have not attained age 6, and

“(II) operates at the public expense or receives a fee, payment, or grant for providing such services for any of the individuals (regardless of whether such school or facility is operated for profit), and

“(ii) in the case of elementary education or secondary education (kindergarten through grade 12), any school which provides such education, as determined under State law.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 62(a)(2)(D) of such Code is amended by striking “CERTAIN EXPENSES OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS” in the heading and inserting “CERTAIN EXPENSES OF EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to expenses paid or incurred in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5334, the Supporting Early-childhood Educators’ Deductions, or the SEED Act, which is bipartisan legislation introduced by Representatives BRIAN FITZPATRICK and JIMMY PANETTA.

Early-childhood educators are the foundation of a lifetime of education for the next generation of leaders in this country. They put in the long hours and often dip into their own wallets to provide educational materials for their classrooms. Unfortunately, unlike their K–12 colleagues, they are not afforded the same tax deduction to help cover those expenses. This is a longstanding oversight that needs correcting.

This legislation provides early-childhood educators with the same deduction so they are on equal footing with their school colleagues. I commend Representatives FITZPATRICK and PANETTA, who are standing up for America’s teachers and have been championing the cause for years.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and, of course, I thank my colleague and classmate, Representative BRIAN FITZPATRICK for their support. I rise in support of my Supporting Early-childhood Educators’ Deductions Act. We will just call it the SEED Act.

This is legislation that would extend eligibility for the educator expense deduction to early-childhood educators, pre-K educators, who are currently excluded from that benefit.

□ 1630

It is bipartisan legislation that I worked on closely with BRIAN FITZPATRICK, which was reported unanimously out of the Ways and Means Committee. I proudly say, it is the only Democratic bill that has been allowed out of the Ways and Means Committee this Congress, so I thank Mr. Chairman for that.

It is a bill that finally recognizes the vital role early-childhood educators play in shaping the foundation of a child’s development. These educators work with children during their most formative years, laying the groundwork for cognitive, social, and emotional growth. Yet, despite this enormous responsibility, these teachers remain excluded from basic tax benefits that acknowledge teachers’ financial burdens.

The SEED Act would correct this by finally extending the existing above-the-line educator expense deduction to early-childhood educators working with children 5 years old or younger.

The \$300 deduction, which will rise to \$350 next year, may seem modest, but for educators who routinely dip into their own pockets to provide classroom supplies, it is a meaningful, impactful support. It is also Federal recognition of teachers and their professionalism, dedication, and commitment to the development of our children.

Across the country, we are facing a severe shortage of early-childhood educators, a crisis that is driven by low wages and limited support, yet despite those challenges, early-childhood educators continue to extend themselves to ensure children have safe, enriching environments in which they can grow. They do this even when their paychecks fall short and even when they are forced to choose between personal expenses and classroom needs.

By including early-childhood educators in the educator expense deduction, the SEED Act acknowledges both the economic hardship and the extraordinary dedication these educators bring to their work every single day.

As a result, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), the co-lead of this legislation, who recognizes and is championing the needs of all of our teachers with this important legislation.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his support for this legislation and bringing it to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5334, the Supporting Early-childhood Educators’ Deductions Act, also known as the SEED Act.

Mr. Speaker, in Pennsylvania, more than 68,000 early-childhood educators support our youngest learners every single day. The first 5 years of a child’s life lay down the foundation for how they learn, how they grow, and how they succeed. These educators are central to that process.

They do far more than teach. They create safe, engaging environments where children can thrive. Despite earning very modest wages, these educators often reach into their own pocket to stock their classrooms and ensure their students have the resources they need to succeed.

That level of dedication speaks to their commitment, Mr. Speaker, not just to their students but to the communities they serve and our future workforce.

Under current law, early-childhood educators cannot deduct these out-of-pocket expenses. That is a gap the SEED Act will fix. The SEED Act offers a simple, bipartisan solution by extending the existing educator expense deduction to early-childhood educators. It is a commonsense measure that supports educators and invests in our youngest learners during their most critical years.

I thank my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA), for his partnership and his care and concern for our educators and our young people across America. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation to better equip and uplift our early-childhood educators and those they serve across this Nation.

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

I urge the House to pass this commonsense legislation. By expanding eligibility for the educator expense deduction to early-childhood educators, the bill will finally recognize the incredible dedication and work of these pre-K educators. This is one step toward supporting those who extend themselves day in and day out to help grow and educate all of our children.

Again, I thank Representative FITZPATRICK for his support, and I thank the chairman for pushing this bill forward. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill with a vote of “yes.”

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to supporting teachers who go the extra mile to provide for their students, including paying out of pocket for supplies and other educational materials, we need to ensure we are acknowledging and rewarding the contributions of all of our educators.

That includes the early-childhood teachers, who are charged with instilling in our youth a love of learning and curiosity from the youngest age.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5334, 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.

ENSURING CHILDREN RECEIVE SUPPORT ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6903) to require the Secretary of State to revoke any United States passport issued to an individual, on receipt of a certification by the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the individual has a child support arrearage exceeding \$2,500, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

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 "Ensuring Children Receive Support Act".

SEC. 2. REVOCATION OF PASSPORTS ISSUED TO INDIVIDUALS WITH A CHILD SUPPORT ARREARAGE EXCEEDING \$2,500.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 452(k) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 652(k)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “, revocation, or limitation” and inserting “or revocation”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—
(A) by striking “may revoke, restrict, or limit” and inserting “revoke”; and

(B) by inserting “, and notify such individual of the intent to take such action” before the period.

(b) *EXCEPTION.*—Notwithstanding the amendments made by subsection (a), if an individual is abroad and needs to return to the United States on an emergency basis, the Department of State is authorized to issue a temporary passport for that purpose. That passport will be good only for the return to the United States of the individuals and will be limited in duration.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on October 1, 2026.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6903, the Ensuring Children Receive Support Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by Representatives BETH VAN DUYNE and JIMMY PANETTA.

This legislation has a simple premise: Parents must meet their obligations to care for their kids, period. It is pretty simple.

To ensure that is happening, State-level child support agencies rely in part on the Passport Denial Program, which is run out of the State Department and, as its name suggests, is used to deny the ability of delinquent parents to obtain a passport to leave the country when they owe back child support.

The State Department has authority under current law to deny, limit, or revoke a passport of an individual, but as we have discovered, quite often the bureaucracy does not act with the level of urgency that is needed. This bill makes it clear that the State Department must revoke an individual’s passport, both at the time of initial application for a passport and at the time of renewal.

Research indicates that child support is a significant portion of income for low-income families, making up 41 percent of total income when received and can help reduce poverty and reliance on welfare. Among all families served, 24 percent have income below the Federal poverty level.

Representatives VAN DUYNE and PANETTA are doing tremendous work here to ensure that States have the enforcement tools that they need and children receive the support that they need and are owed without delay.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Ensuring Children Receive Support Act, which I am proud to co-lead with Representative VAN DUYNE. I thank her for her leadership and thank the chairman for pushing this bill forward with overwhelming support out of the Ways and Means Committee onto the House floor for this vote.

This bill would expand the existing bipartisan legislation and the universal commonsense values of taking care of our children.

□ 1640

It addresses the somber issue when it comes to the services and protections that we can provide for children.

We all know that parenthood is a privilege, but it is also a serious responsibility. Unfortunately, nationwide, there is more than \$115 billion owed in child support arrears. As of fiscal year 2024, there were more than 8.7 million parents who hadn’t made a payment in over 5 years.

In 1996, Congress, in a bipartisan fashion, gave the State Department the authority to withhold passports and

passport renewals from someone with unpaid child support. That is called the passport denial program. That program collects about \$30 million a year in outstanding child support debt, but this is out of about \$30 billion that we collect each year in total child support payments.

That means that the vast majority of child support goes uncollected, single parents struggle, and, unfortunately, that means that, at times, children can go hungry.

I believe we should be doing everything we can to close this gap and ensure child support is making it to the children who need it the most. The Ensuring Children Receive Support Act is part of that effort.

It is legislation that builds on the existing law that I talked about by rescinding passports when someone is more than \$2,500 in arrears for child support. When you don’t pay, you must stay.

Under this bill, people would get a notice that their case is being referred to the State Department. However, if necessary, there would be emergency passports if they urgently need to travel while in arrears. Moreover, they would also be eligible to have their passports reinstated once they pay their child support.

With this bill, we are ensuring that the Federal Government plays its part to meet the urgency that so many single parents feel and finds practical solutions to ensure that child support gets paid. That is why I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE), the sponsor of this legislation and someone who is standing up for children across this country to ensure that they get the support that they need.

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, and I thank my colleague Congressman PANETTA from California for also helping to introduce this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 6903, the Ensuring Children Receive Support Act.

Nearly 2 weeks ago, families experienced one of the largest tax refund seasons on record, with an estimated \$91 billion already issued as part of an expected \$370 billion refund season. On average, families can look forward to nearly \$4,000 back in their pockets compared to last year, and families with two children earning \$73,000 will have no Federal income tax liability.

Supporting working families is more important than ever, especially now that the working families tax cuts have been signed into law. By claiming the standard deduction and the child tax credit, families keep more of their hard-earned money to be able to provide for their families by putting food on the table, covering rent, or keeping

up with everyday expenses, giving them immediate relief when it matters most.

However, ensuring children are taken care of should not be negotiable, particularly in joint custody households where both parents share responsibility. When child support obligations go unmet, that responsibility breaks down, leaving children without the consistent support they deserve.

In 2024 alone, there were over 8 million unpaid child support cases—at the direct expense of our children. That is why stronger enforcement tools are necessary to hold delinquent parents accountable.

Mr. Speaker, just weeks after the Ways and Means Committee marked up my legislation, we have seen reports that the administration is moving to proactively revoke passports for individuals who owe significant child support. That reinforces exactly what this bill is about: making sure the tools we already have are used both effectively and consistently.

The passport denial program administered by the State Department currently allows for the denial or revocation of a passport when an individual owes more than \$2,500 in past-due child support and seeks consular services.

My bill strengthens this program by requiring the State Department to revoke an individual's passport and notify them of the intent to take such action. If an individual is abroad when their passport is revoked, the State Department may make an emergency exception to allow that individual to return to the United States.

Since its implementation, this program has successfully collected over \$600 million in past-due child support, including \$30 million in 2024 alone. This legislation builds on that success by strengthening enforcement and ensuring accountability for those who deliberately evade their obligations as parents.

When parents meet their responsibilities, children have greater stability. Families are stronger, and taxpayers are not left picking up the tab.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense, bipartisan step forward and a clear win for children and families. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to pass this commonsense, bipartisan legislation. The majority of child support, as we have heard, goes uncollected. Today, we have a chance to do something about it.

The Ensuring Children Receive Support Act would expand existing bipartisan policy to ensure the law is enforced and children receive the support that they need.

Representative VAN DUYNE understands that. I thank her for her leadership on this bill because a vote for this legislation is a vote to support children, and ultimately, it supports families.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this legislation strengthens the federal child support enforcement program, which is meant to ensure parents pay the support that they owe to their children.

This program is one of the most effective Federal programs we have. In 2024, States reported nearly \$30 million in collections through the passport denial program, and over 5,000 payments were made to custodial families.

The bill closes a loophole in current law that can let parents with large unpaid child support debts receive a passport renewal without consequence. This bill makes sure that the State Department uses its authority to revoke passports, both at the time of the application and renewal. We should use every opportunity to make sure children get the support that they need to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6903, 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.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS OWNERSHIP AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY ACT

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6431) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules governing the State administration of self-employment assistance programs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6431

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 “New Opportunities for Business Ownership and Self-Sufficiency Act”.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF RULES GOVERNING STATE ADMINISTRATION OF SELF-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) ELIMINATION OF REQUIREMENT THAT PARTICIPANTS ARE LIKELY TO EXHAUST REGULAR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.—Section 3306(t)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively.

(b) MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN SELF-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES.—Section 3306(t)(3)(B) of such Code, as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended to read as follows:

“(B) are participating in self-employment assistance activities which are approved by the State agency and either—

“(i) include entrepreneurial training, business counseling, and technical assistance; or

“(ii) are performed pursuant to a business plan and market feasibility study submitted by the individual and approved by the State or an agency designated by the State; and”.

(c) WEEKLY CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Section 3306(t)(3)(C) of such Code, as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended by inserting “and are certifying such activities on at least a weekly basis to an agency designated by the State” before the semicolon at the end.

(d) ADJUSTMENT OF LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING.—Section 3306(t)(4) of such Code is amended by striking “5” and inserting “10”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply beginning on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, except that nothing in this section shall be interpreted to prevent a State from amending its law before the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Labor shall, after public notice and comment and subject to approval by the Office of Management and Budget, adopt regulations to administer this Act.

(g) ISSUANCE OF GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of Labor shall provide guidance to State workforce agencies that includes—

(1) a model list of self-employment assistance activities that fulfill requirements of the program under section 3306(t) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(2) best practices for verification of completion of such activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

□ 1650

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of my bill, which is H.R. 6431, the New Opportunities for Business Ownership and Self-Sufficiency Act, also known as the NO BOSS Act.

This bill is a product of bipartisan work across the aisle, and I thank my dear friend and colleague from Cincinnati, Representative GREG LANDSMAN, for co-leading this legislation with me.

The NO BOSS Act makes small tweaks to the Self-Employment Assistance, or SEA, Program to support unemployed workers who decide to create their own next jobs.

The SEA Program is voluntary for all States. It allows qualified unemployment insurance claimants to collect an allowance to support their efforts to establish a business in lieu of regular unemployment compensation.

Small businesses are the backbone of our Nation's economy. For many Americans, owning their own business is the embodiment of the American Dream. The NO BOSS Act supports these pursuits by increasing the percentage of individuals who can participate in the SEA Program from 5 percent to 10 percent. It also eliminates the requirement that a participant must be likely to exhaust their unemployment compensation benefits in order to qualify.

Entrepreneurship should not be a last resort for those who are unable to find any other form of employment. Rather, self-employment should be encouraged and, indeed, practiced. These two changes expand the eligibility and the opportunity to participate in the SEA Program for more unemployment insurance claimants.

Finally, the NO BOSS Act strengthens the SEA Program by requiring States to certify participation in the self-employment assistance activities weekly and adding new participation activities.

Currently, self-employment activities include entrepreneurial training, business consulting, and technical assistance. This bill adds submitting a business plan or market feasibility study for approval by the State to that list.

In January, the NO BOSS Act passed out of the Ways and Means Committee unanimously by a vote of 41-0. It is important to get this bill signed into law because the SEA Program is underutilized. The bill is a great example of how government can support, enable, and foster more entrepreneurship in a meaningful way.

Entrepreneurship empowers Americans from all backgrounds at all stages of their professional careers. New businesses create jobs for members of their communities and strengthen our economy. The NO BOSS Act is pro-small business and pro-self-starter.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Leader SCALISE, Chairman JASON SMITH, and Ranking Member NEAL for their support in advancing this legislation. I encourage all of the Members to vote "yes" on this bipartisan, commonsense legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the NO BOSS Act, legislation from my good friend and colleague, Representative MIKE CAREY. I also acknowledge his co-lead on the bill, Representative GREG LANDSMAN. This bill is a demonstration of what neighbors and neighboring congressional Members can do together in a bipartisan fashion.

The NO BOSS Act would give workers the choice to use their unemployment insurance weeks, as necessary, to build their businesses, rather than being locked into job searches that don't fit their skills, their needs, or their potential.

Mr. Speaker, most businesses are small businesses. Nationwide, more than 80 percent, or nearly 30 million small businesses, are a solo venture, meaning they have no employees. The second most common type of business still has fewer than 20 total employees.

According to a Census in 2022, those solo-venture businesses contributed more than \$1.7 trillion, or almost 7 percent, to the U.S. economy. The one thing that all businesses have in common is that they are all started with a good idea and a founder with the time and commitment to develop that business.

Under the Self-Employment Assistance program, Americans using unemployment insurance can use their unemployment insurance weeks to start a business. The cost is negligible to the government since it is offered in lieu of normal benefits. Unfortunately, there are only five States that offer such a program, and participants are unnecessarily restricted.

That is why the NO BOSS Act would expand this program by doubling the number of people who can use it and let workers opt in earlier, instead of requiring them to wait until they have nearly exhausted their benefits.

To be clear, Mr. Speaker, this is not a blank check. Participants must follow an approved training or business plan. There must be a feasibility study, and they must certify weekly so that States can verify their progress.

The NO BOSS Act would simply make commonsense updates to a commonsensical program. It is a bipartisan effort, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes."

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Ohio ask unanimous consent to reclaim his time?

Mr. CAREY: Yes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized. There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, what better way to put more Americans back to work than to foster and encourage entrepreneurial spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to pass this commonsense legislation. As stated before, the NO BOSS Act would remove red tape and make simple, bipartisan updates to an existing program that works.

By giving Americans the option to develop their skills and to go to work for themselves, we can improve our unemployment system and opportunities for all American workers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6431, 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.

CLERGY ACT

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 227) to allow a period in which members of the clergy may revoke their exemption from Social Security coverage, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 227

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 "Clergy Act".

SEC. 2. REVOCATION BY MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY OF EXEMPTION FROM SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding section 1402(e)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, any exemption which has been received under section 1402(e)(1) of such Code by a duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed minister of a church, a member of a religious order, or a Christian Science practitioner, and which is effective for the taxable year in which this Act is enacted, may be revoked by filing an application therefor (in such form and manner, and with such official, as may be prescribed by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue), if such application is filed no later than the due date of the Federal income tax return (including any extension thereof) for the applicant's second taxable year beginning after December 31, 2028. Any such revocation shall be effective (for purposes of chapter 2 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.)), as specified in the application, either with respect to the applicant's first taxable year beginning after December 31, 2028, or with respect to the applicant's second taxable year beginning after such date, and for all succeeding taxable years; and the applicant for any such revocation may not thereafter again file an application for an exemption under such section 1402(e)(1). If the application is filed after the due date of the applicant's Federal income tax return for a taxable year and is effective with respect to that taxable year, it shall include or be accompanied by payment in full of an amount equal to the total of the taxes that would have been imposed by section 1401 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to all of the applicant's income derived in that taxable year which would have constituted net earnings from self-employment for purposes of chapter 2 of such Code (notwithstanding paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 1402(c)) except for the exemption under section 1402(e)(1) of such Code.

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—Subsection (a) shall apply with respect to service performed (to the extent specified in such subsection) in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2028, and with respect to monthly insurance benefits payable under title II of the Social Security Act on the basis of the wages and self-employment income of any individual for months in or after the calendar year in which such individual's application for revocation (as described in such subsection) is effective (and lump-sum death payments payable under such title on the basis

of such wages and self-employment income in the case of deaths occurring in or after such calendar year).

SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall develop and submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a plan to inform duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of a church, members of a religious order, and Christian Science practitioners of their eligibility to revoke any prior election of exemption from Social Security participation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Clergy Act.

First, I thank my colleague Mr. FONG for his partnership on this issue. This is how the legislative process should work: Democrats and Republicans coming together to solve real problems for our constituents.

For nearly 90 years, Social Security has done exactly what it has promised: protected workers, retirees, and people with disabilities; and kept families out of poverty.

Since it works, our responsibility is pretty simple: to make it easier and not harder for Americans to access and benefit from the Social Security program.

Under current law, members of the clergy can opt out of paying Social Security if they choose not to receive benefits. The Clergy Act provides a 2-year window for clergy members to opt back in, to contribute, and to secure the earned benefits that they may have previously foregone.

Clergy serve as pillars of their communities, offering guidance and support in moments that matter the most. This bill ensures that they will have the opportunity to participate fully in a system that has strengthened generations of American families.

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

□ 1700

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. FONG).

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill H.R. 227, the Clergy Act. This bipartisan legislation, cosponsored by my fellow California Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, would create a one-time re-enrollment window for pastors and other clergy members who have previously opted out of Social Security, many in their youth, to voluntarily opt back in.

For decades, members of the clergy have made the permanent decision of opting out of Social Security. While this choice was made with good intentions, many faith leaders experience significant financial hardship as they approach retirement.

Our local pastors and ministers are the backbone of our communities, providing critical spiritual guidance in the Central Valley, throughout California, and across the Nation. This legislation empowers them to take greater control over their own financial futures.

As lawmakers, we have a fundamental responsibility to strengthen Social Security in its current form while providing a pillar of protection for our seniors, including our faith leaders.

The Clergy Act is a commonsense solution to a nonpartisan problem, which is why I am proud it passed the Ways and Means Committee unanimously on a 40-0 vote.

I commend Congressman MIKE THOMPSON for his leadership and partnership, and I thank Chairman SMITH, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, again, the House Ways and Means Committee members and staff, and all those who supported this critical legislation.

I urge support for this bill and hope to ensure those who have given so much are not left behind in retirement.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, if we are serious about strengthening Social Security, we can't stop at incremental fixes. We must also protect the program from efforts that would weaken this great program.

We have heard calls for so-called reforms or tough choices. Let's be clear about what that means: cutting benefits, raising retirement age, or moving toward privatization—steps that undermine the guaranteed security Americans rely on.

Democrats reject that approach. We believe Social Security is a promise, not a bargaining chip.

Today, we have an opportunity to do something constructive. The Clergy Act is a practical, bipartisan step that expands access to Social Security and strengthens retirement security for those who serve our communities every day.

We can choose to build on what works, or we can risk it. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Let's build on what works.

I want to thank Congressman FONG, who has been a great partner in this effort. This is important legislation. It

will help the people that we represent and the people that our colleagues represent across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 227, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. CAREY. 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.

INCREASE IN RETIREMENT AGE OF UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE OFFICERS

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8364) to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize the increase of the retirement age in the United States Capitol Police.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8364

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

SECTION 1. INCREASE IN RETIREMENT AGE OF UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE OFFICERS.

(a) CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—Section 8335(c) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “becomes 60 years of age” and inserting “attains an age determined by the Board that shall be not less than 57 years of age and not more than 65 years of age”.

(b) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—Section 8425(c) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “becomes 60 years of age” and inserting “attains an age determined by the Board that shall be not less than 57 years of age and not more than 65 years of age”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BICE. 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 on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of BRYAN STEIL's legislation, H.R. 8364, which extends the retirement waiver age for officers within the United States Capitol Police.

I would like to thank Ranking Member MORELLE for his collaboration on this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, threats against lawmakers are at all-time highs. This weekend's events once again remind us of that reality.

Although we have seen a welcome and much-needed increase in recruitment numbers, we continue to have staffing challenges within the United States Capitol Police.

Together, these challenges have created difficult circumstances for those who work tirelessly to keep visitors, staff, and lawmakers safe.

Under current law, officers are forced to retire at age 57, unless they receive a waiver from the Capitol Police Board. With a waiver, officers can continue to work until the age of 60.

H.R. 8364 will extend that waiver timeline to 65.

Right now, nearly 60 sworn officers are working on a waiver, which is the equivalent of more than two recruitment classes. Without this legislative change, they will all be forced to retire in the next few years.

Under our legislation, the Capitol Police Board will have the authority to grant waivers to sworn officers until they reach the age of 65.

Notably, this is not the first time Congress has done something like this. In 2004 and 2010, Congress temporarily raised the mandatory Federal law enforcement retirement age from 60 to 65 to address staffing shortfalls at the FBI.

Additionally, it is also important to note that our legislation gives the Capitol Police Board the discretion to decide who is still fit for the job.

The men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police do a tremendous job protecting this institution. We shouldn't be forcing officers to retire when we have staffing shortages that can be easily remedied by this one change.

Again, I thank the ranking member and his staff for working closely with us on this important matter, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by offering my appreciation and thanks to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma, my friend Mrs. BICE, for her leadership. I extend my appreciation as well to the chair of the Committee on House Administration, BRYAN STEIL, for his authorship and his partnership in advancing this bill.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 8364, a bill that, as Mrs. BICE indicated, would increase the age at which Capitol Police officers may serve from 60

to 65 when granted a retirement age waiver by the Capitol Police Board.

The men and women of the United States Capitol Police have one of the most critical and demanding jobs in the legislative branch. This was once again underscored over the weekend when Capitol Police officers acted to protect Members of this House, including the Speaker and other members of leadership from the latest attempt at political violence—this time at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner.

We are all grateful that everyone who attended the dinner was able to leave safely.

Capitol Police officers secure the Capitol campus, investigate threats, provide protective details, screen visitors, respond to emergencies, investigate crimes, monitor demonstrations, secure major events, and more.

They do this all in an era of dramatically increased threats and strain on the department, and I commend Chief Sullivan and former Chief Manger for their diligent work rebuilding the force from the low point it reached after January 6. I am pleased that the department has since grown to more than 2,300 sworn officers. This is meaningful progress, but there is still much more work to do.

□ 1710

The large cohort of officers who joined the department after the September 11 attacks is now reaching retirement age. That is kind of hard to imagine, but that is the case.

The department cannot afford to lose those experienced, fully capable officers solely because they reach an arbitrary age threshold.

This bill does not change the statutory retirement age of 57, but it does give the Capitol Police Board discretion to allow an officer to continue serving until the age of 65 when doing so is in the public interest.

I want to make sure this is clear to people: Nothing in this bill lessens the board's responsibility to ensure officers granted exemptions remain fit for duty—fully fit and capable of meeting the physical and operational demands of the job.

This is a prudent, targeted step to preserve experience, maintain staffing, and help ensure the department has the workforce it needs.

For those reasons, I support the bill and urge my colleagues to do the same. I thank my colleague and friend Mrs. BICE, as well as Chairman STEIL, for their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important, prudent, thoughtful measure, and it will add to the safety and protection of the people in the Capitol complex, whether it is Members, staff, or visitors. That is something I know both sides of the aisle deeply appreciate and support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8364.

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.

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 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WITTMAN) 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. 7959; and
- H.R. 227.

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.

