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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 8, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DARRELL ISSA 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 JENNY MEARKLE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is with gratitude and respect that I rise to recognize Jenny Mearkle, a valued colleague and friend, who will be retiring at the end of June after more than 21 years of service to constituents throughout Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District.

Jenny's work in constituent services has been characterized by efficiency and empathy. The foundation of Jen-

ny's success as manager of the Altoona district office is her heartfelt desire to help people. When it comes to resolving an issue for a constituent, Jenny is never confined by space or by the time that is needed.

Wherever she might be—during or outside the boundaries of a traditional workday—Jenny makes every effort to respond to constituent casework inquiries, not only because it is the professional thing to do, but because Jenny genuinely cares.

As a builder of relationships throughout the 13th Congressional District, Jenny has achieved unparalleled success while earning the admiration of her constituents.

I thank Jenny Mearkle. I thank her for her distinguished legacy of dedicated service to the constituents of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, and I wish her much happiness in all the years to come.

RECOGNIZING SAM WORLEY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sam Worley as the recipient of the Franklin County Conservation District's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sam, who will be celebrating his 105th birthday on June 13, is a proud U.S. Army Air Corps veteran of World War II. Notably, he has lived a life in distinguished service to his community and to his country.

The award presented to Sam by the Franklin County Conservation District pays tribute to his decades of leadership and enduring impact on the conservation of natural resources in Franklin County.

Sam accepted the appointment as the director with the Franklin County Conservation District in 1992. Now, more than three decades later, Sam continues to serve the district in his role as associate director.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Sam on this prestigious award. He truly embodies what it means to a member of the Greatest Generation.

RECOGNIZING CHERYL JOHNS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated public servant, Cheryl Johns, who is retiring as the executive director of the Altoona Housing Authority with over 26 years of service.

Cheryl is admired and respected for her commitment to maintaining the highest standard of administrative excellence. She has been a trusted and dependable public servant. She works for families and individuals who seek affordable and reliable housing in the city of Altoona.

As a housing administrator for the last 33 years, Cheryl has created a legacy of service based on the belief that a healthy and productive society is founded on safe and stable housing.

On behalf of the constituents throughout Altoona and the entire 13th Congressional District, I personally thank Cheryl Johns for her commitment to her profession and extend best wishes for a wonderful retirement.

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES MUSEUM OF ART

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, known in Pennsylvania as SAMA.

Incorporated in 1975, SAMA opened its first gallery in June 1976 in Altoona. Galleries were subsequently opened in Johnstown, Ligonier, and Bedford.

Today, SAMA successfully operates the Nation's longest-running museum satellite program. The museum maintains a permanent collection of more than 7,500 works.

SAMA is a dynamic cultural leader, enriching lives through exhibitions and programs that advance the appreciation of art. The museum itself serves as a vibrant hub of education and community engagement.

As the celebration of SAMA's golden anniversary continues throughout this

□ 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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year, I personally express my gratitude to the museum's president, Barry Newborn; to the vice president, Ehrin Ward; the board of trustees; and the entire staff of SAMA for their commitment to sharing the absolute beauty of art.

OPPOSING THE ICE BUDGET BILL

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, families are struggling to pay for groceries, gas, rent, and healthcare.

What are Republicans doing? They are bringing a budget to the floor this week to give ICE and Border Patrol another \$70 billion blank check—no guardrails, no oversight, no accountability.

Not a single dollar in this bill covers the cost of living for Americans. Not a single dollar makes life more affordable for working families. Instead, Republicans are spending billions to bankroll Donald Trump's cruelty and corruption.

At the same time, they are letting Trump keep a \$1.8 billion slush fund that can be used to reward political allies and advance his own agenda. This is not fiscal responsibility. This is the betrayal of the American people.

We have already seen where these priorities lead. Republicans cut healthcare. They cut food assistance for children, for seniors, and veterans, all while protecting giveaways for the wealthy.

Now they want Americans to pay for more masked ICE agents to brutalize our communities and violently target law-abiding immigrant families.

Communities across the country are demanding accountability. Instead, Republicans are writing another blank check.

House Democrats are fighting to lower costs and make Americans lives safer, healthier, and more affordable while holding this administration accountable.

Congress should be lowering costs. We should be helping working people. We should be holding this administration accountable, and that is why House Democrats reject this reckless budget.

FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THE DISMANTLING OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say I dissent. I strongly dissent.

I join Justices Elena Kagan, Sonia Sotomayor, and Ketanji Brown Jackson in their dissent in *Louisiana v. Callais*, a decision that seeks to demolish the Voting Rights Act.

As Justice Kagan stated: "the Court's decision will set back the foundational right Congress granted of racial equality in electoral opportunity."

Make no mistake, this is an attack on fair representation. Republican-led southern States have wasted no time

to redraw their districts to eliminate any Democratic representation. In some extreme cases, they have canceled elections that already started. Just last week, the Supreme Court allowed Alabama to eliminate a whole majority Black district, essentially reversing its previous opinions.

Whether you are in a majority Black district or not, this impacts all of us.

Right now, they are targeting Black representation in the South, but tomorrow it could be a blue district in any State. This is about fair representation, and it is about our democracy.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor stated in her dissent, the Court "debases the democratic process" and "corrodes the rule of law by rewarding Alabama's gamesmanship and outright defiance of Court orders."

Republicans know they have to rig the maps in November to win because they cannot run on their failed policies, policies which have led to high gas prices and made life more expensive.

People shed blood and some died for the right to vote for fair representation.

We need to come together now to fight for our voting rights. Black, Latino, Asian American, White, and all communities need to unite in one mission: to protect democracy.

We must guarantee that every American has an equal voice in our democracy and an equal opportunity to elect Representatives who represent their constituents' interests.

When Democrats regain the House, we will work to pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore voting protections to guarantee fairness and equal representation in our elections.

This is about preserving the promise of American democracy itself. I call on every American to organize, to educate your friends, neighbors, and colleagues on what is at stake and to vote.

As we head into November, House Democrats will work with the civil rights and voting rights advocates, legal experts, and grassroots organizers to defend American democracy.

When people come together to fight for justice, history shows us that justice ultimately wins, and Democrats will never stop fighting for it.

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF MANUEL "MANNY" DUENAS

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Manuel, best known as Manny, Duenas, a beloved son of Guam and one of the strongest voices our island has ever had for its fishing community.

For decades, Manny was more than the president of the Guam Fishermen's

Cooperative. To many, he was the face of the Hagatna Boat Basin and the heart of Guam's fishing industry.

Whether greeting fishermen before sunrise, helping them load the day's catch, or advocating at public meetings, Manny dedicated his life to protecting a way of life that has sustained our islands for generations.

He understood that fishing on Guam was about far more than commerce. It was culture. It was family. It was tradition. It was a connection between our people and the ocean that surrounds us.

Manny spent his life defending that connection. He championed local fishermen through challenging regulations, economic challenges, and environmental concerns.

He worked tirelessly to ensure that Guam's fishermen had a seat at the table and that their voices were heard whenever decisions affecting our waters were being made.

But perhaps what made Manny special was his belief in stewardship. Long before sustainability became a widely used term, he was teaching the importance of protecting our marine resources for future generations. He believed that preserving our waters and preserving our culture went hand in hand.

Those who knew Manny remember not only his determination, but also his warmth. He welcomed visitors, mentored young fishermen, shared stories, and helped countless people understand the importance of Guam's fishing heritage.

He was a teacher, an advocate, a leader, and a friend.

Today, Hagatna Boat Basin will feel a little quieter. The fishermen who worked beside him, the families who relied on him, and the community he served so faithfully will deeply feel his absence.

Yet, his legacy remains. It remains in the stronger fishing community he helped build. It remains in generations of fisherman he inspired, and it remains in the waters he worked so hard to protect for those who will follow.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend my deepest condolences to Manny's family, friends, and the entire Guam fishing community. I thank him for a lifetime of service, leadership, and dedication to our island.

May he rest in peace and may his legacy continue to guide future generations of Guam's fishermen.

"Thank you, Manny"; "Si Yu'os Ma'ase', Manny."

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING FRANK RABON

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Master of CHamoru Dance Frank Rabon of Guam, who was recently named a 2026 National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Nation's highest honor in folk and traditional arts.

For more than 40 years, Frank Rabon has dedicated his life to preserving and

revitalizing CHamoru dance, chant, and cultural traditions across Guam and the Mariana Islands. Through his leadership, teachings, and choreography, he has helped generations of CHamorians remain connected to their language, heritage, and identity. His work has strengthened cultural preservation efforts not only on Guam but throughout the CHamoru diaspora and across the Pacific region.

This recognition is a proud moment for our island and a testament to the importance of preserving indigenous traditions for future generations. I thank Mr. Frank Rabon for his lifelong dedication to the CHamoru people, and I congratulate him on this historic honor.

HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY MEDICARE ADVANTAGE DENIALS

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue to shed light on the egregious practices of our health insurance industry companies that continue to deny patients care and rip off the American taxpayers.

I have been practicing medicine now for 35 years and have dedicated my life to serving others, primarily those in rural and underserved areas. American medicine is sick. American medicine is unaffordable.

A few months ago, the House Ways and Means Committee hosted representatives from multiple insurance companies to deal with healthcare affordability. During that time, I exposed the unconscionable practices of these megacorporations that squeeze every penny out of patients and physicians for their own profit.

Today, I want to talk about the bad actors in Medicare Advantage, a program that seeks to prey upon the elderly and those who have health insurance issues as they get older, that rely on prior authorizations as a way to deny care.

These denials have been up in recent years, as have been, amazingly enough, insurance company profits. They have created barriers to lifesaving care for patients.

In fact, in 2024, Medicare Advantage insurers denied over 4 million prior authorization requests. Yet, when appealed, over 80 percent of those were overturned. This was only after patients and caregivers were forced to fight for the care that they deserve. Sadly, many give up, and they don't receive the care that they need and the care that they have paid for.

I am far from the only physician ringing the bell on this travesty. Recent surveys show that 93 percent of doctors say that prior authorization leads to care delays, and 82 percent say that it sometimes causes patient harm. Nearly one in three state that delays have contributed to a serious adverse safety event.

The current state of prior authorization allows insurance companies to deny care and pad their profits.

I commend the Trump administration for bringing insurance companies to the table and forcing them to improve their process. Sadly enough, I don't believe a word that these insurance companies say because they are ever increasingly putting profits above patients.

I understand that there are bad actors and those who overbill the system. I truly do. They overorder to drive up costs. The response cannot be a regime that continues delays and denies care for patients who deserve to be healthy.

Congress must be bold in its action to deliver meaningful and lasting solutions to make healthcare work for all Americans.

I am proud to have introduced the Medicare Advantage Improvement Act with my friend and colleague, Dr. JOHN JOYCE. As co-chairs of the GOP Doctors Caucus, our unique experience as physician-legislators gives us perspective on how the healthcare system delivers and finances care.

MAIA streamlines Medicare Advantage prior authorization by enabling real-time approvals for routine care, setting up clear decision guidelines and preventing repetitive reauthorization denials, denials, denials. It also strengthens network adequacy and access centers so that seniors can obtain the full spectrum of medically necessary care when they need it.

Healthcare is expensive. We are living longer because of wonderful innovations in healthcare. Yet, sadly enough, vertical integration and the middlemen are destroying the American healthcare system. We don't need to be padding the profits of middlemen, be they insurance companies, be they PBMs, or be they any individuals in the middle who are siphoning off profits away from patients and away from those who care for patients.

We need to get back to a system that is streamlined, and we need to stop paying those who deny patient care.

STILL WAITING IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, we had an election in California last Tuesday. It is now the following Monday, and the State still has millions of votes to count.

How can this be? Nothing like this happens in any other State in the country or, for that matter, any other democratic country in the world. California's absurdly slow, glacial vote counting has been the subject of broad, sweeping bipartisan criticism.

The Washington Post's editorial board called it a national embarrassment. The New York Times' editorial board said that California's elections are something out of the pre-telegraph era.

How does the State justify this process of taking a month to count votes? They generally offer two excuses.

First, they say that California is a really big State. The problem with that argument is that this doesn't come as a surprise every election that we have a lot of people. Maybe you should prepare for that. There are other big States in the United States that manage to count their votes on election night, and there are other, much larger countries around the world, like India, that manage to count their votes a lot more quickly than California does.

The second excuse you get is that California is just trying to make sure that every vote is counted and that the people have every possible means of participating. Throughout my time in office, I have supported measures to make voting as accessible to folks as possible, but that has nothing to do with taking a month to count votes.

As a matter of fact, if you look at the nonpartisan Elections Performance Index, California ranks 41 out of 50. This measures things like the share of voter turnout, voter registration, transparency, and so forth. California not only has the slowest elections. It actually tends to perform worse across every metric than the rest of the country does.

Make no mistake, this is an attempt to cloak administrative incompetence under a disguise of false civic virtue. The consequences for our democracy should not be understated. When we take weeks and weeks to count votes, with the results often changing based upon what they were on election night, it fosters distrust in the entire process.

It also creates great instability, as people don't know and the representatives themselves don't know who will be their school board member, county supervisor, city councilor, State legislator, or Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced, along with my colleagues from California here in the House, the Election Results Accountability Act, which says, very simply, that California needs to get its act together. California needs to count votes in a timely manner and give folks results in a timely manner and in a way that should be expected of a well-functioning democratic society.

RECOGNIZING SONBOL ALIABADI

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Sonbol Aliabadi, the longtime executive director for the Sierra College Foundation, on her retirement at the end of May 2026.

Throughout her 22-year tenure, Sonbol aided the foundation in expanding access and opportunity for Sierra College students by mobilizing more than \$22 million in community support funds and awarding nearly \$7 million in scholarships, as well as by delivering on many other major initiatives.

Sonbol's contributions reduced barriers, enabling more students to enroll and continue their education, and strengthened the Sierra College community.

Under Sonbol's leadership, the foundation has helped launch a variety of student support programs, such as the Veterans Success Center, the Student Assistance Fund Endowment, the Basic Needs Center, the Guardian Scholars Program, and more. Earlier this year, the program Endow-a-Bed launched under Sonbol's leadership, providing free room and board for 10 students in the school's new student housing.

The foundation has also worked to fund educational and extracurricular opportunities for students, such as the Sierra College Athletics Program and career and technical education programs. Moreover, they have helped provide services to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and have supported programs that embrace a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the school.

Valued by so many, Sonbol is known for her leadership and guidance in the foundation. Her passion for supporting students on their educational journey encourages those around her to put students first, as she does. Her devoted efforts have made a lasting difference in the lives of countless Sierra College students and have contributed to the growth and success of the school.

As a former educator, I have appreciated the opportunity to work with Sonbol since my time in elected office. It is a true honor to represent such inspirational and effective community leaders like Sonbol.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to join the community in celebrating Sonbol Aliabadi's successful career and service to the Sierra College community over the past two decades, and I wish her the very best in her next chapter.

SELF-ENRICHMENT REWARDED, OVERSIGHT BLINDFOLDED

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

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a deeply troubling pattern of behavior that strikes at the very heart of the American justice system. It is a pattern where self-enrichment is rewarded, oversight is blindfolded, and rule of law is bent to serve the powerful.

I sit on the Appropriations Committee, and we had a chance last week to hear the testimony of the Acting Attorney General, Mr. Blanche. I asked him about what I thought was a blatant pay-for-pardon scheme, and this involves the Binance Corporation.

Let me walk through some of the facts of what happened there, as I did there with the Attorney General.

In late 2023, Binance agreed to pay a penalty of \$4.36 billion. A U.S. judge approved the guilty plea and settlement for the anti-money laundering and sanctions in February 2024. In other words, the chairman of Binance and the company itself pled guilty to crimes that involved money laun-

dering. This involved money laundering that was helping groups like ISIS and al-Qaida, enemies of the United States, and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps.

In December 2024, Mr. Zhao and Mr. Witkoff met in Abu Dhabi at the Bitcoin MENA 2024 Conference. Mr. Witkoff is the special envoy for the Trump administration who negotiates agreements with respect to the Middle East and does this on behalf of the Trump administration. They discussed the violations of anti-money laundering laws while Mr. Zhao was serving at Binance.

In October 2025, Mr. Trump granted a full pardon to Mr. Zhao. That meant that they did not have to pay back the money that was part of the fine, and it wiped away the conviction and the related elements of that.

According to The Wall Street Journal, part of what happened between the pardon and the meeting was that there was a payment that was made. That was money that was paid, according to The Wall Street Journal, from Binance, which took steps that catapulted the Trump family venture's new stablecoin product. The Trump family venture was WLF, and it dealt with cryptocurrency. Members of Trump's family, two of his sons, and Mr. Witkoff all had vested interests in that company.

While they put the money into the WLF transaction, that enhanced the credibility and pushed up the market value of the WLF company from \$127 million to over \$2.1 billion.

I asked Mr. Blanche, given that he had this meeting, then the money, and then the pardon, did he think it would be important to appoint a special prosecutor to review the transaction just to make sure that there was no misconduct that took place, whether it was on behalf of the President or any of the other factors or players who were involved, and he said no.

A special prosecutor would be someone who the Attorney General could appoint in order to have a full and independent investigation done, but he refused to do that.

It is important to put this into context, too. Just in the first 3 months of this year, Mr. Trump has engaged in 3,700 stock transactions personally, and his net worth has grown from \$2.3 billion to \$6.5 billion since 2024. That is a \$4.2 billion increase in his personal wealth since he returned to the White House.

There are other issues that we should raise. In fact, the sentences to my right were taken from a New York Times article that chronicles many of these types of issues. Nvidia stock is another one where there was a potential benefit of \$5 million to WLF and the Trump family.

I am not saying that there was or was not misconduct by Mr. Trump. We don't know that yet, but it is important to make sure that somebody who is independent, objective, and knowl-

edgeable would conduct that kind of investigation.

So far, the Trump administration has refused to do that, so I am going to be introducing legislation that I think will help to facilitate that. If you have a President who doesn't want to have his Attorney General conduct any investigations into what his administration is doing, we should have other avenues to move that forward. We have in the past, like the Independent Counsel Act. We also could beef up the inspector general law which was put in place after Watergate took place and was put in place specifically because of the Nixon administration misconduct and the failure to have anybody in the Nixon administration investigate that.

□ 1230

You might recall that John Mitchell was the Attorney General. He ended up going to jail because he participated in that misconduct. We need to make sure we don't find ourselves in this situation again where we have got the fox guarding the henhouse.

We will offer this legislation soon, but I think it is critical to make sure we understand a couple of things in the wake of this. We need to keep an eye on the Trump administration, and we need to remember, too, that after the testimony he gave, he was promoted to Attorney General by the President.

RECOGNIZING LIVES LOST AND SURVIVORS OF 1967 ISRAELI AT- TACK ON U.S. OBSERVATION SHIP

(Mr. MASSIE of Kentucky was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor, maybe one of the biggest honors of my lifetime, to stand here on the floor and do something that is 59 years overdue, to recognize the survivors and those who gave their lives on the USS *Liberty* 59 years ago today, when they were viciously attacked by IDF jets and also after that by torpedo boats.

I am going to tell you a little bit of their story. By the way, there are at least a dozen of them here today with us. I just met with them in my office, and they related this story to me.

It was a clear day. The USS *Liberty* was one of the most technologically sophisticated ships in the Navy, but it was virtually unarmed. It was sent to observe the Six-Day War going on in the Middle East between Israel and its neighbors.

It arrived on June 7, and the weather was clear. Planes came out to meet them, to investigate. Then on the next day, on June 8, when they started the day, the visibility was unlimited and the American flag was flying proudly on the USS *Liberty*. More planes came from Israel to surveil the ship. They thought they were in good shape, but what happened next surprised them all.

French Mirage jets showed up, and for 25 minutes, strafed and attacked

the USS *Liberty*. They shot rockets. They shot 30-millimeter cannons into the hull and into the ship. They even dropped napalm on the bridge of the ship. This was an effort to kill everybody on board. There was no intention of taking prisoners.

After the 25 grueling minutes of attack on this virtually unarmed ship, when they thought things were over and they could recover, the torpedo boats showed up, three torpedo boats. They launched four torpedoes. One of them hit the hull of the USS *Liberty* and killed 25 people instantly. It blew a 40-by-40-foot hole in the side of this ship. They were intent on sinking it. They were intent on not having a single survivor.

According to eyewitness accounts, the Israelis machine-gunned the lifeboats that they put down. They machine-gunned the firefighters who were on the deck. They were bringing the wounded and the dead to the mess hall to triage them. They had one doctor who was trying to help them all, put a few stitches in. It was harrowing.

It was amazing that if not for that crew, that boat would have sunk that day.

But it still wasn't over. Helicopters showed up, combat helicopters. The USS *Liberty*, even though their signals were being jammed by the Israelis, got a signal out. There were ships that tried to respond. The USS *Saratoga* and the USS *America* sent planes. Both of them sent planes to help the USS *Liberty*. And something happened that has never happened before to a ship under attack: The planes were recalled. This has never happened before. They sat there for 17 hours with 34 dead and 174 wounded out of 294 crewmembers. That is over a 70 percent casualty rate, which is unheard of. The Israelis were intent on leaving no survivors.