IRS WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT 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. 7959) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements with respect to the treatment of whistleblowers, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 346, nays 10, not voting 73, as follows:

[Roll No. 138]

YEAS—346

Adams	Amo	Babin
Aguilar	Amodei (NV)	Bacon
Alford	Ansari	Baird
Allen	Arrington	Balderson

Balint	Friedman	McDonald Rivet	Taylor	Tran	Wasserman	Bentz	Garcia (IL)	McGarvey
Barragán	Frost	McDowell	Tenney	Turner (OH)	Schultz	Bera	Gill (TX)	McGovern
Barrett	Fry	McGarvey	Thannedar	Underwood	Watson Coleman	Bergman	Gillen	McGuire
Bean (FL)	Fuller	McGovern	Thompson (CA)	Valadao	Weber (TX)	Beyer	Gimenez	McIver
Beatty	Garamendi	McGuire	Thompson (MS)	Van Duyn	Westerman	Bice	Golden (ME)	Meeks
Bell	García (IL)	McIver	Thompson (PA)	Van Epps	Whitesides	Biggs (AZ)	Goldman (TX)	Mejia
Bentz	Gill (TX)	Meeks	Timmons	Vargas	Wied	Biggs (SC)	Gonzalez, V.	Menefee
Bera	Gillen	Mejia	Titus	Vasquez	Williams (GA)	Billirakis	Gooden	Menendez
Bergman	Gimenez	Menefee	Tlaib	Veasey	Wilson (SC)	Bonamici	Goodlander	Meng
Beyer	Golden (ME)	Menendez	Tokuda	Velázquez	Wittman	Gosar	Goodlander	Messmer
Bice	Goldman (TX)	Meng	Tonko	Vindman	Womack	Brecheen	Gottheimer	Meuser
Biggs (AZ)	Gonzalez, V.	Messmer	Torres (CA)	Walberg	Yakym	Bresnahan	Graves	Mfume
Biggs (SC)	Gooden	Meuser	Trahan	Walkinshaw		Brown	Green, Al (TX)	Miller (IL)
Billirakis	Goodlander	Mfume				Brownley	Griffith	Miller (WV)
Boebert	Gosar	Miller (IL)				Budzinski	Budzinski	Miller-Meeks
Bonamici	Gottheimer	Miller (WV)	Brecheen	Harris (MD)	Roy	Burlison	Burlison	Mills
Boyle (PA)	Graves	Miller-Meeks	Burlison	Higgins (LA)	Self	Bynum	Bynum	Min
Bresnahan	Green, Al (TX)	Mills	Fine	Massie		Calvert	Calvert	Moolenaar
Brown	Griffith	Min	Fletcher	Norman		Cammack	Cammack	Moore (AL)
Brownley	Grijalva	Moolenaar				Carbajal	Carbajal	Moore (AL)
Budzinski	Guest	Moore (AL)				Carey	Carey	Moore (NC)
Burchett	Guthrie	Moore (NC)	Aderholt	Hern (OK)	Pettersen	Carson	Carson	Moore (UT)
Bynum	Hageman	Moore (UT)	Auchincloss	Houchin	Pfluger	Carter (LA)	Carter (LA)	Moore (WV)
Calvert	Hamadeh (AZ)	Moore (WI)	Barr	Hunt	Raskin	Carter (TX)	Carter (TX)	Morelle
Cammack	Harder (CA)	Moore (WV)	Baumgartner	James	Rogers (AL)	Casar	Casar	Morrison
Carbajal	Haridopolos	Morelle	Begich	Johnson (SD)	Rouzer	Case	Case	Moskowitz
Carey	Harrigan	Morrison	Bishop	Joyce (OH)	Schakowsky	Casten	Casten	Mrvan
Carson	Harris (NC)	Moskowitz	Bost	Kean	Scholten	Castor (FL)	Castor (FL)	Mullin
Carter (LA)	Harshbarger	Mrvan	Buchanan	Keating	Smith (WA)	Castro (TX)	Castro (TX)	Murphy
Carter (TX)	Hayes	Mullin	Carter (GA)	LaHood	Sorensen	Chu	Chu	Nadler
Casar	Hill (AR)	Murphy	Ciscomani	Lawler	Stefanik	Clark (MA)	Clark (MA)	Neguse
Case	Himes	Nadler	Cisneros	Liccardo	Steil	Clarke (NY)	Clarke (NY)	Nehls
Casten	Hinson	Neguse	Cloud	Loudermilk	Strickland	Cleaver	Cleaver	Newhouse
Castor (FL)	Horsford	Nehls	Crenshaw	Luna	Suoizzi	Cline	Cline	Norcross
Castro (TX)	Houlahan	Newhouse	Davis (IL)	Lynch	Tiffany	Clyburn	Clyburn	Norman
Chu	Hoyer	Norcross	Donalds	Mast	Torres (NY)	Clyde	Clyde	Oberholte
Clark (MA)	Hoyle (OR)	Oberholte	Dunn (FL)	McBride	Van Drew	Cohen	Cohen	Ocasio-Cortez
Clarke (NY)	Hudson	Ocasio-Cortez	Estes	McCaul	Van Orden	Cole	Cole	Olsewski
Cleaver	Huffman	Oleszewski	Fulcher	Miller (OH)	Wagner	Collins	Collins	Omar
Cline	Huizenga	Omar	Garbarino	Moran	Waters	Comer	Comer	Onder
Clyburn	Hurd (CO)	Onder	García (CA)	Moulton	Webster (FL)	Conaway	Conaway	Owens
Clyde	Issa	Owens	García (TX)	Neal	Williams (TX)	Correa	Correa	Pallone
Cohen	Ivey	Pallone	Goldman (NY)	Nunn (IA)	Wilson (FL)	Costa	Costa	Palmer
Cole	Jack	Palmer	Gomez	Ogles	Zinke	Courtney	Courtney	Panetta
Collins	Jackson (IL)	Panetta	Gray	Pelosi		Craig	Craig	Pappas
Comer	Jackson (TX)	Pappas	Grothman	Peters		Crane	Crane	Patronis
Conaway	Jacobs	Patronis				Crank	Crank	Perez
Correa	Jayapal	Perez				Crawford	Crawford	Perry
Costa	Jeffries	Pingree				Crockett	Crockett	Pingree
Courtney	Johnson (GA)	Pocan				Crow	Crow	Pocan
Craig	Johnson (TX)	Pou				Cuellar	Cuellar	Pou
Crane	Jordan	Pressley				Davids (KS)	Davids (KS)	Pressley
Crank	Joyce (PA)	Quigley				Davidson	Davidson	Quigley
Crawford	Kamlager-Dove	Ramirez				Davis (NC)	Davis (NC)	Ramirez
Crockett	Kaptur	Randall				De La Cruz	De La Cruz	Randall
Crow	Kelly (IL)	Reschenthaler				Dean (PA)	Dean (PA)	Reschenthaler
Cuellar	Kelly (MS)	Riley (NY)				DeGette	DeGette	Riley (NY)
Davids (KS)	Kelly (PA)	Rivas				DeLauro	DeLauro	Rivas
Davidson	Kennedy (NY)	Rogers (KY)				DelBene	DelBene	Rogers (KY)
Davis (NC)	Kennedy (UT)	Rose				Deluzio	Deluzio	Rose
De La Cruz	Khanna	Ross				DeSaulnier	DeSaulnier	Ross
Dean (PA)	Kiggans (VA)	Ruiz				DesJarlais	DesJarlais	Ruiz
DeGette	Kiley (CA)	Rulli				Dexter	Dexter	Rulli
DeLauro	Kim	Rutherford				Diaz-Balart	Diaz-Balart	Rutherford
DelBene	Knott	Ryan				Dingell	Dingell	Ryan
Deluzio	Krishnamoorthi	Salazar				Doggett	Doggett	Salinas
DeSaulnier	Kustoff	Salinas				Downing	Downing	Sánchez
DesJarlais	LaLota	Sánchez				Edwards	Edwards	Scalise
Dexter	Landsman	Scalise				Elfreh	Elfreh	Scanlon
Diaz-Balart	Langworthy	Scanlon				Ellzey	Ellzey	Schmidt
Dingell	Larsen (WA)	Schmidt				Emmer	Emmer	Schneider
Doggett	Larson (CT)	Schneider				Escobar	Escobar	Schrier
Downing	Latimer	Schrier				Espallat	Espallat	Schweikert
Edwards	Latta	Schweikert				Evans (CO)	Evans (CO)	Scott (VA)
Elfreh	Lee (FL)	Scott (VA)				Evans (PA)	Evans (PA)	Scott (VA)
Ellzey	Lee (NV)	Scott, Austin				Ezell	Ezell	Sessions
Emmer	Lee (PA)	Sessions				Fallon	Fallon	Sewell
Escobar	Leger Fernandez	Sherman				Fedorchak	Fedorchak	Sherman
Espallat	Letlow	Shreve				Feenstra	Feenstra	Shreve
Evans (CO)	Levin	Simon				Fields	Fields	Simon
Evans (PA)	Lieu	Simon				Figures	Figures	Simpson
Ezell	Lofgren	Smith (MO)				Fine	Fine	Smith (MO)
Fallon	Lucas	Smith (NE)				Finstad	Finstad	Smith (NE)
Fedorchak	Luttrell	Smith (NJ)				Fischbach	Fischbach	Smith (NJ)
Feenstra	Mace	Smucker				Fitzgerald	Fitzgerald	Smucker
Fields	Mackenzie	Soto				Fitzpatrick	Fitzpatrick	Soto
Figures	Magaziner	Spartz				Fleischmann	Fleischmann	Spartz
Finstad	Malliotakis	Stansbury				Flood	Flood	Stansbury
Fischbach	Maloy	Stanton				Fong	Fong	Stanton
Fitzgerald	Mann	Staub				Foster	Foster	Staub
Fitzpatrick	Mannion	Steube				Foushee	Foushee	Steube
Fleischmann	Matsui	Stevens				Fox	Fox	Stevens
Flood	McBath	Strong				Frankel, Lois	Frankel, Lois	Strong
Fong	McClain	Stutzman				Franklin, Scott	Franklin, Scott	Stutzman
Foster	McClain Delaney	Subramanyam				Friedman	Friedman	Subramanyam
Foushee	McClellan	Sykes				Frost	Frost	Sykes
Fox	McClintock	Takano				Fry	Fry	Takano
Frankel, Lois	McColum					Fuller	Fuller	Taylor
Franklin, Scott	McCormick					Garamendi	Garamendi	Tenney

NAYS—10

NOT VOTING—73

□ 1900

Messrs. MASSIE and ROY changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CLERGY 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. 227) to allow a period in which members of the clergy may revoke their exemption from Social Security coverage, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 350, nays 5, not voting 74, as follows:

[Roll No. 139]

YEAS—350

Adams	Ansari	Balint
Aguilar	Arrington	Barragán
Alford	Babin	Barrett
Allen	Bacon	Bean (FL)
Amo	Baird	Beatty
Amodei (NV)	Balderson	Bell

Thanedar	Turner (OH)	Wasserman
Thompson (CA)	Underwood	Schultz
Thompson (MS)	Valadao	Watson Coleman
Thompson (PA)	Van Duyne	Weber (TX)
Timmons	Van Epps	Westerman
Titus	Vargas	Whitesides
Tlaib	Vasquez	Wied
Tokuda	Veasey	Williams (GA)
Tonko	Velázquez	Wilson (SC)
Torres (CA)	Vindman	Wittman
Trahan	Walberg	Womack
Tran	Walkinshaw	Yakym

NAYS—5

Boebert	Fletcher	Self
Burchett	Roy	

NOT VOTING—74

Aderholt	Hern (OK)	Petterson
Auchincloss	Houchin	Pfluger
Barr	Hunt	Raskin
Baumgartner	James	Rogers (AL)
Begich	Johnson (SD)	Rouzer
Bishop	Joyce (OH)	Salazar
Bost	Kean	Schakowsky
Buchanan	Keating	Scholten
Carter (GA)	LaHood	Smith (WA)
Ciscomani	Lawler	Sorensen
Cisneros	Liccardo	Stefanik
Cloud	Loudermilk	Steil
Crenshaw	Luna	Strickland
Davis (IL)	Lynch	Suozzi
Donalds	Mast	Tiffany
Dunn (FL)	McBride	Torres (NY)
Estes	McCaul	Van Drew
Fulcher	Miller (OH)	Van Orden
Garbarino	Moran	Wagner
Garcia (CA)	Moulton	Waters
Garcia (TX)	Neal	Webster (FL)
Goldman (NY)	Nunn (IA)	Williams (TX)
Gomez	Ogles	Wilson (FL)
Gray	Pelosi	Zinke
Grothman	Peters	

□ 1909

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote during the vote series today. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 138, Passage of H.R. 7959, IRS Whistleblower Program Improvement Act, and YEA on Roll Call No. 139, Passage of H.R. 227, Clergy Act.

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. 138 and YEA on Roll Call No. 139.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to make it back to D.C. for votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 138 and YEA on Roll Call No. 139.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 138 and YEA on Roll Call No. 139.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded on Roll Call Nos. 138 and 139. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call No. 138 and "YEA" on Roll Call No. 139.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during the following House votes today due to

a flight delay. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 138 and YEA on Roll Call No. 139.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I had a late flight. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 138 and YEA on Roll Call No. 139.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 75, DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 5(c) OF THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION, TO REMOVE THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES AGAINST THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider H. Con. Res. 75 in the House if called up by the chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, or his designee; that the concurrent resolution be considered as read; that the previous question be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution to adoption without intervening motion, except for 1 hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by Representative MAST of Florida and Representative MEEKS of New York, or their respective designees.

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

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 3317

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 3317, Honoring Civil Servants Killed in the Line of Duty Act, a bill originally introduced by Representative CONNOLLY of Virginia, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING CENTRE COUNTY 4-H ROBOTICS TEAM CENTRE PUNCH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize

the Centre County 4-H robotics team, which recently qualified for the Robotics World Championship.

The team known as Centre Punch placed second out of 41 teams at a regional event in New York City earlier this month. In addition to placing second, the team was given the Creativity Award. Their robot weighed 135 pounds and featured a climbing mechanism, allowing it to pull itself off of the ground.

The team will travel to Houston, Texas, at the end of the week to compete in the 2026 FIRST World Championship.

This marks the first time in over 5 years that the team will compete in the championship, joining 600 teams from 60 different countries. Teams compete in pit-based challenges and undergo reviews by judges to demonstrate their engineering and their teamwork.

Mr. Speaker, this achievement reflects the group's hard work and determination. I thank them for representing Centre County so well and wish them luck.

DEMANDING JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW FOR IMMIGRATION

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

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, all morning, my team has been sorting through more than 60 privacy release forms I received from people imprisoned at Dilley.

I spent most of my oversight visit Saturday hearing from people who, by any measure of fairness or common sense, should not be locked up. They were green card holders, asylum seekers, people with some level of legal protection, people without criminal records, and children who have been there for months in a direct violation of Federal law.

I went room to room, helping people in detention fill out privacy releases so their Members of Congress could advocate for them because the system, as it stands, is not delivering justice reliably without intervention. That should outrage all of us.

Families should not have to rely on a chance encounter with a Member of Congress to access basic due process. I am angry because this cruelty is intentional.

We must demand justice: an immigration system that follows the rule of law, a system that doesn't imprison children, a system that keeps families together, a system that guarantees access to due justice abiding by the law.

That is what I will keep fighting for.

HONORING JAMES "KEVIN" CREWS

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, northeast Florida has watched smoke rise on the horizon as brush fires burn in Nassau and Clay Counties amid severe drought.

In moments like these, communities rely on those who are willing to stand between danger and everything we hold dear.

Today, I rise to honor one of those individuals, James "Kevin" Crews of Hilliard, Florida.

Kevin served faithfully with the Hilliard Volunteer Fire Department, answering the call time and time again to protect his neighbors. As brush fires spread across our region, he once again stepped forward without hesitation to serve on the front lines.

Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, while responding to a fire along Old Dixie Highway, Kevin suffered a medical emergency in the line of duty and later passed away.

Mr. Speaker, he was only 59 years old. Kevin's sacrifice reminds us what it truly means to serve. His loss is felt deeply in Hilliard and beyond. He lives a life of service, Mr. Speaker, and today I ask my colleagues to recognize him as a dedicated public servant and a hero.

VOTER REGISTRATION

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight one of the most important rights American citizens have, and that is voting.

Tomorrow is the deadline in Oregon to register to vote in our upcoming primaries, and Oregonians should make sure they register so that they can make their voices heard. They can find out where and how to update their information on Oregon's secretary of state website, but now the President is trying to make registering less accessible and voting by mail harder.

Mr. Speaker, I just won't stand for it. We voted by mail for almost 30 years in Oregon, and it was a bipartisan initiative when it was enacted. We know that it is safe, secure, and effective. I won't let this President or my colleagues silence our voices. Your voice is your vote, and your vote is your voice, and everyone should use it at the ballot box.

HONORING RANDY JOE HOPPERT, JR.

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

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Deputy Randy Joe Hoppert, Jr., of Tulare County Sheriff's Department.

On April 9, Deputy Hoppert was tragically killed in the line of duty while serving the people of Tulare County. A

proud Central Valley native, he committed his life to helping others.

After graduating from El Diamante High School, he answered the call to protect our Nation in the U.S. Navy before returning to home to work in the sheriff's department.

During his 6 years on the force, he served in the patrol division as a detective, with the CATTCH Unit, and on the SWAT team as a medic.

Those who knew him speak of a man who led with integrity, cared about his community, and worked every day to make a difference.

Deputy Hoppert is survived by his wife, Ashley; his children, Austin, Everett, and unborn son Levi; and his parents, Stacy and Randy, Sr.

Deputy Hoppert's service and sacrifice will not be forgotten. He will be deeply missed.

□ 1920

HONORING LIFE AND LEGACY OF RUBY DUNCAN

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Ruby Duncan who sadly passed away yesterday surrounded by her loving family in Las Vegas.

In 1972, she founded Operation Life, the first federally funded community development corporation led by low-income women.

But even before that, in 1981, she helped organize a powerful march on the Las Vegas Strip, bringing more than 6,000 people together to protest cuts to welfare support for women and children.

When the march ended, the movement did not. She and other Black mothers continued their fight by staging eat-ins at casino restaurants, demanding dignity and justice.

She led the charge to make sure no child in Nevada went hungry, helping bring WIC to our State, expand food assistance, and deliver thousands of meals to students every day.

Her impact reached all the way to the White House where President Jimmy Carter invited her to help shape national programs.

Her work was always rooted in community and rooted in Las Vegas. She showed us what it means to turn struggle into action and action into lasting change.

Today, we honor her life, her legacy, and the generation she lifted up. May God bless her soul.

Rest in peace, Ms. Ruby Duncan.

CONGRATULATING LUCIA RANIERI

(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 Lucia Ranieri for her victory at New Jersey's State wrestling championship.

Lucia made program history with her win, becoming the first Roselle Park high schooler to win a State title since 1953.

Lucia has had an amazing path to success. As just a sophomore, she is a two-time regional champion, district champion, and a two-time county champion.

Last winter, as a freshman, she placed third at the State championship, setting the stage for this year's historic win.

On behalf of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District, I am wishing Lucia the best as she continues to represent Roselle Park High School with strength and pride.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

(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, last week Americans and Armenians came together to remember Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.

We must continue to honor the more than 1.5 million Armenian lives that were senselessly taken and recommit ourselves to remembering the Armenian genocide as a historical truth with clarity and moral responsibility.

We, as a country, must do more to ensure that atrocities like the Armenian genocide never happen again. That is why I have cosponsored H.R. 6840, the ARMENIA Security Partnership Act, to both strengthen the U.S.-Armenian alliance and hold Azerbaijan accountable for their continued human rights abuses.

I am proud to stand with the Armenian-American community today and every day as they bravely demand justice, accountability, and fight against those who seek to erase their history.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting these critical pieces of legislation that guarantee the safety and acceptance of the Armenian people 111 years after the atrocities started.

HONORING RANDY GEORGE

(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 to honor the noble service of U.S. Army General Randy George, an American soldier whose life reflects decades of unwavering patriotic commitment to our Nation.

General George, at an early age, was selected to attend and then graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point. General George led at every level academically and then

served from platoon to theater, many theaters, serving in Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan, and ultimately as Chief of Staff of the United States Army. He earned his spurs and stripes.

His career was not measured in titles but in sacrifice and judgment forged over time. He held the trust of soldiers. He led in peacetime and in war.

At a moment when the challenges facing our U.S. military demand depth, steadiness, and proven leadership, experience matters. It matters in consequential judgment calls and decisions in battle that affect lives, and it matters in moments of uncertainty. It matters in ensuring the trust, strength, and readiness of our force.

Mr. Speaker, the American people thank General Randy George for his utter commitment to our Nation.

HONORING ST. LOUIS ALL-STARS

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor this week's St. Louis All-Stars, the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who have served or are currently serving our Nation around the world.

While I still have very serious concerns about President Trump's decision to launch this unauthorized war, one thing remains clear: Our servicemembers have made extraordinary sacrifices in the name of duty to the United States.

We must do everything in our power to honor their service, protect their rights, and ensure they receive the care they have earned when they return home. That includes restoring and strengthening Veterans' Affairs services, which have been cut by the Trump administration.

To all the servicemembers deployed around the world, especially those from the St. Louis region, I thank them for their courage and their commitment. We are praying for their safe return.

2026 APP CHALLENGE WINNERS

(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, these incredible young minds from Martin County High School earned top honors at the Congressional App Challenge for North Carolina's First District with their app, Positive Pathways, designed to support mental health through interactive tools that help manage anxiety, depression, and OCD.

Aaron Snyder, Ava Edmonds, and Layla Salem turned an idea into a working app using technology to make a real difference in helping people.

Their success was made possible with the guidance of Libby Grimes, their media coordinator and mentor. I was so

glad to welcome them to our Nation's Capital.

Their creativity and dedication highlight the bright future of STEM in eastern North Carolina.

Positive Pathways is an inspiring example of how young innovators can work together to use technology for the greater good.

A BLANK CHECK FOR ICE

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, today, once again, our Republican colleagues are coming to the House floor to write another blank check to ICE on the backs of the American people.

One year ago, Republicans in this Chamber claimed they were going to lower the debt and give tax breaks to real Americans. Instead, they gave tax breaks to billionaires on the backs of the hardworking people across this country.

They gave billions in funding to terrorize our communities. They gave billions in funding to ICE, billions in funding to the war machine that is currently raging overseas.

Yet, here they are again in front of this Chamber this week asking for \$70 billion with zero reforms to help the American people. That is why I am here to say: Hell, no, we are not writing another blank check to ICE, not a penny more.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1020.—An act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licenses are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3427. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Application of the Federal Securities Laws to Certain Types of Crypto Assets and Certain Transactions Involving Crypto Assets (RIN: 3038-AF67) 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 Agriculture.

EC-3428. A letter from the Counsel, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's rescission of final interagency guidance — Leveraged Lending: Interagency Statement on Rescission of Interagency Leveraged Lending Guidance Issuances received March 31, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-3429. A letter from the DAA, Diversion Control Division, DEA, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Definition of "Cannabimimetic Agents" and Assignment of an Administration Controlled Substances Code Number for All "Cannabimimetic Agents" [Docket No.: DEA-368] received April 7, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3430. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Diversion Control Division, DEA, Department of Justice, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Registering Emergency Medical Services Agencies Under the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017 [Docket No.: DEA-377] (RIN: 1117-AB37) received April 7, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3431. A letter from the DAA, Diversion Control Division, DEA, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final amendment — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of N-Desethyl Isotonitazene and N-Piperidinyl Etonitazene in Schedule I [Docket No.: DEA-1143] received April 7, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3432. A letter from the DAA, Diversion Control Division, DEA, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of 4-Chloromethcathinone in Schedule I [Docket No.: DEA-1246] received April 7, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3433. A letter from the DAA, Diversion Control Division, DEA, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of 4-Fluoroamphetamine in Schedule I [Docket No.: DEA-1180] received April 7, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3434. A letter from the DAA, Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Specific Listing for Dipentylone, a Currently Controlled Schedule I Substance [Docket No.: DEA-1390] received April 7, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3435. A letter from the DAA, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's temporary amendment — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of N-pyrrolidino metonitazene and N-pyrrolidino protonitazene in Schedule I [Docket No.: DEA-1337] received April 7, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3436. A letter from the DAA, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's temporary scheduling

order — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Extension of Temporary Placement of MDMA-4en-PINACA in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act [Docket No.: DEA-1356] received April 7, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3437. A letter from the DAA, Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Controlled Substances Ordering System (CSOS) Modernization [Docket No.: DEA-732] (RIN: 1117-AB79) received April 7, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3438. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Virtualization Reliability Standards [Docket No.: RM24-8-000; Order No. 919] received March 31, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3439. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Modernizing Suspension and Debarment Rules [Docket No.: GN 19-309] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-3440. A letter from the Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, transmitting the 2025 Family Court Annual Report, pursuant to Public Law 107-114, Sec. 4(a); (115 Stat. 2111); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-3441. A letter from the Charmian, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2025 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-3442. A letter from the Director, Office of External Affairs and Communications, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Office's 2025 Annual Performance Plan, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-3443. A letter from the Acting Chief, Ethics Transparency and Integrity Branch, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's Strategic Plan, Congressional Budget Justification, Annual Performance Plan, and Annual Performance Report for Fiscal Years 2026 — 2030, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3868) and 5 U.S.C. 306(a); Public Law 103-62, Sec. 3 (as amended by Public Law 111-352, Sec. 2); (124 Stat. 3866); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-3444. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's FY 2027 Congressional Budget Justification; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-3445. A letter from the Research Director, Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting the Conference's Equal Access to Justice Act Awards: Fiscal Year 2025, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2412(d)(5)(A); Public Law 116-9, Sec. 4201(a)(2); (133 Stat. 763); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk

for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 8495. A bill making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-623). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 6903. A bill to require the Secretary of State to revoke any United States passport issued to an individual, on receipt of a certification by the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the individual has a child support arrearage exceeding \$2,500, with an amendment (Rept. 119-624 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Foreign Affairs discharged from further consideration, H.R. 6903 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MIN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. MAGAZINER, and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 8496. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a climate impact management plan for the conservation of certain marine mammal species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CAREY (for himself, Mr. CORREA, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. COSTA, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. MANN):

H.R. 8497. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend biodiesel and renewable diesel incentives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. CHU (for herself and Mrs. HOUCHIN):

H.R. 8498. A bill to provide an incentive for States to extend child welfare support and services for youth through 21 years of age, and to allow youth to re-enter foster care after attaining 18 years of age, both without regard to the AFDC eligibility of their parents or legal guardians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself and Mr. CORREA):

H.R. 8499. A bill to require that opioid overdose rescue kits be located at public institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; 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 Mr. DUNN of Florida (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Ms. TENNEY):

H.R. 8500. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure timely review of local coverage determination requests under the Medicare program; 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. EVANS of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCANLON, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 8501. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow rehabilitation expenditures for public school buildings to qualify for rehabilitation credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FIGURES (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. SEWELL, and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 8502. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on ways to increase opportunities for 1890 Institutions to conduct educational programs and provide technical assistance with respect to issues relating to the transfer of agricultural land and assets, including heirs property, to the next generation of farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FIGURES (for himself, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. SEWELL, and Ms. BYNUM):

H.R. 8503. A bill to ensure that the Federal share of the supplemental nutrition assistance program allotment costs shall be mandatory if a State cannot pay the applicable State share of applicable allotment costs; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FIGURES (for himself, Ms. BYNUM, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 8504. A bill to authorize affordable financing assistance for rural health centers facing financial distress, and to protect access to essential health services in rural communities; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FIGURES (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 8505. A bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to make improvements to the veterinary services grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:

H.R. 8506. A bill to establish a grant program to improve school security, including by training and hiring veterans and former law enforcement officers as school safety officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FLOOD (for himself and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 8507. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to include as a high-priority research and extension initiative research and extension on precision agriculture workforce development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GARCIA of California (for himself, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. LIEU):

H.R. 8508. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for resilience grants for strengthening, upgrading, or improving municipal piers under the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GOLDEN of Maine:

H.R. 8509. A bill to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 to extend the time

period for which certain regulations concerning the North Atlantic right whale are effective; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York (for himself, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 8510. A bill to require third-party delivery platforms to follow certain pricing practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 8511. A bill to end preferences for disadvantaged individuals and businesses in Government contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 8512. A bill 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 20, 2029, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. HILL of Arkansas (for himself and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York):

H.R. 8513. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to disseminate guidance regarding certain best practices relating to the handling of personally identifiable information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 8514. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Transportation to set aside not less than 5 percent of certain funds for certain active transportation projects and activities from the Federal lands transportation program and Federal lands access program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. LETLOW:

H.R. 8515. A bill to require the publication of a Consumer Price Information Statement for each major rule, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself and Mr. OBERNOLTE):

H.R. 8516. A bill to make certain improvements relating to artificial intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, Oversight and Government Reform, Education and Workforce, the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MAGAZINER (for himself, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. TITUS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CASE, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. PETERS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. CARSON, Ms. SIMON, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Ms. CHU, and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 8517. A bill to develop career and technical education programs of study and facilities in the areas of renewable energy; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. MAGAZINER (for himself, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. TLAI, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 8518. A bill to provide for the discharge of parent borrower liability if a student on whose behalf a parent has received certain student loans becomes disabled; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 8519. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to waive Reid Vapor Pressure requirements with respect to calendar year 2026, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCGARVEY (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CORREA, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. FROST, and Mr. MORELLE):

H.R. 8520. A bill to facilitate nationwide accessibility and coordination of 211 services in order to provide information and referral to all individuals in the United States for health and human services needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Ms. ADAMS):

H.R. 8521. A bill to study the extent to which individuals are more at risk of maternal morbidity or mortality as a result of being a victim of intimate partner violence; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 8522. A bill to prohibit the naming, renaming, designating, or redesignating of any Federal building, land, or other asset in the name of Donald J. Trump; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 8523. A bill to prohibit any reduction in force or involuntary separation at the Department of the Interior and the United States Forest Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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 Ms. POU (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. MALOY):

H.R. 8524. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve access to workers' compensation for civilian Federal employees exposed to toxic burn pits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 8525. A bill to amend the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 to provide for seasonal and perishable programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 8526. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to update quality standards for mammography facilities for the use of AI systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SHREVE (for himself and Mr. FIGURES):

H.R. 8527. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to designate animal shelters as essential community facilities eligible for direct loans and grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 8528. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to skilled nursing facilities for primary immunodeficiency patients; 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. STEIL (for himself, Mr. TIF-FANY, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. FITZGERALD):

H.R. 8529. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to establish a procedure under which an ozone nonattainment area may be redesignated as an attainment area if certain requirements are met, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. SYKES:

H.R. 8530. A bill to amend the National Quantum Initiative Act relating to certain health and workforce matters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. TOKUDA (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. THANEDAR):

H.R. 8531. A bill to ban new corporate ownership of agricultural land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. VAN ORDEN (for himself, Mr. BOST, Mr. BARRETT, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, and Mr. CISCOMANI):

H.R. 8532. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to align elements of the housing loan program of the Department of Veterans Affairs with requirements of the Federal Housing Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VASQUEZ:

H.R. 8533. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to expand the provision of farmer-led technical assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself and Ms. KING-HINDS):

H.R. 8534. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to establish an Office of Territorial Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. WALKINSHAW (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CORREA, and Mr. GUEST):

H.R. 8535. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop performance metrics relating to the detection, deterrence, and seizure of fentanyl; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. DEXTER:

H. Con. Res. 91. 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 Mrs. KIM (for herself, Mrs. LUNA, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H. Res. 1216. A resolution condemning the politically motivated attack on April 25, 2026, at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner and denouncing political violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and 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 Mr. RULLI (for himself, Mr. DAVIDSON, and Mr. VAN DREW):

H. Res. 1217. A resolution expressing support for the citizens of the United Kingdom as they continue to face assaults on their rights to free speech and freedom of expression; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs,

and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-61. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Kansas, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 5022, requesting the Congress of the United States call a convention of the states to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ML-62. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 104, to urge the President and United States Congress to reverse the Trump Administration's actions causing sky-rocketing energy costs; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Foreign Affairs.

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. JOYCE:

H.R. 8495.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 8496.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CAREY:

H.R. 8497.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 8498.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 8499.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DUNN of Florida:

H.R. 8500.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes for the general welfare, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 8501.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1, provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises."

By Mr. FIGURES:

H.R. 8502.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. FIGURES:

H.R. 8503.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. FIGURES:

H.R. 8504.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. FIGURES:

H.R. 8505.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:

H.R. 8506.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the authority to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, including:

The Spending Clause (Clause 1), which grants Congress the power to provide for the general welfare of the United States by authorizing federal funding and grant programs to support school security improvements; and

The Commerce Clause (Clause 3), which grants Congress the power to regulate interstate commerce, including matters that substantially affect interstate commerce such as public safety, education systems, and the movement of personnel and goods related to school security.

By Mr. FLOOD:

H.R. 8507.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GARCIA of California:

H.R. 8508.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GOLDEN of Maine:

H.R. 8509.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York:

H.R. 8510.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into the Execution for the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 8511.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 8512.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas:

H.R. 8513.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 8514.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. LETLOW:

H.R. 8515.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 8516.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MAGAZINER:

H.R. 8517.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MAGAZINER:

H.R. 8518.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 8519.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. MCGARVEY:

H.R. 8520.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin:

H.R. 8521.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 8522.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 8523.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Ms. POU:

H.R. 8524.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 8525.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 8526.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SHREVE:

H.R. 8527.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:
H.R. 8528.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. STEIL:
H.R. 8529.

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 United States Constitution.

By Mrs. SYKES:
H.R. 8530.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. TOKUDA:
H.R. 8531.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. VAN ORDEN:
H.R. 8532.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

[The Congress shall have Power . . .] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. VASQUEZ:
H.R. 8533.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of the Congress.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:
H.R. 8534.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8
By Mr. WALKINSHAW:
H.R. 8535.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 7: Ms. MALOY.
- H.R. 15: Ms. MEJIA.
- H.R. 116: Mr. NORMAN and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
- H.R. 138: Mr. RILEY of New York.
- H.R. 163: Mr. GRIFFITH.
- H.R. 210: Mr. NEGUSE.
- H.R. 219: Mr. NEGUSE.
- H.R. 251: Mr. NORMAN.
- H.R. 307: Mr. SOTO.
- H.R. 318: Mr. GRIFFITH.
- H.R. 336: Mr. NUNN of Iowa and Mr. THANEDAR.
- H.R. 392: Ms. TITUS.
- H.R. 539: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
- H.R. 569: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
- H.R. 584: Mr. GRIFFITH.
- H.R. 630: Ms. FRIEDMAN.
- H.R. 642: Mr. PATRONIS.
- H.R. 652: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 682: Mr. MASSIE.
- H.R. 685: Mr. MCGUIRE.
- H.R. 924: Mr. MFUME.
- H.R. 1004: Mr. GUEST and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
- H.R. 1055: Mr. OLSZEWSKI.
- H.R. 1065: Ms. WATERS and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

- H.R. 1111: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
- H.R. 1137: Mr. JAMES.
- H.R. 1175: Mr. IVEY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. SUOZZI.
- H.R. 1189: Mrs. MCBATH.
- H.R. 1227: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. WHITESIDES.
- H.R. 1241: Mr. GRIFFITH and Mr. NORMAN.
- H.R. 1266: Ms. GILLEN.
- H.R. 1267: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
- H.R. 1330: Mrs. HAYES.
- H.R. 1340: Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 1417: Mr. GUEST.
- H.R. 1421: Mr. GRIFFITH and Mrs. FOUSHEE.
- H.R. 1492: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 1506: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
- H.R. 1521: Mr. GUEST.
- H.R. 1564: Mr. WHITESIDES.
- H.R. 1657: Mr. VASQUEZ.
- H.R. 1661: Mr. MFUME.
- H.R. 1702: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
- H.R. 1707: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
- H.R. 1732: Mr. LICCARDO.
- H.R. 1755: Mr. FROST.
- H.R. 1827: Ms. GOODLANDER.
- H.R. 1841: Ms. STANSBURY and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
- H.R. 1859: Ms. JAYAPAL.
- H.R. 1965: Mr. FROST.
- H.R. 1993: Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 2028: Mr. LYNCH.
- H.R. 2085: Ms. MATSUI.
- H.R. 2089: Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. MCGARVEY, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
- H.R. 2094: Ms. POU, Ms. MENG, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MFUME.
- H.R. 2099: Mr. BERA.
- H.R. 2149: Ms. STANSBURY.
- H.R. 2158: Mr. VAN EPPS.
- H.R. 2166: Mr. GRIFFITH.
- H.R. 2220: Mr. WALKINSHAW.
- H.R. 2231: Mr. GRIFFITH.
- H.R. 2315: Mr. GRIFFITH and Mr. NORCROSS.
- H.R. 2368: Mr. MCGOVERN.
- H.R. 2470: Ms. BROWN.
- H.R. 2472: Mr. MAGAZINER.
- H.R. 2485: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
- H.R. 2501: Mr. ISSA.
- H.R. 2512: Ms. McDONALD RIVET and Mr. CASE.
- H.R. 2527: Mr. LALOTA, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
- H.R. 2555: Mr. LALOTA and Mr. STEUBE.
- H.R. 2576: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. NEGUSE.
- H.R. 2705: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mr. MCDOWELL.
- H.R. 2711: Ms. SCHRIER.
- H.R. 2715: Mr. FIELDS.
- H.R. 2763: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
- H.R. 2767: Ms. BROWNLEY.
- H.R. 3037: Ms. SCHRIER.
- H.R. 3059: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
- H.R. 3067: Ms. FRIEDMAN.
- H.R. 3069: Ms. MEJIA.
- H.R. 3071: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
- H.R. 3104: Mr. STANTON.
- H.R. 3132: Mr. GUEST.
- H.R. 3178: Mr. MANNION and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
- H.R. 3226: Ms. SCHRIER.
- H.R. 3235: Mr. HARRIGAN.
- H.R. 3243: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
- H.R. 3277: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
- H.R. 3307: Mr. BACON.
- H.R. 3366: Ms. SCHRIER.
- H.R. 3513: Ms. MEJIA.
- H.R. 3543: Ms. MEJIA.
- H.R. 3544: Ms. MEJIA.
- H.R. 3565: Ms. MEJIA.
- H.R. 3694: Ms. SEWELL and Mr. DELUZZIO.
- H.R. 3747: Mr. FIGURES and Mr. SOTO.
- H.R. 3756: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
- H.R. 3921: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.
- H.R. 3930: Ms. FRIEDMAN.
- H.R. 3931: Mr. DESAULNIER.
- H.R. 3946: Ms. BALINT.

- H.R. 3991: Mr. MAGAZINER.
- H.R. 4022: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 4069: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
- H.R. 4105: Ms. ESCOBAR.
- H.R. 4119: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.
- H.R. 4167: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
- H.R. 4170: Mr. RILEY of New York.
- H.R. 4192: Mr. LAWLER.
- H.R. 4234: Mr. FLOOD.
- H.R. 4253: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
- H.R. 4299: Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. CAREY.
- H.R. 4397: Mr. FULLER and Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
- H.R. 4434: Mrs. FLETCHER.
- H.R. 4435: Mrs. FLETCHER.
- H.R. 4436: Mrs. FLETCHER.
- H.R. 4525: Mrs. MCCCLAIN DELANEY.
- H.R. 4619: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 4664: Ms. UNDERWOOD.
- H.R. 4710: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
- H.R. 4725: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
- H.R. 4731: Ms. CRAIG.
- H.R. 4733: Mr. WHITESIDES.
- H.R. 4763: Mr. QUIGLEY.
- H.R. 4797: Mrs. TRAHAN.
- H.R. 4865: Ms. TOKUDA.
- H.R. 4889: Mr. BAIRD.
- H.R. 4901: Ms. MENG and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
- H.R. 4994: Ms. WATERS and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
- H.R. 5005: Mr. GRIFFITH.
- H.R. 5095: Mr. STEUBE.
- H.R. 5115: Mr. TRAN.
- H.R. 5123: Mr. LEVIN.
- H.R. 5133: Ms. PINGREE.
- H.R. 5160: Mr. BENTZ and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
- H.R. 5168: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
- H.R. 5226: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
- H.R. 5258: Mr. GOODEN.
- H.R. 5283: Mr. VASQUEZ.
- H.R. 5309: Mr. AGUILAR.
- H.R. 5408: Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. CHU.
- H.R. 5439: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
- H.R. 5470: Mrs. WAGNER.
- H.R. 5490: Ms. PRESSLEY.
- H.R. 5509: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. FLOOD.
- H.R. 5545: Mr. VEASEY.
- H.R. 5556: Ms. ROSS and Ms. MCBRIDE.
- H.R. 5560: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
- H.R. 5566: Ms. BROWNLEY.
- H.R. 5588: Mr. TORRES of New York.
- H.R. 5621: Ms. BALINT, Ms. ANSARI, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
- H.R. 5641: Mr. TORRES of New York.
- H.R. 5642: Mr. TORRES of New York.
- H.R. 5661: Ms. BROWNLEY.
- H.R. 5800: Mr. GUEST.
- H.R. 5967: Mr. STANTON.
- H.R. 6069: Mr. SUOZZI.
- H.R. 6086: Mr. KUSTOFF and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
- H.R. 6088: Ms. ROSS.
- H.R. 6126: Ms. ROSS.
- H.R. 6128: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
- H.R. 6130: Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. FIGURES, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. MOULTON, and Mrs. SYKES.
- H.R. 6166: Mr. DESAULNIER.
- H.R. 6182: Ms. ROSS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mr. MORELLE.
- H.R. 6213: Mr. DUNN of Florida and Mr. GRIFFITH.
- H.R. 6322: Mr. LAHOOD.
- H.R. 6324: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 6358: Mr. GRAY.
- H.R. 6364: Mr. VAN DREW.
- H.R. 6412: Mr. VINDMAN.
- H.R. 6423: Mrs. HAYES.
- H.R. 6425: Mr. STANTON.

- H.R. 6426: Mrs. SYKES and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 6466: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.R. 6521: Ms. MEJIA.
 H.R. 6574: Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. DOGGETT, and Ms. ANSARI.
 H.R. 6677: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 6736: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
 H.R. 6797: Mr. KEATING and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
 H.R. 6806: Mr. CLYBURN.
 H.R. 6856: Mr. MORELLE, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. ROSS, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. PETERS.
 H.R. 6891: Mrs. SYKES.
 H.R. 6986: Mr. KEATING.
 H.R. 6998: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.
 H.R. 7004: Mr. PAPPAS.
 H.R. 7026: Mr. BACON.
 H.R. 7037: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 7051: Mr. KENNEDY of Utah.
 H.R. 7070: Mr. GRIFFITH.
 H.R. 7100: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Ms. ROSS.
 H.R. 7137: Mr. MILLER of Ohio and Mr. BISHOP.
 H.R. 7184: Mr. KEAN.
 H.R. 7271: Mr. POCAN.
 H.R. 7313: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 7343: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
 H.R. 7390: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
 H.R. 7417: Mr. FIGURES, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 7432: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
 H.R. 7450: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
 H.R. 7460: Mr. LEVIN.
 H.R. 7522: Mr. KEATING.
 H.R. 7531: Ms. RIVAS.
 H.R. 7539: Mr. BEGICH.
 H.R. 7548: Mr. CARSON, Mr. AMO, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 7553: Mr. BEGICH.
 H.R. 7622: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
 H.R. 7661: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida and Mr. TAYLOR.
 H.R. 7670: Ms. SCHRIER.
 H.R. 7678: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 7692: Mr. WHITESIDES.
 H.R. 7704: Mr. CLINE.
 H.R. 7711: Mrs. FLETCHER.
 H.R. 7732: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. THANEDAR.
 H.R. 7746: Mr. BURLISON.
 H.R. 7747: Mr. HARRIGAN.
 H.R. 7751: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H.R. 7767: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 7770: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 7779: Mr. BACON and Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 7802: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.
 H.R. 7821: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
 H.R. 7822: Ms. CRAIG.
 H.R. 7828: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. FROST.
 H.R. 7853: Mr. LIEU.
 H.R. 7867: Ms. PRESSLEY.
 H.R. 7892: Mr. OBERNOLTE.
 H.R. 7936: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 7957: Mr. SOTO, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
 H.R. 7961: Ms. SCHRIER and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 7970: Mr. PFLUGER and Mr. BAIRD.
 H.R. 7977: Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. MEJIA, and Mrs. MCIVER.
 H.R. 7987: Mr. RYAN.
 H.R. 8041: Ms. SEWELL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. PANNETTA.
 H.R. 8045: Mr. LEVIN.
 H.R. 8064: Mr. GILL of Texas.
 H.R. 8076: Mr. STANTON and Mr. BARRETT.
 H.R. 8085: Ms. MEJIA.
 H.R. 8092: Mr. TRAN.
 H.R. 8103: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ and Ms. WATERS.
 H.R. 8119: Mr. RILEY of New York.
 H.R. 8132: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
 H.R. 8163: Mr. SMUCKER.
 H.R. 8170: Mr. DUNN of Florida and Mr. WHITESIDES.
 H.R. 8177: Mrs. KIM.
 H.R. 8199: Mr. WHITESIDES.
 H.R. 8212: Mr. SHREVE.
 H.R. 8219: Ms. GOODLANDER.
 H.R. 8241: Ms. BALINT.
 H.R. 8287: Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 8295: Mrs. HOUCHIN and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 8317: Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. LATIMER, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, and Ms. CRAIG.
 H.R. 8358: Ms. CRAIG.
 H.R. 8359: Mr. BELL and Mr. ALFORD.
 H.R. 8387: Mr. NORMAN.
 H.R. 8398: Mr. MEUSER.
 H.R. 8399: Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 8407: Mr. FLOOD.
 H.R. 8414: Mr. SIMPSON.
 H.R. 8430: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 8443: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
 H.R. 8453: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 8475: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York and Ms. CRAIG.
 H.R. 8481: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. EZELL.
 H.R. 8484: Ms. JAYAPAL.
 H.R. 8494: Ms. SIMON, Mr. CASAR, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. TAKANO.
 H.J. Res. 96: Ms. TLAIB.
 H.J. Res. 97: Ms. TLAIB.
 H.J. Res. 122: Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. MEJIA, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.J. Res. 136: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.J. Res. 154: Ms. BROWNLEY.
 H. Con. Res. 12: Ms. BROWN.
 H. Con. Res. 26: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
 H. Con. Res. 80: Ms. CHU, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. PETTERSEN.
 H. Con. Res. 83: Ms. OMAR.
 H. Res. 69: Mr. PETERS.
 H. Res. 222: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
 H. Res. 564: Mr. GIMENEZ and Ms. RANDALL.
 H. Res. 925: Ms. ESCOBAR and Mr. KENNEDY of Utah.
 H. Res. 1013: Mr. AMO.
 H. Res. 1148: Mr. KENNEDY of New York.
 H. Res. 1173: Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
 H. Res. 1179: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H. Res. 1181: Ms. OMAR and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H. Res. 1188: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. SHERMAN.
 H. Res. 1190: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H. Res. 1209: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H. Res. 1211: Mr. GIMENEZ.

 PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

PT-10. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, relative to Resolution No. R194-26, urging President Donald J. Trump, Secretary of State Marco A. Rubio, and the United States Congress to (1) engage and consult with the Cuban exile community in deliberations concerning the future of Cuba and (2) provide resources to local governments and Cuban exile groups in South Florida, if necessary, in the event there is regime change in Cuba; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.



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Senate

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 senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Robert Cekada, of Florida, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TRIBUTE TO MARIO D'ANGELO

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I often come to the floor to talk about milestones in the history of this institution, the U.S. Senate. Today, I pay tribute to a member of our Senate family who has devoted half a century of service to this institution.

In 1976, Mario D'Angelo was hired by the Senate Sergeant at Arms to manage all barbershops in the U.S. Capitol, including the Senate barbershop. As manager, he supervised a remodel of what was then called the "Senators only" barbershop, before it closed in 1981. I think, today, we wonder: Why would they ever have a "Senators only" barbershop? So, finally, Senators had to sit with every other client to get a haircut.

Prior to his job in the U.S. Senate, Mario worked briefly on the House side, helping prepare mail and other documents for distribution.

Now, Mario was born in Italy. You might say he was born with a pair of silver scissors in his hand. His dad Domenico was also a barber.

Mario came to America at the age of 12. Eventually, he followed in his father's footsteps. For nearly a decade, Mario worked as a barber with his dad and uncle, before his employment here on U.S. Capitol Hill.

At some point in the 1990s, the Senate barbershop merged with the wom-

en's beauty shop, located in the basement of the Russell Senate Office Building. To this day, Senate Hair Care serves lawmakers, employees, and residents here on Capitol Hill.

I have been a regular customer of Mario's for many, many years. With my busy schedule in Washington and traveling back and forth to Iowa when the Senate is not in session, I am grateful to be able to get a quick haircut. I don't like to waste time like, hopefully, my fellow Senators don't want to. And when I sit down in Mario's barbershop, I know I can count on quick, competent service, delivered with professionalism and precision.

Some Americans think Congress gets free haircuts. I can assure you that is not the case. I hope the Iowans that come to my town meetings and ask me a question, from time to time—they get this question off the internet: How come you Senators don't pay Social Security taxes? And how come you get free haircuts?

I have been telling them for 45 years that has never been the case, but they still tend to believe what they read on the internet.

So, finally, I am here to, once again, congratulate Mario on 50 years of service here in the U.S. Senate. I consider Mario a friend. I have no doubt that his work ethic carries on through his sons Michael and Nicholas and four grandchildren: Alexander, Isabella, Gabriel, and Lio.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we praise You that everyone is safe after the weekend shooting at the White House Correspondents' Dinner. You continue to be our refuge and strength, for Your powerful presence places a shield of favor around us.

Lord, we resonate with the psalmist, who declared in Psalm 124: "If the Lord had not been on our side when people attacked us, they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us."

We thank You for the men and women who daily risk their lives to keep us safe, as they strive to bind the pathology of the demonic. Compensate them for their competence, commitment, and courage.

Today, use our lawmakers to cause justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

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



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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION
DINNER SHOOTING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the events of Saturday night were horrifying. It is difficult to believe that this is the third time—the third time—President Trump has faced an assassination attempt. And, as we know, the shooter's ambitions in this instance extended even further, to other administration officials and the Vice President.

I am very grateful that tragedy was averted and that all attendees at the dinner are safe, but I remain deeply disturbed by the fact that we are looking at the third such instance now in 2 years.

I am thankful for the many law enforcement officers who responded, particularly those who secured the shooter before he could harm the President or anyone else at the event, and I am particularly thankful for the Capitol Police, who activated quickly to provide support at the scene and helped not only Members but staffers to make their way home safely.

Saturday night's events were a grim reminder of the need for law enforcement. And, incredibly, some of the law enforcement officers who responded are working for a Department that is currently completely unfunded thanks to Democrats' refusal to negotiate on an Appropriations bill.

I very much hope that, after the weekend's events, we can all agree that law enforcement Agencies at the Department of Homeland Security and the entire Department need to be funded as quickly as humanly possible.

On Thursday, we passed the budget resolution, and we are now one step closer to completing a bill to fund border security and immigration enforcement for the next 3 years. So why are we here? Why are we being forced to consider a reconciliation bill to fund border security and immigration enforcement at the Department of Homeland Security? And why are we moving to fund these priorities for the next 3 years?

The answer is because Democrats have refused to fund border security and immigration enforcement. They refused to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement. They have refused to fund Border Patrol. They have opted not to protect our borders.

Perhaps realizing what an untenable position that they are in—Democrats have placed themselves in—we have heard a lot of bluster from the Democrat leader on this issue. He would like people to think that we are here because Republicans refused to agree to any ICE reforms and that we somehow prefer funding border security and immigration enforcement through reconciliation. Give me a break.

As the record abundantly—abundantly—reflects, Republicans bent over backward to reach an agreement with Democrats. The White House not only implemented its own ICE reforms after the events in Minnesota, it repeatedly

offered Democrats a robust package of legislative reforms.

The Democrat leader had the nerve to mention body cameras the other day, as if Republicans have refused to agree to body cameras.

So let me just refresh his memory. Back in January, Republicans and Democrats had agreed on DHS funding legislation. And do you know what it contained? More money for body cameras. And then when Democrats reneged on our agreement and demanded more, the White House offered Democrats a number of other things including—that is right—still more money for body cameras.

We are here not because Republicans wouldn't agree to accept reforms but because Democrats would not accept any agreement, no matter how substantive.

The record would suggest that they never really wanted one; that they were in search of a talking point, not a solution, a political issue that they could use in November. But I think it remains to be seen how well "defund law enforcement" and "defund the border" are going to play for them this fall because let's be very clear: That is what this is.

Democrats refuse to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement at all. They refuse to fund Border Patrol at all. What does that mean? It means they have refused to provide any funding for deporting criminal illegal immigrants, no matter how heinous their crimes. It means they have refused to provide any funding for a physical presence at the border.

I talked about the Biden border crisis on the floor last week, about the 4 years of recordbreaking illegal immigration at the southern border that occurred on President Biden's watch.

Well, what Democrats are opting for now is even worse. At least we had the Border Patrol under President Biden. Now Democrats are reeling—reeling—opting for borders that are entirely open.

The evils of the Biden border crisis are still being felt. Last month, 18-year-old Sheridan Gorman, a college student taking a walk with her friends, was shot by an illegal immigrant who entered the country under President Biden and was released from custody in 2023.

And Sheridan is just one of a number of American women who were killed by illegal immigrants who entered the country during the Biden border crisis.

Millions—millions—of illegal immigrants, some of them dangerous individuals, were released into the interior of the country under President Biden.

The Biden border crisis facilitated the passage of drugs across the southern border. It facilitated the passage of dangerous individuals. It left communities and cities, including blue cities far from the border, overwhelmed with the influx of migrants.

I won't recapitulate everything that I said last week on the Biden border

crisis, but it underscores the breathtaking—breathtaking—irresponsibility of Democrats' current position. Border security and immigration enforcement are crucial—crucial—functions of government. They are essential to maintaining public safety, and Democrats have opted not to fund them at all: No personnel at our borders, no Federal agents taking dangerous criminal illegals off of our streets.

"Open the borders" and "defund law enforcement"—that is the position the Democrats now own.