What about our own military? Why did they not send anybody for 17 hours to help these men?

So what really happened? The official reports say that it was a case of mistaken identity. But if you listen to Dean Rusk, former Secretary of State; Richard Helms, CIA Director; Bobby Ray Inman, head of the NSA; Captain Ward Boston, who was the chief council of the court of inquiry; and if you listen to Admiral Moore, who served in Pearl Harbor, Midway, commanded both the Atlantic and Pacific fleet, and was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, none of these distinguished men think this was an accident. They think it was intentional murder by the country of Israel, either as a false flag operation or because they simply didn't want anybody observing what they were doing that day.

Well, I have got a call to action for everybody here. Honor these individuals. Quit ignoring that they exist. Go to their website, ussliberty.org. Support them while they are still alive. They need closure. Let's give them closure. Let's have an investigation. Let's pass a resolution honoring them. It is

long overdue. Then they can have their justice.

Mr. Speaker, I insert into the RECORD the declaration of Ward Boston declaring that the only official court of inquiry was invalid.

AFFIDAVIT OF CAPTAIN WARD BOSTON, USN, JAG (RET.), SENIOR COUNSEL TO THE U.S. NAVY COURT OF INQUIRY

For more than 30 years, I have remained silent on the topic of the USS *Liberty*. I am a military man and when orders come in from the Secretary of Defense and President of the United States, I follow them.

However, recent attempts to rewrite history compel me to share the truth.

In June of 1967, while serving as a Captain in the Judge Advocates General Department of the Navy, I was assigned as senior legal counsel for the Navy's Court of Inquiry into the brutal attack on the USS *Liberty*, which had occurred on June 8th.

The late Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, president of the Court, and I were given only one week to gather evidence for the Navy's official investigation into the attack, despite the fact that we both had estimated that a proper Court of Inquiry into an attack of this magnitude would take at least six months to conduct.

Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., then Commander-in-chief, Naval Forces Europe (CINCUSNAVEUR), at his headquarters in London, had charged Admiral Kidd (in a letter dated June 10, 1967) to:

"inquire into all the pertinent facts and circumstances leading to and connected with the armed attack: damage resulting therefrom; and deaths of and injuries to Naval personnel."

Despite the short amount of time we were given, we gathered a vast amount of evidence including hours of heartbreaking testimony from the young survivors.

The evidence was clear. Both Admiral Kidd and I believed with certainty that this attack which killed 34 American sailors and injured 172 others, was a deliberate effort to sink an American ship and murder its entire crew. Each evening, after hearing testimony all day, we often spoke our private thoughts concerning what we had seen and heard. I recall Admiral Kidd repeatedly referring to the Israeli Forces responsible for the attack as "murderous bastards." It was our shared belief, based on the documentary evidence and testimony we received first hand, that the Israeli attack was planned and deliberate, and could not possibly have been an accident.

I am certain that the Israeli pilots that undertook the attack, as well as their superiors who had ordered the attack, were aware that the ship was American.

I saw the flag, which had visibly identified the ship as American, riddled with bullet holes and heard testimony that made it clear that the Israelis intended there be no survivors.

Not only did the Israelis attack the ship with napalm, gunfire, and missiles, Israeli torpedo boats machine-gunned three lifeboats that had been launched in an attempt by the crew to save the most seriously wounded—a war crime.

Admiral Kidd and I both felt it necessary to travel to Israel to interview the Israelis who took part in the attack. Admiral Kidd telephoned Admiral McCain to discuss making arrangements. Admiral Kidd later told me that Admiral McCain was adamant that we were not to travel to Israel or contact the Israelis concerning this matter.

Regrettably, we did not receive into evidence, and the court did not consider any of the more than sixty witness declarations

from men who had been hospitalized and were unable to testify in person.

I am outraged at the efforts of the apologists for Israel in this country to claim that this attack was a case of "mistaken identity."

In particular, the recent publication of Jay Cristol's book, *The Liberty Incident*, twists the facts and misrepresents the views of those of us who investigated the attack.

It is Cristol's insidious attempt to whitewash the facts that has pushed me to speak out.

I know from personal conversations I had with Admiral Kidd that President Lyndon Johnson and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara ordered him to conclude that the attack was a case of "mistaken identity" despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

Admiral Kidd told me, after returning from Washington, D.C. that he had been ordered to sit down with two civilians from either the White House or the Defense Department, and rewrite portions of the court's findings.

Admiral Kidd also told me that he had been ordered to "put the lid" on everything having to do with the attack on the USS *Liberty*. We were never to speak of it and we were to caution everyone else involved that they could never speak of it again.

I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of that statement as I know that the Court of Inquiry transcript that has been released to the public is not the same one that I certified and sent off to Washington.

I know this because it was necessary, due to the exigencies of time, to hand correct and initial a substantial number of pages. I have examined the released version of the transcript and I did not see any pages that bore my hand corrections and initials. Also, the original did not have any deliberately blank pages, as the released version does. Finally, the testimony of Lt. Painter concerning the deliberate machine gunning of the life rafts by the Israeli torpedo boat crews, which I distinctly recall being given at the Court of Inquiry and included in the original transcript, is now missing and has been excised.

Following the conclusion of the Court of Inquiry, Admiral Kidd and I remained in contact. Though we never spoke of the attack in public, we did discuss it between ourselves, on occasion. Every time we discussed the attack, Admiral Kidd was adamant that it was a deliberate, planned attack on an American ship.

In 1990, I received a telephone call from Jay Cristol, who wanted to interview me concerning the functioning of the Court of Inquiry. I told him that I would not speak to him on that subject and prepared to hang up the telephone. Cristol then began asking me about my personal background and other, non-Court of Inquiry related matters. I endeavored to answer these questions and politely extricate myself from the conversation. Cristol continued to return to the subject of the Court of Inquiry, which I refused to discuss with him. Finally, I suggested that he contact Admiral Kidd and ask him about the Court of Inquiry.

Shortly after my conversation with Cristol, I received a telephone call from Admiral Kidd inquiring about Cristol and what he was up to. The Admiral spoke of Cristol in disparaging terms and even opined that "Cristol must be an Israeli agent." I don't know if he meant that literally or it was his way of expressing his disgust for Cristol's highly partisan, pro-Israeli approach to questions involving USS *Liberty*.

At no time did I ever hear Admiral Kidd speak of Cristol other than in highly disparaging terms. I find Cristol's claims of a "close friendship" with Admiral Kidd to be utterly incredible. I also find it impossible to

believe the statements he attributes to Admiral Kidd, concerning the attack on USS Liberty.

Several years later, I received a letter from Cristol that contained what he purported to be his notes of our prior conversation. These "notes" were grossly incorrect and bore no resemblance in reality to that discussion. I find it hard to believe that these "notes" were a product of mistake, rather than an attempt to deceive. I informed Cristol that I disagreed with his recollection of our conversation and that he was wrong. Cristol made several attempts to arrange for the two of us to meet in person and talk but I always found ways to avoid doing this. I did not wish to meet with Cristol, as we had nothing in common and I did not trust him.

Contrary to the misinformation presented by Cristol and others, it is important for the American people to know that it is clear that Israel is responsible for deliberately attacking an American ship and murdering American sailors, whose bereaved shipmates have lived with this egregious conclusion for many years.

Dated: January 8, 2004, Coronado, California.

Signed Ward Boston, Jr., Captain, JAGC USN (Ret.), Senior Counsel to the USS Liberty Court of Inquiry

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

NATION LOSING ITS MORAL COMPASS

(Ms. STANSBURY of New Mexico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the floor this afternoon because I believe this Nation is losing its moral compass, led by a President who is more interested in ballrooms and bullying reporters than the rights and the dignity of our basic human rights as Americans.

This week, this body will consider a \$70 billion package of funding for ICE to continue a cruel and inhuman detention system that has robbed countless Americans of their freedom and human dignity; that has fueled a massive for-profit private prison industry with billions of taxpayer dollars on the backs of the suffering of our people; that has torn families apart, incarcerated children, killed dozens in detention, violated human and civil liberties, and left millions of people in this country living in fear every day.

Now, the leadership of this body wants to approve another \$70 billion on top of the more than \$100 billion that they already gave them so that the Trump administration can continue to terrorize our families and communities without any checks. This is not okay. This body has lost its moral compass.

It follows after last week as this body passed appropriations bills that cut

hundreds of millions of dollars in food assistance to children, not just children here in the United States but abroad. In a time when hunger is higher now in this country today than it was during COVID, they chose to cut food assistance to American children and children across the world.

Last week, in their agriculture bill, they cut food, housing, and basic infrastructure for rural communities and food to children.

Now, they want another blank check for ICE?

What next? The President is asking for \$1.5 trillion for more bombs for illegal wars to continue the suffering abroad.

That is why I am here today to stand, to fight, to fight back, to reclaim the dignity of this body, the moral compass of this country.

Last week, we finally passed a War Powers Resolution to end the war in Iran. We did not succeed yet in passing a War Powers Resolution to end the war in Lebanon, but we cannot stand by and let this reckless President wage illegal wars in the Middle East and empower an out-of-control foreign leader, who even this weekend further threatened the peace of the Middle East through continued attacks. It must stop. Congress must assert not only our Constitutional authority but reclaim our moral compass.

As we stand here in this Chamber, violence continues abroad. Over the weekend, bombs and firefights shelled communities in Lebanon, Israel, and Iran. In Lebanon, more than 3,500 people have been killed, nearly 11,000 injured, and more than a million people have been displaced and lost their homes. Families have lost loved ones. Communities have been uprooted. Entire neighborhoods have been reduced to rubble. Across the region, innocent people are paying the price for decisions they did not make and conflicts they did not create.

As this violence rages on, it happens against the backdrop of a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, ongoing human rights violations in the West Bank, human suffering that has reached unimaginable levels. Children are facing hunger, displacement, and the constant threat of violence. Families are struggling to access food, clean water, medicine, and shelter.

In the West Bank, Palestinian families continue to face violence daily. A 7-month-old baby was shot and killed by a soldier just days ago in a car. Entire villages and sacred olive trees have been destroyed. There are restrictions on movement, indignities in everyday life, and unfathomable cruelty.

These impacts are not just felt in these communities but in our districts here at home, as their families and friends watch in horror and grief.

We have a fundamental, not only constitutional, responsibility as Congress to rein in these immoral and illegal wars but to stop these crimes.

Congress cannot stand by and let this continue. These illegal wars are not

only violations of our war powers, they are violations of the basic human rights of our people.

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

Ms. STANSBURY. So it is time to end these illegal wars.

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

Ms. STANSBURY. End the cruel and inhuman policies that are terrorizing our communities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

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 43 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:

Our king and our God, Your throne endures forever. You rule with a scepter of equity. You love the right and despise the wrong.

Humbly, we come before You with the prayers of this body and of this Nation. You have blessed us richly, guiding the founding of this democracy with the enduring virtues of freedom and liberty, peace and justice. You have raised up leaders and citizens whose blood, sweat, and tears have watered our soil, bringing forth the fruits of Your planting.

Grant, we pray, Your continued blessing upon this land that we love, that America would reflect its noble heritage and the lessons learned from both the triumphs and failings of the past.

Give us each a renewed spirit of dependence on You and a deep thirst for Your direction, that we may preserve the blessings we have inherited and pass them faithfully to those who follow after us.

May peace and prosperity be our hope and Your abiding and steadfast love and salvation our reward.

In all generations, may Your name be celebrated, that all peoples may praise You forever and ever.

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 gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. DAVIDS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas 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.

KANSAS CITY READY FOR FIFA WORLD CUP

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

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, later this week, the FIFA World Cup will kick off here in the United States, and I could not be more excited for Kansas City to welcome the world.

As the founder of the Congressional FIFA World Cup 2026 Caucus, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand just how much work has gone into preparing for this moment.

Today, I thank everyone who helped to make this possible. From local leaders and small businesses to first responders, transit workers, volunteers, and organizers, countless people have spent years preparing for these next 5 weeks.

The matches are going to bring excitement, visitors, and economic opportunity to the Kansas City metro area, but the impact will not end there. It is not going to end when the final whistle blows. The investments we have made in infrastructure, transportation, safety, and community development are things that are going to benefit Kansas City and our surrounding communities for generations to come.

This is a chance to showcase what makes our community so special: our hospitality, our culture, our barbecue, our love of sports, and our ability to come together and accomplish really big things.

The world is coming. Kansas City is ready. It is going to be an incredible celebration.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVANS of Colorado) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 5, 2026.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representa-

tives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S.2.

That the Senate agreed to Relative to the death of the Honorable Donald W. Riegle, Jr. former Senator for the State of Michigan S. Res. 755.

Appointment:

Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1431

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EVANS of Colorado) at 2 o'clock and 31 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.

PRE-PAYMENT FRAUD PREVENTION AND TREASURY DATA ACCESS ACT

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8463) to establish governmentwide requirements for pre-payment fraud prevention actions, to provide the U.S. Treasury appropriate data resources, to facilitate participation in governmentwide anti-fraud data sharing, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8463

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 "Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act".

SEC. 2. PRE-PAYMENT FRAUD PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS FOR AGENCIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PRE-PAYMENT AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 33 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3325 the following:

"§3325a. Agency duties for fraud and improper payment prevention before the issuance of a payment voucher request

"(a) MANDATORY ACTIONS BEFORE ISSUING A PAYMENT VOUCHER.—The head of an agency,

or an officer or employee described in section 3325(a)(1)(B), may not certify a voucher under section 3325 until the following requirements are met:

"(1) Each pre-certification requirement described in subsection (b) for such payment request.

"(2) Confirmation is provided that the payment complies with any disbursement requirement and instruction, including any pre-certification requirement, published by the Secretary of the Treasury.

"(3) Confirmation is provided that any other appropriate payment, account, and payee validation program or service that the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Director, requires to reduce fraud and an improper payment resulting in financial loss to the Government, including any agency evaluation of the fraud-risk indicator of a program required under section 3352 and agency procedures required under section 3554(b)(1), have been conducted, in accordance with necessary exceptions for statutory, policy, or operational reasons.

"(b) PAYMENT VERIFICATION PRE-CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and as needed thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, issue regulations, and guidance as necessary, for the pre-certification requirements of this section, for vouchers certified under section 3325, including any deadline for pre-certification information and related records to be submitted to the requisite Treasury official and disbursing official under subchapter IV of this chapter, before the date of disbursement in order to allow for sufficient time to meet the requirements of this section, including the following:

"(1) Funds are available at the time the obligation is incurred and if an obligation is incurred when funds are not available, then the agency may not certify the payment voucher.

"(2) The amount of the payment and the name of the payee on the payment voucher are correct, in conformance with the prescribed standard format.

"(3) A valid social security number, taxpayer identification number, employer identification number, individual taxpayer identification number, or payee ID number is provided for each payee on the voucher, if applicable.

"(4) The appropriation or fund from which the payment will be made is available for the purpose described in the voucher and indicated with the appropriate Treasury Account Symbol or Business Event Type Code.

"(5) A payee is not deceased, if the payment would be improperly made to a deceased payee.

"(6) The account number, if any, provided on the payment voucher is held at a financial institution and is open, valid, and belongs to the payee or a valid designee of the payee.

"(7) Any other identifier in conformance with the payment verification pre-certification requirements established by the Secretary of the Treasury, which may include the Procurement Instrument Identified and the Federal Award Identification Number.

"(c) RETURN OF PAYMENT VOUCHER.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall issue guidance and establish procedures to authorize the Chief Disbursing Officer of the Department of the Treasury, or an agency disbursing official, to return to the relevant agency certifying official, including a notification to the agency, any payment or payment voucher issued under section 3325 which does not comply with pre-certification

verification requirements established under this section as determined by the Secretary.

“(d) AGENCY REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall include in the regulations issued under subsection (b), or in other regulations or guidance issued under this chapter, a process for agencies to request exemptions from some or all of the payment verification requirements for specific payments or categories of payments under this section, which shall include a requirement for the agency to provide a plan and reasonable timeframe to remediate the need for the exemption. Any approved exemption shall be documented in any related payment voucher certified under section 3325 for the duration of the exemption.”.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 33 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item for section 3325 the following:

“3325a. Agency duties for fraud and improper payment prevention before the issuance of a payment voucher request.”.

(b) AMENDMENT TO RESPONSIBILITIES OF AGENCY CERTIFYING OFFICIAL FOR PAYMENT VOUCHERS.—Section 3528(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by inserting after “of this title” the following: “, including pre-certification requirements described in section 3325a”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) Ensuring that—

“(A) the agency has complied with the requirements of section 3325a and subchapter IV of this title; and

“(B) a covered recipient is in compliance with the reporting requirements under section 6107.”.

(c) PREPAYMENT REQUIREMENTS OF PAYMENT DISBURSING OFFICIALS.—Section 3325 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d) by striking “taxpayer identifying number of each person” and inserting “information required to be submitted under section 3325a(b) of each payee”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(e)(1) Before certifying a voucher to a disbursing official, the head of an agency or an officer or employee of an agency described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (a)(1), as applicable, shall take necessary actions to accurately disburse payments to the recipients of those payments, including by—

“(A) verifying the accuracy of the bank account information to which a payment is to be disbursed, to the extent practicable; and

“(B) comparing the bank account information of the proposed recipient to other payment records available to the agency, to the extent practicable.

“(2) The Secretary of the Treasury shall issue guidance to carry out this subsection, which may be carried out through any guidance issued for section 3325a(b).”.

(d) ADDITION OF FRAUD PREVENTION INDICATORS TO AGENCY IMPROPER PAYMENT RISK ASSESSMENTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS AMENDMENTS.—Section 3351 of title 31, United States Code is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “INITIATIVE” and inserting “SYSTEM”;

(ii) by striking “Initiative” and inserting “System”; and

(iii) by striking “initiative” and inserting “system”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following (and by redesignating and moving the paragraphs to appear in alphabetical order):

“(9) APPROPRIATE AUTHORIZING AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate authorizing and appropriations committees of Congress’ means the following:

“(A) The Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

“(B) The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

“(C) The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

“(D) The Budget Committee of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Budget of the Senate.

“(D) Any other relevant congressional committee of jurisdiction.

“(10) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(11) FRAUD-RISK INDICATOR.—The term ‘fraud-risk indicator’ means an objective data point or analytic signal that indicates an anomalous payment pattern or increase in the volume of a payment amount, a verified data mismatch, network or behavioral anomaly, or match identified by the Do Not Pay system and any other payment, account, and payee validation program or service provided by the Department of the Treasury that would result in financial loss to the Government.”.

(2) AMENDMENT.—Section 3352(a)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

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

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

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) design and apply fraud-risk indicators to the programs identified under paragraph (A).”.

SEC. 3. TREASURY DO NOT PAY SYSTEM.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 3354 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “Initiative” and inserting “system”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of each executive agency shall establish and maintain appropriate preaward and prepayment procedures to prevent and recover improper payments, including payments resulting in financial loss to the Government, and to prevent financial fraud. Such procedures shall include, at a minimum—

“(A) screening all persons or entities that receive, or seek to receive, Federal awards or payments against all appropriate Do Not Pay system data assets, including data assets described in paragraph (2)(a), and risk tools before an award is made or a payment request is submitted to the disbursing officer in accordance with section 3325a; and

“(B) a periodic review of available data assets and notification to the Secretary of any data asset that the agency requires access to, either directly or through the Do Not Pay system.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “At a minimum and before issuing any payment or award, each executive agency shall review as appropriate the following databases to verify eligibility of the payment and award.” and inserting the following: “Consistent with the routine use authority under section 552a of title 5, and subject to the requirements of paragraphs (3) and (6), the Secretary shall have access to the following data assets for the purposes described in paragraph (1):”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) PUBLICATION OF DATA ASSETS; ADDITIONAL DATA ASSETS.—

“(A) PUBLICATION OF DATA ASSETS.—The Secretary shall publish and maintain a Sys-

tem of Records Notice for the Do Not Pay system that identifies each data asset, the routine uses under which the data asset is disclosed from that system of record, the specific permitted purposes, and the access controls applicable to each data asset. A data asset may not be disclosed from the Do Not Pay system before publication of the applicable routine uses in the relevant System of Records Notice.

“(B) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Director, may designate additional categories of data assets for inclusion in the Do Not Pay system that substantially assist agencies in carrying out the requirements of paragraph (1).

“(C) PRIVACY AND NOTICE.—In designating data assets that include personally identifiable information, law enforcement sensitive information, or information subject to section 552a of title 5, the Secretary shall—

“(i) act in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; and

“(ii) provide public notice and an opportunity for comment for not less than 15 days prior to designation.

“(D) DATABASE INCLUSION.—Following designation of a category of data assets under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall provide public notice and an opportunity for comment for not less than 30 days before adding any specific data asset within such category.

“(E) NON-SENSITIVE DATA.—Data assets that do not include personally identifiable information, law enforcement sensitive information, or information subject to section 552a of title 5 may be added at the discretion of the Secretary without designation if a list of such data assets is disclosed to the public on a public website maintained by the Department of the Treasury.

“(4) TREATMENT OF DATA MATCHING FOR PURPOSES OF AGENCY USE OF DO NOT PAY SYSTEM.—For purposes of section 552a of title 5, or any other provision of law, a computerized comparison of two or more automated Federal systems of records, or a computerized comparison of a Federal system of records with other records or non-Federal records, carried out by the Secretary to verify payments or identify or recover improper payments under this section shall not be considered a matching program if such match-based inquiry is conducted in strict adherence to the limitations of use under paragraph (5), returns a binary verification response, resulting data is not retained by the agency for more than 30 days in order to address the immediate award eligibility or payment verification determination, and contains not more than 20 discrete record requests at a time for a particular agency program.

“(5) LIMITATION ON USE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Information obtained through the Do Not Pay system may be used solely for the purposes described in paragraph (1), or for Federal or State law enforcement or investigative purposes and any officer, employee, contractor, subcontractor, or agent of a Federal or State entity may not publish, examine for a purpose not explicitly authorized under this section, or communicate such information furnished in such data assets other than in fulfillment of the purposes of this section.

“(B) IMPLEMENTATION OF SYSTEM.—The Do Not Pay system shall be implemented in a manner that strictly provide match-based queries that return only limited responses derived from the data submitted by any individual described in subparagraph (A) with the minimum data exchanged and retained in order to conduct the verification match and any associated responsibility under section 552a(p) of title 5, if—

“(i) such responses to match-based queries are limited to a confirmation or denial of a match, the level of confidence in a match, the data sources that informed the match, and other administrative metadata or the minimum additional data elements necessary to achieve the purposes described in paragraph (1); and

“(ii) any individual described in subparagraph (A) is prohibited from retrieving, browsing, making repeated and tailored match-based inquiries with the intention of reconstituting the underlying record in another system, or otherwise accessing any underlying record maintained in the Do Not Pay system under subsection (a)(2) beyond the information necessary to resolve a match-based query solely for the purposes described in paragraph (1).

“(C) INDIVIDUALS ACCESSING INFORMATION.—Any individual described in subparagraph (A)—

“(i) may not take an adverse action against any individual based solely upon the information obtained under such subparagraph;

“(ii) shall take additional independent steps to verify the eligibility of a benefit recipient before taking any adverse action, when necessary or appropriate or when required by applicable law; and

“(iii) shall make an independent judgment regarding the decision to certify a payment for disbursement or pursue recovery of a potentially improper payment.

“(6) CONFIDENTIALITY MAINTENANCE.—The Secretary shall maintain, with respect to each data asset obtained through the Do Not Pay system, the same level of confidentiality required by the law governing the source of that data asset. Information obtained from a data asset may only be used for purposes for which the source statute authorizes disclosure, and access to such information shall be limited to persons and entities for whom the source statute authorizes access. The Secretary shall document, in the System of Records Notice required under paragraph (2), the specific confidentiality obligations applicable to each data asset and the means by which Treasury ensures compliance.

“(7) PENALTY FOR UNLAWFUL DISCLOSURE.—Any individual described in paragraph (5)(A) who knowingly and willfully discloses information in violation of paragraph (5) shall be fined not more than \$250,000, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

“(8) EXCEPTION WHEN PAYMENT OTHERWISE REQUIRED UNDER LAW.—The head of an executive agency may be exempt from the requirements of paragraph (1) if a Federal statute expressly requires that a payment or award be made notwithstanding potential ineligibility, and the agency head notifies the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget prior to certification of the payment under section 3325.

“(9) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘data asset’ has the meaning given that term in section 3502(17) of title 44.”;

(3) by striking subsections (b) through (c) and inserting the following:

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF SYSTEM.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall establish and maintain a Do Not Pay system, which shall be administered and operated by the Fiscal Service of the Department of the Treasury. The Do Not Pay system shall include—

“(1) the data assets described in subsection (a)(2); and

“(2) such other data assets as the Secretary of the Treasury may designate, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, to assist agencies in carrying out subsection (a)(1).

“(c) STATE AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL USE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State and local government administering a federally funded program, and any contractor, subcontractor, or agent thereof, including State and local government auditors, shall have access to the Do Not Pay system to review preaward and prepayment data in order to prevent and recover improper payments, including payments resulting in financial loss to the Government, and to prevent financial fraud if procedures are established regarding—

“(A) the screening of persons or entities that receive, or seek to receive Federal awards or payments against appropriate Do Not Pay system data assets, including data assets described in subsection (a)(2), and risk tools before an award is made or a payment request is submitted to the disbursing officer; and

“(B) periodic review of available data assets and notification to the Secretary of any data asset that the agency requires access to, either directly or through the Do Not Pay system.

“(2) OTHER GOVERNMENTAL USE.—The judicial and legislative branches of the United States (as defined in section 202(e) of title 18) shall have access to the Do Not Pay system strictly for purposes of verifying eligibility for payments and preventing fraud and improper payments as authorized under subsection (a)(1).

“(3) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—The Director, in coordination with the Secretary, shall issue regulations implementing this section, including establishing privacy and other requirements applicable to such access and disclosure, consistent with section 552a of title 5.

“(d) QUARTERLY REPORT.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall submit to the appropriate authorizing and appropriations committees of Congress quarterly reports on the governmentwide operation of the Do Not Pay system, which may be included as part of another report submitted to Congress by the Secretary, and which shall include the following:

“(1) Performance measures for monitoring the effectiveness of the system in reducing improper payments.

“(2) Information on the frequency of corrections and identification of erroneous data.

“(3) Recommendations for legislative or administrative action to enhance the operations of the system.

“(4) An assessment of agency, State, and local compliance with the requirements of this section, including a listing of all memorandums established with the head of an agency under subsection (a)(4) that documents agency use of the Do Not Pay system.

“(e) EVALUATION.—Not less than annually, the Evaluation Officer of the agency, as designated under section 313 of title 5, shall provide the appropriate authorization and appropriations committees of Congress an evaluation of the Do Not Pay system, including the best available estimate of the effectiveness of the system in reducing fraud and improper payments that lead to financial loss of the Government in agency programs on a monthly and regional basis for such program. The evaluation shall include an analysis of which data sources maintained by the Do Not Pay system are attributed to identifying or reducing instances of likely fraudulent or improper payments by count and total dollar savings value to the Government.

“(f) CONTINUITY AND TRANSITION.—

“(1) CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS SYSTEM IF NECESSARY.—The Do Not Pay initiative in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this section shall continue as nec-

essary to support implementation of the Do Not Pay system.

“(2) GUIDANCE, RULES, AND PROCEDURES.—Guidance, rules, and procedures in effect before the date of the enactment of this section shall remain in effect until modified by the Secretary or the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(3) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed—

“(A) except as specifically provided in subsection (a)(4), to modify or supersede the requirements of section 552a of title 5, including the requirements for notice in section 552a(e)(12) and for due process rights of an individual under section 552a(p); or

“(B) to limit any authority of an Inspector General under applicable law.”;

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(C)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “3 years” and inserting “5 years”; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking “3 years” and inserting “5 years”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) VOLUNTARY EXPEDITED PROCESS FOR COMPUTER MATCHING BY EXECUTIVE AGENCIES FOR PURPOSES OF USING THE DO NOT PAY SYSTEM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section 552a of title 5 (commonly known as the ‘Privacy Act of 1974’), the head of each executive agency may enter into an expedited process for establishing a computer matching agreement with the head of another executive agency for the purposes of ongoing and automated data matching with the Do Not Pay system for purposes under this section in order to assist in the detection and prevention of fraudulent and improper payments.

“(B) REQUIREMENT FOR USE OF COMPUTER MATCHING AGREEMENT TEMPLATE.—Not later than 180 days after the effective date of this section, the Director, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall establish a standard computer matching agreement template for the Do Not Pay system which shall authorize an agency that adopts the standard template to be deemed to have satisfied the requirements of section 552a(o) of title 5 upon execution of the agreement without the need for review by a Data Integrity Board established under section 552a(u) of title 5.

“(C) REQUIREMENT FOR FEDERAL RECORD NOTICES AND PUBLICATION.—The standard computer matching agreement template described under paragraph (B), and any future modification to the template, shall be published in the Federal Register by the Secretary of the Treasury 30-days prior to putting any such template or modification of such template into effect. On a quarterly basis the Secretary of the Treasury shall publish in the Federal Register a consolidated listing of each computer matching agreement using the standardized template under paragraph (B) and maintain on a publicly available website all active computer matching agreements using such template or the process under paragraph (1) that shall include the agency name, data assets covered, authorized purposes, and date of the agreement. The consolidated quarterly listing under this subparagraph shall satisfy the matching program notice requirements of section 552a(e)(12) of title 5 for each computer matching agreement using the standardized template under paragraph (B), and no separate Federal Register publication under section 552a(e)(12) shall be required of any agency participating in such an agreement.

“(D) TERMINATION DATE.—An agreement under this paragraph—

“(i) shall have a termination date of less than 5 years; and

“(ii) during the 3-month period ending on the date on which the agreement is scheduled to terminate, may be renewed by each executive agency that entered into the agreement for not more than 5 years if the head of the agency attests to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget that the agreement is not being modified.

“(E) REQUIREMENT FOR OMB GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the effective date of this section, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall issue guidance, including the computer matching agreement template, to implement this paragraph.

“(F) MULTIPLE AGENCIES.—For purposes of this paragraph, section 552a(o)(1) of title 5 shall be applied by substituting ‘between the source agency and the recipient agency or non-Federal agency or an agreement governing multiple agencies’ for ‘between the source agency and the recipient agency or non-Federal agency’ in the matter preceding subparagraph (A).”; and

(5) by striking subsection (e).

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 3354 in the table of sections for chapter 33 of title 31, United States Code, is amended, by striking “Initiative” and inserting “system”.

SEC. 4. SINGLE REPORT ON FIRST TIME USE OF FUNDS BY RECIPIENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF POST-AWARD SINGLE REPORT REQUIREMENT ON FIRST-TIME USE OF FUNDS BY RECIPIENT OF FEDERAL AWARD.—Chapter 61 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 6107. Single report on first time use of funds by recipient

“(a) FEDERAL AWARD REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The head of each agency that administers a covered award shall require each covered recipient to, as a condition of receiving amounts under such award, submit to the head of the agency, not later than 180 days after the receipt of such award unless a deadline exception may be applied pursuant to regulations promulgated under subsection (b), a one-time report on the use of such amounts that—

“(1) includes any content required to be included in such report pursuant to subsection (b); and

“(2) is in the format required under such subsection.

“(b) GOVERNMENTWIDE REPORT REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE.—

“(1) CONTENTS AND FORMAT OF REPORT.—

“(A) PROMULGATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Director, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the standard-setting agency designated under section 6402(a)(1), shall promulgate regulations, and any clarifying guidance as may be necessary, to establish governmentwide requirements for the content and format of the report described under subsection (a).

“(B) UPDATES.—Any guidance or regulation promulgated under subparagraph (A) shall be updated as necessary, but in any case, shall be updated not less often than once every 5 years.

“(2) REPORT MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations and any clarifying guidance promulgated under paragraph (1), shall at a minimum—

“(A) enable the head of an awarding agency to determine whether amounts provided under a covered award are being used by the recipient required to submit the report, and

any sub-recipient or sub-grantee thereof, for the intended purpose of the program, as set forth in statute, regulation, or policies and procedures of the agency;

“(B) enable fraud prevention, detection, investigation, and mitigation, in future awards of Federal funds to the recipient required to submit the report by identifying relevant fraud-risk indicators that would require a referral for investigation and criminal referral to the appropriate entity of the Federal Government, including any identified effort by a recipient to defraud the Federal Government or violate sections 3729 through 3731 of title 31 (commonly referred to as the ‘False Claims Act’);

“(C) ensure that any sub-recipient or sub-grantee, at any level, of the recipient required to submit the report provide to such recipient such information as may be necessary to enable aggregate reporting on the covered award by the recipient;

“(D) require the heads of agencies to apply the governmentwide data standards established under chapter 64 with respect to the format and content of the report required to be submitted;

“(E) align with the Federal award reporting requirements and data standards under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–282; 31 U.S.C. 6101 note), to the maximum extent practicable;

“(F) reduce recipient and agency reporting burdens by avoiding duplication in recipient reporting obligations, to the extent practicable; and

“(G) provide clarification for agencies to apply a reporting deadline exception under subsection (a)(1), which may be made for an entire program or type of covered award, beyond 180 days when the use of the covered funds by the covered recipient takes place more than 180 days after a receipt of such covered award.

“(c) AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.—In accordance with the regulations and any clarifying guidance promulgated under subsection (b), the head of an agency that administers a covered award shall—

“(1) update the terms and conditions of Federal awards in the agency programs to implement subsection (a) for covered recipients;

“(2) include a summary of the post-award reporting requirements established under subsection (a), including the required content and reporting format, in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (which has the meaning given the term in section 200.1 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations) for Federal financial assistance (as defined under section 7501 of this title) in order to assist applicants for such assistance in understanding post-award reporting obligations;

“(3) to the maximum extent practicable—

“(A) provide user-friendly and plain language directives for covered recipients to fulfill their reporting obligation under subsection (a); and

“(B) use existing post-award reporting requirements to reduce the burden of cumulative post-award reporting; and

“(4) establish procedures within the agency to identify covered recipients that are not in compliance with the reporting requirement under subsection (a).

“(d) NONCOMPLIANCE.—For a case in which a covered recipient does not submit the report required by subsection (a), the awarding agency shall—

“(1) provide a timely written notice of non-compliance to the recipient that—

“(A) clearly states the reason for non-compliance;

“(B) notifies the recipient of the obligation of the agency to cease further disbursements

to the entity until the covered recipient is in compliance; and

“(C) provides clear instructions to the covered recipient on how to come back into compliance; and

“(2) prevent a payment voucher from being issued under section 3325 for a payment to such recipient for funds related to the particular program for which the report was required, until such report is submitted.

“(e) AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall be—

“(1) kept on file by the agency for a period of not less than 5 years after the date on the conclusion of the duration of the award; and

“(2) made available upon request to—

“(A) the Director;

“(B) the Secretary of the Treasury;

“(C) the Attorney General;

“(D) the Inspector General of the agency concerned; and

“(E) the appropriate congressional committees.

“(f) USE OF INFORMATION INCLUDED IN REPORT.—Information included in the report required by subsection (a) shall be used by the agency in support of improper payment activities of the agency under section 3352 as appropriate and applicable.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

“(A) the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives;

“(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(C) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives; and

“(D) any other relevant congressional committee of jurisdiction.

“(2) COVERED AWARD.—The term ‘covered award’ means a Federal award (as defined under section 7501) in an amount not less than \$50,000 (based on fiscal year 2027 constant dollars).

“(3) COVERED RECIPIENT.—The term ‘covered recipient’ means any entity, including any State, the District of Columbia, and any territory or possession of the United States, including a pass-through entity (as defined under section 7501), that receives the covered award from a particular agency program for the first time in that program’s existence.

“(4) FRAUD-RISK INDICATOR.—The term ‘fraud-risk indicator’ means an objective data point or analytic signal that indicates an anomalous payment pattern or increase in the volume of a payment amount, a verified data mismatch, network or behavioral anomaly, or match identified by the Do Not Pay system and any other payment, account, and payee validation program or service provided by the Department of the Treasury that would result in financial loss to the government.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 61 of title 31, United States Code, is amended, by adding at the end the following:

“6107. Single report on first time use of funds by recipient.”.

(c) CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF FIRST REPORTING DEADLINE.—The report required under subsection (a) of section 6107 of title 31, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply to a covered award made during the fiscal year following the promulgation of regulations or guidance by the Director under subsection (b)(1)(A) of such section.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILL of Texas. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) such time as he may consume.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8463, the Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act.

Every year, the Federal Government loses hundreds of billions of dollars to fraud and improper payments.

The Government Accountability Office estimates that the Federal Government has lost over \$2.8 trillion since 2003 to payments that should never have been made or were made incorrectly.

Annual improper payments ballooned to nearly \$236 billion in fiscal year 2023, more than six times the amount in 2003.

The Government Accountability Office also estimates that the Federal Government loses between \$233 billion and \$521 billion annually to fraud across government programs.

Fraud at these levels costs each tax filer, on average, between \$1,000 and \$3,000 per year. These losses should alarm each one of us and call us to action. The American taxpayer is covering the bill for fraud while criminals get rich.

This bill takes meaningful steps to mitigate this problem by meaningfully curbing fraudulent payments and improper payments before funds go out the door and are lost forever.

The Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act enhances and expands government financial integrity controls by requiring anti-fraud risk evaluations to identify suspicious payments before agencies request a payment be issued by the U.S. Treasury.

These reforms are centered around increasing the use and effectiveness of the Treasury's existing Do Not Pay system. It is currently only utilized by a mere 4 percent of eligible programs across the government.

This bill will address the procedural hurdles agencies face in using the system and bring agencies into compliance with their required anti-fraud checks.

The bill also lowers barriers for the Treasury to bring additional nonsensitive datasets into the Do Not Pay system.

This legislation was drafted in coordination with privacy stakeholders to ensure appropriate data protection safeguards for personal and sensitive information.

The reforms in this legislation are commonsense and long overdue.

I thank House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Ranking Member GARCÍA and his staff for working together with us to ensure such crucial legislation could advance on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have a strong bill that will truly make a meaningful difference for the financial and program integrity of the U.S. Government. I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan reform bill.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of H.R. 8463, the Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act.

This bill will help prevent improper payments by requiring that agencies verify with the U.S. Treasury that payments are going to the right place before they are made. Agencies would be required to use the Treasury's Do Not Pay system to confirm that recipients, one, have a valid Social Security number; two, are not deceased; and, three, have a valid bank account.

The bill would also impose heavy fines for any misuse of the Do Not Pay system.

This is a commonsense change, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

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

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8463, the Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act. I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, H.R. 8463. I congratulate the chair and ranking member on their bipartisan work, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 8463, the Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act.

As Chairman COMER, the bill's sponsor, explained, this legislation enhances and expands the government's financial integrity controls by codifying agency pre-payment anti-fraud risk evaluations.

This will help identify suspicious payments before they are sent out the door, stopping fraudulent or improper payments before they happen.

In fiscal year 2025, the U.S. Treasury Department reported that they have helped agencies and States prevent and recover over \$11 billion in fraudulent and improper payments. They have done this by using existing tools such as the Do Not Pay system.

However, as the chairman explained, these systems are being drastically un-

derutilized by Federal agencies and are in need of certain reforms. We can only imagine the additional savings that H.R. 8463's reforms will help achieve by increasing the pre-payment fraud prevention activities of Federal agencies and increasing the utilization of the Do Not Pay system.

I encourage my colleagues to support the bipartisan H.R. 8463 so we can protect taxpayers, ensure proper program integrity, and prevent fraud before it happens.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8463, 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.

FEDERAL PROGRAM INTEGRITY AND FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF 2026

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6916) to amend title 41, United States Code, to identify individuals who commit certain Federal felonies implicating Federal programs as an excluded source on the System for Award Management Exclusions list, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6916

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITING FEDERAL FUNDS FROM BEING PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF CERTAIN FEDERAL FELONIES.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Subchapter II of chapter 33 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§3337. Prohibiting Federal Funds from being provided to individuals convicted of certain Federal felonies.

"(a) PROHIBITION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency may not enter into, renew, or extend a Federal contract, or provide a grant or other Federal financial assistance to, an individual convicted of a covered felony arising out of any Federal contract, grant, cooperative agreement, loan, or other financial assistance, or to an entity of which such individual is a beneficial owner, during the three year period following the date of the conviction.

"(2) APPLICATION.—The prohibition under paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to an individual convicted after the date of the enactment of this section.

"(b) WAIVER.—

"(1) AUTHORITY.—The head of an agency may waive on a case-by-case basis the prohibition under subsection (a) with respect to an individual or entity described under such

subsection if the head of the agency determines such waiver is justifiable.

“(2) WRITTEN CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF WAIVER.—Immediately after making a determination to issue a waiver under paragraph (1), the head of an agency shall provide to Congress a written notification of such determination that includes the justification for the waiver.

“(C) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—For each individual convicted of a covered felony arising out of any Federal contract, grant, cooperative agreement, loan, or other financial assistance—

“(1) the Attorney General shall notify the Administrator of General Services in a timely manner of such conviction; and

“(2) the Administrator shall promptly update the System for Award Management Exclusions list described in part 9 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, and part 180 of title 2 of such Code, or any successor regulation, to include such individual.

“(d) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance for the implementation of, and compliance with, the requirements of this section.

“(e) FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—The Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised as necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

“(f) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) FEDERAL INTERESTS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit an agency from seeking or taking any other available criminal, civil, or administrative action to protect Federal Government interests, including the proposal or implementation of suspension or debarment actions pursuant to subpart 9.4 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, and part 180 of title 2 of such Code.

“(2) EXCLUSION.—Nothing in subsection (b) may be construed to affect any other statutory or regulatory waiver authority related to an exclusion.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ means—

“(A) an Executive department (as defined under section 101 of title 5);

“(B) a military department (as defined under section 102 of title 5);

“(C) a Government corporation (as defined under section 103 of title 5); and

“(D) an independent establishment (as defined under section 104(1) of title 5).