As for Republicans, we will continue to move forward to fund these critical functions of government. As long as we are in charge, we will do everything in our power to ensure that our borders are secure and dangerous criminals are not on our streets.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION
DINNER SHOOTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Well, Mr. President, I and we all are relieved that no one was seriously injured in the shooting at the White House Correspondents' Dinner over the weekend. No matter the perpetrator, no matter the motive, political violence endangers our democracy.

I denounce political violence in all its forms, as I always have and always will.

I commend law enforcement's swift response to apprehend the gunman, which undoubtedly saved many lives, and that includes the Secret Service.

U.S. SECRET SERVICE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on the need to fund the Secret Service, I just heard Leader THUNE lashing out. I sympathize with him. He is in a real pickle. He is fighting with his own Republican Party Speaker in the House. His caucus here is factionalized as to what to do, as to how we fund both ICE and CBP and even DHS. They are in a mess.

So what does the Republican leader do? He points fingers at Democrats. That is absurd. The idea that Democrats are somehow to blame for this Republican shutdown of DHS is just ridiculous, and THUNE and his Republican leadership ought to act like adults and help us solve this problem during serious—serious—times like these, instead of pointing fingers in another direction.

At this very moment, funding for Secret Service and so many other Agencies is sitting idly in the House of Representatives, not waiting for Democrats—we don't run the House—waiting

for Republicans. And Republicans somehow, especially the rightwing propaganda, just blames Democrats with no logic, no rationale.

What Republican rightwing propaganda is saying couldn't be further from the truth. Democrats wanted to fund all of the law-abiding Agencies at DHS, and we worked with Republicans, Leader THUNE, here in the House to do it—here in the Senate to do it.

Democrats looked to compromise with Republicans as we pushed for commonsense reforms for ICE and other Agencies, and twice Democrats and Republicans here in the Senate unanimously passed a bill that would fund all of the Agencies within DHS except for ICE and Border Patrol, which are already funded.

Let me say that again. Democrats unanimously—unanimously—supported funding the vast majority of DHS, including Secret Service, not once but twice. We passed it in the Senate, not once but twice.

It was House Republicans, not Democrats, who blocked funding for Secret Service, TSA, CISA, Coast Guard, FEMA, and other Agencies that we all agree should be funded.

House Republicans could and should fund the Secret Service today, but, instead, they are holding it up. So Leader THUNE—if he wants to be constructive, if he wants to get something done—should stop pointing fingers in this direction and start looking in the mirror. At least look down the hall and start talking some sense into the House Republicans, who seem to be tied in a knot because the rightwing MAGA few refuse to go forward.

Republicans ought to start standing up to Speaker JOHNSON and the House Freedom Caucus and say: We must fund this. And that applies to the Republican leader, who has a greater responsibility than just inanely pointing fingers to the other side of the aisle.

To the Republicans—House and Senate—stop with the partisan games. Advance the bipartisan bill that we all passed unanimously in the Senate, and we could get the funding for the Secret Service and other Agencies done.

RECONCILIATION

Mr. President, on the budget resolution, last week, the Nation saw what Republicans are prioritizing. Instead of lowering Americans' costs and funding Agencies like the Secret Service, on amendment after amendment and vote after vote, Democrats held Republicans accountable in last week's vote-arama for trying to give ICE and Border Patrol up to \$140 billion but zero dollars—zero—to lower Americans' costs.

Democrats gave Republicans opportunities to join us in lowering out-of-pocket healthcare costs and reducing childcare costs and stopping insurance company delays and protecting school meals. Republicans said no over and over again simply to take \$140 billion and put it into ICE and Border Patrol.

Can you believe it?

Can you believe it, America?

At a time when Americans are crying out for relief, Republicans are tying this Senate in knots—all to cut Trump's rogue Agencies a blank check, with no significant reform—reform that the American people want.

If Republicans think they are finished taking these difficult votes, they have got another thing coming. Democrats will make sure Republicans face more votes on affordability when reconciliation comes back up in a few weeks because it is so important to the American people. We will continue to expose Republicans' economic agenda for what it is: an utter disaster for working Americans. It is no wonder Trump's numbers are lower than they have ever been. He is not addressing what the American people want, and Republicans in the House and Senate just follow him blindly. The GOP has completely lost sight of the needs of the American people right now.

Trump wants to seclude himself in a walled palace—literally. His party is now trying to use their reconciliation process to pave the way for Donald Trump's gilded ballroom. If Republicans truly want to improve security, they should join Democrats in funding the Secret Service, not Donald Trump's luxury ballroom. Americans want us to help them put food on their tables and gas in their tanks, not to help Donald Trump put more gold on his walls.

IRAN

Mr. President, on Iran, the hole Donald Trump has dug himself into grows deeper and deeper by the day. Every day Donald Trump continues this war, the harder it will be for him to escape that hole.

This Friday will mark 60 days since Donald Trump officially notified Congress of his foolhardy venture into Iran—a war he launched without declaration or authorization from Congress, without a plan, without a goal, without knowledge of how much it would cost or how long it would last. It is incredible. I have never seen such a ridiculous, harmful, unthought-out, erratic foreign policy venture as this war with Iran is—totally started by Trump. There is no clamor in America to do it.

Sixty days is the threshold under the War Powers Act, which several of my Republican colleagues clearly recognize, but it didn't take 60 days for anyone to recognize Trump's mismanagement of this war. We have given Senate Republicans five opportunities to support our War Powers Resolution. Each time, they chose to back Trump and prolong this blunder even longer. Democrats will give Republicans a sixth opportunity to support our resolution this week, and by the end of the week, we will cross the 60-day threshold, and Trump's flaunting of our congressional war powers will be undeniable.

I urge Republicans to support our resolution instead of continuing to tie themselves to this reckless war. I urge Republicans to have a little courage. You hear, when they talk to one an-

other and when they even talk to us, they know what folly this war has been in terms of its costs—huge amounts of costs—in terms of the loss of life, in terms of oil prices, and Americans paying more than \$4 a gallon at the pump.

So, if Republicans were to vote with us, they would be doing Donald Trump a big favor. Negotiations remain frozen; gas prices remain over \$4 a gallon; the Strait of Hormuz remains closed; and our servicemembers, including those actively enforcing a blockade of the strait, remain in harm's way.

The other day, Trump said that gas prices could be high "for a little while." That is what he said. Well, the Pentagon reportedly notified Congress last week that it could take 6 months after the war ends to sweep the Iranian minefields in the strait, and 6 months is not a little while for the American people, who, every week, struggle to figure out how to pay the damned bills. That is what is happening here. Every week, Americans are getting crushed by the costs of this war every time they go to the pump, and that is 6 months after the war ends.

Unfortunately, there is still no end in sight. Trump doesn't know what he is doing. He sends envoys to Pakistan: Leave Pakistan. Be here. Maybe in the first week or two, some people thought there was a strategy here. Now it is clear to everybody there was none, and there is no end in sight.

Democrats will continue to force votes on a War Powers Resolution every week this war rages on. Allowing this reckless war to continue would be a supreme dereliction of my colleagues' duty under the Constitution.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

HONORING JOHN BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the city of Chicago is in mourning. On Saturday, Chicago police officer John Bartholomew was fatally shot after taking a robbery suspect to the hospital.

Officer Bartholomew had been on the force for 10 years. In that decade, he became known by his station and his community as someone you could always count on. When it snowed, he was the first one outside to shovel. At the station, officers often heard him singing his lungs out in the locker room.

Officer Bartholomew was a loving father, and a faithful husband to his wife Renee.

Loretta and I offer our deepest condolences to the Bartholomew family.

Officer Bartholomew's partner, a 21-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department, remains in critical condition. We should all pray for his fast and full recovery.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Mr. President, only 12 hours after this awful shooting in Chicago, our Nation watched in horror as a different gunman attacked the White House Correspondents' Dinner. Let's be clear. Whether right or left, political violence has no place in America—none. I am grateful no one was seriously injured at the Hilton.

This attack, however, shows a sobering pattern of escalating political violence. Last year, we witnessed the horrific assassination of Minnesota House speaker emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark, the attempted murder of Minnesota State senator John Hoffman and his wife, and the assassination of Charlie Kirk.

These attacks have a chilling impact on politics. Townhall meetings now are requiring metal detectors. People are wary of open-air events.

Political violence is corrosive to democracy. It is an American crisis and one that is made worse by the growing arsenal of dangerous guns in our country. These weapons flooding our streets make what is already an incredibly difficult job for our Nation's law enforcement and security personnel even more dangerous. Our police are being outgunned by people who are fomenting violence.

For our communities and our law enforcement officers in our country, we have to do more to stop this gun violence. It is a national scourge.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, now on a totally separate topic, earlier this month, President Trump issued his fiscal year 2027 budget proposal. It includes a 42-percent increase in military spending for the war in Iran. That war is costing us, we estimate, \$1 billion a day. We are now into 2 months and even longer in that war at \$1 billion a day.

Meanwhile, as the President asks for more money for the military for his war in Iran, he is slashing billions of dollars in investments for medical research and disease prevention. What a senseless, reckless idea from the Trump administration.

Let me tell you a story about why this is so troubling. Over 10 years ago, I went to the National Institutes of Health—the preeminent medical research Agency in the world—and I met with Dr. Francis Collins.

I think Francis Collins is an American hero. He led the NIH through Presidents of both political parties—a real professional.

I said to Dr. Collins: I have been in Congress long enough to remember a time when a Congressman from Illinois named John Porter and two Senators, one Republican and one Democrat, came together and led a bipartisan effort to actually double the NIH budget of that date. I don't know if I can match that, Dr. Collins, but what can I do?

Here is what he told me. He said: If Congress could provide 5 percent real growth in the medical research budget

each year, we will light up the scoreboard.

He assured me there were so many great ideas just on the cusp of being realized—curing diseases, sparing suffering, giving families hope.

He said: If we can just let the researchers know that we are going to be there to help them year in and year out until they reach their goal, with that confidence, they can achieve greatness.

So we set out to do it. I came here to the Senate and put together a little team. It was easy in some respects. My partner in the effort on the Democrat side was PATTY MURRAY. PATTY MURRAY has been in the Senate longer than I have, and I will tell you something: She is a real dramatic leader when it comes to appropriations and is the ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Committee now. She was anxious to help to make sure medical research was funded.

Then I found a Republican who was a great partner—Roy Blunt of Missouri, chairman of the Appropriations Committee. I sat down with Roy, and he was sold instantly on making this 5 percent growth every year our cause. Roy was a great person.

Lamar Alexander from Tennessee, when he served here, was another one of our partners.

Since then, we have been joined by SUSAN COLLINS. She chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee and has a real commitment to medical research.

We grew the budget for NIH, from the time I visited Dr. COLLINS, from \$30 billion to \$49 billion today. The 5 percent a year was virtually guaranteed. And those aren't just numbers on a sheet; they consistently mean new cures and treatments. We have developed new, more effective ways to deliver chemo drugs directly into brain tumors, breakthrough treatments for sickle cell, and continued progress in the fight for patients with dementia, Alzheimer's, ALS, and Parkinson's. Those reliable funding increases gave confidence to our researchers, giving them the belief that they could continue and actually reach their goal of finding a cure.

Last year, President Trump's budget sought to cut NIH's budget by 40 percent—\$18 billion in 1 year. That is what the President proposed. Thankfully, this body on a bipartisan basis rejected President Trump's cuts in medical research and actually provided a nominal increase.

But this President is back at it again. A billion dollars a day for his war in Iran, but now he is knocking on Congress' door to cut \$6 billion from the NIH and \$3 billion from the Centers for Disease Control.

HHS Secretary Kennedy struggled recently to defend his budget request. Why would he want to fund 4,600 fewer research grants across the Nation? That is potentially 4,600 cures. Those cuts would extinguish hope for patients and devastate America's standing as the world leader in medical research.

America has been lucky. As a country of immigrants, our immigrants have made this a better life for America from day one. We have attracted the best and brightest minds from all corners of the globe. In case it needs to be stated, it is a good thing, not a bad thing.

When you or a loved one has a medical emergency, you go to the hospital. Oftentimes, you will see nurses and staff from all over the world. A doctor's name badge might indicate they aren't originally from this country. That is no coincidence. Sixty-four percent of foreign-trained physicians are practicing in areas of this country where there is a shortage of healthcare professionals.

Unfortunately, President Trump's current crackdown on legal immigration—legal immigration—has closed the doors to many of these bright, young people who want to come to practice medicine in America. This administration has indefinitely paused most immigration processing for high-skilled visa applicants from 39 countries. Imagine that—categorically saying: If you are from country X, you are not welcome in America.

What is worse, the administration has not provided any timeline or criteria for lifting these holds. It has a really personal impact.

Let me tell you a story. My staff recently met with a doctor from Iran. Her name is Dr. Mehrnoosh Ebadi. She is a foreign medical graduate and research associate at Northwestern University working on advanced cancer therapies. She recently matched into a family medicine residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Bloomington, IL, but her residency position and legal status are at risk as a result of the processing hold President Trump has put on Iranian nationals. She is not a combatant. She is not involved in politics. She just happens to be a brilliant cancer researcher who wants to help the people of America. She says she came to the United States to "contribute to science and patient care." She may not be able to begin this residency in Bloomington on time, if at all. She described it as "incredibly difficult."

Does this sound like someone who is one of the "worst of the worst"? Should we turn ICE loose on this hospital to arrest her and detain her? Absolutely not.

What is happening to her is happening in hospitals all over the country, in blue States and red States. Especially at a time when Republicans' Big Beautiful Bill is making a trillion-dollar cut in Medicaid over the next several years, which will devastate rural hospitals, what sense does it make to close the door to this doctor whom we so desperately need?

When we shut down legal pathways for qualified international students and professionals, do you know who loses? We lose. Americans lose.

You are not making America any safer, Mr. President, by telling this

wonderful, talented, willing-to-serve person that she is not welcome in America.

Are we willing to walk away from this talent and disrupt the scientific progress so we can say we stopped another person from a foreign country from coming into the United States? These are exactly the immigrants we need.

What message are we sending to families and researchers by doing this, by the President's budget dramatically cutting medical research and the President's immigration policies willy-nilly hurting innocent people, like this doctor?

During Secretary Kennedy's testimony last week, he justified the proposed NIH cuts by saying that "a lot of money was wasted" on so-called "insane" studies. Do you know who disagrees? The parents of a 3-year-old in Southern Illinois who have waited for more than a year to enroll their daughter with a rare genetic disease into an NIH-funded clinical trial. It could be their last hope. The chaos of the Trump administration has delayed the grant award, and their daughter waits day after day after day for this clinical trial which has been held up by the Trump administration.

Medical research is vital to the safety, security, and prosperity of this Nation, and we ought to encourage the best and the brightest to aid us in these noble pursuits.

Let me close by saying that last year we came together despite President Trump's calls for cuts in medical research. Democrats and Republicans ignored his request and actually gave more money for medical research.

I want to salute the two Senators on the Senate Appropriates Committee—SUSAN COLLINS, Republican of Maine, and PATTY MURRAY, Democrat of Washington. They were determined to make sure that we kept hope alive by putting this money in medical research.

We need their leadership again, and we need the American people to say to the Trump administration: Enough. Stop this. This notion of cutting medical research is hurting America and American families. Give these doctors and researchers a chance to make this a better, safer nation.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Senator from Vermont.

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP, is a life-saving program with a long history of bipartisan support from its very first days. LIHEAP was started in the administration of Ronald Reagan, and the program helps people in need heat their homes in the winter and cool their homes in the summer.

You know, it is a beautiful day here in DC, but across the country, in many places, it is still very cold and still very hot. LIHEAP was established, as I

mentioned, in 1981, by President Ronald Reagan, and it provides funding to States to help low-income households with their energy costs. The program originally just covered heating, but in 1984, it was expanded to cooling, as it should be, because people in the Presiding Officer's State, people in Arizona, Nevada, and many other States are threatened by extreme heat, just as those in cold-weather States, like Vermont, are threatened by extreme cold.

This program has been reauthorized many times since its inception, and I am so pleased that it has always been bipartisan, because the folks we represent, whether it is in cold- or warm-weather States, know that people need the security that they are not going to freeze to death or that they are not going to die of heatstroke. And that happens; that is real.

And the Americans that rely on LIHEAP to heat their homes in the winter and cool their homes in the summer are very scared. They need help, and their neighbors and friends need help and assurance that this program will continue.

President Trump, in his budget, has proposed to zero out the budget for LIHEAP—literally, to end what Ronald Reagan began.

And when we are talking about those who do get some help with their heating bills, we are talking about folks who are barely able to pay their bills at the end of the month and often can't. And, again, this is in the Presiding Officer's State and in my State.

For a family of four, the eligibility limit is \$61,000. For a single mother and a child, it is \$40,000. For a single person just trying to get by, it is \$29,000.

So Vermonters who are struggling to pay their bills themselves but are thinking about neighbors across the country are concerned about this. I had a constituent from Essex, VT, urging me to protect LIHEAP because "I know it gets awfully cold in North Dakota and . . . Minnesota."

People in all our States understand how their neighbors and, in many cases, they themselves need this. This is not a luxury. It can be a matter of life and death for hundreds of thousands of Americans, from Montpelier to Fairbanks, AK.

You know, this year, Burlington, VT, had its coldest weather in 17 years, with more than 20 straight days of below freezing temperatures. In Fairbanks, Alaskans endured more than 89 days below zero, many days below 30 to 40 degrees below zero.

And LIHEAP also provides cooling assistance to families in warm weather climates, like Phoenix, AZ, where more than 100 days a year saw temperatures of 100 degrees.

You know, I have gone on some fuel deliveries with the fuel dealers who have a program to provide assistance, and what I know is, Vermonters, when they see that fuel truck show up, are terrified because that is a big, big

monthly bill. And without the assistance that we have been providing to people around the country to help them with this, they literally are facing freezing or heatstroke.

That is also at a time when our heating bills are going up, and our cooling bills. In December, household energy bills were up by more than 13 percent. The war in Iran has absolutely exacerbated that problem. Gas prices are up more than 30 percent, over \$4 a gallon. They are approaching \$5 a gallon. More and more commentators believe that the Strait of Hormuz will be closed for much longer, indefinitely. We don't know when. And that is also going to continue the pressure on the price of home heating fuel.

You know, I do have a real contention with the administration when President Trump, on the one hand, is zeroing out the home heating assistance program, and cooling assistance as well, but on the other hand, is pursuing policies that are driving up energy costs, as we saw and are seeing with the war in Iran, which has closed the Strait of Hormuz and is crippling the economy but is leading directly to higher home heating fuel costs.

And that is in contrast with some of the comments that I can only characterize as cruel and totally "out of it" by some of his advisers. Kevin Hassett made a very telling remark to CNBC. Here is what he said:

While it's very frustrating to go to the pump and see what the price of gasoline looks like . . . the benefit for oil producers is significant.

Seriously? What about your constituents and mine, who are paying the price that is of benefit to the oil producers and then find out that the home heating and cooling assistance help that they had last year is going to be zeroed out this year. That is absolutely outrageous.

The only people benefitting from this energy crisis are people in Big Oil. They are making an estimated \$30 million windfall every hour.

The price goes up. It is painful for consumers and for businesses and for farmers, but it is a windfall for the oil companies.

So shouldn't this Congress stand up and provide some help to maintain some sense of security for the people we represent?

But by proposing a 100-percent cut to Federal LIHEAP funding, President Trump has made it clear what his priority is. It is accelerating the profits for the oil industry at the expense of people who have absolutely no control over what the price is at the pump, what the price is when that home heating gas or oil is being delivered to their homes.

All of us are here and believing that we are fighting for the families that we represent in our States, and I am fighting for Vermont families. Last week, Senator REED and I filed an amendment to the Republican budget resolution that would protect LIHEAP from this zeroing out in the Trump budget.

The amendment was not adopted. But I will keep fighting, and I hope many of my colleagues will join me to protect LIHEAP so that there can be some reassurance to the people who are going to be hammered and threatened by the zeroing out of this program.

You know, in the past, Congress has, on a bipartisan basis, rejected the administration's attempts to zero out the LIHEAP budget and illegally fire the staff that oversees the disbursement of LIHEAP funding to the States. That is why we included report language in the fiscal year 2026 bill to require that funds that are allocated to States be distributed on a timely basis. And that is true in Alabama, and it is true in Vermont.

And I urge my colleagues to join those of us who want to make certain this fuel assistance is available to families, regardless of whom they voted for, regardless of policy orientation, and regardless of politics.

This is not a red State or blue State issue. Americans everywhere are paying for the reckless economic policies in this illegal war, and this war is imposing substantial and daily and punitive costs on struggling Americans, struggling farmers, and struggling businesses.

But all of us are in need of maintaining this program, and we can if we come together to do it.

You know, Texas receives about \$181 million in LIHEAP funding, and it helps 65,000 households; in Nebraska, \$32 million, 53,000 households.

So by attempting to zero out LIHEAP funding, the Trump administration has said it loud and clear. It is plain before our eyes. They are willing to throw Americans out in the cold or in the heat and are quite content with a \$30 million-an-hour windfall for the oil companies.

My hope is that we in Congress, whatever our differences are, can work together to save and preserve the LIHEAP program, which is a lifeline for so many people you represent and I represent.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. LANKFORD assumed the Chair.)

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Cekada nomination be waived.

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

NOMINATION OF ROBERT CEKADA

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, later this evening, the Senate will consider the nomination of Robert Cekada to serve as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or what we call the ATF.

In my capacity as the chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee that provides funding to the U.S. Department of Justice, including the ATF, I have had many opportunities to get to know Rob.

In his current role as the Deputy Director of the ATF, Mr. Cekada is a "lawman." He worked the frontlines as a New York City police officer and rose through the ranks of the ATF. He is an honorable man who believes in serving his community, enforcing the rule of law, and promoting public safety.

The ATF is a multifaceted Agency, and its regulation of firearms—a constitutionally protected right—has made it, at times, a politically challenging Agency to lead.

Rob's work and influence with State and local law enforcement is often demonstrated to me in the conversations I have with local sheriffs and police chiefs. Their respect for Rob is apparent, and Kansas law enforcement has shared with me how the ATF's partnerships have helped reduce gun violence in their areas.

This was evident when Rob was in Wichita last November to help announce the opening of the ATF's new field office—an effort that reflected his commitment to strengthening partnerships on the ground and supporting law enforcement where they need it the most. That same approach carries through in the Agency's broader work, including its leadership in crime gun intelligence, particularly through the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, or NIBIN, which has been a game changer for fighting violent crime.

In Kansas, Wichita State University supports this work, and next month, we will open a new Crime Gun Intelligence Laboratory on campus, further expanding the ATF's ability to provide cutting-edge forensic support to law enforcement nationwide.

Simply put, the ATF is a significant component of our efforts to combat violent crime and to support law enforcement, and I think no one is better prepared to lead this Agency than Rob Cekada.

I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the 5:30 scheduled vote begin immediately.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 670, Robert Cekada, of Florida, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

John Thune, Tom Cotton, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, Jon Husted, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Justice, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, David McCormick, John Cornyn, Thom Tillis, James Lankford, John R. Curtis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Robert Cekada, of Florida, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 106 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Armstrong	Grassley	Moody
Barrasso	Hagerty	Moran
Blackburn	Hassan	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeben	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cramer	King	Sheehy
Crapo	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Curtis	Lankford	Thune
Daines	Lee	Tillis
Ernst	Marshall	Whitehouse
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker
Graham	McCormick	Young

NAYS—37

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Sanders
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Bennet	Hirono	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Slotkin
Booker	Lujan	Smith
Cantwell	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warren
Duckworth	Ossoff	Welch
Durbin	Peters	Wyden
Gallego	Reed	
Gillibrand	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—9

Banks	Lummis	Padilla
Crux	Moreno	Tuberville
Fetterman	Murray	Warnock

(Mr. ROUNDS assumed the Chair.)

(Mrs. BRITT assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. RICKETTS assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 37. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ESCORT COMMITTEE

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Majesty Charles III into the House Chamber for the joint meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the postcloture time with respect to Executive Calendar No. 670 be expired and at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, no earlier than tomorrow, the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on confirmation of the nomination; finally, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. RES. 690

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I send an executive resolution to the desk for the consideration of certain nominations en bloc and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title for the information of the Senate.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

An executive resolution (S. Res. 690) authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

Mr. HAGERTY. In order to place the executive resolution on the calendar, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection having been heard, the executive resolution will lie over for 1 calendar day.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HAGERTY. 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.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES S.C. CHAO

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on May 2, 2026, Maine Maritime Academy bestows an honorary degree upon Dr.

James S. C. Chao in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to global shipping, education, and public service. Dr. Chao's lifelong commitment to maritime commerce and leadership development has had a lasting impact on the industry and on generations of young professionals.

It is fitting that the keynote speaker for the academy's 83rd commencement is Dr. Chao's daughter, the Honorable Elaine Chao, who served our Nation with distinction as both Secretary of Labor and Secretary of Transportation. In that latter role, Secretary Chao was a champion of America's maritime academies that prepare the next generation of leaders for our Navy, Coast Guard, and maritime industry. When the new training vessel State of Maine was delivered in March of this year, I was proud to stand with Secretary Chao as cosponsor of that magnificent ship.

Appreciating the vital role the oceans play in commerce, security, and the environment is a family tradition. Dr. Chao was born 99 years ago in a small, rural farming community in China. Despite the danger and privations of World War II and the Chinese Civil War, he excelled in his educational pursuits and became one of the youngest captains in the Chinese Merchant Marines. After being separated by the war, Dr. Chao searched relentlessly for the love of his life Ruth Mulan Chu and finally found her by chance in Taiwan. They were wed in 1951, beginning a marriage that lasted for 57 years until her passing in 2007.

In 1958, Dr. Chao achieved a record-high score on the Chinese Merchant Marine Master's Special Qualification Examination, which gave him the opportunity to continue his studies in the United States. Arriving in New York alone and with little money, he secured a low-paying job with a Chinese shipping company and, with persistence, eventually gained admission to graduate programs at Columbia University and St. John's University. Balancing his studies with three jobs, he finally was able to bring Ruth and their three children to America in 1961.

After earning a master's degree in business administration in 1964, he founded his own company, Foremost Maritime Corporation. Among his early accomplishments was managing emergency food shipments during the wars in Vietnam and Bangladesh. Today, the company, now part of the Foremost Group, is global leader in international shipping, trading, and finance. Foremost Group is a leader in green technology in shipping, continuously upgrading its fleet with energy-saving devices, and building new ships with alternative fuel and carbon capture features.

Foremost's fleet is ranked among the world's most eco-friendly bulk carriers. For his outstanding contributions to the maritime industry, Dr. Chao was inducted into the International Maritime Hall of Fame at the United Na-

tions. Among his many other honors are the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the Horatio Alger Award of Distinguished Americans at the U.S. Supreme Court, and an Outstanding American by Choice recognition by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Together, Dr. and Mrs. Chao devoted their business success to philanthropy, particularly in providing scholarships to deserving students. Since four of their daughters attended Harvard Business School, the couple endowed the Ruth Mulan Chu Chao Center as part of a \$40 million gift to the university that also supports the Chao Family Fellowship Fund.

Dr. Chao credits his remarkable accomplishments to courage, determination, confidence, and trust. As our Nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, we do well to heed his words, as one who achieved the American dream: "I could not have had the same success anywhere else as I have in this country. In America, you don't need to have a connection or a certain background. All you need is to have a goal. After that, all you have to do is work hard and help others."

America is so fortunate to have such an outstanding individual come to our shores and contribute so much. I congratulate Dr. James S.C. Chao on this recognition from Maine Maritime Academy and wish him all the best.

TRIBUTE TO ERIC F. MELGREN

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Eric F. Melgren of the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas on the occasion of his assumption of senior status.

Raised on a cattle and wheat farm in southwest Kansas, Judge Melgren was the first in his family to pursue a college education. He attended Wichita State University, where he distinguished himself as student body president. He later earned his law degree from Washburn University School of Law, contributing to the Law Review during his time there.

Judge Melgren began his legal career clerking for Judge Frank Theis, a role that would ultimately come full circle when he returned to serve in the same chambers from the bench. He later spent 15 years with Foulston & Siefkin, Kansas' largest law firm, where he specialized in tax and business matters.

In 2002, he was called to public service as U.S. Attorney for the District of Kansas, a position he held until his appointment to the Federal judiciary by President George W. Bush in 2008. Following Senate confirmation, Judge Melgren took his seat on the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, where he has served with distinction ever since.

Judge Melgren's service has extended beyond the courtroom through civic and professional leadership, including roles with the United Way of the Plains, the Wichita State University

Alumni Association, Leadership Wichita, and other organizations. He also serves as the Tenth Circuit representative on the Judicial Conference's Defender Services Committee.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Judge Melgren for his service to Kansas and the United States and in wishing him continued success in the next chapter of his judicial career.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACOG

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today, it is my honor to recognize the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, or ACOG, as it celebrates the 75th anniversary of its founding. Since 1951, ACOG has played a central role in advancing the field of obstetrics and gynecology and improving the health and well-being of patients across the United States.

ACOG is the leading professional membership organization for obstetrician-gynecologists, representing more than 62,000 members who live in and provide care to patients in every congressional district nationwide, including over 1,300 members in Washington State. Its members uphold the highest professional standards and are united in their delivery of exceptional, respectful, and science-based care for patients across their lifespan. For three-quarters of a century, ACOG has set the standard for obstetrics and gynecology through clinical guidance, education, and advocacy, empowering physicians to provide the best care possible for their patients.

ACOG has served as a trusted source of accessible and reliable health information for both healthcare providers and the public. In partnership with its members, ACOG has championed initiatives to improve maternal health outcomes, protect the patient-physician relationship, create more sustainable practice environments for obstetrician-gynecologists, bolster the healthcare workforce, and protect and advance access to quality healthcare for all individuals.

In my time in the Senate, I have been proud to partner with ACOG in efforts to protect access to reproductive healthcare; prevent harmful treatment of pregnant and postpartum patients in immigration detention; advance investments in women's health research; require pregnancy-related accommodations for workers; expand access to fertility services for veterans, service members, and their families; and secure support for State maternal mortality review committees.

ACOG's 75th anniversary is an important opportunity to recognize its historic contributions and enduring leadership in obstetrics and gynecology. To name a few, ACOG was a leading voice advocating to extend Medicaid coverage to at least 1 year postpartum, advocated for legislation to address opioid use during pregnancy, led qual-

ity improvement initiatives to address and prevent the leading causes of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, helped pave the way for broader access to contraception, and translated the scientific advances of HPV vaccine development into clinical practice.

For 75 years, ACOG has helped shape the future of women's health and continues to play a vital role in ensuring high-quality care for patients and families nationwide, and I look forward to continuing to partner with them to improve access to healthcare for women in my State and across the country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO STEVE AND GAYLE MASON

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor to recognize Steve and Gayle Mason as Montanans of the Month.

Steve and Gayle Mason are residents of Somers, MT. Steve is a U.S. military veteran, and his dedication to country and community has continued long after the end of his military service.

Northwest Montana is home to a large, active veteran community, and nearly 6,000 veterans live in Kalispell alone. The Masons have dedicated a tremendous amount of their time and resources to give back to veterans in need by gathering donations and distributing food, clothing, and medical supplies.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Steve and Gayle Mason as Montanans of the Month. Their hard work, dedication to the veteran community, and their selfless service to Montanans will be remembered and inspire many. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Allie, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4690. An act to amend the Energy Conservation and Production Act to repeal cer-

tain Federal building energy efficiency performance standards, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6387. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to require revisions to regulations governing the review and handling of air quality monitoring data influenced by exceptional events or actions to mitigate wildfire risk.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 1206. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable David Scott, a Representative from the State of Georgia.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

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

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

S. 1020. An act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licensees are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects.

S. 2066. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to exclude from the limit on leverage certain amounts invested in smaller enterprises located in rural or low-income areas and small businesses in critical technology areas, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 4690. An act to amend the Energy Conservation and Production Act to repeal certain Federal building energy efficiency performance standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 6387. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to require revisions to regulations governing the review and handling of air quality monitoring data influenced by exceptional events or actions to mitigate wildfire risk; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITIONS

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 125, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to "Debt Collection Practices (Regulation F); Pay-to-Pay Fees," and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty

Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 126, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (Regulation F); Time-Barred Debt,” and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Sheldon Whitehouse, Andy Kim, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 127, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Fair Credit Reporting; File Disclosure,” and further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 128, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Consumer Financial Protection Circular 2024-03: Unlawful and Unenforceable Contract Terms and Conditions” and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John W.

Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 129, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “The Fair Credit Reporting Act’s Limited Preemption of State Laws,” and further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 130, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to withdrawal of the rule relating to “Consumer Financial Protection Circular 2024-05: Improper Over-draft Opt-In Practices,” and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 131, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Consumer Financial Protection Circular 2024-02: Deceptive Marketing Practices About the Speed or Cost of Sending a Remittance Transfer,” and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie K.

Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 132, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Examinations for Risks to Active-Duty Servicemembers and Their Covered Dependents,” and further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 133, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Fair Credit Reporting; Background Screening,” and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 134, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Truth in Lending (Regulation Z); Use of Digital User Accounts To Access Buy Now, Pay Later Loans,” and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 135, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Consumer Financial Protection Circular 2024-04: Whistleblower Protections Under CFPB Section 1057,” and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 140, a resolution on providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Fair Credit Reporting; Name-Only Matching Procedures,” and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 141, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Debt Collection Practices (Regulation F); Deceptive and Unfair Collec-

tion of Medical Debt.” and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 145, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Fair Credit Reporting; Permissible Purposes for Furnishing, Using, and Obtaining Consumer Reports,” and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 147, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Statement of Policy Regarding Prohibition on Abusive Acts or Practices,” and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Catherine Cortez Masto, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 149, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule sub-

mitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Truth in Lending (Regulation Z); Consumer Protections for Home Sales Financed Under Contracts for Deed” and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 150, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Limited Applicability of Consumer Financial Protection Act’s ‘Time or Space’ Exception With Respect to Digital Marketing Providers,” and further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 154, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Equal Credit Opportunity (Regulation B); Revocations or Unfavorable Changes to the Terms of Existing Credit Arrangements,” and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Catherine Cortez Masto, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States

Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 155, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Fair Credit Reporting Act; Preemption of State Laws,” and further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 156, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Truth in Lending (Regulation Z); Consumer Credit Offered to Borrowers in Advance of Expected Receipt of Compensation for Work,” and further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Elizabeth Warren, Peter Welch, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Raphael G. Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Adam B. Schiff, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Angela D. Alsobrooks, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Andy Kim, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Charles E. Schumer.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolutions were discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 125. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Debt Collection Practices (Regulation F); Pay-to-Pay Fees”.

S.J. Res. 126. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (Regulation F); Time-Barred Debt”.

S.J. Res. 127. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the

rule relating to “Fair Credit Reporting; File Disclosure”.

S.J. Res. 128. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Consumer Financial Protection Circular 2024-03: Unlawful and Unenforceable Contract Terms and Conditions”.

S.J. Res. 129. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “The Fair Credit Reporting Act’s Limited Preemption of State Laws”.

S.J. Res. 130. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to withdrawal of the rule relating to “Consumer Financial Protection Circular 2024-05: Improper Overdraft Opt-In Practices”.

S.J. Res. 131. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Consumer Financial Protection Circular 2024-02: Deceptive Marketing Practices About the Speed or Cost of Sending a Remittance Transfer”.

S.J. Res. 132. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Examinations for Risks to Active-Duty Servicemembers and Their Covered Dependents”.

S.J. Res. 133. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Fair Credit Reporting; Background Screening”.

S.J. Res. 134. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Truth in Lending (Regulation Z); Use of Digital User Accounts to Access Buy Now, Pay Later Loans”.

S.J. Res. 135. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Consumer Financial Protection Circular 2024-04: Whistleblower Protections Under CFPB Section 1057”.

S.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 Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Fair Credit Reporting; Name-Only Matching Procedures”.

S.J. Res. 141. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Debt Collection Practices (Regulation F); Deceptive and Unfair Collection of Medical Debt”.

S.J. Res. 145. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Fair Credit Reporting; Permissible Purposes for Furnishing, Using, and Obtaining Consumer Reports”.

S.J. Res. 147. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Statement of Policy Regarding Prohibition on Abusive Acts or Practices”.

S.J. Res. 149. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Truth in Lending (Regulation Z); Consumer Protections for Home Sales Financed Under Contracts for Deed”.

S.J. Res. 150. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Limited Applicability of Consumer Financial Protection Act’s ‘Time or Space’ Exception With Respect to Digital Marketing Providers”.

S.J. Res. 154. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Equal Credit Opportunity (Regulation B); Revocations or Unfavorable Changes to the Terms of Existing Credit Arrangements”.

S.J. Res. 155. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Fair Credit Reporting Act; Preemption of State Laws”.

S.J. Res. 156. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to the withdrawal of the rule relating to “Truth in Lending (Regulation Z); Consumer Credit Offered to Borrowers in Advance of Expected Receipt of Compensation for Work”.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 4378. A bill to combat fraud in Federal programs, and for other purposes.

The following resolution was read, and placed on the calendar:

S. Res. 690. An executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration on Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

MEASURES HELD OVER/UNDER RULE

The following resolution was read, and held over, under the rule:

S. Res. 690. An executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration on Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on April 27, 2026, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 723. An act to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4384. 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 Finance.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 4385. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to reauthorize the Community Connect Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 4386. A bill to establish an advisory committee regarding data standardization and integration for apprenticeships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 4387. A bill to study the extent to which individuals are more at risk of maternal morbidity or mortality as a result of being a victim of intimate partner violence; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 4388. A bill to make available necessary disaster assistance for families affected by major disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KIM, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 4389. A bill to protect children affected by immigration enforcement actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4390. A bill to end preferences for disadvantaged individuals and businesses in Government contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 4391. A bill to ban new corporate ownership of agricultural land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 4392. A bill to promote United States and allied energy and mineral security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. BANKS):

S. 4393. A bill to require the head of each Federal agency to submit to the Made in America Office and to Congress an annual report on the implementation of the Build America, Buy America Act that identifies each new and existing Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure that has and has not fully implemented Buy America preference requirements under that Act, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4394. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to improve the COPS program with respect to training command-level personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. KIM, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RICKETTS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BANKS, Mr. MORENO, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 4395. A bill to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 4396. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to credit individuals serving as caregivers of dependent relatives with deemed wages for up to five years of such service; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RICKETTS:

S. 4397. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to improve transparency of the regulatory process and coordination of science among Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 4398. A bill to require new State-issued driver's licenses and identification cards to indicate whether or not the holder is a United States citizen in order to be acceptable for Federal recognition and to establish minimum requirements for Federal recognition of State-issued commercial driver's licenses and non-domicile commercial driver's licenses; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 4399. A bill to provide for certain conveyances under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 4400. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a five-year human capital plan to support the mission and responsibilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to require the Secretary provide notice before carrying out a reduction in force, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LUJAN:

S. 4401. A bill to require third-party delivery platforms to follow certain pricing practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

S. 4402. A bill to require a report on the use of artificial intelligence with respect to access to unminimized information collected pursuant to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KIM, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 4403. A bill to amend the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to provide

States and communities with additional assistance to plant and maintain trees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 4404. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to require Congress to approve of the application of certain executive exemptions under that Act, to strike an exemption under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S.J. Res. 185. 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; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WELCH):

S.J. Res. 186. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to the fundamental right to vote; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S.J. Res. 187. 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 "Modification to the Start of the Submission Period for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Reporting and Record-keeping Under TSCA 8(a)(7)"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S.J. Res. 188. 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 "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units: Final Repeal"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 687. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of April 27 through May 1, 2026, as "National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. Res. 688. A resolution expressing support for the staff of public, school, academic, and special libraries in the United States and the essential services those libraries provide to communities, recognizing the need for funding commensurate with the broad scope of social service and community supports provided by libraries, preserving the right of all citizens of the United States to freely access information and resources in their communities, supporting a strong union voice for library workers, and defending the civil rights of library staff; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. Res. 689. A resolution congratulating the University of South Carolina Aiken women's polo team on winning the 2026 United States Polo Association Division I Women's National Intercollegiate Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. Res. 690. An executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration on Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; placed on the executive calendar.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 75

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 75, a bill to modify the governmentwide financial management plan, and for other purposes.

S. 192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 192, a bill to restrict the first-use strike of nuclear weapons.

S. 567

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 567, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 609

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 609, a bill to improve mental health services of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 645

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors

of S. 645, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946.

S. 1227

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1227, a bill to require the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Commissioner of Social Security to review and simplify the processes, procedures, forms, and communications for family caregivers to assist individuals in establishing eligibility for, enrolling in, and maintaining and utilizing coverage and benefits under the Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and Social Security programs respectively, and for other purposes.

S. 1380

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1380, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program to encourage specialty medicine physicians to serve in rural communities experiencing a shortage of specialty medicine physicians, and for other purposes.

S. 1418

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1418, a bill to require the Attorney General to develop reports relating to violent attacks against law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 1454

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 1454, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide for greater protection of roosters, and for other purposes.

S. 1504

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) and the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1504, a bill to require the Social Security Administration to make changes to the social security terminology used in the rules, regulation, guidance, or other materials of the Administration.

S. 1541

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1541, a bill to support the national defense and economic security of the United States by supporting vessels, ports, and shipyards of the United States and the U.S. maritime workforce.

S. 1565

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms.

MURKOWSKI) 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. 1572

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1572, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Federal carjacking statute.

S. 1705

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1705, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to issue standards with respect to chip security mechanisms for integrated circuit products, and for other purposes.

S. 1716

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1716, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to improve health care coverage under vision plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1805

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1805, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes.

S. 1816

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1816, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1874, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain nursing workforce development programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1882

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1882, a bill to expand and promote research and data collection on reproductive health conditions, to provide training opportunities for medical professionals to learn how to diagnose and treat reproductive health conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 1924

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1924, a bill to add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards.

S. 1925

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1925, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes outpatient self-management training services, to require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test the provision of virtual diabetes outpatient self-management training services, and for other purposes.

S. 2761

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 2761, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide long-term stability for Medicare beneficiary access to clinical diagnostic laboratory tests by improving the accuracy of, and feasibility of data collection for, the private payor-based fee schedule payment rates applied under the Medicare program for such tests, and for other purposes.

S. 3105

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3105, a bill to regulate human cadaveric islets for transplantation as organs.

S. 3492

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) 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. 3697

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3697, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the approval of new abortion drugs, to prohibit investigational use exemptions for abortion drugs, and to impose additional regulatory requirements with respect to previously approved abortion drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 3850

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3850, a bill to regulate monitoring of electronic communications between an incarcerated person in a Bureau of Prisons facility and that person's attorney or other legal representative, and for other purposes.

S. 3868

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

PAUL) 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. 3940

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 3940, a bill to amend the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 to require the Secretary of the Treasury to testify before Congress, and for other purposes.

S. 3949

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3949, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require the promulgation of cybersecurity and digital service regulations relating to the use of EBT cards under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 3958

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3958, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to transition Puerto Rico to the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 4051

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4051, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue coins that are emblematic of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial and the service and sacrifice of firefighters throughout the history of the United States.

S. 4148

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4148, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants and direct or guaranteed loans to increase domestic fertilizer production for United States farmers.

S. 4176

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4176, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to direct State medicaid fraud control units to investigate and prosecute instances of beneficiary fraud.

S. 4189

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4189, a bill to reduce the price of insulin and provide for patient protections with respect to the cost of insulin.

S. 4242

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator

from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 4242, a bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to clarify the authority of States to use funds for pregnancy centers, and for other purposes.

S. 4321

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4321, a bill to reauthorize the YouthBuild program, and for other purposes.

S. 4355

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4355, a bill to require the Department of Health and Human Services to release documents, communications, and other information relating to most favored nation pricing agreements and other private or confidential drug pricing deals struck with manufacturers, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 124

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 124, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Republic of Cuba that have not been authorized by Congress.

S.J. RES. 182

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 182, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program".

S.J. RES. 184

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN

HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WELCH):

S.J. Res. 186. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to the fundamental right to vote; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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.J. RES. 186

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein). That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States:

“ARTICLE —

“SECTION 1. Every citizen of the United States, who is of legal voting age, shall have the fundamental right to vote in any public election held in the jurisdiction in which the citizen resides.

“SECTION 2. The fundamental right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State or political subdivision within a State unless such denial or abridgment is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

“SECTION 3. The portion of section 2 of the fourteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States that consists of the phrase ‘or other crime,’ is repealed.

“SECTION 4. The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article and protect against any denial or abridgement of the fundamental right to vote by legislation.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 687—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 27 THROUGH MAY 1, 2026, AS “NATIONAL SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL APPRECIATION WEEK”

Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 687

Whereas there are more than 1,000,000 specialized instructional support personnel serving the schools and students of the United States, including—

- (1) school counselors;
- (2) school social workers;
- (3) school psychologists; and
- (4) other qualified professional personnel, such as—
 - (A) school nurses;
 - (B) psychologists;
 - (C) social workers;
 - (D) occupational therapists;
 - (E) physical therapists;
 - (F) art therapists;
 - (G) dance and movement therapists;

- (H) music therapists;
- (I) speech-language pathologists; and
- (J) audiologists;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel provide school-based prevention and early intervention services to reduce barriers to learning;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel work with teachers, school leaders, and parents to ensure that all students are successful in school;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel encourage multidisciplinary collaboration to promote student and school success;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel provide educational, social, emotional, and behavioral interventions and activities that support—

- (1) student learning; and
- (2) teaching;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel help to create environments that are safe, supportive, and conducive to learning;

Whereas safe and supportive school environments are associated with improved academic performance;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel support—

- (1) student communication;
- (2) the development of social skills by students;
- (3) the physical wellness of students;
- (4) the physical development of students; and
- (5) the behavioral, emotional, and mental health of students; and

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel serve all students who struggle with barriers to learning: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 27 through May 1, 2026, as “National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week”;

(2) recognizes that specialized instructional support personnel implement evidence-based practices to improve student outcomes;

(3) commends—

(A) those individuals who work as specialized instructional support personnel; and

(B) the individuals and organizations that support the efforts made by specialized instructional support personnel to promote and improve the availability of specialized instructional support services;

(4) encourages Federal, State, and local policymakers to work together to raise awareness of the importance of specialized instructional support personnel in school climate and education efforts;

(5) recognizes the important role of specialized instructional support personnel in efforts to improve mental health, reduce drug use, and improve overall community safety for students; and

(6) encourages experts to share best practices so that others can replicate the success of those experts.

SENATE RESOLUTION 688—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE STAFF OF PUBLIC, SCHOOL, ACADEMIC, AND SPECIAL LIBRARIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES THOSE LIBRARIES PROVIDE TO COMMUNITIES, RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR FUNDING COMMENSURATE WITH THE BROAD SCOPE OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTS PROVIDED BY LIBRARIES, PRESERVING THE RIGHT OF ALL CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES TO FREELY ACCESS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, SUPPORTING A STRONG UNION VOICE FOR LIBRARY WORKERS, AND DEFENDING THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF LIBRARY STAFF

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 688

Whereas library staff are cornerstones of their communities in the United States, providing visitors with access to books and media, delivering high-quality programming to visitors of all ages, ensuring equitable internet access for all, and linking people to crucial information about accessing social services;

Whereas libraries are an economic powerhouse in their communities, providing resources to small business owners, job seekers, and individuals learning new skills;

Whereas, in recent years, library staff have been called on to address the fallout from difficult public crises in the United States, taking on roles that exceed the traditional role of providing a space for, and access to, educational and cultural enrichment;

Whereas library staff provide lifesaving care to members of their communities who are suffering the effects of the ongoing and tragic opioid epidemic in the United States, including being called on to administer medication to treat overdoses;

Whereas libraries are a safe haven for individuals and families who are unhoused, and library workers provide the supportive community environment and resources needed by unhoused individuals and families;

Whereas libraries are often the only source of internet for underserved communities;

Whereas library staff maintained public access to essential library services and were relied on to distribute personal protective equipment and provide testing to the public during the worst days of the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas libraries have met an expanded and intensified demand for community, public health, and safety net services, often while contending with severe funding cuts, creating unsustainable and frequently unsafe working conditions for library staff;

Whereas the EveryLibrary Institute recently found that Project 2025 encourages the mistreatment and misrepresentation of minority communities as well as the harassment of library staff;

Whereas, on March 14, 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order 14238 (90 Fed.

Reg. 13043, relating to continuing the reduction of the Federal bureaucracy) to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services;

Whereas eliminating the Institute of Museum and Library Services would harm the ability of libraries to provide critical resources to millions of people in the United States, especially in rural, Tribal, and other underserved communities;

Whereas the health and survival of democracy in the United States requires that everyone be able to exercise rights to information and services, and it is especially important for young people to have the opportunity to learn, encounter, and debate all manner of ideas, including controversial ones;

Whereas students have been shown to spend more time reading and exhibit higher reading scores when given access to diverse titles, and library staff play a crucial role in curating diverse book offerings for young readers;

Whereas a fundamental responsibility of the job of library staff is making decisions about the books and media in their collections and assisting visitors in accessing those materials without fear of censorship or reprisal for fulfilling the role of providing information and resources to the public;

Whereas PEN America found 6,870 instances of book bans in school libraries and classrooms during the 2024 to 2025 school year;

Whereas libraries and library staff are more capable of providing their communities with access to a diverse, inclusive, and comprehensive selection of books and media when they operate free from threats of book bans and censorship;

Whereas library staff have faced termination and criminalization for refusing to remove banned books from their libraries;

Whereas, from 2024 to 2025, there were deplorable incidents throughout the United States that were orchestrated to intimidate library staff and prevent them from fulfilling their central work responsibility to provide the public with free and unfettered access to information;

Whereas library staff across the United States are mobilizing for a collective union voice in their workplaces to elevate their profession, to ensure safe and adequately resourced spaces that meet the needs of the communities they serve, and to protect the essential role of libraries in the democracy of the United States; and

Whereas the week of April 19 through April 25, 2026, would be an appropriate time to celebrate "National Library Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the work of library staff in the United States;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Library Week;

(3) recognizes that libraries and library staff provide critical infrastructure for the United States and are essential to the future of the United States;

(4) supports the prioritization of full funding of library services at the Federal, State, and local levels to ensure the continuation and improvement of library services;

(5) reaffirms—

(A) the fundamental right of the people of the United States to access information, which is made real through the efforts of library staff;

(B) the fundamental right of library workers to organize and collectively bargain at work and to have a protected voice in their workplace; and

(C) the civil rights of library workers to exercise their responsibilities to the public without threats or intimidation; and

(6) recognizes the right of library staff—

(A) to speak out on matters of public concern;

(B) to address themselves to elected officials and to the administration of the entities that employ library staff; and

(C) to inform the people of the United States about their right to free and unfettered access to information, and about threats to that access.

—————

SENATE RESOLUTION 689—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN WOMEN'S POLO TEAM ON WINNING THE 2026 UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION DIVISION I WOMEN'S NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 689

Whereas, on March 22, 2026, the University of South Carolina Aiken (referred to in this preamble as "USCA") women's polo team secured a 15 to 6 win against Texas A&M University to win the 2026 United States Polo Association Division I Women's National Intercollegiate Championship;

Whereas this win marks the first national title in program history;

Whereas this win marks the first undefeated season in program history;

Whereas every member of the USCA women's polo team contributed to the successful 2026 United States Polo Association Division I intercollegiate championship season and national title victory;

Whereas the coaches and staff of the USCA women's polo team played a vital role in the success of the USCA Pacers during the 2026 season; and

Whereas the USCA Pacers showed immense strength, resilience, and teamwork to win the national championship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of South Carolina Aiken women's polo team for an incredible season and for winning the United States Polo Association Division I Women's National Intercollegiate Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the success of the team; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Brianna Jane Jordan, team member;

(B) Madison Ann Jordan, team member;

and

(C) Winifred Anne Branscum, team member.

—————

SENATE RESOLUTION 690—AUTHORIZING THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE submitted the following resolution; which was submitted and read:

S. RES. 690

Resolved, That it shall be in order to move to proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations on the Executive Calendar:

(1) Calendar Number 615: Andrew Benson, of Maine, to be United States Attorney for the District of Maine for the term of 4 years.

(2) Calendar Number 616: William Boyle, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of 4 years.

(3) Calendar Number 617: Kevin Holmes, of Arkansas, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas for the term of 4 years.

(4) Calendar Number 618: Brian David Miller, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years.

(5) Calendar Number 619: Richard Price, of Missouri, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri for the term of 4 years.

(6) Calendar Number 620: Darin Smith, of Wyoming, to be United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming for the term of 4 years.

(7) Calendar Number 621: Gregory LoGerfo, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

(8) Calendar Number 622: Eric Meyer, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

(9) Calendar Number 623: Jennifer Wicks McNamara, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

(10) Calendar Number 624: Frank Weiland, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs).

(11) Calendar Number 648: Daniel Edwards, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

(12) Calendar Number 649: Steven Haines, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

(13) Calendar Number 650: Robert Harvey, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2029.

(14) Calendar Number 652: Thomas Govan, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama for the term of 4 years.

(15) Calendar Number 653: Zachary Keller, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana for the term of 4 years.

(16) Calendar Number 654: Ryan Raybould, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas for the term of 4 years.

(17) Calendar Number 664: Gregory Gilmore, of Illinois, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois for the term of 4 years.