“(2) BENEFICIAL OWNER.—The term ‘beneficial owner’—

“(A) means, with respect to an entity, an individual who, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise—

“(i) exercises substantial control over the entity; or

“(ii) owns or controls not less than 25 percent of the ownership interests of the entity; and

“(B) does not include—

“(i) a minor child, as defined in the jurisdiction in which the entity is formed, if the information of the parent or guardian of the minor child is reported in accordance with this section;

“(ii) an individual acting as a nominee, intermediary, custodian, or agent on behalf of another individual;

“(iii) an individual acting solely as an employee of a corporation, limited liability company, or other similar entity and whose control over or economic benefits from such entity is derived solely from the employment status of the person;

“(iv) an individual whose only interest in a corporation, limited liability company, or other similar entity is through a right of inheritance; or

“(v) a creditor of a corporation, limited liability company, or other similar entity, unless the creditor meets the requirements of subparagraph (A).

“(3) CONVICTED.—The term ‘convicted’ means any of the following:

“(A) A judgment of conviction has been entered against the individual by a Federal court, except for any individual whose conviction has been reversed or vacated.

“(B) A plea of guilty or nolo contendere by the individual has been accepted by a Federal court, except for any case in which the conviction entered as result of such plea has been reversed or vacated.

“(C) The individual has entered into a first offender, deferred adjudication, deferred prosecution, or other arrangement or program in which the individual admitted guilt or responsibility to the underlying offense.

“(4) COVERED FELONY.—The term ‘covered felony’ means a felony described under section 286, 287, 371, 508, 641, 666, 1001, 1002, 1014, 1017, 1028, 1028A, 1030, 1031, 1040(a)(2), 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18 or section 16 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 645).”

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for subchapter II of chapter 33 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“3337. Prohibiting Federal funds from being provided to individuals convicted of certain Federal felonies.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

□ 1440

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILL of Texas. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6916, the Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act.

The Federal Government pays a substantial amount of money to contractors for services to help agencies fulfill their missions. It is a privilege, not a right, to receive a contract, grant, loan, or other form of Federal financial assistance.

Unfortunately, there are individuals who take advantage of these resources and use it as an opportunity to defraud the government.

This bill closes a glaring loophole by prohibiting individuals that are convicted of certain felonies, primarily defrauding the Federal Government, from receiving Federal awards.

Under H.R. 6916, fraudsters will no longer be able to get rich from taxpayers' hard-earned dollars. This bill requires these individuals to be listed on the General Services Administra-

tion's System for Award Management Exclusion list, thus ensuring that Federal agencies know who these individuals are to ensure they, or any entity of which they have a controlling interest, are not awarded a contract or grant.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the bill's sponsors, Congressman KEITH SELF and Congresswoman EMILY RANDALL, a colleague on the House Oversight Committee, for bringing this commonsense bill to the Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this necessary and bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today also in support of H.R. 6916, the Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act.

This bill would automatically ban individuals and companies convicted of defrauding the government from receiving Federal contracts, grants, and other Federal financial assistance for 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. RANDALL).

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act, bipartisan legislation that I am proud to lead with Representative SELF.

This bill is rooted in a pretty basic idea: If someone is convicted of defrauding a Federal program, they should not be able to turn around and keep doing business with the Federal Government. This isn't about politics. It is about protecting taxpayer dollars and making sure that the Federal Government is worthy of the trust that the people place in it.

In every community we represent, people work hard, pay their taxes, and expect government programs to be run with honesty and accountability.

Each year, the Federal Government awards more than \$700 billion in contracts to various agencies. Taxpayers expect those dollars to support families, to strengthen communities, and to deliver the services Congress intended, not go back to people who have already been convicted of abusing public funds.

This issue was brought to us by the inspectors general, the public servants who spend every day rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse across the Federal Government. They identified a real gap in the current system.

Too often, individuals convicted of fraud involving Federal programs remain eligible to apply for and receive Federal contracts. Under current law, agencies can suspend or debar these individuals, but the process can be slow, staff intensive, and inconsistent.

We have been told that preparing one single suspension or debarment package can take up to 20 hours.

For agencies already operating with limited staff and growing backlogs,

that means people who should be barred from Federal contracts can slip through the cracks. That is exactly the kind of problem Congress should be working together to fix.

According to a study by the inspectors general, of 550 felony fraud convictions involving pandemic-related Federal program funds over a 3-year period, more than 95 percent of those convicted were not suspended or debarred from doing business with the government. That is unacceptable.

Our bill creates a clear, common-sense standard: Individuals convicted of fraud involving Federal programs would be automatically ineligible for Federal contracts for at least 3 years. That means stronger accountability, more consistent enforcement, and more time for the inspectors general to focus on other cases of waste, fraud, and abuse.

The American people are owed more accountability and transparency into what taxpayer-funded contracts are being approved.

The Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act is a targeted, bipartisan solution to a documented problem. It protects taxpayers. It supports the work of the inspectors general, and it helps make sure Federal dollars go where they are supposed to go. I am grateful to the inspectors general who raised this issue and helped us develop this legislation, and I thank Representative SELF for his partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF).

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H.R. 6916, the Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act of 2025.

The American people expect their hard-earned tax dollars to be used responsibly. They should never have to worry that individuals convicted of defrauding the Federal Government can turn around and receive additional Federal contracts, grants, or loans.

Unfortunately, we have seen too many examples of individuals exploiting Federal programs for personal gain. One repeat fraudster submitted at least 22 fraudulent pandemic loan applications and additional fraudulent unemployment benefit applications, resulting in more than \$250,000 in taxpayer losses. That is only one case.

It is common sense to expect that someone convicted of defrauding the government should not return and apply for more money. This bill closes that loophole.

H.R. 6916 requires individuals convicted of specific Federal fraud offenses involving Federal programs to be placed on the System for Award Management Exclusion list for 3 years. In simple terms: If someone is convicted of stealing from, lying to, or defrauding the Federal Government, they will

not be eligible to receive more Federal dollars.

This bill does not create new crimes. It does not expand Federal spending. It simply ensures that individuals convicted of serious fraud involving Federal programs are temporarily barred from receiving additional taxpayer funds.

At a time when Americans are demanding greater accountability from their government, Congress should send a clear message: Taxpayer dollars are not an entitlement in the face of fraud.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Office of Inspector General and the professionals who worked with my team throughout the development of this legislation. Their work investigating fraud and protecting taxpayer dollars is indispensable.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank Representative RANDALL for her partnership with this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6916.

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

Mr. Speaker, as the sponsors of the bill mentioned, we have a responsibility to ensure that Federal funds are spent wisely and go to Americans who truly need them. I think it is pretty clear that if you commit fraud to steal from the Federal Government, you should not be rewarded with a Federal contract or grant.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6916, the Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's extensive investigations and hearings on fraud in Federal programs have made one thing clear: If fraudsters are successful, they will continue to find new ways to steal taxpayer dollars.

Such egregious actions require proactive fraud mitigation to prevent fraudsters and criminals from taking advantage of loopholes in our government and continuing to enrich themselves with taxpayer dollars.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6916, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit Federal Funds from being provided to individuals convicted of certain Federal felonies, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1450

ZEROING OUT MONETARY BENEFITS IMPROPERLY EXPENDED ACT

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8467) to reform the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 to ensure executive agencies focus on fraud prevention, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8467

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 "Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act" or the "ZOMBIE Act".

SEC. 2. REFORMS TO PAYMENT INTEGRITY INFORMATION ACT OF 2019.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3351 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) by inserting "information on" before "improper payments";

(II) by striking "information with" and inserting "resulting in financial loss to the Government in the accompanying materials to"; and

(III) by striking "and" at the end; and

(ii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

"(iii) published information on improper payments resulting in financial loss to the Government with the annual budget justification of the executive agency for the most recent fiscal year";

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as clauses (iv) and (v), respectively (and adjusting the margins accordingly);

(C) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (F) as subparagraphs (B) through (D), respectively;

(D) in subparagraph (A)(iv), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking "if required, has"; and

(ii) by inserting "and" after the semicolon at the end;

(E) in subparagraph (A)(v), as so redesignated, by striking "if required, publishes" and inserting "published";

(F) by striking subparagraph (B), as so redesignated; and

(G) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D), as so redesignated, as subparagraphs (B) and (C); and

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

"(9) FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT.—The term 'financial loss to the Government'—

"(A) means any payment or part of a payment made in excess of the correct amount authorized by law that results in a financial loss to the Federal Government; and

"(B) does not include any payment or part of a payment made to the correct person or entity for the correct amount authorized by law but not made in accordance with certain administrative procedures applicable to the executive agency (excluding any such procedure necessary to establish eligibility or to verify that any payment or part of a payment was made in such correct amount)."

(b) ESTIMATES OF IMPROPER PAYMENTS RESULTING IN FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND REPORTS ON ACTIONS TO REDUCE SUCH PAYMENTS.—Section 3352 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading—

(A) by inserting “**resulting in financial loss to the Government**” before “**and reports**” (and by conforming the item relating to such section in the table of sections in chapter 33); and

(B) by striking “**reduce improper payments**” and inserting “**reduce such payments**” (and by conforming the item relating to such section in the table of sections in chapter 33);

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “periodically review all programs and activities” and inserting “submit annually a list of each program and activity required to be reported on the Program Inventory under section 1122”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “all programs and activities” and inserting “each program and activity from each such list”; and

(II) by striking “(3)” and inserting “(2)”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2); and

(D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “improper payments and payments whose propriety cannot be determined” and inserting “improper payments resulting in financial loss to the Government and payments lacking sufficient documentation to determine whether the payments result in financial loss to the Government”; and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively;

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraphs:

“(B) **DEVELOPMENT OF RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall develop risk assessment guidance to assess the risk of improper payments resulting in financial loss to the Government that addresses the following:

“(i) The likelihood of payment errors and the magnitude of such errors that do not result in financial loss to the Government.

“(ii) The likelihood of payment errors and the magnitude of such errors that do result in financial loss to the Government.

“(iii) A formula for estimating financial loss to the Government.

“(iv) Relevant governmentwide documents and best practices for managing improper payments and mitigating fraud risks in Federal programs, such as the document of the Government Accountability Office entitled ‘A Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs’ (or any successor document), as applicable and appropriate.

“(C) **SCOPE.**—In preparing a list under paragraph (1)(A), the head of each executive agency shall require, within 6 months after issuing the risk assessment guidance, a risk assessment using the guidance developed under subparagraph (B) for each program or activity listed under paragraph (1)(A) for each—

“(i) existing programs or activities prior to the next disbursement of Federal funds with respect to the program or activity; and

“(ii) newly authorized programs and activities prior to any disbursement of Federal funds with respect to the program or activity.”;

(iv) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated—

(I) in the heading, by striking “SCOPE” and inserting “REQUIREMENTS”; and

(II) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “In conducting a review under paragraph (1), the head of each executive agency shall” and inserting “Risk as-

sessments are to be conducted on an ongoing basis, but no less frequently than once every 3 years, and”; and

(bb) by inserting “, including with respect to fraud in any program or activity listed under paragraph (1)(A) that causes improper payments resulting in financial loss to the Government” before “, such as”; and

(III) in clause (x), by striking “data systems” and inserting “data assets”; and

(IV) in clause (xi)—

(aa) by inserting “or improper payments” before “as assessed”; and

(bb) by inserting “, or any successor document” after “commonly known as the ‘Green Book’”; and

(v) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated—

(I) in the heading, by striking “ANNUAL REPORT” and inserting “REPORTS”; and

(II) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “Each executive agency shall publish an annual report” and inserting “Not less than once every 3 years, the head of each executive agency shall publish a report, which may be included in a report required under subsection (b)(2)(F) by such head with respect to a high-priority Federal program or activity.”;

(III) in clause (i), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(IV) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(V) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) a prioritized listing of risks identified in subparagraph (D) associated with each program and activity listed under paragraph (1)(A) and any corresponding financial and administrative control to mitigate any such risk, including the use of the Do Not Pay Initiative (or any successor system) and any other system or data asset maintained by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Inspector General of the executive agency to prevent fraud or improper payments resulting in financial loss to the Government prior to making an eligibility determination to receive Federal funds with respect to any such program or activity listed under paragraph (1)(A), issuing an award, or requesting a payment.”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the heading, by inserting “**THAT RESULT IN FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT**” after “**IMPROPER PAYMENTS**”; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by inserting “and activities” after “high-priority Federal programs”; and

(II) by inserting “that result in financial loss” after “improper payments” each place it appears; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “associated” and inserting “and financial loss associated”; and

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the heading, by inserting “**THAT RESULT IN FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT**” after “**IMPROPER PAYMENTS**”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “shall on an annual basis” and inserting “, not less frequently than once every 3 years, shall”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) in subclause (I)—

(AA) by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”; and

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

(bb) in subclause (II), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government, including by making it harder for fraudulent actors to exploit the program” after “improper payments”; and

(cc) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(III) has taken or plans to take to reduce the percentage of improper payments that result in financial loss to the Government.”;

(II) by inserting after clause (i) the following new clause:

“(ii) shall include—

“(I) an estimate of the total amount of the payments that result in financial loss to the Government;

“(II) an estimate of the total amount of the payments that do not result in financial loss to the Government;

“(III) the percentage of payments that result in financial loss to the Government;

“(IV) an assessment of the portion of the total amount of payments that result in financial loss to the Government that are due to fraudulent actions by the recipient of such payments;

“(V) the total amount of disbursed payments; and

“(VI) a description of resources or legislative changes proposed to improve or maintain the integrity of the relevant program or activity; and”;

(III) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (ii);

(iv) in subparagraph (E)(i)—

(I) in subclause (I)—

(aa) by striking “improper payment” and inserting “improper payments that result in financial loss”; and

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

(II) in subclause (II), by striking “improper payments” and inserting “improper payments that result in financial loss”; and

(III) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(III) each statistically valid estimate developed under subsection (c)(1)(A) and make a recommendation to the head of the executive agency on whether the agency estimate should be reassessed and reestablished; and”;

(v) by amending subparagraph (F) to read as follows:

“(F) **AGENCY LIAISON DESIGNATION AND MANDATORY COORDINATION MEETINGS.**—Not less frequently than once every fiscal year, the head of each executive agency with a high-priority Federal program or activity identified under paragraph (1)(B) shall designate a senior official of the executive agency to serve as the liaison of the executive agency for work under this subchapter who shall meet for a non-audit or investigative purpose with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (or a designee of the Director), the Commissioner of the Bureau of the Fiscal Service of the Department of the Treasury (or a designee of the Commissioner), the Inspector General of the executive agency (or a designee of the Inspector General), and the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee established under section 15010 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat. 533) (or any successor organization) to report on any action taken during the preceding fiscal year and any planned action, including any reform to any financial or administrative control, to prevent improper payments (with a focus on improper payments that lead to financial loss to the Government) and mitigate fraud in such program or activity.”;

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

“(G) **FEDERAL-STATE COORDINATION MEETINGS.**—Not less frequently than once every fiscal year, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of the Treasury shall convene a meeting of State officials responsible for program and payment integrity in programs administered on behalf of the Federal Government by a State or local government to review fraud

prevention performance, share best practices, and identify ongoing coordination challenges.”;

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the heading, by inserting “THAT RESULT IN FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT” after “IMPROPER PAYMENTS”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) develop a statistically valid estimate of improper payments that result in financial loss to the Government”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

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

“(B) include such estimate in the annual budget justification of the executive agency; and

“(C) revise such estimate if the head of the executive agency determines, which may be based on a recommendation from the Director in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Inspector General of the executive agency, that there is a need to reestablish the estimate of improper payments that result in financial loss to the Government due to—

“(i) a significant change, as determined by the agency head, to the program or activity’s appropriation or authorization;

“(ii) newly establishing the program or activity; or

“(iii) a recommendation from the agency Inspector General in the annual compliance report issued under section 3353(a).”;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “resulting in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payment”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “improper payments” before “estimate”;

(5) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the heading—

(i) by striking “REDUCE” and inserting “REDUCE AND PREVENT”;

(ii) by inserting “THAT RESULT IN FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT” after “IMPROPER PAYMENTS”;

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “estimated improper payments”;

(ii) by striking “reduce improper payments” and inserting “reduce and prevent such payments”;

(C) in paragraph (1), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government (including actions used to commit fraud)” after “improper payments”;

(D) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “in order to reduce improper payments”;

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

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “and” after the semicolon; and

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

“(D) access to appropriate records and data assets, whether maintained by an executive agency, a State or local government, or a private sector organization”;

(E) in paragraph (4), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”;

(F) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments” each place it appears; and

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

(G) by amending paragraph (6) to read as follows:

“(6) a description of how the level of planned or completed actions by the execu-

tive agency to address the causes of the improper payments that result in financial loss to the Government matched the level of improper payments that resulted in financial loss to the Government, including a breakdown by category of such improper payments and specific timelines for completion of those actions; and”;

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

“(7) information on the progress of the executive agency with respect to—

“(A) implementing the financial and administrative controls required to be established under subsection (a)(2)(E)(iii);

“(B) implementing relevant government-wide documents and best practices for managing improper payments and mitigating fraud risks in Federal programs, such as the document of the Government Accountability Office entitled ‘A Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs’ (or any successor document), as applicable and appropriate, including with respect to the identification of—

“(i) any dedicated entity that leads the fraud risk management activity of the executive agency;

“(ii) responsibilities of such entity, including any program or operation for which the entity is responsible;

“(iii) capacity, including any limitations, to strategically manage fraud risks;

“(iv) any program or operation within the executive agency for which there is not a dedicated entity that leads fraud risk management, along with a detailed justification for not having such a dedicated entity; and

“(v) the status of implementing the overarching concepts with associated leading practices identified in such document entitled ‘A Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs’ (or any such successor document), as applicable and appropriate;

“(C) implementing the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-123, or any successor policy, with respect to leading practices for managing fraud and improper payments risk;

“(D) identifying fraud risks and vulnerabilities, including but not limited to payroll, beneficiary payments, grants, large contracts, and purchase and travel cards; and

“(E) establishing strategies, procedures, and other steps to prevent, detect, and respond to fraud.”;

(6) in subsection (e)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government,” after “With respect to improper payments”;

(ii) by striking “the improper payments” and inserting “such payments”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”;

(C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government,” after “improper payments”;

(7) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “regarding improper payments”;

(II) by inserting “such” after “recover”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by inserting “Government” before “Reform”;

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraphs:

“(C) the Committee on the Budget of the Senate;

“(D) the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives;

“(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

“(F) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and”;

(iv) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (G); and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payment”;

(iii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”;

(iv) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payment”;

(8) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and periodically thereafter,” after “Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section”;

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “prepayment and postpayment” and inserting “pre-award, pre-payment, and post-payment”;

(9) in subsection (i)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “25” and inserting “10”;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking “25” and inserting “75”.

SEC. 3. REFORMS TO ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT BY INSPECTORS GENERAL OF EXECUTIVE AGENCIES.

(a) OMB GUIDANCE.—Section 3353(a)(3) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “date of enactment of this section” and inserting “date of the enactment of the amendments made to this section by the ‘Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act’ or the ‘ZOMBIE Act’”; and

(B) by striking “shall develop and promulgate guidance” and inserting “shall revise existing guidance issued under this section”;

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking “improper payment estimates methodology” and inserting “estimation methodologies”;

(B) by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”;

(3) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”;

(4) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”;

(5) in subparagraph (E)—

(A) by striking “Inspectors General include” and inserting “Inspectors General shall include”;

(B) by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”.

(b) CIGIE GUIDANCE.—Section 3353(a)(4) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “date of enactment of this section” and inserting “date of the enactment of the amendments made to this section by the ‘Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act’ or the ‘ZOMBIE Act’”; and

(B) by striking “develop and promulgate guidance” and inserting “revise existing guidance issued under this section”;

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in clause (i)—

(i) by striking “section 3351(2)(B)” and inserting “section 3351(2)(A)(iv)”;

(ii) by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments” each place it appears;

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “section 3351(2)(C)” and inserting “section 3351(2)(A)(v)”;

(C) by striking clause (iii);

(D) by redesignating clauses (iv) through (vi) as clauses (iii) through (v), respectively;

(E) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”; and

(F) in clause (iv), as so redesignated, by inserting “that result in financial loss to the Government” after “improper payments”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILL of Texas. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8467, the Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act.

This bill strengthens agency efforts to prevent improper payments that lead to financial loss to the government. Estimates made by the Government Accountability Office reveal that the Federal Government has lost \$2.8 trillion to improper payments since 2003.

In fiscal year 2025, Federal agencies reported \$186 billion in improper payments, an increase of about \$24 billion from the previous year alone. These heinous findings prove that the status quo is not working and is unacceptable.

This bill replaces the current broken practice of conducting backward-looking annual improper payment estimates that remain unchanged year to year. Instead, it directs agencies to focus more closely on payments that result in financial loss to the government and cost savings associated with anti-fraud activity.

This bill requires agencies to comprehensively assess fraud risk management practices in their programs, such as the implementation of the Government Accountability Office's fraud risk management framework and to develop fraud risk indicators and apply key fraud risk controls and procedures.

The bill also increases much-needed regular coordination and information-sharing among government stakeholders responsible for identifying and preventing improper payments.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my Oversight Committee colleague, Congressman GARY PALMER, for leading on these im-

portant and long-overdue improper payment reforms. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today also in support of H.R. 8467, the Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act.

The bill is simple. It would require the Treasury to develop risk assessment guidance for improper payments. It also requires Federal agencies to conduct a risk assessment and publish a prioritized list of programs at risk for fraud.

Federal agencies with the highest risk of fraud and improper payments would be required to report on the steps they are taking to resolve those risks. These are commonsense measures to help prevent improper payments and promote accountability within Federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their work on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER).

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, every year, hardworking Americans dutifully pay their taxes to support Federal public programs and other priorities. Unfortunately, the Federal Government has too often squandered their money through mismanagement.

For example, just last year, the Federal Government lost an estimated \$186 billion in improper payments. Six years ago, the COVID-19 pandemic produced what is now often referred to as the greatest theft of taxpayer dollars in history.

This is not new. The Federal Government has been on this track for over 23 years, losing almost \$3 trillion in taxpayer dollars since that time.

The definition of insanity is continuing to take the same actions and expecting a different result. It is time for us to make changes. Absent major systematic reforms, we will continue to violate the public trust at increasingly unsustainable levels.

That is why I am pleased to sponsor H.R. 8467, the Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act, or the ZOMBIE Act.

The ZOMBIE Act reforms Federal law to prevent improper payments before money goes out the door. It codifies a longtime recommendation from the Government Accountability Office to conduct regular risk assessments of improper payments that result in actual financial loss to the Federal Government. Assessments will focus on a comprehensive review of risk, including implementing fraud prevention best practices.

The bill increases coordination among the inspectors general, the U.S. Treasury, and other partners via annual meetings. Heads of Federal agencies or designees of their choice will

have the option to attend these meetings to help identify and prevent improper payments that result in financial loss for the government.

Additionally, the ZOMBIE Act incentivizes Federal agency reporting by permitting up to 75 percent of the amount recovered to be redirected back to the program. That is an increase from the current 25 percent threshold.

By implementing the ZOMBIE Act, agencies will be able to shift or focus toward preventing improper payments rather than on compliance activities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my Democratic colleagues for supporting this bill and urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsor of the bill. I commend him on his creativity with acronyms of bill names, and I urge everyone to support the ZOMBIE Act. It is very much alive. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 8467, the Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act, which reforms the Payment Integrity Information Act to refocus Federal agencies on proactively identifying and preventing improper payments before they happen, rather than wasting resources on backward-looking compliance activities.

Mr. Speaker, we need reforms like this bill that force agencies to focus on preventing improper payments in the first place, and this smart legislation does just that.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8467, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

TAXPAYER RESOURCES USED IN EMERGENCIES ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8466) to require certain agencies to develop plans for internal control in the event of an emergency or crisis, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8466

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 Resources Used in Emergencies Accountability Act” or the “TRUE Accountability Act”.

SEC. 2. OMB GUIDANCE.

(a) PLANS FOR EMERGENCY SPENDING.—Subchapter IV of chapter 33 of title 31, United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 3359. Requirement for financial and administrative controls for emergency spending

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term ‘covered agency’ means an agency described in section 901(b).

“(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(3) INTERNAL CONTROL.—The term ‘internal control’ means a process that is—

“(A) affected by the management and other personnel of an entity; and

“(B) designed to provide reasonable assurance with respect to the achievement of objectives relating to—

“(i) effectiveness and efficiency of operations;

“(ii) reliability of financial reporting; and

“(iii) compliance with applicable law.

“(b) GUIDANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Director shall issue, and every 3 years thereafter review and if necessary update, guidance to covered agencies for the development of plans for internal control that are ready or adaptable for immediate use in a future disaster, pandemic, economic relief, or other such emergency supplemental appropriations legislative measure.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The guidance issued under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) incorporate relevant governmentwide documents and best practices for preventing improper payments and mitigating fraud risks in Federal programs, including the documents of the Government Accountability Office entitled ‘A Framework for Managing Improper Payments in Emergency Assistance Programs’ and ‘A Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs’ (or any successor documents); and

“(B) require a plan for internal control of each covered agency that shall include—

“(i) the identification of a senior official of the covered agency to be responsible and accountable for the implementation of the plan; and

“(ii) policies and procedures to timely—

“(I) in accordance with paragraph (3), assess the risks of improper payments and fraud relating to the implementation of any supplemental appropriation, or other increase in budget authority, that may be made available to the covered agency for a purpose relating to implementing a disaster, pandemic, economic relief, or other such emergency supplemental appropriations legislative measure;

“(II) develop and implement mitigation strategies to reduce the risks described in subclause (I), including any change to internal controls, to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, appropriate controls are in place prior to the expenditure of funds; and

“(III) adopt real-time, data driven payment monitoring techniques to identify and reduce improper and fraudulent payments, such as anomaly detection, volume plausibility checks, and network analysis.

“(3) ASSESSMENT OF RISK.—The assessment of risk required by paragraph (2)(B)(ii)(I) shall include a substantive evaluation of the risk of financial loss to the Federal Government caused by improper payments and fraud that shall include with respect to the relevant agency program or activity—

“(A) an assessment of the likelihood and impact of inherent risks affecting the agency program or activity;

“(B) an identification of the risk tolerance; and

“(C) an assessment of the suitability of existing controls and prioritization of residual risks.

“(c) PLAN SUBMISSION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the head of each covered agency shall submit to the Director the plan required by subsection (b)(2)(B).

“(2) REVISIONS.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the head of a covered agency submits a plan under paragraph (1), and not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter, the head of each covered agency shall—

“(A) review and, if necessary, revise the plan of the covered agency; and

“(B) submit to the Director any revised plan of the covered agency.

“(3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 15 months after the date of the enactment of this section, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Director shall assemble and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives the plans submitted by covered agencies under paragraph (1) and a summary of the plans to help agencies prepare to implement such plans, including any action planned to harmonize the agency programs and activities and any legislative recommendations for a future disaster, pandemic, economic relief, or other emergency supplemental appropriation.

“(d) AFTER-ACTION REVIEW.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the initial obligation of funds under any emergency supplemental appropriations legislative measure for a disaster, pandemic, economic relief, or other emergency, the head of each covered agency that obligates such funds shall submit, in consultation with the Inspector General of the covered agency, to the Director an after-action review of the implementation of the plan required by subsection (b)(2)(B) relevant to such emergency supplemental appropriations legislative measure.

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each after-action review required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) An assessment of the effectiveness of the internal controls implemented pursuant to the relevant plan in preventing and detecting improper payments and fraud, including the effectiveness of any real-time, data driven payment monitoring techniques used to identify and reduce improper payments and fraud.

“(B) A description of any significant control failures or gaps and any fraud risks identified during such implementation.

“(C) A summary of the number and amount of improper payments made per agency program or activity.

“(D) An explanation of any plan to recover any funds lost as a result of any such improper payment.

“(E) Any recommendations for improving internal controls for future emergency supplemental appropriations legislative measures.

“(3) INCORPORATION.—The Director shall incorporate the findings of each after-action

review required by paragraph (1) into each submission required under subsection (c)(3), including by identifying common challenges, effective practices, and opportunities to improve internal controls across covered agencies.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 33 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3358 the following:

“3359. Requirement for financial and administrative controls for emergency spending.”.

(c) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILL of Texas. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GILL of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8466, the Taxpayer Resources Used in Emergencies Accountability Act, or the TRUE Accountability Act.

This bill takes action to ensure agencies be prepared to protect taxpayer dollars during future national emergencies when Federal agency programs and spending are often rapidly expanded by supplemental emergency spending packages advanced by Congress.

Between March 2020 and March 2021, Congress enacted a series of six laws providing over \$4.6 billion in Federal funds to mitigate the economic and public health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The unprecedented expansion of government programs and lack of commensurate and adequate fraud prevention and financial management capabilities created a perfect scenario for existing program and payment integrity weaknesses to be exploited.

In short, agencies rushed to get money out the door as fast as possible and, in some cases, loosened the guardrails to make funding access easier and more efficient.

While the true extent of pandemic relief fraud may never be known, the Comptroller General of the United States observes that hundreds of billions of dollars in potentially fraudulent payments were dispersed.

The TRUE Accountability Act requires that agencies are prepared for future emergency supplemental spending legislation.

Specifically, the bill requires the Office of Management and Budget to

issue guidance and for agencies to develop plans for internal controls for use in future emergencies. It is imperative that Federal agencies and programs have strong financial controls in place from the start, rather than developing them after the fact, as funding is already flowing out the door during a national emergency. This bill will help mitigate fraud in future national emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my Oversight Committee colleagues Congressmen ANDY BIGGS and SUHAS SUBRAMANYAM for championing this necessary and forward-looking legislation. I encourage my colleagues to support this important bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8466, the Taxpayer Resources Used in Emergencies Accountability Act. I am proud to be co-lead of this legislation with my colleague, Representative BIGGS, and I thank him for his work on this issue.

This bill would require Federal agencies to develop internal control plans for future national emergencies. In times of disasters, pandemics, and other crises, it is crucial that the emergency Federal spending reaches the people who need it the most.

Emergency assistance can save small businesses from closing, protect public health, provide people displaced by disasters with housing, and much more.

□ 1500

But, unfortunately, bad actors can take advantage of these situations to commit fraud and steal funds. Every cent that is stolen doesn't reach the Americans who need it. Having an internal control plan will help Federal agencies develop strategies to mitigate those risks.

This is a commonsense, bipartisan solution that will ensure that agencies like FEMA and the Small Business Administration are better prepared for the future. That way we can ensure that emergency funds reach the people who need them quickly.

An effective response to a national emergency starts with advanced planning, and that is what this bill does. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, over the past few months, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has taken the lead on investigating a staggering amount of fraud. The common theme we have seen in this fraud has been bad actors taking advantage of emergency funds from the government. Agencies disburse money from these taxpayer-

funded accounts to help those in need when an emergency, such as the COVID pandemic, cause major disruptions in the day-to-day lives of Americans.

Emergency relief funds are meant to help families stay afloat in a crisis. Instead, a lack of planning by and failures of oversight of Federal agencies have turned these emergency funds into a jackpot for fraudsters.

For example, a central point of Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison's oversight hearing dealt with his ties to the criminals in the Feeding Our Future scheme. That scheme involved more than \$250 million in taxpayer money being stolen by the Feeding Our Future organization, which defrauded USDA's COVID programs.

What became glaringly evident in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic was that government agencies were not properly equipped to deal with emergency relief funds. Even those in government, such as Minnesota's Attorney General Ellison, have failed to investigate and even potentially aided fraudsters abusing these funds.

It was one of the largest COVID-era fraud schemes in the country, and it happened right under the nose of Minnesota's top law enforcement officer.

That is why we need to make sure emergency relief funds are protected from fraud. In total, the Government Accountability Office estimates that a staggering 19 different pandemic relief programs were defrauded from 2020 to 2024 to the tune of \$300 billion. What is even more disturbing is that was just the fraud in COVID-related programs.

In addition to COVID-related fraud, the Government Accountability Office also estimates that the government may lose as much as \$521 billion. That is not waste. That is not error. That is a heist of historic proportions.

These numbers are practically unfathomable. Yet, here they are staring at us as a reality. We, quite literally, cannot afford as a country to be losing that amount of money per year to fraudsters. Our national debt is nearing \$39 trillion.

That is why I joined my Democratic colleague (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM), and we introduced the TRUE Accountability Act together. That passed out of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform unanimously.

The TRUE Accountability Act is simple. It tells Federal agencies to plan ahead, protect taxpayer dollars, and stop treating fraud as an afterthought or a cost just built into the system as a feature, because it is time to bring some accountability to our government so that we stop losing untold amounts of hard-earned taxpayer money.

This act forces government agencies to be better prepared for an emergency, requires them to make internal plans that incorporate data-driven frameworks such as the GAO's A Framework for Managing Improper Payments in Emergency Assistance Programs, and A Framework for Managing Fraud Risk in 20 Federal Programs.

These plans will include policies and procedures to assess risks of improper payments, fraud, and related mitigation strategies, as well as to identify a senior official responsible and accountable for implementing the plan.

These internal plans will go a long way in combating any potential fraud that might occur when emergency relief funds are disbursed.

We must not be caught off guard the next time an emergency hits. In an emergency, people's lives are already upended. They don't need to also be worrying about fraudsters looting the Federal Treasury. We need to be ready to act in an efficient manner that protects taxpayer dollars.

This is a commonsense, bipartisan effort that both sides of the aisle can easily agree on, and it must be passed to safeguard the hard-earned money of American taxpayers.

Fraudsters learned from the COVID-era. With this bill, next time we will be ready for them, not the other way around.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank the sponsor again for co-leading this bill with me.

I will say that I lived in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hit the city, and there was a lot of fraud related to the money disbursed there afterwards. This has been a long-standing problem for many decades across Democratic and Republican administrations. I am glad that we are taking steps in a bipartisan way to address this issue to make sure there is less fraud.

These internal control plans, while they don't seem exciting, are very effective. I have done them at private companies, and I think these Federal agencies will benefit from them.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 8466, the TRUE Accountability Act, which will mitigate future fraud like we have recently experienced in the pandemic-era emergency spending.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8466, 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. GILL of Texas. 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 FUNDS OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8340) to modify the governmentwide financial management plan, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8340

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 Funds Oversight and Accountability Act”.

SEC. 2. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS; GOVERNMENTWIDE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.—Chapter 9 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 902(a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “An” and inserting “It shall be the duty and responsibility of each agency Chief Financial Officer to oversee and, unless specified otherwise in law, provide leadership in the areas of budget formulation and execution, planning and performance, risk management, internal controls, financial systems, accounting, and other areas as designated by the Deputy Director of Management under their authorities described in section 503 of this title. In carrying out the preceding sentence, each”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “areas and” before “systems”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;

(II) in clause (iv), by striking “performance;” and inserting “performance and integration of performance and cost information; and”;

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) annual agency financial statements prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards;”;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), (7), and (8) as paragraphs (7), (8), (9), and (11) respectively;

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

“(5) oversee and provide leadership over the design, implementation, and operation of the internal controls of the agency over financial reporting and key financial management information identified under section 3512(e)(1);

“(6) prepare, in consultation with financial management and other appropriate experts, an agency plan to implement the 4-year financial management plan prepared by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under section 3512(a)(2) of this title and to achieve and sustain effective financial management in the agency, which shall—

“(A) be completed within 120 days after the issuance of a governmentwide plan under such section 3512(a)(2);

“(B) be revised as determined necessary by the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

“(C) include financial management metrics against which the financial management performance of the agency shall be assessed; and

“(D) be submitted upon completion or revision to the head of the agency, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Comptroller General, and appropriate committees of Congress, and be made publicly available;”;

(E) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (E) as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by adding “and” at the end;

(F) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget,” and inserting “, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Comptroller General, and appropriate committees of Congress, which shall be made publicly available and”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “agency;” and inserting “agency, including—

“(i) the progress of the agency in implementing the agency plan described in paragraph (5);

“(ii) the progress of the agency in implementing the governmentwide 4-year financial management plan prepared by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under section 3512(a)(2) of this title; and

“(iii) the performance of the agency against financial management metrics established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;”;

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by striking “of the reports” and inserting “of—

“(i) the reports”;

(II) in clause (i), as so designated, by striking “the amendments made by the Federal Managers’ Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (Public Law 97–255); and” and inserting “section 3512(d) of this title; and”;

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) the reporting of the agency under the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 3512 note); and”;

(G) in paragraph (9), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking “monitor the” and insert “manage the formulation and”; and

(ii) by striking “, and prepare and submit to the head of the agency timely performance reports; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(H) by inserting after paragraph (9), as so redesignated, the following:

“(10) coordinating with the responsible agency official to ensure performance and cost information are linked, including in the preparation and submission to the head of the agency of timely performance reports that incorporate cost information;”;

(I) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated—

(i) by inserting “inflation and” before “costs”; and

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

(J) by adding at the end the following:

“(12) coordinate with senior agency personnel, including but not limited to, those with statutory, regulatory, and related policy responsibility which may include the Chief Data Officer, Chief Information Officer, Chief Performance Officer, Chief Acquisition Officer, Chief Risk Officer, and Chief Evaluation Officer of the agency on—

“(A) the exercise of authorities under this subsection; and

“(B) the strategic planning, performance measurement and reporting, and risk management functions of the agency.”; and

(2) in section 903—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting “and who shall assist the agency Chief Financial Officer in the performance of each of the duties of the agency Chief Financial Officer under this chapter” after “matters”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) Notwithstanding subchapter III of chapter 33 of title 5, in the event of a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer of an agency, the Deputy Chief Financial

Officer of the agency shall serve as the acting Chief Financial Officer.”.

(b) GOVERNMENTWIDE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Section 3512 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “a financial management status report and a governmentwide 5-year financial management plan” and inserting “a governmentwide 4-year financial management plan, to be included within the Federal Government performance plan described in section 1115, and a financial management status report”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2);

(D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “5-year” and inserting “4-year”;

(II) by striking “shall describe” and inserting the following: “shall—

“(i) describe”;

(III) in clause (i), as so redesignated, by striking “5 fiscal years to improve the financial management of the Federal Government,” and inserting “4 fiscal years to improve the financial management of the Federal Government in a manner that is strategic, comprehensive, and cost-effective, and shall also include strategies for enabling data sharing in accordance with applicable law and joint fraud prevention initiatives with State (meaning a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, a territory or possession of the United States, or a federally recognized Indian tribe) and local governments that administer federally funded programs or disburse Federal funds on behalf of the Federal Government; and”;

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) be developed in consultation with the Chief Financial Officers Council and, as appropriate, other councils and financial management experts, including the Chief Information Officers Council, the Chief Data Officer Council, the Chief Acquisition Officers Council, and the Government Accountability Office, as determined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in consultation with the Chief Financial Officers Council.”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “5-year” and inserting “4-year”;

(II) in clause (iii)—

(aa) by striking “for developing” and inserting “for improving financial management systems, including—

“(I) developing”; and

(bb) by adding at the end the following:

“(II) describe how performance and cost information are linked in order to facilitate effective and efficient decision making;

“(III) eliminating duplicative and unnecessary systems and activities; and

“(IV) identifying opportunities for agencies to share systems and services and encouraging agencies to do so where practicable;”;

(III) by striking clause (iv);

(IV) by redesignating clause (v) as clause (iv);

(V) by inserting after clause (iv), as so redesignated, the following:

“(v) provide a strategy for reporting performance and cost information;”;

(VI) in clause (vi), by striking “5-year” and inserting “4-year”;

(VII) in clause (vii), by striking “identify” and inserting “provide a strategy for strengthening the Federal financial management workforce, including identification of”;

(VIII) in clause (viii), by striking “and” at the end;

(IX) by redesignating clause (ix) as clause (x);

(X) by inserting after clause (viii) the following:

“(ix) include financial management metrics against which the performance of executive agencies can be assessed; and”; and

(XI) in clause (x), as so redesignated, by striking “5-year” and inserting “4-year”;

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

“(3) A financial management status report under this subsection shall include—

“(A) a description and analysis of the status of financial management in the executive branch, including the progress made towards implementing the governmentwide 4-year financial management plan, and the status of remaining challenges to implementing the governmentwide 4-year financial management plan;

“(B) a summary of the performance of agencies against the metrics developed and identified by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in the governmentwide 4-year financial management plan;

“(C) a summary of the most recently completed financial statements—

“(i) of Federal agencies under section 3515 of this title; and

“(ii) of Government corporations;

“(D) a summary of the most recently completed financial statement audits and reports—

“(i) of Federal agencies under subsections (e) and (f) of section 3521 of this title; and

“(ii) of Government corporations;

“(E) a summary of reports on internal accounting and administrative control systems submitted to the President and Congress under subsection (d);

“(F) a listing of agencies whose financial management systems do not comply substantially with the requirements of section 803(a) of the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 3512 note), and a summary statement of the efforts underway to remedy the noncompliance; and

“(G) any other information the Director considers appropriate to fully inform Congress regarding the financial management of the Federal Government.”;

(F) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “15 months after the date of the enactment of this subsection” and inserting “12 months after the date of the enactment of the Taxpayer Funds Oversight and Accountability Act”; and

(II) by striking “5-year” and inserting “4-year”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “Not later than January 31 of each year thereafter” and inserting “At a minimum, concurrently with the submission of the budget of the United States Government under section 1105(a) of this title made in the first full fiscal year following any year in which the term of the President commences under section 101 of title 3”;

(bb) by striking “financial management status report and a revised governmentwide 5-year” and inserting “governmentwide 4-year”;

(cc) by striking “5 fiscal years” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “4 fiscal years.”; and

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “revised governmentwide 5-year” and inserting “governmentwide 4-year”;

(bb) by striking “paragraph (3)(B)(viii)” and inserting “paragraph (2)(B)(viii)”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) Each year, concurrently with the submission of the budget of the United States Government under section 1105(a) of this title, the Director of the Office of Manage-

ment and Budget shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and the Comptroller General a financial management status report.”; and

(G) by striking paragraph (5);

(2) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

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

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) a separate report on the results of the assessment and conclusion required under subsection (e)(2).”;

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

(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) The head of each executive agency shall—

“(1) in establishing the internal accounting and administrative controls under subsection (c), identify the key financial management information needed for effective financial management and decision making, which shall include a consideration of—

“(A) the agency spending data required to be published under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note); and

“(B) the information used by the agency to report on improper payments under section 3352 of this title; and

“(2) annually assess and make a conclusion on the effectiveness of the internal controls of the executive agency over financial reporting and key financial management information identified under paragraph (1) consistent with guidance provided by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.”;

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3348(e) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by adding “or” at the end;

(2) by striking paragraph (4); and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILL of Texas. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8340, the Taxpayer Funds Oversight and Accountability Act.