(18) Calendar Number 665: Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of 5 years expiring June 30, 2031. (Reappointment)

(19) Calendar Number 666: Stevan Pearce, of New Mexico, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(20) Calendar Number 667: David LaCerte, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2031. (Reappointment)

(21) Calendar Number 668: Kyle Haustveit, of North Dakota, to be Under Secretary of Energy.

(22) Calendar Number 675: Robert Rotter, of Iowa, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of 4 years.

(23) Calendar Number 676: Daniel Satterlee, of South Dakota, to be United States Marshal for the District of South Dakota for the term of 4 years.

(24) Calendar Number 677: David St. Pierre, of Maine, to be United States Marshal for the District of Maine for the term of 4 years.

(25) Calendar Number 678: Brian Birdwell, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(26) Calendar Number 679: Mark Ditlevson, of Minnesota, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(27) Calendar Number 680: Lee Lipton, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Philippines.

(28) Calendar Number 681: William Long, of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iceland.

(29) Calendar Number 682: Jared Novelly, of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Independent State of Samoa, the Cook Islands, and Niue.

(30) Calendar Number 683: Robert Sweeney, of Texas, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador.

(31) Calendar Number 685: Asel Roberts, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia.

(32) Calendar Number 686: Wesley Brooks, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

(33) Calendar Number 687: Frank Garcia, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (African Affairs).

(34) Calendar Number 688: Matthew Anderson, of Colorado, to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(35) Calendar Number 689: Michael Graham, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2030. (Reappointment)

(36) Calendar Number 690: Richard Kloster, of West Virginia, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2028.

(37) Calendar Number 691: Seval Oz, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation. (New Position)

(38) Calendar Number 692: Arvind Raman, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology.

(39) Calendar Number 694: Melissa Holyoak, of Utah, to be United States Attorney for the District of Utah for the term of 4 years.

(40) Calendar Number 695: Phillip Williams, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama for the term of 4 years.

(41) Calendar Number 698: James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina for the term of 4 years.

(42) Calendar Number 699: Brian Barber, of Louisiana, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Louisiana for the term of 4 years.

(43) Calendar Number 700: Steven Lewis, of Missouri, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Missouri for the term of 4 years.

(44) Calendar Number 701: Priscilla Lopez, of Florida, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Florida for the term of 4 years.

(45) Calendar Number 711: Brian Gootkin, of Montana, to be United States Marshal for the District of Montana for the term of 4 years.

(46) Calendar Number 712: James Stuart, of Minnesota, to be United States Marshal for

the District of Minnesota for the term of 4 years.

(47) Calendar Number 714: Yeouk Kim, of Texas, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

(48) Calendar Number 715: Ademola Adewale-Sadik, of New York, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank for a term of 5 years.

(49) Calendar Number 716: Catherine Dillon, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Educational and Cultural Affairs).

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 27, 2026, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4378

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4372) to combat fraud in Federal programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. HAGERTY. 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 under rule XIV.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN WOMEN'S POLO TEAM ON WINNING THE 2026 UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION DIVISION I WOMEN'S NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 689, which is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 689) congratulating the University of South Carolina Aiken

women's polo team on winning the 2026 United States Polo Association Division I Women's National Intercollegiate Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. HAGERTY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 689) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to. (The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 28; 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 4 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings and joint address.

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

Mr. HAGERTY. For the information of my colleagues, Senators are asked to gather in the Chamber at 2:20 p.m. tomorrow to proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives for the joint address.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. HAGERTY. 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 7:21 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DAVID BRAT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

HAL DUNCAN, OF TEXAS, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, VICE JAMES BISHOP.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SEAN KAUFMAN, OF GEORGIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE DAWN MYERS O'CONNELL, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

JEFFREY LEDBETTER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE RAE OLIVER.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

GEORGE MCMASTER, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE JOSHUA FROST, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

RICHARD O'MALLEY, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE RADHA IYENGAR PLUMB, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUAN SEGURA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS), VICE BRIAN A. NICHOLS.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

JUAN SEGURA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 20, 2026, VICE ADOLFO A. FRANCO, TERM EXPIRED.

JUAN SEGURA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUN-

DATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 20, 2032. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

ABBY WARREN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE THEA D. ROZMAN KENDLER, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

BENJAMIN M. FLOWERS, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, VICE JEFFREY S. SUTTON, RETIRING.

MATTHEW A. SCHWARTZ, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT, VICE DEBRA ANN LIVINGSTON, RETIRING.

 WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on April 27,

2026 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

DANIEL BONHAM, OF OREGON, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE ELIZABETH SCHOFF WATSON, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 13, 2026.

CARTER CROW, OF TEXAS, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE KARLA ANN GILBRIDE, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 13, 2026.

SEAN PLANKEY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE JEN EASTERLY, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 13, 2026.

SCOTT SOCHA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, VICE CHARLES F. SAMS III, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON FEBRUARY 11, 2026.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JOHN COVERT

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. John Covert of Aurora, Colorado, for over seven years of service as Chief Capital Campaign Officer to The Action Center and to congratulate him on his retirement.

John served for more than seven years on the executive board of The Action Center, a Lakewood-based non-profit providing family services and financial support to community members. Throughout his time on the board, John's dedication, expertise, and skilled leadership helped to provide financial stability for the organization by increasing funding to fulfill 75 percent of the Action Center's fundraising goal. With John's help, the Action Center supported thousands of community members with free clothing, food, family services, and financial coaching.

Before serving at The Action Center, John spent 25 years volunteering at other community organizations, including as Director of Marketing and Development at the Glory Center, Director of Development at Families of Character, and Divisional Director of Development of the Salvation Army. Throughout his years of service, John has improved the lives of thousands of Coloradans. Although his departure from The Action Center will be felt deeply by those he served, John's lasting contributions to the organization and our community are invaluable and will continue to impact Coloradans for years to come.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Mr. John Covert on his retirement and thank him for his service to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MS. SAN JUANITA "JANE" GONZALEZ

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Ms. San Juanita "Jane" Gonzalez, who passed away on Saturday, March 28, 2026. A tireless advocate, Jane's commitment to the success of small businesses and underserved communities was celebrated by those who call San Antonio home. She is survived by her brothers, Rafael Gonzalez, Rogelio Gonzalez, and Rolando Gonzalez, her nephew Roland Gonzalez, and niece Brianna Gonzalez.

Born on February 16, 1960, to Marguerite and Rafael Gonzalez, Ms. Gonzalez was the oldest of four siblings. After graduating from Brackenridge High School, she continued her

studies in San Antonio and earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from Our Lady of the Lake University. She would later earn a master's degree in finance from St. Joseph's University.

After pursuing a career on the East Coast and Houston, Texas, she returned to San Antonio in 2005 and founded MEDwheels along with her brother, Rolando, with the goal of supplying medical equipment to those in need. In moments of need, she would organize for underserved communities in San Antonio to receive lifesaving equipment and services.

In addition to her invaluable work with MEDwheels, Ms. Gonzalez was a tireless champion for the success of small businesses within San Antonio. She sought to ensure that local businesses continued to grow past the start-up stage and continued to expand the local economy by entering more markets and creating new jobs.

Ms. Gonzalez was a fighter in life and did not let her cancer diagnosis stop her from helping others. I am grateful for her years of service to our San Antonio community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the incredible life and legacy of Ms. Jane Gonzalez. May her memory and commitment to serving others continue to inspire us all.

RECOGNIZING SARA MILLER FOR RECEIVING THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sara Miller, an incredible Girl Scout from Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast, for demonstrating extraordinary leadership, refreshing creativity, and a devotion to making a lasting impact by earning the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are innovative leaders who address the most pressing issues facing their communities and the world with measurable, dependable, and far-reaching results. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, high school-age Girl Scouts identify and investigate an issue they care about, create a plan, and then lead a team of experts and community members to implement a project that produces enduring change. Sara conducted a survey of teachers and students that found that 71 percent of survey participants felt underappreciated. To address this issue, Sara attached a piece of paper to crotched dragonflies that tells students, teachers, and faculty how much they are appreciated. Sara was able to pass out 775 dragonflies in one day alone, showcasing Sara's dedication to making those around her feel appreciated.

Ms. Miller's accomplishment serves as an inspiration throughout our Commonwealth and beyond, exemplifying the true spirit of servant

leadership. As Sara moves forward, I am confident she will continue to build on this strong foundation and achieve even greater success. We commend her contributions today and eagerly anticipate the many ways she will continue to make a positive impact on her community and our Nation.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Sara Miller of Troop 1004 for this outstanding accomplishment. On behalf of Virginia's 1st Congressional District, I commend her for achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouts and thank her for making such a positive and lasting impact in our community.

HONORING THE WORK OF JOHN PELLER

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate John Peller's 12 years of service as CEO of the AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC). As he transitions to the next step in his career, we look back at a career of committed service to AFC.

After receiving a Master of Public Policy from the University of Chicago, Mr. Peller joined AFC in 2005 and served at state and national levels as vice-president of policy, before becoming CEO in 2014. He led advocacy efforts, campaigning for those with HIV to be supported through federal and state healthcare systems. Additionally, Mr. Peller led the Getting to Zero Illinois initiative, a plan to end the statewide HIV epidemic by 2030.

Mr. Peller has strived to amplify AFC's impact, expanding the scope of their services to include underrepresented factors that can prevent access to HIV treatment, including housing instability, racial inequalities, insurance, and dental care. He has overseen a truly transformational period for AFC and LGBT rights in Chicago. Over the course of his leadership, AFC's budget increased by 68 percent and staff increased by over 50 percent. AFC is now able to reach and serve over 9000 people annually. Mr. Peller has also helped advance federal reforms, including the Affordable Care Act.

As a result of his longstanding and dedicated service, Mr. Peller was inducted into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame in 2024 and will leave a legacy of unwavering service. He has greatly improved the quality of life and safety of healthcare across the country and especially in Chicago. His work will have a lasting impact on every community he has served over his career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in congratulating John Peller on his two decades of service and his commitment to ending the HIV epidemic.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING DR. WALTER COPAN

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Dr. Walter C. Copan for his years of service to our state and country and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Dr. Copan began his distinguished career in the mid-1970s, spending nearly three decades in private-sector research and technology leadership. From 2003 to 2005, he advanced America's energy innovation efforts at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, where he served in key technology transfer and commercialization roles. In 2017, he was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate as Under Secretary of Commerce and Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, where he worked tirelessly to strengthen America's innovation and technology transfer policies.

In 2021, he joined the Colorado School of Mines as Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer, helping the university grow as a leading public research institution. Known for his warmth and generosity, Dr. Copan has often reminded colleagues that "it's a great day to be an Oredigger."

Though he is retiring from his formal role at Mines, Dr. Copan will continue his long-standing commitment to public service and scientific advancement through his leadership with a number of national medical and scientific research organizations.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Dr. Walter G. Copan on his retirement and thank him for his service to our country and our community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAJOR PAUL
S. DELLER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Major Paul S. Deller, United States Marine Corps. For the past four years, Major Deller has served with honor and distinction as a Congressional Fellow and Appropriations Liaison Officer for the Department of the Navy Appropriations Matters Office, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller), representing the needs of our Marine Corps before the United States Congress.

I had the distinct privilege of hosting Paul in my office during his time as a Congressional Fellow. During this time, he gained an immersive, behind the scenes understanding of the legislative process and critical work of funding our Nation's defense. His sharp intellect, dedication, and deep understanding of national security and budgetary policy were immediately apparent and proved to be an invaluable asset to my team.

Upon completion of his fellowship, Major Deller seamlessly transitioned to one of the most strategically consequential billets for the Marine Corps, serving as an Appropriations Li-

aison Officer. In this role, he conducted daily engagement with members and staff, ensuring that the Marine Corps' concepts, programs, and requirements were widely understood. His expert navigation of the congressional appropriations process and his steadfast advocacy ensured vital funding for our Marines across multiple fiscal years. His work was instrumental in supporting the largest budget in Marine Corps history, securing over \$57 billion in annual resources. This funding was essential to advancing the Marine Corps Force Design initiatives, enhancing operational readiness, and ensuring our Marines have what they need to meet any challenge.

Furthermore, Major Deller played a central role in preparing Marine Corps senior leaders for congressional testimony, official visits, responded to hundreds of congressional inquiries, and coordinated and led over 15 congressional and staff delegations. These visits allowed my colleagues and me to see Marine Corps capabilities firsthand and gain a deeper appreciation for the resource requirements of the force.

Mr. Speaker, Major Deller's performance has been characterized by the utmost professionalism, strategic insight, and steadfast commitment to his duty. He has personally strengthened the Marine Corps' credibility on Capitol Hill and ensured the Corps' priorities were clearly communicated. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing and commending Paul for his service to our country and wish him and his family the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING PARENTSCAN FAMILY
CENTER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor ParentsCAN Family Center for its twenty years of service to children with disabilities in Napa County and to recognize the work it has done as the sole Family Resource Center of Napa Valley. This celebration honors the hard work of the staff, volunteers, and supporters that have helped transform countless lives across the Napa Valley.

ParentsCAN was founded in 2005 by Joan Lockhart and a group of Napa parents, who had disabled children. These parents helped each other access services for their children by sharing information and referrals amongst themselves. Frustrated that our community did not already have an organization dedicated to the needs of disabled children in Napa, they decided to start their own. The organization gave high-quality, in-person support that was not available anywhere else in the Napa Valley. Beginning as a small group of concerned parents, they quickly grew into a large-scale organization that provided training, support groups, and community events tailored to the unique challenges faced by families in Napa County.

ParentsCAN has provided critical support, education, and advocacy to ensure families have access to resources necessary for their children to thrive. They also work with local community-based organizations, like healthcare providers or social services, to en-

sure their clients receive high quality healthcare, education, and support structures. Families across the county have felt more confident navigating the complex services that are needed to provide for their children after working with ParentsCAN. Aside from connecting parents with resources, ParentsCAN actively works with the local government to improve institutions serving children with disabilities, making the Napa Valley a safer and more accessible place to live. ParentsCAN is unique and especially well-qualified due to its "parents supporting parents" model. This structure means that all trained staff are parents or close family to children with needs, ensuring that staff are knowledgeable, experienced, and able to easily help parents or caregivers.

ParentsCAN is a federally funded Community Parent Resource Center and the only one of its kind in Napa Valley. It also represents the young disabled population of Napa in several local organizations like the Community Leaders Coalition, Voters Choice Napa, Napa Valley Committee on Disabilities, First 5 Napa County, Napa County Community Organizations Active in Disaster, and the Local Childcare planning Council.

Mr. Speaker, ParentsCAN has had a tremendous impact on the well-being of children across our Napa community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor the organization's twentieth anniversary here today as they celebrate this milestone.

CELEBRATING OUR 2026 SPRING
INTERN CLASS

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the incredible interns who dedicated their spring to serving the people of California's 20th District. From my district offices in Bakersfield and Clovis, to my office in Washington, D.C., these students exemplified a commitment to public service, working tirelessly for the good of the office and our constituents. From the beginning, they were willing to learn and proved to be both diligent and intelligent throughout their internships. Every time we interacted, it showed me what we have to look forward to from the next generation. At a time when many young Americans are avoiding politics, these interns chose to face it head on and came out stronger for it, with knowledge and experience that will carry them forward.

As their spring internships wind down, I want to sincerely express my gratitude to Christian Salyers and Sophie Newfield for their service in my Bakersfield, California office, to Rayne Hardy for her service in my Clovis, California office, and to Trinity Gregg, William MacLean, and Bode Gower for their contributions to my Washington, D.C. office. The work done by each of them has helped my team's efforts more than I can say, and I trust that the skills and educational experiences they have gained will guide them toward continued success in their future endeavors. I look forward to seeing where their paths lead, and hope those paths include a continued dedication to serving others.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. JOE "FLASH" LERMA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joe "Flash" Lerma for his outstanding service and dedication to public transportation and safety in Laredo, Texas, as he marks his well-earned retirement from El Metro Transit System.

For 33 remarkable years, Mr. Lerma served the City of Laredo with distinction, contributing to the growth and reliability of El Metro Transit, a vital system that connects our community and supports thousands of residents each day.

Throughout his career, he demonstrated a deep commitment to excellence, professionalism, and the well-being of others.

As Safety Training Coordinator, Mr. Lerma played a critical role in ensuring that operators and staff were properly trained and equipped to serve the public safely and efficiently.

His leadership helped foster a culture of accountability and care, strengthening the foundation of one of Laredo's most essential public services. Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Lerma built lasting relationships across departments, earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues.

His dedication extended far beyond his duties, leaving a meaningful and lasting impact on those he worked alongside and the community he served.

After more than three decades of service, Mr. Lerma leaves behind a legacy defined by commitment, integrity, and pride in public service. While he begins a new chapter, his contributions to El Metro and the City of Laredo will not be forgotten.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Joe "Flash" Lerma for his years of dedicated service and to wish him continued success and fulfillment in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING CRISOSTO APACHE

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Crisosto Apache of Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design for being named Colorado's Poet Laureate.

Crisosto is an accomplished multimedia artist, writer, poet, educator, and advocate for the Native American Indigenous LGBTQ/Two-spirit identity. Their recognition by the Governor of Colorado reflects Crisosto's extraordinary talent and distinguished achievements as a poet, as well as their enduring commitment to the arts, to education, and to literary expression across diverse communities. As Colorado's Poet Laureate, Crisosto will continue to amplify the voices and stories of all people who have called Colorado home, and spread the transformative and connective powers of poetry across public spaces.

Crisosto is originally from the Mescalero Apache Reservation in New Mexico and is Colorado's first Indigenous Poet Laureate.

They have published two poetry collections and received accolades, including the Betty Berzon Emerging Writers Award for their achievements in creative writing. As a long-time Lakewood resident and respected professor at the Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design, Crisosto exemplifies creative excellence and outstanding service to students.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Crisosto Apache for being named Colorado's Poet Laureate and thank them for their contribution and commitment to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, on April 22, 2026, I was recorded as NAY on Roll Call Vote No. 133. I intended to vote YEA on Roll Call No. 133.

RECOGNIZING RICK MCCOY UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate a dedicated public servant, Rick McCoy, who will be retiring after thirty-five years of service as the Director of the Van Wert County Emergency Management Agency. Rick's commitment to public safety has helped the county's residents weather any emergency that has come their way.

Throughout his thirty-five years of service, Rick has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the safety and resilience of Van Wert County and its residents. He has led the agency through countless emergencies, natural disasters, and unforeseen crises, ensuring that communities received the swift and coordinated responses they needed in their most vulnerable moments. Under Rick's leadership, the agency grew into a model of preparedness and professionalism, forging strong partnerships with local, state, and federal partners to protect lives and property. His steady hand and tireless dedication have left Van Wert County a safer and better-prepared county.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Rick McCoy upon his retirement. On behalf of the people of the 5th Congressional District of Ohio, I recognize the dedication and leadership that Rick has shown through his decades of service to his community. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GEORGE LIEU

HON. DAVE MIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of George Lieu, who passed away

peacefully on March 22, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. George was a resilient and spirited father, husband, and writer.

George Lieu was born in Chongqing, China, on May 22, 1944. Five years later, his family relocated to Taiwan, where he eventually received a law degree from Soochow University and served two years of military service.

In 1968, George married the love of his life, Kerry, and soon became a father to his eldest son, Ted. Shortly after, George immigrated to the United States and pursued a Master of Laws at Cleveland State University College of Law. With his heart set on bringing his wife and son to the United States, he stretched himself to build a life for his family. He took on numerous jobs while in school: dishwasher, cleaner for the school library, waiter, and day laborer. As hoped, Kerry and Ted immigrated to America in 1972, and the next year, George and Kerry's second son, John, was born. Together, George and Kerry began working weekends at flea markets, opened a small gift store, and eventually grew their efforts into a successful business spanning multiple states, building a life for their two children. They are the embodiment of the American Dream.

George's decades of determination and vision for his family eventually led him to fulfill his lifelong goal of becoming a writer. His two poetry books and his collection of short stories, "Dreams Entwined With Destiny," "Walking in the Rain," and "A Collection of Short Stories by George Lieu," were published in 2004, 2024, and 2026.

George will be remembered for his humor, liveliness, and his love for family. George is survived by his beloved wife Kerry, his two sons Representative TED LIEU and Dr. John Lieu, his daughter-in-law Betty Chim Lieu, and his grandsons Brennan and Austin.

RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL OF MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heart heavy, gratitude, and memory to pay tribute to Mulberry Street United Methodist Church on the occasion of its 200th anniversary. A bicentennial that reads like a hymn of endurance, an extended prayer answered by faithful hands across generations. A worship service to celebrate this remarkable milestone was held on Sunday, April 26, 2026, in Macon, Georgia.

Two centuries ago, in 1826, thirteen earnest Methodists met in a frontier courthouse on the west bank of the Ocmulgee River. They cleared forest and laid beams, and in 1828 built a simple house of worship where, the gospel's promise was first made visible in Macon. From that modest beginning grew a congregation that hosted the first meeting of the Georgia Conference, birthed Sunday Schools that became new churches, and reached into neighborhoods with a compassion that always began at the foot of the altar.

Mulberry's history is punctuated by triumph and trial. In seasons of growth, it raised white columns and expanded its sanctuary; in lean seasons it answered cries for help with Sunday School classrooms, youth centers, dining

halls, and ministries to the hungry. The Great Depression tested the congregation's resolve in ways that measured not balance sheets but character; families who had pledged generously found livelihoods gone, yet members scrimped and sacrificed until the building debt was paid. A devastating fire in April 1965 gutted the sanctuary, but stained-glass windows were preserved and later installed in the rebuilt sanctuary opened in 1968—glass that now shines as a symbol that beauty and faith can survive flame. More recently, during the global pandemic, Mulberry became a lifeline: volunteers fed neighbors when jobs vanished; pastors and members made calls, left meals on porches, and sustained the isolated with prayer and presence.

The Historical Room safeguards treasures—Thomas Darley's ordination certificate signed by Francis Asbury, night caps, a Darley Bible—but the true archive of Mulberry is the ledger of lives: the child fed, the student mentored, the widow comforted, the immigrant welcomed. The Youth Center that once teemed with young people, Macon Outreach's soup kitchen and pantry, global mission partnerships, and the many ministries that compose "The Mulberry Way" testify to a congregation that turns calamity into compassion.

We remember the silent sacrifices: the volunteers who mended roofs and hearts, the pastors who shepherded trembling souls, the families whose small gifts kept a mission alive. We honor the courage that rebuilt after storms, repurposed spaces for service, and answered every call with steadfast love.

Today Mulberry's ministries continue under the steady leadership of its pastor, the Reverend Jack Varnell, whose pastoral tenderness and clear vision guide the congregation into this new century of witness. We are also blessed that Bishop Robin Dease served as the guest preacher for this commemorative service—a fitting voice to celebrate a congregation whose reach has spanned local streets and global fields.

Mr. Speaker, in honoring Mulberry Street United Methodist Church on its bicentennial, we honor an ethic: that faith is not merely spoken but lived; that worship must be joined to works of mercy; that a community's true wealth is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable. For 200 years this congregation has lived that ethic faithfully—surviving the Great Depression, rebuilding after fire, weathering wars, and answering when a modern pandemic called forth every compassion.

I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in congratulating Mulberry Street United Methodist Church on this bicentennial milestone. May Mulberry's lights continue to shine, its doors remain open, and its table welcome all who are weary. May God bless Mulberry Street Church, bless Pastor Jack Varnell, bless Bishop Robin Dease as she continues her work and may God bless the city of Macon, Georgia.

RECOGNIZING THE ARVADA CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities for its 50th anniversary.

Since opening in 1976, the Arvada Center has been an important cultural institution in Colorado, enriching our community through theatre, visual arts, arts education, and public programs that engage and inspire people of all ages.

For fifty years, the Arvada Center has brought artists, students, audiences, and families together—sparking creativity, nurturing learning, and building lasting connections. It has become a cornerstone of the cultural life of Arvada, Jefferson County, and the greater Denver metro area, offering high-quality artistic experiences while remaining committed to broad community access and participation. The Arvada Center's lasting success reflects the dedication of its staff, educators, performers, volunteers, and supporters, all of whom have helped build a vibrant and welcoming place for the arts to thrive. Its impact extends well beyond its campus, strengthening our region through artistic excellence, education, and civic engagement.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities on its 50th anniversary and thank them for their contribution to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY AND LASTING IMPACT OF GEORGE OSTROM

HON. RYAN K. ZINKE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 250th year since our Nation's founding by recognizing the legacy and lasting impact of George Ostrom, a legendary voice of Montana's Flathead Valley.

Mr. Ostrom's life was anything but ordinary, filled with adventures and excitement. As a young man, he worked with the United States Forest Service, served as a paratrooper during World War II, became one of the early smokejumpers protecting our Nation's wilderness, and regularly climbed mountains in his backyard, Glacier National Park. His passion for the outdoors and deep understanding of Montana would shape the rest of his life and career.

George Ostrom, who passed away on January 1, 2025, at the age of 96, was known to many as "the voice of the Flathead Valley." A natural-born storyteller, Mr. Ostrom, when not creating his own remarkable stories, shared community stories around the Flathead for more than six decades through radio and newspaper. Mr. Ostrom remained active in journalism into his late 90s, becoming a staple voice on the airwaves, eventually owning and operating KOFI radio and later contributing to

KGEZ. For many in the Flathead Valley, the day did not truly begin until they heard George Ostrom on the radio.

Beyond radio, Mr. Ostrom built the Kalispell Weekly News into one of the largest weekly newspapers in Montana and spent decades writing columns that captured the stories of the region. His work helped document the history of Montana and showcase our state's identity for future generations.

Mr. Ostrom's love for Montana extended beyond journalism; he played a role in conservation efforts, including contributing to the development of the Wilderness Act of 1964, and remained a passionate advocate for preserving the natural beauty of Montana.

George Ostrom's experiences and remarkable stories are all overshadowed by his biggest accomplishment: his family. He shared his love for adventure with his wife Iris and his four children.

Mr. Speaker, George Ostrom's life reflects the very best of Montana and the American spirit. He was a pioneer and a storyteller whose voice inspired people across our great state. His legacy is not only found in the stories he told, but in the stories he created. Reflecting on his remarkable life, we are reminded that individuals like George Ostrom help define the character of our Nation and his voice will continue to echo throughout Montana.

RECOGNIZING MINNIE MAE TALBOTT

HON. MARK ALFORD

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the extraordinary life and legacy of Minnie Mae Talbott, a remarkable Missourian whose story reflects courage, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to public service.

On May 10, 1919, Minnie Mae Talbott was sworn in as Sheriff of Lexington, Missouri, following the tragic murder of her husband, who was serving as acting Sheriff and was killed in the line of duty. In the face of unimaginable loss, she stepped forward to serve her community with strength and determination.

Her service stands as a powerful testament to civic courage. At a time when few women held positions of leadership, Minnie Mae Talbott broke barriers and set an example that continues to inspire generations. She upheld the rule of law during a difficult chapter in our Nation's history and demonstrated that true public service requires character, sacrifice, and a willingness to answer the call.