It is no secret that weak internal controls and agency inaction on known fraud risks enables fraud.

Federal agency chief financial officers play a vital role in the financial management of their agencies. But, unfortunately, their roles are frequently undefined and their positions are often left vacant.

Stakeholders in financial management have been calling for agencies to establish clear accountability in government structures for program integrity, including designating an accountable senior official.

The Taxpayer Funds Oversight and Accountability Act ensures each agency chief financial officer is responsible for overseeing and providing leadership on risk management and internal controls.

Specifically, the bill requires chief financial officers to identify key information such as spending and reporting on improper payments and assess the effectiveness of internal controls annually. This ensures that a top-level official is responsible for effective and targeted financial management.

In the event of a vacancy, this bill enables a deputy CFO to serve as an interim CFO, an important change that allows for leadership continuity over agency financial management.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my Oversight Committee colleagues, Congressmen DAVE MIN and William Timmons, for championing this smart legislation. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today also in support of H.R. 8340, the Taxpayer Funds Oversight and Accountability Act. This bill would make a number of improvements to the financial management at Federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MIN).

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 8340, the Taxpayer Funds Oversight and Accountability Act.

I introduced this legislation alongside Representative WILLIAM TIMMONS, and I thank him again for co-leading this important bill to promote efficiency and optimization in Federal agencies.

I would note that this legislation was originally lead by former Ranking Member Gerry Connolly, and I am proud that I can help carry forward this tool and hopefully continue forward his legacy of trying to improve the way that our Federal Government functions.

□ 1510

This legislation is straightforward. It is designed to modernize how Federal agencies track spending, strengthen financial oversight, and improve accountability in how the Federal Government manages our precious taxpayer dollars.

This bill makes long-overdue updates to the decades-old Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, incorporating longstanding recommendations from the GAO to ensure that agencies can make better management decisions, improve efficiency, and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

For example, this legislation would require Federal agencies to annually assess financial reporting internal controls, link agency performance and cost data to enhance financial valuations, and prioritize the elimination of duplicative systems and unnecessary spending.

As someone who started my career at the Securities and Exchange Commission tracking fraud in the private sector, I think it is important we also try to prevent fraud in the public sector, as well. I think this bill would take an important step forward in achieving that goal.

Congress has to play an active role in reducing waste, fraud, and abuse, and we can do so by ensuring that Federal agency chief financial officers are responsible stewards of taxpayer money.

I am confident this legislation will play an important role in doing so, and I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from California mentioned, this is a great accountability bill. It requires the Federal Government to create a governmentwide financial management plan every 4 years and increases the responsibilities of agency CFOs to implement those plans.

It is common sense and bipartisan, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 8340, the Taxpayer Funds Oversight and Accountability Act, which implements important reforms for improving agency financial management planning.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8340, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GOVERNMENT AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF FEDERALLY FUNDED STATE-ADMINISTERED PROGRAMS ACT

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8107) to require the establishment of a list identifying program areas and administrative practices presenting the greatest risk to the integrity of Federal funds administered by States and local governments, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8107

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 “Government Audit and Accountability of Federally Funded State-Administered Programs Act”.

SEC. 2. FEDERALLY-FUNDED STATE-ADMINISTERED PROGRAMS VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and periodically thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress an assessment of program areas and administrative practices that present the greatest risk to the integrity of Federal funds administered by State and local governments and pass-through entities subject to audit under chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each assessment required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify program areas and administrative practices at the Federal, State, and local level that present systematic vulnerabilities in the administration of Federal funds by State and local governments, including practices that are more susceptible to waste, fraud, abuse, and improper payments;

(2) assess evidence-based best practices and strategies that have strengthened the integrity of Federal funds administered by State and local governments and reduced waste, fraud, and abuse in Federally-funded programs;

(3) assess program areas and administrative practices at the Federal, State, and local level that—

(A) have demonstrated effectiveness in mitigating waste, fraud, abuse, and improper payments; or

(B) have shown limited effectiveness in reducing such risks;

(4) identify Federal tools, resources, and technical assistance available to State and local governments and how such tools may be improved to prevent and mitigate the systemic vulnerabilities identified under paragraph (1); and

(5) include recommendations to Federal agencies and matters for consideration to Congress to address and improve the program areas and administrative practices identified under paragraph (1), including recommendations to improve eligibility determination and enrollment processes to mitigate risks.

(c) SOURCES.—

(1) AUDIT AND RELATED MATERIALS.—In carrying out the preparation of the assessment under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall rely, to the extent practicable, on existing oversight, audit, and investigative materials to conduct an analysis of Federal funds administered by State and local governments, which may include—

(A) any finding of a Federal, State, or local auditor, comptroller, treasurer, inspector

general, attorney general, or any other similar official with respect to the administration of such funds;

(B) any audit required under section 7502 of title 31, United States Code; and

(C) any other publicly available Federal, State, or local oversight and program integrity data.

(2) ADDITIONAL MATERIALS.—In preparing each assessment required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General may supplement the materials described in paragraph (1) with additional analysis and new audit work, including by drawing on prior and ongoing work, where such materials are insufficient to assess the program areas and administrative practices identified under subsection (b)(1).

(d) FORM AND METHODOLOGY.—The Comptroller General shall determine the appropriate form and methodology for preparing and submitting each assessment required by subsection (a).

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) IMPROPER PAYMENT.—The term “improper payment” has the meaning given that term in section 3351(4) of title 31, United States Code.

(2) STATE.—The term “State” has the meaning given that term in section 6720(a)(4) of title 31, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILL of Texas. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8107, the Government Audit and Accountability of Federally Funded State-Administered Programs Act.

The reforms of H.R. 8107 represent a long-overdue step to ensure that Congress is fully informed about fraud risks in Federal programs administered at the State level.

This bill requires the Government Accountability Office to assess program areas and administrative practices that present the greatest risk to the integrity of federally funded programs administered by States and local governments.

This assessment will bring together the typical program-specific assessments to help Congress and other officials better identify common risks. With this information, Congress can bolster its oversight of agencies’ and States’ efforts to efficiently mitigate fraud risks, including through payment integrity controls.

This legislation will better position Congress to assist Federal agencies and State and local governments to obtain the fraud prevention and investigative resources that they require.

I thank my Oversight and Government Reform Committee colleagues Congressmen RO KHANNA and TIM BURCHETT for championing this helpful legislation that will help lawmakers understand State-level program risks and inform future fraud prevention reforms.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan and commonsense bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of H.R. 8107, the Government Audit and Accountability of Federally Funded State-Administered Programs Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA).

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the House taking up the Government Audit and Accountability of Federally Funded State-Administered Programs Act. It is a long way of saying that this is a bill to go after fraud.

I thank Congressman TIM BURCHETT for his partnership on this bipartisan legislation. I also thank Chairman COMER; Ranking Member GARCIA; Congressman GILL; Congressman SUBRAMANYAM; my staff lead, Selene Ceja; and Kevin Fox, my legislative director, for their help in advancing this effort.

The bill is straightforward. It directs the Government Accountability Office to conduct an independent review of Federal programs that States administer on behalf of working families.

Congress has a responsibility to ensure that every tax dollar reaches the people and communities these programs are intended to serve. To do that, we need facts, data, and evidence.

The legislation helps us better understand how these programs operate across States where vulnerabilities may exist, what practices are working, and what improvements Congress should consider to stop fraud.

At its core, the bill is about prevention, accountability, and good governance. By directing the GAO to identify effective tools, technical assistance, and proven practices, we can help States strengthen program administration before problems occur, and it applies to all 50 States, so there is no politics in it.

The families who rely on these programs deserve services that are efficient, reliable, accessible, and protected.

Tackling fraud is not a partisan issue. Congress needs to continue bipartisan, evidence-based efforts to better understand how Federal funds flow through State-administered programs and how we can strengthen those systems.

I recognize Congressman TIM BURCHETT for his extraordinary leadership and partnership here. This bill gives us the information we need to make informed decisions and strengthen the public trust.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the great gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your abilities at short stop, as well.

I thank Mr. RO KHANNA for his kind words. I have never heard the words "extraordinary leadership" attached to the named TIM BURCHETT before, and I thank the gentleman for that. I thank the gentleman also for including me in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise, of course, in support of the bipartisan Government Audit and Accountability of Federally Funded State-Administered Programs Act.

This bill directs the Comptroller General, or our good friends at the Government Accountability Office, to produce recurring assessments of federally funded State-administered programs.

This report will compare trends across States and identify programs and administrative practices most vulnerable to waste, fraud, and abuse in State and local administration of Federal funds.

Every year, approximately \$1.1 trillion of taxpayer dollars are administered by State and local governments. The money is administered with little or no oversight from the Federal Government.

How many times have we heard that we need to audit those folks? This does just that. By requiring the GAO to monitor and report on trends across States, we will begin to see which administrative practices are most vulnerable to waste, fraud, and abuse.

Recently, I have seen fraud run rampant at all levels of government. It is time that we mandate oversight so that the American people know where their taxpayer dollars are going.

Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to our constituents to protect their hard-earned money. We have an obligation to make sure that government is working for the people. We have an obligation to actually do something, dadgummit, to rid government of waste, fraud, and abuse. It starts today with voting "yes" on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend Representative RO KHANNA for his support in rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse, and I urge my colleagues to pass this bipartisan piece of legislation.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is an important step toward preventing fraud and improper payments before they happen. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, approximately \$1.1 trillion of taxpayer dollars are administered annually by State and local governments with little to no comprehensive and recurring oversight from the Federal Government or Congress.

H.R. 8107 would require the Government Accountability Office to study the specific risks associated with federally funded State-administered programs and enable Congress to track emerging fraud patterns before they become billion-dollar scandals.

Mr. Speaker, I, therefore, encourage my colleagues to support the Government Audit and Accountability of Federally Funded State-Administered Programs Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8107, 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.

FEDERAL FRAUD PREVENTION WORKFORCE TRAINING ACT

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8428) to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish a mandatory antifraud and improper payment training program for Federal program administrators, to provide for the availability of such training to State and local entities administering Federally funded programs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8428

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Fraud Prevention Workforce Training Act".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF ANTIFRAUD AND IMPROPER PAYMENT PREVENTION TRAINING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 41 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 4122. Federal Government-wide antifraud and improper payment prevention training program

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, may establish and maintain a Federal Government-wide program for antifraud and improper payment prevention training (in this section referred to as the 'Program').

"(b) CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS.—The Program shall include comprehensive instruction on—

"(1) identifying and assessing fraud and improper payment risks in Federal programs;

"(2) implementing resources, including the Government Accountability Office's Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs and the Office of Management and Budget's Circular A-123 and its applicable appendices, the Department of the Treasury's Anti-Fraud Playbook, the National Institute of Standards and Technology Digital Identity Guidelines, and data analytics tools in agency program administration;

“(3) using systems and resources maintained by the Department of the Treasury, including the Do Not Pay system established under 3354 of title 31, and any other payment, account, and payee validation programs (including government-wide antifraud data sharing programs) and services to prevent and address fraud and improper payments in Federal programs;

“(4) reporting mechanisms for suspected fraud, waste, and abuse; and

“(5) the establishment and use of internal controls designed to prevent improper payments and fraud in Federal programs.

“(c) MANDATORY PARTICIPATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency shall ensure that any employee serving as a program administrator, program officer, financial administrator or manager, disbursement certifying official under section 3528 of title 31, auditing official, grants manager, or in a similar oversight capacity of Federal programs or Federal financial assistance completes the Program—

“(A) not later than 180 days after the date of appointment to such position or, for any employee occupying such a position on the effective date of this section pursuant to section 2(c) of the Federal Fraud Prevention Workforce Training Act, within 180 days of such effective date; and

“(B) not less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter.

“(2) CERTIFICATION.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall provide a system for certifying completion of the Program and maintaining records of such certifications.

“(d) AVAILABILITY TO STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL-ADMINISTERED PROGRAMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury may make the Program available at no cost to employees or contractors of a State (defined in this subsection as any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, a territory or possession of the United States, or a federally recognized Indian Tribe) or local government who are responsible for the administration of Federally funded programs.

“(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of the Treasury may provide technical assistance to such State or local governments to integrate the Program's standards into the respective administrative frameworks of such entities.

“(e) REPORTING.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Federal Fraud Prevention Workforce Training Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall submit, to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, a report on the implementation of the Program, including participation rates and an assessment of the Program's effectiveness in reducing fraud and improper payments.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

“4122. Federal Government-wide antifraud and improper payment prevention training program.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the effective date in paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe

such regulations as necessary to implement or administer the training program established under section 4122 of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILL of Texas. 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 this measure.

□ 1520

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8428, the Federal Fraud Prevention Workforce Training Act.

Every year, billions of taxpayer dollars are lost to increasingly sophisticated fraud schemes. Unfortunately, the increase in sophistication of fraudsters and criminals is outmatching the capabilities of Federal agencies that work to safeguard taxpayer funds.

H.R. 8428 identifies this expanding challenge and helps bolster the financial defenses of our Federal programs against malicious actors.

Specifically, it authorizes the U.S. Treasury to establish a government-wide antifraud training program for agency officials, like grant managers and auditors, so they are adequately trained on best practices for preventing and addressing fraud in agency programs.

The bill also allows the U.S. Treasury to provide the training programs to State and local agencies administering federally funded programs at no cost.

This training will help ensure agency program management and State-level officials are better equipped to confront the challenges associated with fraud and improper payments by better utilizing the tools and best practices already established.

Such tools include more fully implementing agency fraud prevention frameworks in the program's administration and fully utilizing Treasury's Do Not Pay System.

This is important and forward-looking legislation, and I applaud my Oversight Committee colleagues Congressman GLENN GROTHMAN and RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY on these programs.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan and forward-looking bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 8428, the Federal Fraud Prevention Workforce Training Act.

This bill would establish programs to train Federal workers to identify the risks of fraud and improper payments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY).

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman GROTHMAN for being a partner on this bill.

H.R. 8428, the Federal Fraud Prevention Workforce Training Act, is legislation that would address a central concern of the American people, which is fraud and waste in government.

Every dollar lost to fraud is a dollar that cannot be used to serve the American people. Yet, over the last 20 years, at least \$3 trillion in improper payments have been made by the American Government.

Our bipartisan bill protects taxpayer dollars by creating a universal Federal training program to fight fraud. By giving our government employees the tools that they need to identify fraud and avoid spending mistakes, we can stop waste before it happens.

Accountability to the American people is not optional. It is required. I am proud to support policies that keep our Federal programs strong and that use taxpayer dollars responsibly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this key legislation, and I thank the bill's sponsors, Chairman COMER, and Ranking Member GARCÍA for bringing this bill to the floor today.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Federal Fraud Prevention Workforce Training Act. It is a bipartisan bill that strengthens fraud prevention efforts across the Federal Government.

Americans work hard for their money. They pay their taxes, follow the rules, and expect the Federal Government to treat every dollar with care.

Unfortunately, fraud in Federal programs remains far too common, and too often it could have been prevented. The problem is not only the bad actors who try to steal from the taxpayer. Too many Federal employees and program administrators are left without training, guidance, or tools they need to identify risks before taxpayer dollars go out the door.

The bill takes a commonsense step to fix that. The Federal Fraud Prevention Workforce Training Act directs the Department of the Treasury, in coordination with OMB and OPM, to establish a standardized, government-wide fraud prevention training program. That training would help Federal employees identify fraud risks, implement proven antifraud practices, and make better use of existing tools, including the Do Not Pay System.

It would also make these resources available to State and local governments that administer Federal funds.

That last point is important. Many Federal programs are not administered

only in Washington. They depend on State and local partners who are often on the front lines and don't have any skin in game. If we want to protect taxpayer dollars, those partners need access to the same knowledge and best practices the Federal Government has.

Every dollar lost to fraud is a dollar that cannot help a veteran, a senior, a small business, a family in need, a community that depends on Federal assistance, or pay down our ridiculous Federal debt. It is also a dollar added to the debt and a dollar taken from hardworking Americans who expect better from their government.

We should not wait until fraud has already occurred to ask what went wrong. We should train the Federal workforce to identify warning signs early, use the tools already available, and stop fraud before taxpayer dollars are wasted.

I thank Congressman KRISHNAMOORTHY for leading the bipartisan effort with me. I also thank Chairman COMER for his leadership on the Oversight Committee and his work to hold the Federal Government accountable.

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

Preventing improper payments and fraud starts with a well-trained workforce. I thank my colleagues for their work on this important legislation.

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

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

I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 8428, the Federal Fraud Prevention Workforce Training Act.

In order to meaningfully address the massive scale of fraud in Federal programs, we need to implement a standardized, government-wide training program for employees administering agency programs.

H.R. 8428 helps establish leading fraud prevention training practices throughout the Federal Government so we can recognize and prevent fraud before it happens.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8428, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GILL of Texas. 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.

BONUSES FOR COST-CUTTERS AND FRAUD PREVENTERS ACT OF 2026

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 428) to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance the authority under which Federal agencies may pay cash awards to employees for making cost saving disclosures, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 428

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 "Bonuses for Cost-Cutters and Fraud Preventers Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. COST SAVINGS ENHANCEMENTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 4511 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "Definition" and inserting "Definitions"; and

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by striking "this subchapter, the term" and inserting the following: "this subchapter—

"(1) the term"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) the terms 'improper payment' and 'payment' have the meanings given such terms, respectively, in section 3351 of title 31; and

"(3) the term 'wasteful expenses' means amounts made available for salaries and expenses accounts, operations and maintenance accounts, or other equivalent accounts—

"(A) that are identified by an employee of the agency under section 4512(a) as wasteful; and

"(B) that the Chief Financial Officer of the agency determines are not required for the purpose for which the amounts were made available.".

(b) AUTHORITY.—Section 4512 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting "and improper payment" before "disclosures";

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting after the first sentence the following: "The head of an agency may pay a cash award to any employee of such agency whose identification of wasteful expenses to the Chief Financial Officer of such agency, through a process determined by the head of such agency, has resulted in cost savings for the agency or prevented a payment that, if made, would be an improper payment resulting in financial loss to the Government.";

(B) in paragraph (1) by striking "\$10,000" and inserting "\$20,000";

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting "or prevented improper payments" after "cost savings";

(ii) by inserting "Chief Financial Officer," after "Inspector General";

(iii) by striking "subsection (b)" and inserting "subsection (b) or (c), as applicable"; and

(iv) by inserting "or identification" after "disclosure"; and

(D) in the matter following paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting "Chief Financial Officer," after "Inspector General";

(ii) by inserting "or prevented improper payments" after "cost savings"; and

(iii) by inserting "or identification" after "disclosure"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(c)(1) If the Chief Financial Officer of an agency determines that potential wasteful

expenses identified by an employee meet the requirements of section 4511(a)(3)(B), the head of such agency shall notify the President.

"(2) If the Chief Financial Officer of an agency determines that a payment identified by an employee would, if made, be an improper payment resulting in financial loss to the Government, the head of such agency shall notify the Secretary of the Treasury of such payment for purposes of preventing similar improper payments.

"(3) In the case of an agency for which there is no Chief Financial Officer, the head of the agency shall designate an agency employee who shall have the authority to make the determinations for identification of wasteful expenses or prevented improper payments under this section.

"(d) The head of each agency shall make available, along with, and in the same manner and form as, the provision of information required under section 1116 of title 31, information on disclosures of wasteful expenses or prevented improper payments pursuant to which an award was made under this section, including—

"(1) a description of each disclosure of possible wasteful expenses or improper payments identified by an employee and determined by the agency to have merit; and

"(2) the number and amount of cash awards provided by the agency under subsection (a).

"(e) An individual may not receive a cash award under this subchapter if the individual is—

"(1) an officer or employee of the Office of the Inspector General of an agency; or

"(2) ineligible for a cash award under section 4509.

"(f) The Director of the Office of Personnel Management, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall—

"(1) ensure that the cash award program of each agency under this section complies with this section; and

"(2) submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an annual certification indicating whether the cash award program of each agency under this section complies with this section.

"(g) Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Bonuses for Cost-Cutters and Fraud Preventers Act of 2026, and every 2 years thereafter for 4 years, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the operation of the cost savings and awards program under this section, including any recommendations for legislative changes."

(c) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall issue guidance to Federal agencies on implementing the amendments made by this Act.

(2) CONTENTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall include in the guidance required by paragraph (1) the following:

(A) Guidelines for employees of Federal agencies to identify and report within the agency of such employee a wasteful expense or improper payment.

(B) Guidelines for Federal agencies to make a determination as to whether an identification of a wasteful expense or improper payment is appropriate.

(C) Guidelines for determining an appropriate cash award for an employee of a Federal agency who identifies and reports a wasteful expense or improper payment, including any considerations for such employee's grade, locality pay, and other considerations that may factor into the aggregate compensation limit applicable to such employee in a given calendar year.