As communities gather this year to celebrate the inaugural Minnie Mae Day, her legacy is being honored through education, engagement, and a permanent place in history. Her story is one that deserves to be remembered not only in Missouri, but across the country.

It is my privilege to recognize Minnie Mae Talbott and her enduring contributions to our state and our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, I missed Roll Call vote No. 130, due to a House Appropriations Committee Markup. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 130.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JILL ANN HARTWIG

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jill Ann Hartwig, a devoted mother, wife, teacher, and community member whose impact will be felt for years to come. Born in Lansing, Michigan, Jill reflected the very best of Michigan: resilience, compassion, and a deep commitment to helping others.

A proud Spartan, she played softball at Michigan State University, where she demonstrated teamwork and quiet determination, ultimately being recognized with the Spirit Award for her leadership and character. She later graduated summa cum laude from Central Michigan University with a degree in Social Work.

Jill devoted her life to caring for others, showing up every single day with love and intention. Serving as a preschool teacher, foster parent, and mother of four, Jill strengthened her family and community in lasting ways. For too many families, cancer is personal. It underscores the importance of continued research and care so that fewer families face this kind of loss.

Jill passed away on March 4, 2026, surrounded by her family. She is survived by her wife, Misti Rice, and their children: Jacob, Adrian, Alston, and Avery.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored to recognize a life grounded in love and service. Known for her warmth, humor, and her ability to make people feel seen and included, her loss will be felt by many in our community. Please join me in celebrating Jill and the radical kindness she shared with us.

RECOGNIZING TEGAIN BOLEY

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tegain Boley for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Tegain has overcome many challenges along their journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Tegain, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Tegain's hard

work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Tegain Boley on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Armenian National Committee of America Western Region, Armenian Assembly of America, and all Armenian Americans in commemorating the Armenian Genocide.

I stand with them in remembering the lives of the 1.5 million Armenians—along with 750,000 Assyrians, Greeks, Maronites, and other Christians—who perished. As we honor the memory of the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide, we also stand with the Armenian families who carry that pain to this day. We strive to ensure the legacies of the victims and survivors are never forgotten.

I represent a district home to vibrant Armenian American communities stretching from South Orange County to North County San Diego.

My Armenian-American constituents are stewards of the values that are core to this country's identity and have enriched our communities in immeasurable ways. They have demonstrated remarkable perseverance after many of their families faced violent persecution, to make a better life for their children and grandchildren. Their story is a powerful reminder that we must continue rooting out hate whenever and wherever it emerges.

As a member of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, I am proud to represent our local Armenian-American community, and will always strive to be their voice in Congress.

HONORING WINNIE BEATRICE "BEA" RICHARDSON FOR HER SERVICE IN THE 6888TH BATTALION DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service, and enduring legacy of Ms. Winnie Beatrice "Bea" Richardson, a proud member of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion during World War II, as her family will gather in Texas on June 13, 2026, to commemorate her contributions to our Nation.

Ms. Richardson joined the United States Army on August 28, 1943, in Houston, Texas, at 23 years old. Prior to her service, she worked as a private maid. She began her military career as a supply clerk and later served as a postal clerk, achieving the rank of Private First Class. As part of the historic 6888th Battalion—an all-Black, all-female unit of the Women's Army Corps—she played a vital role in clearing a massive backlog of mail, ensur-

ing troops overseas remained connected to loved ones and strengthening morale during wartime.

For her service, Ms. Richardson received numerous commendations, including the Good Conduct Medal, the Women's Army Corps Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Honorable Service Lapel Button. She was honorably discharged on November 16, 1945.

Following her military service, Ms. Richardson continued a lifetime of public service. She worked for 43 years at the Sacramento Army Depot, rising from custodian to Supply Clerk. Her dedication earned recognition for maintaining zero sick leave for a decade from 1983 to 1993, along with many additional awards before retirement.

Ms. Richardson was deeply devoted to her community. She served as a Den Mother and youth leader across scouting organizations, as PTA President, and as Auxiliary President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1970. A longtime member of St. Paul Baptist Church, she served faithfully on the Usher Board and as a Senior Usher.

Affectionately known as "Mother West," she was remembered for her generosity, opening her home to those in need of a meal or safe place to stay.

Ms. Richardson passed away on August 15, 2024, at the age of 84, and is laid to rest at Sacramento Memorial Lawn Cemetery alongside her husband, Andrew Bryan West, a fellow World War II Army veteran. Married in 1950, they raised five children and are survived by a large and loving family who continue to honor her legacy of service and compassion.

This ceremony will stand as a meaningful tribute to Ms. Richardson and the broader contributions of the women of the 6888th Battalion. Her story of courage, perseverance, and patriotism continues to inspire future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Winnie Beatrice "Bea" Richardson for her extraordinary service and lasting impact on our Nation's history.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. MANUEL P. BERRIOZÁBAL

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the incredible life and legacy of Dr. Manuel P. Berriozábal, who passed away on April 15, 2026, at the age of 94. A trailblazing educator and mathematician, Dr. Berriozábal dedicated his life to ensuring students had opportunities to succeed in and out of the classroom.

From an early age, Dr. Berriozábal took great interest in mathematics and soon dedicated himself to the pursuit of academic excellence. Dr. Berriozábal's rigorous commitment to his studies resulted in him earning a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Rockhurst College in 1952, a Master of Science in Mathematics from the University of Notre Dame in

1956, and a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1961.

In 1976, after teaching at UCLA, Tulane University, and the University of New Orleans, Dr. Berriozábal returned to the city he was born in when he joined the faculty at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA).

In 1979, following the publication of an article disparaging Mexican American students' abilities in what would become known as the STEM fields, Dr. Berriozábal founded the Freshman Engineering Program (PREP). PREP is a summer program designed to provide middle and high school students with the opportunity to take college-level engineering coursework. Since the program's inception, over 50,000 students across San Antonio and beyond have participated in the enrichment program, launching their own academic journeys and disproving preconceived notions of limitations. Dr. Berriozábal served as the program's director for 25 years with an unshakable, multigenerational dedication to expanding opportunities for community growth and development.

Throughout Dr. Berriozábal's storied career, he received numerous prestigious awards, including the Yuehin Gung and Dr. Charles Y. Hu Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics, and was a charter member of the Texas Science Hall of Fame.

Dr. Berriozábal is survived by his wife, the Honorable Maria Berriozábal. The two met in 1972 and married in 1975. They shared over 50 years of marriage together, supporting each other as they selflessly gave back to the San Antonio community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the incredible life and remarkable legacy of Dr. Manuel Berriozábal. He was a servant, leader and inspiration to many and I am grateful for his commitment to the San Antonio community.

CONGRATULATING DR. MARY E. BRUNKOW AND THE INSTITUTE FOR SYSTEMS BIOLOGY ON WINNING THE 2025 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Mary E. Brunkow and the Institute for Systems Biology (ISB) in Seattle on the award of the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, one of the most prestigious honors in science.

A resident of Seattle and a Distinguished Investigator at ISB, Dr. Brunkow has made transformative contributions to immunology through her groundbreaking research on regulatory T cells and the FOXP3 gene, a key regulator of peripheral immune tolerance—the process by which the immune system avoids attacking the body's own tissues. In collaboration with Dr. Fred Ramsdell and building on foundational work by Dr. Shimon Sakaguchi, she helped uncover the genetic and cellular mechanisms that safeguard immune balance,

reshaping the field and laying the foundation for new treatments for autoimmune diseases, improved organ transplantation, and cancer immunotherapy.

Dr. Brunkow's pioneering work has fundamentally advanced our understanding of how the immune system functions and stands as a powerful example of the kind of federally supported biomedical research that improves lives, fuels innovation, and keeps the United States at the forefront of global scientific leadership.

This Nobel-winning discovery reflects the return on our Nation's investment in science. Dr. Brunkow's work is a reminder of why we must continue to support institutions like ISB and ensure that scientists have the resources they need to make the next breakthrough.

On behalf of Washington's 7th Congressional District and the broader scientific community, I extend my deepest congratulations to Dr. Mary E. Brunkow. Her discoveries have reshaped medicine and immunology, and her legacy will continue to inspire future generations of scientists, clinicians, and innovators. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating her extraordinary contributions to science, health, and humanity, and to recommit to strong, sustained federal investment in biomedical research.

RECOGNIZING DARRIEN O'REILLY

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Darrien O'Reilly for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Darrien has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Darrien, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Darrien's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Darrien O'Reilly on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING COLETTE D. HAIGLER

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Colette D. Haigler. On June 27, 2026, family and friends will gather to celebrate Colette D. Haigler's 55th birthday and her 10th anniversary as a breast cancer survivor at the Annual Pink Party—an occasion that honors both her life and her resilience.

Colette was born on June 24, 1971, in Dallas, Texas, and was educated in the Dallas Independent School District, graduating from

the High School for Health Professions. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Prairie View A&M University and a Master of Science in Nursing from Texas Woman's University, establishing a strong foundation for a distinguished career in healthcare.

A dedicated and compassionate professional, Colette serves as a Board-Certified Nurse Practitioner with Texas Oncology, where she has made meaningful contributions to patient care. She is a long-time resident of Dallas, particularly the Oak Cliff community, and now resides in Bowie, Maryland.

Colette is devoted to her family as the wife of John C. Haigler and the proud mother of twins, Ava and Austin. She has also remained deeply engaged in her community and faith. The Haigler family were long-time members of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship Church and are currently active members of First Baptist Church of Glenarden.

Her commitment to service extends beyond her profession. Colette is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the Prince George's County Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, where she contributes to youth development and community leadership.

In her personal time, Colette enjoys traveling, line dancing, and exploring new culinary experiences. Her life reflects a profound dedication to service, family, and perseverance, making this milestone celebration a fitting tribute to her enduring impact.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST OF LANCASTER COUNTY

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor and congratulate the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County for reaching 60 years in operation.

The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County was founded in 1966 to preserve Lancaster County's historic sites and architecture. The Trust carries out its mission through an array of educational programs, including tours, events, presentations, and outreach on the benefits of preservation. It also collaborates with property owners, businesses, and community members, and undertakes direct action through historic preservation easements and plaques.

Over the past 60 years, the Historic Preservation Trust has directly helped in the protection of more than three dozen sites across Lancaster County. Notable preservation efforts include the Sehner-Elliott-Von Hess House, headquarters, the Lancaster Central Market, and the Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith Houses.

Supported by volunteers, community partners, and a hardworking staff, the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County has helped to retain the county's rich and vibrant past. I thank the organization for its positive impact, and I wish them many more years of success.

HONORING TIM REITZ

HON. ANDY BIGGS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate Tim Reitz, the Executive Director for the House Freedom Caucus.

For the last four years, Tim has led our caucus of conservative members with all the patience, diligence, resolve, and commitment needed for success. He is steadfast in his principles and unwavering in the face of immense pressure to leave those principles behind.

He has stood by our side through some of our toughest battles—electing a new Speaker of the House, fighting to bend down the federal spending curve, implementing President Trump’s agenda, and even last week’s effort to seek necessary reforms to FISA. Tim does not shy away from the fight. He is a happy warrior, determined to restore our Nation to the Founders’ vision of freedom and limited government.

Before coming to HFC, Tim served two members of his home state of Georgia, Paul Brown and my good friend and former HFC member, Jody Hice.

But this week will be Tim’s last in the House of Representatives as he embarks on a new adventure with the Conservative Partnership Institute. I have no doubt Tim will continue to be an asset to the conservative cause.

I am deeply grateful for his devoted service and wish him well in his new endeavor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, my intention was to vote YEA on Roll Call No. 137, on the HEATS Act to streamline geothermal energy production.

RECOGNIZING ELIANNA BOENING

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elianna Boening for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Elianna has overcome many challenges along their journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Elianna, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Elianna’s hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada West High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Elianna Boening on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF TOM MOE

HON. KELLY MORRISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Tom Moe, a distinguished University of Minnesota student-athlete, administrator, and community leader whose contributions left a lasting impact on generations of Minnesotans.

Tom Moe was a standout multi-sport athlete for the University of Minnesota in the late 1950s, excelling in both football and baseball. He led the Gophers in receiving yards in 1958, was named the football team’s Most Valuable Player in 1959, and was a member of the 1960 NCAA national championship baseball team.

Following his time as a student-athlete, Mr. Moe built a successful career in law and business, becoming a partner and later managing partner at Dorsey & Whitney, where he helped grow the firm into one of the largest in the Nation. He later returned to the University of Minnesota to serve as Director of the Men’s Athletic Department, where he emphasized academic excellence and helped guide the successful merger of the men’s and women’s programs.

Mr. Moe also played a key role in laying the foundation for the return of on-campus Gopher football, ensuring future generations could experience the tradition and spirit of Minnesota athletics. His lifelong dedication to the University extended through his family, with his children and grandchildren continuing his legacy as student-athletes.

Throughout his life, Tom Moe exemplified leadership, integrity, and a deep commitment to his community. He will be remembered not only for his accomplishments, but for the lasting impact he made on the University of Minnesota and the many lives he touched.

On behalf of the people of Minnesota, I extend my deepest condolences to the Moe family and express our gratitude for Tom Moe’s extraordinary life and legacy.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE BRECKENRIDGE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center.

Founded in 1976 in Breckenridge, Colorado, the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center (BOEC) has grown into one of the Nation’s largest adaptive outdoor recreation organizations. Each year, BOEC serves more than 2,000 individuals—including people with disabilities, veterans and their families. The dedicated instructors and volunteers at BOEC work to ensure that individuals of all abilities can experience the confidence, independence, and joy that come from the outdoors.

Colorado’s mountains, rivers, and public spaces draw people from around the world to experience the beauty of the outdoors. Through its innovative adaptive programming, BOEC has helped ensure that individuals with disabilities, who have historically faced barriers to outdoor recreation, can experience opportunities to explore and connect with Colorado’s natural environment. This includes programs for veterans that honor their service and promote healing, resilience, and community.

I am honored to represent this storied center in Colorado’s 2nd Congressional District, and I thank the staff and volunteers at the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center who do this important work every day. Congratulations on 50 years.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORION TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly remarkable milestone, the 100th anniversary of the Orion Township Public Library. For a century, this institution has stood as a cornerstone of learning, connection, and civic life in Orion Township, serving generations of residents with distinction, care, and an unwavering commitment to the public good.

Since its founding, the Orion Township Public Library has evolved alongside its community, adapting to changing times while remaining steadfast in its core mission: to provide open access to knowledge, foster lifelong learning, and serve as a welcoming space for all. What began as a modest local resource has grown into a vibrant hub of education, technology, and community engagement, reflecting both the history and the future of Orion Township.

Throughout its 100 years of service, the library has offered far more than books. It has provided early literacy programs for children taking their first steps into reading, research resources for students pursuing academic success, and enrichment opportunities for adults seeking new skills and perspectives. From story times and summer reading programs to job search assistance and digital literacy training, the library has consistently met the evolving needs of its patrons with innovation and dedication.

As it celebrates this centennial year, the library stands not only as a testament to its past, but as a promise to the future. Its legacy is built upon the countless librarians, staff members, volunteers, and community supporters who have dedicated themselves to its mission over the decades.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Orion Township Public Library on its 100th anniversary. May its next 100 years be filled with continued growth, impact, and inspiration for generations yet to come.

RECOGNIZING LYNDON HUGHES-JENNETT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a Congressional UK Caucus co-chair, I rise today along with my colleagues and fellow co-chairs, Congressmen GABE AMO, JIM HIMES, and DAVID ROUZER, to recognize Lyndon Hughes-Jennett.

It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize the outstanding service of Lyndon Hughes-Jennett, who has served as Northern Ireland Attaché at the British Embassy in Washington since 2021. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Hughes-Jennett has played a vital role in strengthening the relationship between the United States and Northern Ireland and in advancing engagement among partners in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Ireland.

In his role, Mr. Hughes-Jennett worked tirelessly to foster constructive dialogue with Members of Congress, U.S. officials, and a wide range of stakeholders. He was instrumental in supporting visiting delegations from Northern Ireland, facilitating meaningful exchanges that deepened understanding of Northern Ireland's political, economic, and cultural landscape. His efforts helped ensure that Northern Ireland's priorities were well represented and thoughtfully conveyed to audiences across the United States.

Mr. Hughes-Jennett's service was further exemplified by his involvement in high level engagements, including accompanying President Joe Biden during his visit to Northern Ireland for the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Belfast-Good Friday Agreement. Throughout his time in Washington, he demonstrated professionalism, sound judgment, and a steadfast commitment to partnership, serving as a trusted interlocutor and a bridge among communities and nations.

As Mr. Hughes-Jennett concludes his service at the British Embassy, we extend our sincere appreciation for his dedication and contributions. His work has had a lasting and positive impact on U.S.-Northern Ireland relations, and we wish him every success in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ANGEL COVA ROJAS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angel Cova Rojas for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Angel has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Angel, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Angel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada West High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Angel Cova Rojas on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE 2026 OHIO MILITARY HALL OF FAME FOR VALOR INDUCTEES

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2026 Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor inductees. The Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor will hold a ceremony at the Statehouse in Columbus on Friday, May 1, 2026 to mark the induction of its 2026 class. Selection for the Hall of Fame is a high honor that has been accorded to fewer than 550 Ohioans since 2000. To be considered for induction, individuals must have been decorated for heroic action in a combat situation.

I am honored to commend to the U.S. House of Representatives and include in the RECORD this year's twenty inductees:

Sergeant First Class Sammy L. Davis, recipient of the Medal of Honor, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Specialist Fourth Class Richard H. Adler, recipient of the Silver Star, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Pharmacist's Mate Third Class John M. Brown (posthumously), recipient of the Silver Star, Navy Reserve veteran of World War II.

Sergeant Meredith L. Barnett (posthumously), recipient of the Silver Star, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War.

Major Roderick J. MacEachen (posthumously), recipient of the Silver Star, Army veteran of World War II.

Private Aurelio J. Marinelli (posthumously), recipient of the Silver Star, Army veteran of World War II.

Technical Sergeant Harley E. Thomas (posthumously), recipient of the Silver Star, Army veteran of World War II.

Colonel Ralph J. "Doc" Watson (posthumously), recipient of the Silver Star, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II.

Sergeant John T. Bineger, recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Sergeant Tyler S. Gangwer, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Corporal Edwin C. Martin (posthumously), recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Korean War.

Sergeant George P. Mizik (posthumously), recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Marine Corps Reserve veteran of World War II.

Master Sergeant Justin A. Orr, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Paul H. Phillabaum, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Master Chief Petty Officer Michael J. Warden, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Navy veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Specialist Fourth Class John S. Webb, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Master Sergeant David M. White, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sergeant First Class Larry J. Davidson, recipient of the Army Commendation Medal

with "V" Device, Army veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator Daniel M. Gonska, recipient of the Joint Services Commendation Medal with "V" Device, Navy veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Captain Ronald H. Leonard, recipient of the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

HONORING ALEXANDRA KARABATSOS

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Alexandra Karabatsos for her exceptional service to my office and to the constituents of Massachusetts' 3rd Congressional District.

Alex has been an indispensable member of my team since my first campaign for Congress in 2018, and she has served with distinction since day one of my tenure in office. Over the years, she has taken on increasing responsibility across a number of roles, including Legislative Correspondent, Legislative Assistant, Senior Legislative Assistant, and ultimately, Legislative Director.

A proud native of Lowell, Massachusetts, Alex brought a deep understanding of and commitment to our district in every aspect of her work. Her connection to the community ensured that the voices of 3rd District residents are always at the forefront of our legislative priorities.

As Legislative Director, Alex has led our legislative team with integrity, vision, and an unwavering dedication to delivering results. She has overseen a broad policy portfolio, with particular expertise in health care, where she has played a central role in advancing meaningful, bipartisan solutions.

Among her many accomplishments, Alex was instrumental in passage of landmark legislation. Notably, she helped lead the effort to pass the Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act, bipartisan legislation to standardize substance use disorder training for providers, and the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act, a significant bipartisan achievement that will improve access to timely, lifesaving care for children across the country.

In addition to this work, Alex has been a driving force behind our response to the Steward Health Care crisis, the addiction epidemic, and the mental health crisis facing our children and young adults. Her ability to navigate complex policy challenges and build consensus has made her an invaluable leader both within my office and among colleagues across Capitol Hill.

Beyond her policy expertise, Alex has been a mentor to junior staff, a thoughtful advisor, and a cornerstone of our office culture. Her leadership has strengthened our team and elevated our ability to serve the people of Massachusetts' 3rd District.

It has been a joy to watch Alex grow as a leader. Her intelligence, work ethic, humor, and deep commitment to public service have left a lasting mark on my office and on the communities we serve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Alexandra Karabatsos for her outstanding service and wishing her all the best in her next chapter.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MR. JASON DRAGON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career and dedicated service of Mr. Jason P. Dragon as he retires after 27 years in law enforcement.

Mr. Dragon currently serves as the Resident Agent in Charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Office of Professional Responsibility in Houston, Texas, where he has led critical efforts overseeing internal investigations across a six-state region.

Throughout his tenure, he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to integrity, accountability, and the rule of law.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Dragon has taken on some of the most complex and demanding assignments in federal law enforcement.

As a supervisory special agent with Homeland Security Investigations in Houston, he led efforts targeting violent crime and transnational gang activity—work that earned recognition from both the Houston Police Department and HSI leadership for outstanding investigative achievement.

He also served our Nation abroad through the Visa Security Program, helping prevent criminals and suspected terrorists from entering the United States, and led rapid response efforts supporting ICE personnel and infrastructure following natural disasters.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Dragon served at HSI Headquarters here in Washington, D.C., including as a Congressional Fellow in my office, where he played a key role in the passage of the Jaime Zapata Border Enforcement Security Task Force Act, strengthening our Nation's border security framework.

From his early work combating child exploitation in Connecticut to his service as a Border Patrol agent and Connecticut State Trooper, Mr. Dragon's career reflects a lifelong commitment to protecting others and upholding justice.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 28th District of Texas, I thank Mr. Dragon for his decades of service and wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement.

HONORING THE HOUCHIN COMMUNITY BLOOD BANK ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Houchin Community Blood Bank as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary. For the past 75 years, Houchin Community Blood Bank has been a lifeline connecting donors and patients in need across all of Kern Coun-

ty's hospitals, and in doing so, became a staple of our local community. Since its creation, Houchin's mission has been simple: "protect the local blood supply so patients in Kern County are not left waiting." Today, we honor their hard work, sacrifice, and constant devotion to helping others, as we join them in celebration.

Until Houchin's founding in 1951, Kern County had no community blood bank. Blood had to be transported from Los Angeles or San Francisco and would take at least a day to arrive; a time frame far too slow for the residents of Kern County whose lives were on the line. In light of these difficulties, members of the Kern County Medical Society asked their fellow member Elmer Houchin to help secure them a permanent site to build on. Through the Houchin Foundation, Elmer donated land on G Street in downtown Bakersfield as well as an endowment in memory of his mother, Sarah Alice Houchin. The blood bank's doors opened in April of 1951, and within a year the bank's original name "Kern Community Blood Bank" was changed to "Houchin Community Blood Bank" in honor of the family who made its opening possible.

Houchin currently works with local hospitals such as Bakersfield Memorial, Kern Medical, and Bakersfield Heart Hospital, as well as organizations such as the Comprehensive Blood and Cancer Center and Dignity Health Group. Their organization shares resources across all 50 states and is affiliated with some of the Nation's most trusted blood supply organizations. They are currently working tirelessly on key projects like the Pre-Hospital Transfusion Initiative, and a Capital Campaign to raise funds and awareness.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Jonathan Bautista, Houchin's CEO, and his staff at Houchin for their support for the people of Kern County. It is thanks to them that the lives of residents are saved every day. I join all those gathered here in wishing them continued success and look forward to seeing their continued part in Kern County's future as a leader among its medical professionals.

HONORING CHRIS HARTLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Chris Hartley, in recognition of his more than twenty-seven years of extraordinary service for our Napa Valley and California law enforcement communities.

Chris Hartley was born in October 1960 and grew up in the Napa Valley. He graduated from Napa High School in 1979. He then served in the United States Marine Corps as an Amphibious Assault Vehicle Crewman, Infantryman, and Reconnaissance Marine. He rose to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant and served for over 20 years. During his time in the Marine Corps, Chief Hartley served during the Beirut Bombing and Grenada, and he participated in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. While in the military, Chief Hartley attended the USMC Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Academy and com-

pleted courses in Marine Corps Warfighting, Firearms Instructor, Rappel Master, Small Boat Operations Instructor, and Parachute Jump School. Chief Hartley left the Marine Corps in 1999 and subsequently attended Mira Costa and Palomar Junior Colleges and then went on to study at Colorado State University and the University of Virginia. Chief Hartley is also a graduate of Class 263 of the prestigious Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy.

After serving his country in the United States Marine Corps, Chief Hartley came back to the Napa Valley to work in law enforcement. In 1999, Chief Hartley began his position as a police officer with the City of St. Helena. During his time at the St. Helena Police Department, he served as a Motorcycle Officer, Range and Tactics Instructor, Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Chief. He became the Chief of Police in 2019. As Chief, he guided our community through two major fires, the first public safety power shutoffs, the Covid-19 Pandemic, and major social justice reforms.

Chief Hartley's contributions have been widely recognized across our law enforcement community, most prominently when St. Helena's Police Department was awarded the Distinguished Silver Medal for Excellence in Policy Management by the risk assessment agency, Lexipol. Chief Hartley is widely respected among peace officers across California and is loved by the residents of St. Helena.

Chief Hartley is dedicated to helping our Napa Valley community and has served as a member of the St. Helena Rotary Club, Napa Elks, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the A-Z Foundation for Disabled Veterans. He has continued to serve St. Helena through his support of the UpValley Family Center, Napa Emergency Women's Shelter, We Care Animal Rescue, Monarch Education Center of Napa Valley, and Napa Victim Witness Services. Chief Hartley trains and supports law enforcement in the Napa Valley and across California through his work as an instructor with the Napa Valley College Police Academy, as chairman of the board for Napa County Special Investigations, and as a member of the California Police Chiefs Association, FBI National Academy, California Gangs Association, and the California Narcotics Association.

Chief Hartley married his wife Shelley Hartley in August 1980. They are blessed with three children named Christina, Casandra, and James, along with 8 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Chris Hartley has dedicated his life to protecting St. Helena, California, and the United States of America. He has transformed the lives of those around him through his service and mentorship to others. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING SIENNA KITTLES

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sienna Kittles for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Sienna has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating

perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Sienna, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Sienna's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada West High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Sienna Kittles on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WARD
BEECHER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my good friend and Navy veteran, Ward Beecher, who passed away on Tuesday, April 7, 2026. Ward lived a life grounded in love, service, family, and country, and he will be deeply missed.