(D) Procedures for reporting actions taken under the amendments made by this Act to the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of the Treasury, and the Office of Personnel Management, as appropriate.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter II of chapter 45 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 4511 and inserting the following:

“4511. Definitions and general provisions.”; and

(2) by striking the item relating to section 4512 and inserting the following:

“4512. Agency awards for cost savings and improper payment disclosures.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILL of Texas. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 428, the Bonuses for Cost-Cutters and Fraud Preventers Act of 2026.

This bill expands existing incentives for Federal employees to identify and disclose waste and abuse before American tax dollars are spent.

Without incentives to disclose wasteful spending, Federal employees who are most likely to identify and halt such spending may not speak up.

It was because of instances like these that in 1981 Congress created a cash awards program to encourage employees to take proactive action to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. This program was so successful that it was made permanent just over a decade later.

Over the years, these authorities have resulted in creative ideas coming from agency employees themselves, contributing to the saving of millions in taxpayer dollars. These cost-cutting ideas included allowing veterans to use otherwise safe, discarded medicine and

eliminating wasteful printing of the Federal Register.

It is time that Congress does more to expand the cost-saving potential of Federal employees by expanding these authorities.

□ 1530

H.R. 428, as amended, increases incentives for Federal employees by allowing cash awards for reporting wasteful spending and improper payments before funds go out the door.

The best way to recover misspent tax dollars is to not misspend them in the first place. I support this important legislation, which helps preserve Congress' constitutional role in the appropriations process and helps reduce wasteful spending.

I thank Congressman CHUCK FLEISCHMANN for bringing this creative solution to preventing fraud to the Oversight Committee and for working with the committee to expand it to address improper payments.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisanship bill.

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 428, as well, the Bonuses for Cost-Cutters and Fraud Preventers Act 2026. This bipartisan bill would increase the maximum cash bonus awarded to Federal employees who report waste, fraud, and abuse, from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Increasing this award will encourage more Federal workers to come forward and report on waste and improper spending. It will reward employees for acting in the best interest of American taxpayers.

The bill also requires agencies to report on the wasteful and improper spending reported by employees, promoting transparency.

I thank my colleagues for their work on this bill.

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

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN).

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. Let me begin by stating a straightforward fact: The Federal Government spends excessively, and much of these funds are wasted. The Bonuses for Cost-Cutters and Fraud Preventers Act of 2026 offers a practical solution to ensure that taxpayers' hard-earned dollars are wisely managed and efficiently.

This legislation takes our existing Federal rewards program, a program that already rewards employees who identify fraud, waste, and mismanagement, and expands it. Under this legislation, any Federal employee who identifies wasteful operational expenses that an agency itself determines are not required for its stated purpose can bring that information forward. The agency will then be required to propose those funds for rescission. On top of that, we double the maximum cash

award available to employees who identify wasteful spending.

Federal employees are often the first to recognize when funds are allocated to outdated programs or when bureaucratic practices prioritize institutional interests over those of taxpayers. For too long, there has been no incentive to speak up, and in some cases real disincentives have existed. This bill addresses that issue.

Tennessee's Third District, my district, is home to thousands of dedicated Federal employees at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and other Federal sites throughout our region.

These hard-working public servants take their responsibility to taxpayers seriously. H.R. 428 honors their commitment by giving them a meaningful role in eliminating waste and rewarding them for delivering results to the people who fund our government.

We are taking these steps at a critical moment. The American people have given us a clear mandate to rein in spending. This administration is actively working to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse across the Federal Government.

The efforts by the Department of Government Efficiency reflect the same mandate, and H.R. 428 supports that mission by establishing a permanent statutory framework that will endure beyond any one administration.

It is also important to emphasize that this is not a partisan bill. Taxpayers in Tennessee, and across the Nation, regardless of party, do not want their money wasted. They expect a government that is accountable, efficient, and worthy of their trust.

I have worked on this legislation for years, and I am proud that the Oversight Committee has advanced it.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, this is a commonsense, fiscally responsible, pro-taxpayer bill. I urge everyone to support it.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

Increasing the bonus for identifying waste, fraud, and abuse will save taxpayer dollars, make government more efficient, reward honest workers, and increase accountability.

I thank my colleagues again for this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 428, Bonuses for Cost-Cutters and Fraud Preventers Act of 2026, which establishes additional incentives for Federal employees to identify wasteful expenses or improper payments.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 428, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance the authority under which Federal agencies may pay cash awards to employees for making cost saving and improper payment disclosures, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AGENCIES CLARIFICATION ACT

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6028) to modify the appointment and removal process for certain legislative branch officers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6028

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 "Legislative Branch Agencies Clarification Act".

SEC. 2. LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Librarian of Congress Succession Modernization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–86; 129 Stat. 675), is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 3 as section 5;

(2) by redesignating section 2 as section 3;

(3) by inserting after section 1 the following:

"SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

"In this Act:

"(1) COMMISSION.—The term 'commission' means a congressional commission consisting of the oversight committee leadership and the House and Senate leadership.

"(2) DEPUTY LIBRARIAN.—The term 'Deputy Librarian' means the Deputy Librarian of Congress.

"(3) HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERSHIP.—The term 'House and Senate leadership' means the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the minority leader of the Senate.

"(4) LIBRARIAN.—The term 'Librarian' means the Librarian of Congress.

"(5) OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP.—The term 'oversight committee leadership' means the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.";

(4) in section 3, as so redesignated—

(A) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"(a) APPOINTMENT.—

"(1) COMMISSION.—The Librarian shall be appointed by the commission in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (2), without regard to political affiliation, and solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties of the office.

"(2) APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES.—

"(A) RECOMMENDATION OF 3 INDIVIDUALS.—If there is a vacancy in the position of Librarian, the oversight committee leadership shall jointly recommend 3 individuals for appointment to the vacant office.

"(B) SELECTION BY LEADERS.—The Librarian shall be appointed from among the 3 individuals recommended under subparagraph (A) upon a

majority vote of the House and Senate leadership."

(B) in subsection (b), by striking "of Congress";

(C) in subsection (c), by striking "of Congress, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate,"; and

(D) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

"(d) REMOVAL.—The Librarian may be removed from office at any time upon a majority vote of the House and Senate leadership."

(b) PAY.—Section 904 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1983 (2 U.S.C. 136a–2) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a)" before "Notwithstanding"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) The Librarian of Congress shall not be considered to serve under a political appointment for purposes of section 747 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024 (division B of Public Law 118–47; 138 Stat. 585), or any other subsequently enacted similar provision of law."

SEC. 3. DEPUTY LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

The Librarian of Congress Succession Modernization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–86; 129 Stat. 675), is amended by inserting after section 3, as so redesignated, the following:

"SEC. 4. DEPUTY LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPUTY LIBRARIAN.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Librarian shall appoint a suitable individual to be the Deputy Librarian of Congress.

"(2) DUTIES.—The Librarian may delegate to the Deputy Librarian such duties as the Librarian determines are necessary or appropriate.

"(b) DEADLINE.—The Librarian shall appoint a Deputy Librarian under subsection (a)(1) not later than 120 days after—

"(1) the date on which the Librarian is appointed under section 3, if there is no Deputy Librarian on the date of the appointment; or

"(2) the date on which a vacancy arises in the office of the Deputy Librarian.

"(c) FAILURE TO APPOINT.—If the Librarian does not appoint a Deputy Librarian on or before the applicable date specified in subsection (b)—

"(1) the oversight committee leadership shall jointly recommend an individual for appointment to the vacant office; and

"(2) upon a majority vote of the House and Senate leadership, the individual recommended under paragraph (1) shall be appointed as the Deputy Librarian.

"(d) NOTIFICATION.—If the position of Deputy Librarian becomes vacant, the Librarian shall immediately notify the members of the commission.

"(e) SERVICE AS ACTING LIBRARIAN.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Librarian shall act as Librarian if the Librarian is absent or disabled or there is no Librarian.

"(2) ABSENCE, DISABILITY, OR VACANCY IN OFFICE OF DEPUTY LIBRARIAN.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), if the Deputy Librarian is also absent or disabled or there is no Deputy Librarian—

"(i) the oversight committee leadership shall jointly recommend an individual to be designated to serve as acting Librarian; and

"(ii) upon a majority vote of the members of the House and Senate leadership, the individual recommended under clause (i) shall be designated to serve as acting Librarian.

"(B) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—An individual designated as acting Librarian under subparagraph (A) may serve until—

"(i) the end of the absence or disability of the Librarian or the Deputy Librarian; or

"(ii) in the case of vacancies in both positions, a Librarian has been appointed under section 3.

"(3) AUTHORITY.—An officer serving as acting Librarian under paragraph (1) or (2) shall perform all the duties and exercise all the authori-

ties of the Librarian, including the authority to delegate the duties and authorities of the Librarian."

SEC. 4. DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting before section 301 the following:

"§ 300. Definitions

"In this chapter—

"(1) the term 'commission' means a congressional commission consisting of the oversight committee leadership and the House and Senate leadership;

"(2) the term 'House and Senate leadership' means the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the minority leader of the Senate; and

"(3) the term 'oversight committee leadership' means the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.";

(2) in section 301—

(A) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"(a)(1) The Government Publishing Office shall be headed by a Director.

"(2)(A) The Director shall be appointed by the commission in accordance with the procedures specified in subparagraph (B), without regard to political affiliation, and solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties of the office.

"(B)(i) If there is a vacancy in the position of Director, the oversight committee leadership shall jointly recommend 3 individuals for appointment to the vacant office.

"(ii) The Director shall be appointed from among the 3 individuals recommended under clause (i), upon a majority vote of the House and Senate leadership."

(B) in subsection (c), by striking "by and with the advice and consent of the Senate,"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(d) The Director may be removed from office at any time upon a majority vote of the members of the House and Senate leadership."

(b) PAY.—Section 303 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a)" before "The annual rate of pay for the Director of the Government Publishing Office"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) The Director of the Government Publishing Office shall not be considered to serve under a political appointment for purposes of section 747 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024 (division B of Public Law 118–47; 138 Stat. 585), or any other subsequently enacted similar provision of law."

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the item relating to section 301 the following:

"300. Definitions."

SEC. 5. DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 302. Deputy Director of the Government Publishing Office: appointment; duties

"(a) In this section—

"(1) the term 'Deputy Director' means the Deputy Director of the Government Publishing Office; and

"(2) the term 'Director' means the Director of the Government Publishing Office.

"(b)(1) The Director shall appoint a suitable person to be the Deputy Director.

“(2) The Deputy Director shall supervise the buildings occupied by the Government Publishing Office and perform any other duties required by the Director.

“(c) The Director shall appoint a Deputy Director under subsection (b)(1) not later than 120 days after—

“(1) the date on which the Director is appointed under section 301, if there is no Deputy Director on the date of the appointment; or

“(2) the date on which a vacancy arises in the office of the Deputy Director.

“(d) If the Director does not appoint a Deputy Director on or before the applicable date specified in subsection (c)—

“(1) the oversight committee leadership shall jointly recommend an individual for appointment to the vacant office; and

“(2) upon a majority vote of the House and Senate leadership, the individual recommended under paragraph (1) shall be appointed as the Deputy Director.

“(e) If the position of Deputy Director becomes vacant, the Director shall immediately notify the members of the commission.”

(b) SERVICE AS ACTING DIRECTOR.—Section 304 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§304. Director of the Government Publishing Office: vacancy in office

“(a) In this section, the terms ‘Deputy Director’ and ‘Director’ have the meanings given such terms in section 302(a).

“(b) The Deputy Director shall act as Director if the Director is absent or disabled or there is no Director.

“(c)(1) For purposes of subsection (b), if the Deputy Director is also absent or disabled or there is no Deputy Director—

“(A) the oversight committee leadership shall jointly recommend an individual to be designated to serve as acting Director; and

“(B) upon a majority vote of the House and Senate leadership, the individual recommended under subparagraph (A) shall be designated as the acting Director.

“(2) An individual designated as acting Director under paragraph (1) may serve until—

“(A) the end of the absence or disability of the Director or the Deputy Director; or

“(B) in the case of vacancies in both positions, a Director has been appointed under section 301.

“(d) An officer serving as acting Director under subsection (b) or (c) shall perform all the duties and exercise all the authorities of the Director, including the authority to delegate the duties and authorities of the Director.”

SEC. 6. COPYRIGHT OFFICE.

(a) REMOVING SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OVER COPYRIGHT OFFICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title 17, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in chapter 1—

(i) in section 111(d)—

(I) in paragraph (2), in the second sentence, by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(II) in paragraph (4)—

(aa) in subparagraph (B), in the second sentence, by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(bb) in subparagraph (C), by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”;

(ii) in section 112(e)(5), by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”;

(iii) in section 114(f)(2), by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”;

(iv) in section 115(d)—

(I) in paragraph (3)(A)(iv), by striking “, with the approval of the Librarian of Congress pursuant to section 702,”; and

(II) in paragraph (5)(A)(iv), by striking “, with the approval of the Librarian of Congress pursuant to section 702,”;

(v) in section 118(b)(2), by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(vi) in section 119(b)—

(I) in paragraph (3), in the second sentence, by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(II) in paragraph (5)—

(aa) in subparagraph (B), in the second sentence, by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(bb) in subparagraph (C), by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”;

(B) in chapter 7—

(i) in section 701—

(I) in subsection (a)—

(aa) in the first sentence, by striking “of the Library of Congress”; and

(bb) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: “The Register of Copyrights shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, but before the President makes such an appointment, the chair and ranking minority member of each of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate shall jointly recommend 3 individuals whom the President may consider in making the appointment. The subordinate officers and employees of the Copyright Office shall be appointed by the Register of Copyrights.”;

(II) in subsection (d)—

(aa) in the first sentence, by striking “the Librarian of”; and

(bb) by striking the second sentence; and

(III) in subsection (f), by striking the second and third sentences and inserting the following: “The Register of Copyrights shall establish not more than 4 positions for Associate Registers of Copyrights and shall make appointments to those positions.”;

(ii) in section 702, by striking the second sentence and inserting “The Register shall consult with the Librarian of Congress prior to establishing regulations that affect deposits made under sections 407 and 704 of this title. The Register shall consult with the Librarian of Congress before establishing any regulation under this title that affects the authority, rights, or access of the Library of Congress under this title with respect to any material deposited in the Copyright Office.”; and

(iii) in section 704(d), by striking “joint discretion of the Register and the Librarian” and inserting “discretion of the Register, in consultation with the Librarian.”;

(C) in chapter 8—

(i) in section 801—

(I) in subsection (a)—

(aa) in the first sentence, by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(bb) by striking the second sentence;

(II) in subsection (d), by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(III) in subsection (e)—

(aa) in the heading, by striking “LIBRARY OF CONGRESS” and inserting “COPYRIGHT OFFICE”; and

(bb) by striking “Library of Congress” and inserting “Copyright Office”;

(ii) in section 802—

(I) in subsection (d)—

(aa) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(bb) in paragraph (2), by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”;

(II) in subsection (f)(2)—

(aa) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Library of Congress” and inserting “Copyright Office”; and

(bb) in subparagraph (B), by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”;

(III) in subsection (h), by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(IV) in subsection (i)—

(aa) by striking “Librarian of Congress” each place that term appears and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(bb) in the third sentence, by striking “Librarian” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(iii) in section 803—

(I) in subsection (a)(1), in the second sentence—

(aa) by striking “the Librarian of Congress” and inserting “the Register of Copyrights”; and

(bb) by striking “of the Librarian of Congress or” and inserting “of”;

(II) in subsection (b)(6)(A), in the second sentence, by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(III) in subsection (c)(6)—

(aa) by striking “Librarian of Congress” each place that term appears and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(bb) in the second sentence, by striking “Librarian” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(IV) in subsection (e)(1)—

(aa) in the paragraph heading, by striking “LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND”; and

(bb) in subparagraph (A)—

(AA) by striking “The Librarian of Congress” and inserting “The Register of Copyrights”; and

(BB) by striking “the Librarian of Congress, the Copyright Office, and” and inserting “the Copyright Office and”;

(D) in section 1007—

(i) in subsection (b), in the third sentence, by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(ii) in subsection (c), in the third sentence, by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(E) in section 1201(a)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(aa) in the first sentence, by striking “the Librarian of Congress, upon the recommendation of the Register of Copyrights, who shall consult with the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information of the Department of Commerce and report and comment on his or her views in making such recommendation” and inserting “the Register of Copyrights, after consultation with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information”; and

(bb) in the second sentence, by striking “the Librarian” and inserting “the Register of Copyrights”; and

(II) in clause (v), by striking “Librarian” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “Librarian” each place that term appears and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(F) in section 1331, by striking “of the Library of Congress”; and

(G) in chapter 15—

(i) in section 1502(b)—

(I) in paragraph (1)—

(aa) in the first sentence, by striking “recommend” and inserting “appoint”; and

(bb) by striking the second sentence;

(II) in paragraph (6)—

(aa) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “the Librarian of Congress shall, upon the recommendation of, and in consultation with, the Register of Copyrights,” and inserting “the Register of Copyrights shall”; and

(bb) in subparagraph (B), by striking “the Librarian of Congress shall, upon recommendation of, and in consultation with, the Register of Copyrights,” and inserting “the Register of Copyrights shall”; and

(III) in paragraph (7), by striking “Librarian of Congress” and inserting “Register of Copyrights”; and

(ii) in section 1503(b)(3), by striking “Library of Congress or”.

(2) AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS.—

(A) COMPUTER SOFTWARE RENTAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1990.—Section 805(d) of the Computer Software Rental Amendments Act of 1990 (17 U.S.C. 205 note; Public Law 101-650) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(B) UNLOCKING CONSUMER CHOICE AND WIRELESS COMPETITION ACT.—Section 2 of the Unlocking Consumer Choice and Wireless Competition Act (17 U.S.C. 1201 note; Public Law 113-144) is amended—

(i) in the heading, by striking “BY LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS”;

(ii) in subsection (a), by inserting after “United States Code,” the following: “(as in effect before the date of enactment of the Legislative Branch Agencies Clarification Act)”;

(iii) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) as authorized by an exemption adopted by—

“(A) the Librarian of Congress pursuant to a determination made on or after the date of enactment of this Act and before the date of enactment of the Legislative Branch Agencies Clarification Act under section 1201(a)(1)(C) of title 17, United States Code; or

“(B) the Register of Copyrights pursuant to a determination made on or after the date of enactment of the Legislative Branch Agencies Clarification Act under section 1201(a)(1)(C) of title 17, United States Code.”; and

(iv) in subsection (d), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS; REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act alters, or shall be construed to alter, the authority of—

“(A) the Librarian of Congress under section 1201(a)(1) of title 17, United States Code, as in effect before the date of enactment of the Legislative Branch Agencies Clarification Act; or

“(B) the Register of Copyrights under section 1201(a)(1) of title 17, United States Code, as in effect on or after the date of enactment of the Legislative Branch Agencies Clarification Act.”.

(C) ACT OF JUNE 13, 1957.—The first section of the Act entitled “An Act to fix the responsibilities of certifying officers and disbursing officer of the Library of Congress”, approved June 13, 1957 (2 U.S.C. 142b), is amended by striking “, including the Copyright Office.”.

(b) REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS QUALIFICATIONS; TERM OF OFFICE.—Section 701(a) of title 17, United States Code, as amended by this section, is amended—

(I) by inserting before “shall be appointed by the President” the following: “shall be a citizen of the United States with a background and experience in copyright law, and”; and

(2) by inserting before “The subordinate officers” the following: “The Register of Copyrights shall be appointed for a term of 10 years, but if the Register is appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which the most immediate predecessor was appointed, the Register shall be appointed for the remainder of such term. The Register may be reappointed for 1 or more additional terms of 5 years each.”.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE COPYRIGHT OFFICE.—Section 1307 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2006 (2 U.S.C. 185), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) ESTABLISHMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE COPYRIGHT OFFICE AS A SEPARATE OFFICE.—

“(I) OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—There is an Office of Inspector General within the Copyright Office which is an independent objective office to—

“(A) conduct and supervise audits and investigations (excluding incidents involving violence and personal property) relating to the Copyright Office, except that nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to authorize the Inspector

General to audit or investigate any operations or activities of the United States Capitol Police;

“(B) provide leadership and coordination and recommend policies to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness; and

“(C) provide a means of keeping the Register of Copyrights and the Congress fully and currently informed about problems and deficiencies relating to the administration and operations of the Copyright Office.

“(2) APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL; SUPERVISION; REMOVAL; PAY; LIMITS ON BONUSES; COUNSEL.—

“(A) APPOINTMENT AND SUPERVISION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—There shall be at the head of the Office of Inspector General, an Inspector General who shall be appointed by the Register of Copyrights without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability in accounting, auditing, financial analysis, law, management analysis, public administration, or investigations. The Inspector General shall report to, and be under the general supervision of, the Register of Copyrights.

“(ii) AUDITS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND REPORTS.—The Register of Copyrights shall have no authority to prevent or prohibit the Inspector General from—

“(I) initiating, carrying out, or completing any audit or investigation;

“(II) issuing any subpoena during the course of any audit or investigation; or

“(III) issuing any report.