Ward was a true patriot. His love for this country wasn't just spoken—it was lived. From 1956 to 1960, Ward proudly served in the United States Navy aboard the MSO-490 minesweeper. That service was a defining part of who he was, and he carried the values of duty, loyalty, and quiet strength with him for the rest of his life. Ward was married to his wife, Diane Beecher, for 69 beautiful years. Together, they built a family that became his greatest pride—his three daughters, Lori, Lynn, and Jann; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

At home, Ward was known for his warm sense of humor. He loved joking around with his grandkids, managed to give everyone in the family a nickname, and ended every visit by saying 'toddles.' He found joy in life's simple pleasures: cheering on the Oklahoma Sooners, listening to 50s music, enjoying an In-N-Out burger, and reminiscing about his time growing up on the family farm in Oklahoma. Those stories were part of who he was, and he loved sharing them with anyone who would listen.

I extend my personal and heartfelt condolences to the Beecher family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Ward. Although he may be gone, the many contributions he made to his family and country have left an enduring legacy.

HONORING THE WORK OF MICHAEL
T. HERMAN

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Michael Herman on his work with Chicago House as acting Chief Executive Officer for seven years, serving communities impacted by HIV/AIDS in Chicago.

Mr. Herman grew up in a large Irish, German, Lithuanian, and Catholic family that put an emphasis on family, faith, and education.

Living in Chicago's Southwest side, Mr. Herman attended school at the church across the street from his childhood home. He entered the seminary at a young age, eventually attending college seminary at Loyola University, and moving on to getting his Master of Divinity. In 1989, Mr. Herman was ordained as a Catholic priest and went on to serve the Hispanic communities of Chicago.

Valuing service but wanting to live as a gay man, Mr. Herman left active ministry and became Chicago House's Chief Development Officer (CDO), serving the LGBTQ+ community and those vulnerable to HIV and AIDS. During his time as CDO at Chicago House, Mr. Herman also became Vice President of Philanthropy at Kohl Children's Museum. In 2019, Michael took the role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Chicago House.

Mr. Herman's work with Chicago House has improved the lives of thousands of Chicagoans affected by HIV and AIDS. Serving as CEO, he led Chicago House's efforts to end the AIDS epidemic in Illinois by 2030, while also providing housing support, healthcare, employment counseling, and care for transgender individuals. Continuing to embrace his lifelong values of family, faith, and education, Mr. Herman's work has touched vulnerable communities across Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me to congratulate Michael T. Herman on his seven years as the Chicago House CEO. Mr. Herman is a striking example of leadership and service to one's own community.

RECOGNIZING SARAH ROBERTS
FOR RECEIVING THE GIRL
SCOUT GOLD AWARD

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sarah Roberts, an incredible Girl Scout from Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast, for demonstrating remarkable leadership, inspiring creativity, and a commitment to making a lasting impact by earning the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are trailblazers who address the most pressing issues facing their communities and the world with quantifiable, dependable, and far-reaching results. To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award, high school-age Girl Scouts identify and investigate an issue they care about, devise a plan, and then lead a team of experts and community members to implement a project that produces enduring change. Sarah helped bridge the digital gap by empowering senior citizens and individuals with accessibility challenges to use computers more efficiently and with more confidence than before. Ms. Roberts provided workshops that enabled individuals to adjust their computers to meet their needs by teaching dynamic computer skills and introducing useful tools and resources they could rely on for continued support.

Sarah's achievement is an inspiration across our Commonwealth and beyond, reminding us of all of what it means to be a servant leader. As she continues her journey, I have no doubt that Ms. Roberts will build

upon this strong foundation to accomplish even greater things. We are very proud of her contributions today and look forward to the many ways she will continue to positively shape her community and our Nation.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Sarah Roberts of Troop 1004 for this outstanding accomplishment. On behalf of Virginia's 1st Congressional District, I commend her for achieving the highest distinction in Girl Scouts and thank her for making such a positive and lasting impact in our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. ROY RAMIRO BARRERA,
SR.

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Roy Ramiro Barrera, Sr., who passed away on Sunday, March 15, 2026. A legal giant in San Antonio and across the state of Texas, Mr. Barrera helped pave the way for Hispanic excellence in the legal profession. He is survived by his children, Yolanda Barrera Arellano, Roy Barrera, Jr., Gilbert Barrera, Carmen Barrera Ramirez, and Robert Barrera, along with many beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

As a child, Mr. Barrera demonstrated an undeniable work ethic and worked numerous jobs throughout the San Antonio community. While in high school at San Antonio Vocational and Technical School, Mr. Barrera met Carmen Zendejas, where the two sparked a relationship that would last over seven decades, including 67 years of marriage.

Upon graduation from San Antonio Vocational and Technical School in 1944, Mr. Barrera joined the U.S. Army and served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater during World War II. While overseas, he received two overseas service bars and a good conduct medal.

Following his honorable discharge in 1946, using G.I. Bill benefits, he enrolled in the St. Mary's University School of Law. He would go on to earn his Juris Doctorate in 1951. That same year he joined the Bexar County District Attorney's Office as an assistant district attorney. In 1957, at the age of 28, he argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Alcorta v. Texas*. In that same year, he and fellow prosecutor, Anthony Nicholas, started their own firm, Nicholas & Barrera.

As Mr. Barrera built his legal career, in 1968, Texas Governor John Conally appointed him to become the first Hispanic Secretary of State. In 1973 he served as the first Hispanic President of the San Antonio Bar Association and remained a State Bar of Texas Foundation Fellow until his death. Mr. Barrera continued to practice law into his nineties, remaining a constant, invaluable resource for generations of attorneys.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the incredible life and remarkable legacy of Mr. Roy Barrera, Sr. He inspired many. He was a true leader, and I am grateful for his decades of service to our San Antonio community.

RECOGNIZING JOE HARVEY

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Police Chief Joe Harvey for his service to the City of Golden, Colorado, and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Joe served the Golden community for more than 11 years, culminating a distinguished law enforcement career that spanned nearly 40 years. Under his leadership, the Golden Police Department oversaw significant reductions in crime and historic employee retention. With popular policies like a four-day workweek and the Community Engagement Group, Joe helped strengthen the community's trust in the police force and made Golden home to one of the few fully staffed police departments in the State.

Those who have worked with Joe know him for his genuine nature and warm demeanor. He has cared deeply about his officers, helping lead the department in responding to the tragic loss of Officer Evan Dunn and the injury of Officer Bethany Grusing while responding to a traffic accident. Though Joe will be missed for his kind, steadfast leadership within the Department and City, his retirement is well-deserved.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, I am honored to congratulate Police Chief Joe Harvey on his well-earned retirement from a distinguished career of public service to the City of Golden.

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 28, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 29

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Kevin Warsh, of Florida, to be a Member and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

SD-538

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

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 National Nuclear Security Administration.

SD-124

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-562

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine Biden Health Officials and COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Signals.

SD-342

2:45 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the American Entrepreneurship for 250 Years: Driving Innovation, Growth, and Opportunity.

SR-428A

3 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

4 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 749, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend increased dependency and indemnity compensation paid to surviving spouses of veterans who die from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, regardless of how long the veterans had such disease prior to death, S. 1127, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for memorial headstones and markers furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who died before November 11, 1998, S. 3000, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to identify and report instances of disability benefit questionnaire fraud, S. 3098, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to publish information about conditions and cohorts the Department of Veterans Affairs is considering for purposes of establishing or removing presumptions of service connection regarding toxic exposure, S. 3170, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement an automated system with callback functionality for each customer service telephone line of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 3286, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Af-

fairs, S. 3311, to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate conflicts of interest in peer review for quality management of care conducted by the Veterans Health Administration, S. 3395, to expand the telescreening mammography pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 3591, to require the Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to develop a notice detailing benefits available to veterans, and to require employers to display such notice, S. 3647, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to address bowel and bladder care needs for veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders, S. 3653, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out efforts to inform veterans of their rights with regards to the receipt of health care, benefits, and services furnished under provisions of law administered by the Secretary, S. 3706, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the provision of produce prescriptions to veterans, S. 3726, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the President to define veteran success and to develop and implement a National Veterans Strategy, S. 3988, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to offer annual preventative health evaluations to veterans with a spinal cord injury or disorder and increase access to assistive technologies, S. 3992, to amend title 10, United States Code, to codify authority for the Joint Medical Facility Fund of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 3993, to amend title 38, United States Code, and title 10, United States Code, to eliminate those provisions relating to veterans educational assistance that disadvantage eligible individuals who choose to pursue programs of apprenticeship or other on-job training instead of a four-year college degree, S. 3999, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that women veterans may schedule appointments for women's specialty care under the laws administered by the Secretary without requiring a referral, S. 4043, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide treatment and rehabilitation for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans, S. 4108, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase burial and funeral expenses paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the case of death from a service-connected disability, S. 4140, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Department of Veterans Affairs schedule for rating disabilities, S. 4197, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program under which the Secretary shall award grants to certain State entities to expand access to structured outdoor recreation programs for veterans that enhance veteran wellness, S. 4220, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish within the Veterans Health Administration an Office of Novel Therapeutics, an original bill entitled "Optimizing the VA Workforce for Veterans Act", an original bill entitled "Veteran Acquired Brain Injury Caregiving Act", and an original bill entitled "Maternal Health for Veterans Act".

SR-418

APRIL 30

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold closed hearings to examine the Department of Defense budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by an open session at approximately 11:00 a.m. in SD-G50.

SVC-217

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SD-124

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nominations of John Breslow, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, Fleet White, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs), Todd Steggerda, of Virginia, to be Representative to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador, Preston Wells Griffith III, of Virginia, to be Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the rank of Ambassador, Adam Cassady, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy, and Frank Garcia, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation, all of the Department of State; to be

immediately followed by a hearing to examine the Baltic Sea, focusing on implications for European Security and lessons from the Indo-Pacific.

SD-419

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, 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, Kenneth Sorenson, to be United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii for the term of four years, and Johnson TeeHee II, of Oklahoma, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

SH-216

10:30 a.m.

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 U.S. Forest Service.

SD-138

MAY 13

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity

To receive a closed briefing on cyber operations and readiness for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2025 and the first quarter of fiscal year 2026.

SVC-217

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

POSTPONEMENTS

APRIL 29

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on the Constitution

To hold hearings to examine Protecting American Citizenship III: Denaturalization and its Constitutional Limits.

SD-226

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2041–S2058

Measures Introduced: Twenty-one bills and eight resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4384–4404, S.J. Res. 185–188, and S. Res. 687–690. **Pages S2052–53**

Measures Passed:

Congratulating the University of South Carolina Aiken Women's Polo Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 689, congratulating the University of South Carolina Aiken women's polo team on winning the 2026 United States Polo Association Division I Women's National Intercollegiate Championship.

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Joint Meeting Escort Committee—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Majesty Charles III, into the House Chamber for a joint meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

Page S2047

Cekada Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Robert Cekada, of Florida, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

Pages S2041–46

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 54 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. EX. 106), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S2046

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that all post-cloture time with respect to the nomination be expired, and at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader in consultation with the Democratic Leader, no earlier than tomorrow, April 28, 2026, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination.

Page S2047

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

David Brat, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of Australia.

Benjamin M. Flowers, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Hal Duncan, of Texas, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Matthew A. Schwartz, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Sean Kaufman, of Georgia, to be Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services.

Jeffrey Ledbetter, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

George McMaster, of South Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Richard O'Malley, of Wisconsin, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Juan Segura, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Western Hemisphere Affairs).

Juan Segura, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2026.

Juan Segura, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2032.

Abby Warren, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Pages S2057–58

Nominations Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nominations:

Daniel Bonham, of Oregon, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, which was sent to the Senate on January 13, 2026

Carter Crow, of Texas, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term of four years, which was sent to the Senate on January 13, 2026

Sean Plankey, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security, which was sent to the Senate on January 13, 2026

Scott Socha, of New York, to be Director of the National Park Service, which was sent to the Senate on February 11, 2026

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Messages from the House:

Page S2048

Measures Referred:

Page S2048

Measures Discharged:	Pages S2048–51
Measures Placed on the Calendar:	Page S2051
Measures Held Over/Under Rule:	Page S2051
Enrolled Bills Presented:	Page S2051
Additional Cosponsors:	Pages S2053–54
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:	Pages S2054–57
Additional Statements:	Page S2048
Authorities for Committees to Meet:	Page S2057
Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—106)	Page S2046

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:21 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2026. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2057.)

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 Department of Defense missile defense activities in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Marc J. Berkowitz, Assistant Secretary for Space Policy, General Michael A. Guetlein, USSF, Director, Golden Dome for America, Lieutenant General Heath A. Collins, USAF, Director, Missile Defense Agency, and Lieutenant General Francisco J. Lozano, USA, Portfolio Acquisition Executive, Fires, United States Army, all of the Department of Defense.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 40 public bills, H.R. 8496–8535; and 3 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 91; and H. Res. 1216–1217, were introduced. **Pages H3122–23**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3125–26**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 6903, to require the Secretary of State to revoke any United States passport issued to an individual, on receipt of a certification by the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the individual has a child support arrearage exceeding \$2,500, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–624, Part 1). **Page H3122**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Crank to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3095**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:22 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H3097**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:07 p.m. and reconvened at 2:59 p.m. **Page H3098**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:12 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H3117**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: Expanding the sharing of information with respect to suspected vio-

lations of intellectual property rights in trade: H.R. 4930, amended, to expand the sharing of information with respect to suspected violations of intellectual property rights in trade; **Pages H3098–H3100**

Barcode Automation for Revenue Collection to Organize Disbursement and Enhance Efficiency Act: H.R. 6956, amended, to require electronically prepared tax returns to include scannable code when submitted on paper, and to require the use of optical character recognition technology for paper documents received by the Internal Revenue Service; **Pages H3100–1**

Taxpayer Experience Improvement Act: H.R. 7971, amended, to provide for modernization and technological improvements of services provided by the Internal Revenue Service; **Pages H3101–4**

IRS Whistleblower Program Improvement Act: H.R. 7959, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements with respect to the treatment of whistleblowers, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nays vote of 346 yeas to 10 nays, Roll No. 138; **Pages H3104–6, H3117–18**

Taxpayer Notification and Privacy Act: H.R. 6495, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for specific taxpayer notice when information is sought from third parties; **Pages H3106–7**

Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act: H.R. 5366, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to codify and extend the rules for personal casualty losses arising from major disasters and the rules for the exclusion from gross income of compensation for losses or damages resulting from certain wildfires; **Pages H3107–10**

Survivor Justice Tax Prevention Act: H.R. 2347, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact; **Pages H3110–11**

Supporting Early-childhood Educators' Deductions Act: H.R. 5334, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow early childhood educators to take the educator expense deduction; **Pages H3111–13**

Ensuring Children Receive Support Act: H.R. 6903, amended, to require the Secretary of State to revoke any United States passport issued to an individual, on receipt of a certification by the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the individual has a child support arrearage exceeding \$2,500; **Pages H3113–14**

New Opportunities for Business Ownership and Self-Sufficiency Act: H.R. 6431, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules governing the State administration of self-employment assistance programs; **Pages H3114–15**

Clergy Act: H.R. 227, amended, to allow a period in which members of the clergy may revoke their exemption from Social Security coverage, by a 2/3 yeand-nay vote of 350 yeas to 5 nays, Roll No. 139; and **Pages H3115–16, H3118–19**

Amending title 5, United States Code, to authorize the increase of the retirement age in the United States Capitol Police: H.R. 8364, to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize the increase of the retirement age in the United States Capitol Police. **Pages H3116–17**

Order of Business: Agreed by unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider H. Con. Res. 75 in the House if called up by the chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs or his designee; that the concurrent resolution be considered as read; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution without intervening motion except for one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by Representative Mast of Florida and Representative Meeks of New York, or their respective designees. **Page H3119**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, April 28th. **Page H3119**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeand-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3117–18 and H3118–19.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Testimony was heard from Jared Isaacman, Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

APPROPRIATIONS—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency. Testimony was heard from Lee Zeldin, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency; and Paige Hallen Hanson, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Administrative Officer, Environmental Protection Agency.

FARM, FOOD, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2026; STOPPING INDOCTRINATION AND PROTECTING KIDS ACT; SETTING FORTH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND SETTING FORTH THE APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2027 THROUGH 2035; FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee began a hearing on H.R. 7567, the “Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026”; H.R. 2616, the “Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act”; S. Con. Res. 33, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2026 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035; and S. 1318, [Foreign Intelligence Accountability Act]. Testimony was heard from Chairman Thompson of Pennsylvania, Chairman Arrington, Chairman Jordan, and Representatives Craig, Owens, Scott of Virginia, Escobar, Scanlon, Kelly of Mississippi, Bentz, Carbajal, Burchett, Costa, Comer, Garamendi, Crawford, Hayes, Fine, Kaptur, Fitzpatrick, Mannion, Hageman, McClain

Delaney, Nehls, Moore of Wisconsin, Spartz, Randall, Schrier, Stansbury, Thompson of California, Tokuda, Torres of California, and Whitesides.

FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security”. Testimony was heard from Tulsi Gabbard, Director of National Intelligence; Bradley Hansell, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

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 National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 10 a.m., SD-138.

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 Education, 10 a.m., SD-124.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold closed hearings to examine the posture of United States Special Operations Command and United States Cyber 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 at approximately 11 a.m. in SD-G50, 9:30 a.m., SVC-217.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Darrell Owens, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador, Juan Rodriguez, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala, William Trachman, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania, and George Holding, of North Carolina, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD-419.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Full Committee, markup on the National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill, FY 2027, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled “Leveling Down: How Equity Policies Undermine Excellence and Harm Students”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2027 Environmental Protection Agency Budget”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Prioritizing Main Street: Evaluating the Impact of Capital Proposals on Economic Growth and American Communities”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government, hearing entitled “From Tool to Weapon: The FACE Act and the Dangers of Federalizing Criminal Law”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, continue hearing on H.R. 7567, the “Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026”; H.R. 2616, the “Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act”; S. Con. Res. 33, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2026 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035; and S. 1318, [Foreign Intelligence Accountability Act], 7:30 a.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “A Review of the President’s Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration”, 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled “Review of the Coast Guard’s Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Hearing with Health System CEOs”, 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 Federal Bureau of Investigation”, 10 a.m., HVC-304 Capitol. This hearing is closed.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of April 28 through May 1, 2026

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will be in a period of morning business. Senate expects two roll call votes at approximately 11 a.m. Additional roll call votes are possible.

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 28, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 10 a.m., SD-138.

April 28, 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 Education, 10 a.m., SD-124.

April 29, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the National Nuclear Security Administration, 2:30 p.m., SD-124.

April 30, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, 10 a.m., SD-124.

April 30, 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 U.S. Forest Service, 10:30 a.m., SD-138.

Committee on Armed Services: April 28, to hold closed hearings to examine the posture of United States Special Operations Command and United States Cyber 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 at approximately 11 a.m. in SD-G50, 9:30 a.m., SVC-217.

April 30, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine the Department of Defense budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by an open session at approximately 11 a.m. in SD-G50, 9:30 a.m., SVC-217.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: April 29, business meeting to consider the nomination 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: April 29, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of the Interior, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: April 29, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Environmental Protection Agency, 2:30 p.m., SD-562.

Committee on Foreign Relations: April 28, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Darrell Owens, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador, Juan Rodriguez, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala, William

Trachman, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania, and George Holding, of North Carolina, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD-419.

April 30, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of John Breslow, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, Fleet White, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs), Todd Steggerda, of Virginia, to be Representative to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador, Preston Wells Griffith III, of Virginia, to be Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the rank of Ambassador, Adam Cassady, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy, and Frank Garcia, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation, all of the Department of State; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the Baltic Sea, focusing on implications for European Security and lessons from the Indo-Pacific, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: April 29, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine Biden Health Officials and COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Signals, 2:30 p.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: April 29, to hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations, 2 p.m., SD-226.

April 30, 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, 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, Kenneth Sorenson, to be United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii for the term of four years, and Johnson TeeHee II, of Oklahoma, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Oklahoma for the term of four years, 10:15 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: April 29, to hold hearings to examine the American Entrepreneurship for 250 Years: Driving Innovation, Growth, and Opportunity, 2:45 p.m., SR-428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: April 29, to hold hearings to examine S. 749, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend increased dependency and indemnity compensation paid to surviving spouses of veterans who die from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, regardless of how long the veterans had such disease prior to death, S. 1127, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for memorial headstones and markers furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who died before November 11, 1998, S. 3000, to require

the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to identify and report instances of disability benefit questionnaire fraud, S. 3098, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to publish information about conditions and cohorts the Department of Veterans Affairs is considering for purposes of establishing or removing presumptions of service connection regarding toxic exposure, S. 3170, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement an automated system with callback functionality for each customer service telephone line of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 3286, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, S. 3311, to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate conflicts of interest in peer review for quality management of care conducted by the Veterans Health Administration, S. 3395, to expand the telescreening mammography pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 3591, to require the Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to develop a notice detailing benefits available to veterans, and to require employers to display such notice, S. 3647, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to address bowel and bladder care needs for veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders, S. 3653, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out efforts to inform veterans of their rights with regards to the receipt of health care, benefits, and services furnished under provisions of law administered by the Secretary, S. 3706, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the provision of produce prescriptions to veterans, S. 3726, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the President to define veteran success and to develop and implement a National Veterans Strategy, S. 3988, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to offer annual preventative health evaluations to veterans with a spinal cord injury or disorder and increase access to assistive technologies, S. 3992, to amend title 10, United States Code, to codify authority for the Joint Medical Facility Fund of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 3993, to amend title 38, United States Code, and title 10, United States Code, to eliminate those provisions relating to veterans educational assistance that disadvantage eligible individuals who choose to pursue programs of apprenticeship or other on-job training instead of a four-year college degree, S. 3999, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that women veterans may schedule appointments for women's specialty care under the laws administered by the Secretary without requiring a referral, S. 4043, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide treatment and rehabilitation for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans, S. 4108, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase burial and funeral expenses paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the case of death from a service-connected disability, S. 4140, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Department of Veterans Affairs schedule for rating disabilities, S. 4197, to require the

Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program under which the Secretary shall award grants to certain State entities to expand access to structured outdoor recreation programs for veterans that enhance veteran wellness, S. 4220, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish within the Veterans Health Administration an Office of Novel Therapeutics, an original bill entitled "Optimizing the VA Workforce for Veterans Act", an original bill entitled "Veteran Acquired Brain Injury Caregiving Act", and an original bill entitled "Maternal Health for Veterans Act", 4 p.m., SR-418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: April 29, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, April 29, Full Committee, markup on the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2027, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

April 30, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, markup on the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, FY 2027, 8 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

April 30, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, markup on the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2027, 8 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

April 30, Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force, 9:30 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

April 30, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Indian Health Service, 10:30 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, April 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, April 29, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, hearing entitled "Speech or Silence? The Future of the First Amendment in Higher Education", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, April 29, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled "AI and the Grid: Meeting Growing Power Demand While Protecting Ratepayers", 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

April 29, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Healthier America: Legislative Proposals on the Regulation and Oversight of Food", 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, April 29, Task Force on Monetary Policy, Treasury Market Resilience, and Economic Prosperity, hearing entitled "Examining Derivatives' Role in the Treasury Market", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, April 29, Europe Subcommittee, hearing entitled "Orbits of Influence: Emerging Threats to U.S. Space Security and Foreign Policy Implications", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

April 29, Oversight and Intelligence Subcommittee, hearing entitled “U.S. Accountability at the United Nations: Challenges and Opportunities for Reform”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, April 29, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled “Data Centers, Telecommunications Networks, and Space-Based Systems: Modernizing DHS’s SRMA Role for the Communications and IT Sectors”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, April 29, Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, hearing entitled “Peace of Mind: Strengthening Victim Protections Under Kayleigh’s Law”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn

Committee on Natural Resources, April 29, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled “Powering the 21st Century with American Copper”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

April 29, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 7287, the “Lewis and Clark Regional Water System Expansion Feasibility Study Act”; H.R. 7331, the “Dakota Mainstem Water Supply Project Feasibility Study Act”; H.R. 7515, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Nisqually Indian Tribe the Clear Creek Hatchery infrastructure; H.R. 8259, the “Reclamation Project Consultation Improvement Act of 2026”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, April 29, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1755, the “Timely and Accurate Benefits Act”; H.R. 8340, the “Taxpayer Funds Oversight and Accountability Act”; H.R. 8428, the “Federal Fraud Prevention Workforce Training Act”; H.R. 8467, the “Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act”; H.R. 8107, the “Government Audit and Accountability of Federally Funded State-Administered

Programs Act”; H.R. 8312, the “Fraud Prevention and Accountability Act”; H.R. 8464, the “Stopping Fraudulent Payments Act”; H.R. 8463, the “Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act”; H.R. 2488, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3817 Marysville Boulevard in Sacramento, California, as the “Grantland Johnson Post Office”; H.R. 6099, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2200 South Salina Street in Syracuse, New York, as the “Wallie Howard Jr. Post Office Building”; H.R. 7809, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 East Grant Avenue in Georgetown, Ohio, as the “Ulysses S. Grant Post Office Building”; H.R. 8193, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 189 East Main Street in Xenia, Ohio, as the “Gilman ‘Gil’ Whitney Post Office Building”; and H.R. 8225, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 111 South Tremont Street in Tremonton, Utah, as the “Sorensen-Estrada Post Office”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, April 29, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 8462, the “National Quantum Initiative Reauthorization Act”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, April 29, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 7432, the “Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act”; H.R. 7463, the “Foster Youth Postsecondary Education Access and Success Act”; H.R. 7343, the “Foster Youth Workforce Opportunity Act”; H.R. 7529, the “Fresh Starts for Foster Youth Act”; H.R. 7655, the “Support for Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth Act”; and H.R. 7995, the “Chafee Opportunities for New Networks and Existing Connection Trust Act”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, April 28

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Tuesday, April 28

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will be in a period of morning business. Senate expects two roll call votes at approximately 11 a.m. Additional roll call votes are possible.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. for their respective party conferences and the joint address.)

(Senators are asked to gather in the chamber at 2:20 p.m., to proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives for the joint address from His Majesty King Charles III.)

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Joint Meeting to receive His Majesty, King Charles III of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Alford, Mark, Mo., E370
Biggs, Andy, Ariz., E373
Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E369
Calvert, Ken, Calif., E368, E376
Castro, Joaquin, Tex., E367, E371, E376
Cuellar, Henry, Tex., E369, E375
Fong, Vince, Calif., E368, E375
Franklin, Scott, Fla., E371
Garamendi, John, Calif., E369

Harder, Josh, Calif., E371
Jayapal, Pramila, Wash., E372
Jordan, Jim, Ohio, E374
Latta, Robert E., Ohio, E369
Levin, Mike, Calif., E371
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