“(B) REMOVAL OR TRANSFER.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General may be removed from office, or transferred to another position within, or another location of, the Copyright Office, by the Register of Copyrights.

“(ii) NOTICE.—Not later than 30 days before the Register of Copyrights removes or transfers the Inspector General under clause (i), the Register of Copyrights shall communicate in writing the reason for the removal or transfer to—

“(I) the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(II) the Committee on Rules and Administration and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

“(iii) APPLICABILITY.—Nothing in this subparagraph shall prohibit a personnel action (except for removal or transfer) that is otherwise authorized by law.

“(C) PAY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The position of Inspector General shall—

“(I) be classified as a position above GS-15 in accordance with section 5108 of title 5, United States Code; and

“(II) have a rate of basic pay that is not less than the average rate of basic pay of all other employees in positions classified as above GS-15 of the Copyright Office calculated on an annual basis.

“(ii) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Register of Copyrights shall establish the amount of the annual adjustment in the rate of basic pay for the Inspector General in an amount equal to the average of the annual adjustments in the rate of basic pay provided to all other employees in positions classified as above GS-15 of the Copyright Office, in a manner consistent with section 5376 of title 5, United States Code.

“(D) NO BONUSES.—The Inspector General may not receive any cash award or cash bonus, including a cash award under chapter 45 of title 5, United States Code.

“(E) COUNSEL.—The Inspector General shall, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations governing selections, appointments, and employment at the Copyright Office, obtain legal advice from a counsel reporting directly to the Inspector General or another Inspector General.

“(3) DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AUTHORITY, AND REPORTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Sections 404, 405 (other than subsection (b)(13)), 406(a) (other than

paragraphs (7) and (8) thereof), and 407 of title 5, United States Code, shall apply to the Inspector General of the Copyright Office and the Office of such Inspector General and such sections shall be applied to the Copyright Office and the Register of Copyrights by substituting—

“(i) ‘Copyright Office’ for ‘establishment’; and

“(ii) ‘Register of Copyrights’ for ‘head of the establishment’.

“(B) EMPLOYEES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General, in carrying out the provisions of this subsection, is authorized, without the supervision or approval of any other employee, office, or other entity within the Copyright Office, to select, appoint, and employ such officers and employees (including consultants) as may be necessary for carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Office of Inspector General subject to the provisions of law governing selections, appointments, and employment in the Copyright Office.

“(ii) SECURITY AND SUITABILITY.—Appointments under the authority under clause (i) shall be made consistent with personnel security and suitability requirements.

“(iii) CONSULTANTS.—Any appointment of a consultant under the authority under clause (i) shall be made consistent with section 406(a)(9) of title 5, United States Code.

“(C) LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), any supervisory special agent under the Inspector General and any special agent supervised by such a supervisory special agent is authorized to—

“(I) make an arrest without a warrant while engaged in official duties as authorized under this section or any other statute for any offense against the United States committed in the presence of such supervisory special agent or special agent, or for any felony cognizable under the laws of the United States if such supervisory special agent or special agent has reasonable grounds to believe that the person to be arrested has committed or is committing such felony;

“(II) seek and execute warrants for arrest, search of a premises, or seizure of evidence issued under the authority of the United States upon probable cause to believe that a violation has been committed; and

“(III) carry a firearm while engaged in official duties as authorized under this section or any other statute.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS TO EXERCISE AUTHORITY.—

“(I) REQUIRED CERTIFICATION.—

“(aa) IN GENERAL.—In order to exercise the authority under clause (i), a supervisory special agent or a special agent supervised by such a supervisory special agent shall certify that he or she—

“(AA) is a citizen of the United States;

“(BB) has successfully completed a basic law enforcement training program or military or other equivalent; and

“(CC) is not prohibited from receiving a firearm under Federal law, including under section 922(g)(9) of title 18, United States Code, because of a conviction of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.

“(bb) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—After providing notice to the appropriate committees of Congress, the Inspector General may add requirements to the certification required under item (aa), as determined appropriate by the Inspector General.

“(II) MAINTENANCE OF REQUIREMENTS.—The Inspector General shall maintain firearms-related requirements (including quarterly firearms qualifications) and use of force training requirements that, except to the extent the Inspector General determines necessary to effectively carry out the duties of the Office of the Inspector General, are in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency use of force policies, which incorporate Department of Justice guidelines.

“(III) ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION.—

“(aa) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General shall—

“(AA) determine whether an individual meets the requirements under this subparagraph; and

“(BB) revoke any authority granted to an individual under clause (i) if the individual is not in compliance with the requirements of this subparagraph.

“(bb) REAUTHORIZATION.—The Inspector General may reauthorize an individual to exercise the authority granted under clause (i) if the Inspector General determines the individual has achieved compliance with the requirements under this subparagraph.

“(cc) LIMITATION ON APPEAL.—A revocation of the authority granted under clause (i) shall not be subject to administrative, judicial, or other review, unless the revocation results in an adverse action. Such an adverse action may, at the election of the applicable individual, be reviewed in accordance with the otherwise applicable procedures.

“(iii) SEMIANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF PROGRAM.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Before the first grant of authority under clause (i), and semiannually thereafter as part of the report under section 405 of title 5, United States Code, the Inspector General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a written certification that adequate internal safeguards and management procedures exist that, except to the extent the Inspector General determines necessary to effectively carry out the duties of the Office of the Inspector General, are in compliance with standards established by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, which incorporate Department of Justice guidelines, to ensure proper exercise of the powers authorized under this subparagraph.

“(II) SUSPENSION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority granted under this subparagraph (including any grant of authority to an individual under clause (i), without regard to whether the individual is in compliance with clause (ii)) may be suspended by the Inspector General if the Office of Inspector General fails to comply with the reporting and review requirements under subclause (I) of this clause or clause (iv). Any suspension of authority under this subclause shall be reported to the appropriate committees of Congress.

“(iv) PEER REVIEW.—To ensure the proper exercise of the law enforcement powers authorized under this subparagraph, the Office of Inspector General shall submit to and participate in the external review process established by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency for ensuring that adequate internal safeguards and management procedures continue to exist. Under the review process, the exercise of the law enforcement powers by the Office of Inspector General shall be reviewed periodically by another Office of Inspector General or by a committee of Inspectors General. The results of each review shall be communicated in writing to the Inspector General, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and the appropriate committees of Congress.

“(v) ALLEGED MISCONDUCT.—Any allegation of misconduct by an individual granted authority under clause (i) may be reviewed by the Integrity Committee of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

“(vi) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this paragraph, the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(I) the Committee on Rules and Administration and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

“(II) the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

“(D) BUDGET INDEPENDENCE.—The Register of Copyrights shall include the annual budget request of the Inspector General in the budget of the Copyright Office without change.”.

(d) APPOINTMENT OF ACTING OFFICERS BY ACTING REGISTER.—Section 701(a) of title 17, United States Code, as amended by this section, is amended by adding at the end the following: “Any officer appointed by an acting Register of Copyrights, including a Copyright Royalty Judge, shall be an acting officer, and may be removed from office at any time by an individual serving in the office of Register of Copyrights pursuant to an appointment by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.”.

(e) RATIFICATION OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY COPYRIGHT ENTITIES PRIOR TO ENACTMENT.—Each action taken under title 17, United States Code, by the Copyright Office, the Register of Copyrights, the Copyright Royalty Judges, or the Copyright Claims Board during the period beginning on May 8, 2025, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act is ratified and shall be given full force and effect.

(f) SUPPORT AGREEMENTS; REIMBURSEMENT.—Section 701 of title 17, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) SUPPORT AGREEMENTS; REIMBURSEMENT.—The Library of Congress and any other agency or office in the legislative branch of the Federal Government may provide administrative, facilities, financial management, information technology, legal, security, and other appropriate support to the Copyright Office as provided under an agreement for services entered into by the applicable agency or office and the Copyright Office.”.

(g) TRANSITION PROVISIONS.—During the period specified in paragraph (1):

(1) PERIOD.—The period specified in this paragraph is the period that begins on the date of the enactment of this Act and ends on September 30, 2029.

(2) TRANSFERS OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The Register of Copyrights and the Librarian of Congress may enter into such agreements as necessary to transfer appropriated amounts from one to the other if such amounts are necessary to carry out this Act and effectuate the separation of the Copyright Office and the Library of Congress.

(3) PERSONNEL.—The laws with respect to the personnel of the Federal Government shall apply to the personnel of the Copyright Office to the same extent as such laws apply to the Library of Congress. Each officer or employee of the Copyright Office shall be appointed solely with reference to the fitness of the officer or employee to carry out the particular duties of the officer or employee.

SEC. 7. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE PERSONNEL REFORMS.

(a) APPLICATION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT TO THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE.—Section 101(a) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (J), by striking “or”;

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

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(L) the Government Publishing Office.”;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking “through (K)” and inserting “through (L)”;

(3) in paragraph (8), by striking “through (K)” and inserting “through (L)”;

(4) in paragraph (9)(D)—

(A) by striking “and the John” and inserting “the John”; and

(B) by inserting “, and the Government Publishing Office” before “; or”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 2301(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) This section shall apply to an Executive agency.”.

(2) Section 2302(a)(2)(C) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “and the Government Publishing Office”.

(3) Section 4301(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “(1) ‘agency’ means—” and all that follows through “but does not include—” and inserting the following:

“(1) ‘agency’ means an Executive agency, but does not include—”; and

(B) by redesignating clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C).

(4) Section 4701(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “and the Government Publishing Office”.

(5) Section 5102(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(B) redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively.

SEC. 8. HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 305(a) of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “other persons” and inserting “other people”; and

(B) by striking “the persons employed” and inserting “those employed”;

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “persons” and inserting “people”;

(3) by striking the third sentence; and

(4) by striking “oftener than once a year.” and inserting “more often than once a year.”.

(b) HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 306 the following:

“§306A. Director of the Government Publishing Office; human capital management system

“(a) The Director of the Government Publishing Office shall establish and maintain a human capital management system (in this section referred to as the ‘system’).

“(b) The system shall—

“(1) include the merit system principles set forth under section 2301(b) of title 5;

“(2) prohibit any personnel practice prohibited under section 2302(b) of title 5;

“(3) prohibit any political activity prohibited under subchapter III of chapter 73 of title 5;

“(4) ensure that officers and employees of the Government Publishing Office are appointed, promoted, and assigned only on the basis of merit and fitness;

“(5) be established without regard to the provisions of title 5 governing appointments and other personnel actions in the competitive service; and

“(6) give a preference to an individual eligible for a hiring preference in the executive branch of the United States Government in a way and to an extent consistent with the preference given the individual for a position in the executive branch.

“(c)(1) The Director may prescribe regulations about the system only—

“(A) after notice and opportunity for public comment; and

“(B) with the approval of the Joint Committee on Printing.

“(2) An officer or employee of the Government Publishing Office may not make a reprisal or threat of reprisal against another officer or employee of the Government Publishing Office because of comments on a proposed regulation about the system.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 306 the following:

“306A. Director of the Government Publishing Office; human capital management system.”.

(c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to affect any proceeding or payment of an award or settlement relating to a claim which is pending on the effective date of this section under—

(1) title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq.);

(2) chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code (relating to Federal service labor-management relations);

(3) an appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board; or

(4) subchapter II, chapter 12, of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 9. UPDATE TO PRINT REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 501 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§501. Government printing, binding, blank-book work, and publishing services by the Government Publishing Office

“The Government Publishing Office may perform printing, binding, blank-book work, and publishing services for Congress, the Executive Office of the President, the Judiciary, and every executive department, independent office, and establishment of the Government.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 207(a) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1993 (44 U.S.C. 501 note) is repealed.

(2) The table of sections for chapter 501 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 501 and inserting the following:

“501. Government printing, binding, blank-book work, and publishing services by the Government Publishing Office.”.

SEC. 10. APPLICABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall apply on and after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) LIBRARIAN.—

(A) APPOINTMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 3 of the Librarian of Congress Succession Modernization Act of 2015, as redesignated and amended by this Act, shall apply to any appointment to the position of Librarian of Congress made on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) REMOVAL.—Subsection (d) of section 3 of the Librarian of Congress Succession Modernization Act of 2015, as redesignated and amended by this Act, shall apply with respect to an individual appointed to the position of Librarian of Congress before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(C) PAY.—Subsection (b) of section 904 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1983 (2 U.S.C. 136a–2), as added by this Act, shall apply on and after the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) DEPUTY LIBRARIAN APPOINTMENT.—Subsections (a)(1), (b), and (c) of section 4 of the Librarian of Congress Succession Modernization Act of 2015, as added by this Act, shall apply to any appointment to the position of Deputy Librarian of Congress made on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) DIRECTOR OF GPO.—

(A) APPOINTMENT.—Subsection (a)(2) of section 301 of title 44, United States Code, as amended by this Act, shall apply to any appointment to the position of Director of the Government Publishing Office made on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) REMOVAL.—Subsection (d) of section 301 of title 44, United States Code, as added by this Act, shall apply with respect to an individual appointed to the position of Director of the Government Publishing Office before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(C) PAY.—Subsection (b) of section 303 of title 44, United States Code, as added by this Act, shall apply on and after the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF GPO APPOINTMENT.—Subsections (b)(1), (c), and (d) of section 302 of title 44, United States Code, as added by this Act, shall apply to any appointment to the position of Deputy Director of the Government Publishing Office made on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(5) REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS; SUBORDINATE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES GENERALLY.—Section 701(a) of title 17, United States Code, as amended by this Act, shall apply to any appointment to the position of Register of Copyrights or to the position of a subordinate officer or employee of the Copyright Office made on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(6) ASSOCIATE REGISTERS OF COPYRIGHTS.—Section 701(f) of title 17, United States Code, as amended by this Act, shall apply to any appointment to the position of Associate Register of Copyrights made on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(7) COPYRIGHT ROYALTY JUDGES.—Sections 801(a) and 802(d)(1) of title 17, United States Code, as amended by this Act, shall apply to any appointment to the position of Copyright Royalty Judge (including the Chief Copyright Royalty Judge or an interim Copyright Royalty Judge) made on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(8) COPYRIGHT CLAIMS OFFICERS.—Section 1502(b)(1) of title 17, United States Code, as amended by this Act, shall apply to any appointment to the position of Copyright Claims Officer made on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(9) HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE.—Section 9 and the amendments made by section 9 shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 11. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act or any amendment made by this Act, or the application of any such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, and the application of such provision or amendment to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include additional extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 6028, the Legislative Branch Agencies Clarification Act, as amended.

I thank Chairman STEIL and Ranking Member MORELLE for their support and commitment to getting this important Article I bill to the floor.

A lot has been done on this bill. We have been working on it for probably a year or a little bit more, and it would not be in the position it is in today or be as good a bill without the work that was done by committee staff on both sides of the aisle and by Mr. MORELLE'S

input and others who have helped to perfect this bill. I think we have a darned good bill here.

This legislation makes important and long overdue reforms to key institutions that serve Congress and the American people, including the Library of Congress, the Government Publishing Office, and the United States Copyright Office.

At its core, this bill is about ensuring that agencies of the legislative branch are governed in a manner consistent with our constitutional system, improving continuity in leadership and strengthening congressional oversight.

I have long been concerned by the fact that certain functions and agencies that exist to support Congress remain subject to appointment structures rooted in the executive branch.

For many years I have worked to address similar constitutional inconsistencies. I think I am the only one that loves this bill. In fact, since 2016, at various times I have introduced legislation to transfer the Office of the United States Trade Representative from the executive branch back to Congress where I believe it belongs properly under our constitutional framework. That is not this bill.

H.R. 6028 is our bill, and it is guided by that same principle. The bill seeks to promote institutional balance amongst our coequal branches of government and ensure congressional support agencies remain accountable to the branch they serve.

The Library of Congress and the Government Publishing Office play indispensable roles in helping Congress carry out its legislative responsibilities. Yet, the heads of these legislative branch agencies are currently appointed by the executive branch, by the President, and then confirmed by the Senate.

This is an arrangement that came about in the latter part of the 19th century. It is a 19th century construct. I don't know for sure, Mr. Speaker, but I suspect that it had to do with time and distance and the fact that a lot of times Congress was not able to get here to do the oversight that it needed.

□ 1540

Those constraints that existed in the latter part of the 19th century, due to electronic communication and easier travel, no longer make that necessary. I think that is why they did this flip, where they gave up legislative power to the executive branch, and so we have created a new structure. The old structure created an inconsistency in governance, and the new structure helps us with certainty and accountability.

The legislation updates the process by establishing a congressional appointment framework for the Librarian of Congress and the Director of the Government Publishing Office.

Under the bill, bipartisan recommendations would be provided by the leadership of the House Administration Committee and the Senate

Rules Committee, with final selections being made by congressional leadership.

This model is not unprecedented. It closely follows the appointment process Congress previously adopted for the Architect of the Capitol, a reform enacted on a bipartisan basis and the one that has helped strengthen congressional control over a key legislative branch institution.

My bill also addresses the governance of the United States Copyright Office. Because the Copyright Office carries out executive-type functions, H.R. 6028 provides that the Register of Copyrights will be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Some of the improvements that were made just within the last couple of months made sure we had smooth working there because the Copyright Office, while it is in the executive branch, has to work closely with the Librarian of Congress. I believe the language that was ironed out between the parties makes a lot of sense and works well for the American people.

My bill better aligns government responsibilities with the appropriate constitutional framework. Ultimately, the bill is about clarity, accountability, and good governance. By modernizing leadership structures and clarifying lines of authority, we can strengthen the institutions that support Congress and serve the Nation as a whole, and we can ensure that these institutions are positioned to serve both Congress and the American people more effectively for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6028, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6028, the Legislative Branch Agencies Clarification Act.

The bill updates the appointment process for the heads of two legislative branch agencies, the Library of Congress and the Government Publishing Office, and creates a new Presidential appointment, subject to Senate confirmation, for the Register of Copyrights.

I thank the sponsor of the bill and my colleague on the Committee on House Administration Mr. GRIFFITH, Chairman STEIL, and both their staff for working with us to improve prior versions of the legislation.

For the legislative record, I will probably repeat some of the things that my colleague has said.

The amended bill makes clear that the U.S. Copyright Office, currently part of the Library, remains in the legislative branch. It protects the Copyright Office workforce. All of them will continue to enjoy the same rights, privileges, and protections they hold today as Library employees. That was very important to us.

I have long said that the Librarian of Congress should be appointed by Con-

gress. Still, we must make this change thoughtfully and be mindful of the consequences, particularly, again, for the Copyright Office.

Copyright authority is enshrined in Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the Constitution, and the Copyright Office has resided in the legislative branch for well over one century.

I appreciate Mr. GRIFFITH's comments about the 19th century, how different things were and the importance of doing all of this work. This bill is really very important, particularly because so much of the work is legislative and because of the ability for the modern legislature to have responsibility here.

All of that should remain within the legislature and remain within the Congress. That is the intent of this bill.

The copyright economy contributes, and this is somewhat of an astounding figure, more than \$2 trillion to our economy each year. It supports more than 11 million American jobs, and only with a stable, reliable, and apolitical copyright system will we continue to have the benefits of that economy.

The bill helps preserve it at a critical moment for copyright stakeholders and the millions of Library users. I particularly point that out in the midst of the emergence of AI, which uses a great many materials for learning that are copyrighted. These issues continue to be in the public eye, and they will continue to be important.

The Library and the Copyright Office have operated in partnership for more than 150 years. The Copyright Office depends on the Library's infrastructure, and the Library builds its collections through copyright deposits. Severing that relationship would harm both institutions, something we clearly do not want to do. The revised bill recognizes that.

It establishes a significant transition period. It allows the Copyright Office to continue using Library support services and requires the Register to consult with the Librarian before taking any action affecting the Library's access to Copyright Office deposits.

It safeguards the rights of Copyright Office employees, as I indicated earlier, and keeps the office in the legislative branch, where it belongs.

Again, I thank Chairman STEIL and certainly the sponsor of the bill, Mr. GRIFFITH, for accepting these changes and for working in a cooperative, collaborative, and bipartisan spirit. It has taken a little while, but I think the final product has improved as a result of it.

For too long, Congress has allowed its own authority and capacity to atrophy. The Library, the Copyright Office, and the other support agencies we rely on are funded from a legislative branch budget that amounts to roughly four-tenths of 1 percent of all Federal discretionary spending. If we are serious about legislating on questions as complex, as I mentioned, as AI and copy-

right, we must be serious about sustaining the institutions that make that work possible.

There are challenges. I think this was the work of compromise, so there are some changes that I think both sides would like to make, but this does ensure that the Librarian of Congress can be hired and fired only by Congress and does so while preserving both the Library and Copyright Office as the preeminent institutions in their fields.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of my colleague Mr. MORELLE. I agree with everything that he added and said, some of which we overlapped and some of which we didn't.

This was truly a work where we are trying to do the right thing for the right purposes, and both sides worked together to reach what I think is actually a better bill. I know there were compromises, but it is a better bill than what we originally had, and I appreciate that.

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, again, let me thank the sponsor of the bill, my friend Mr. GRIFFITH, for his hard work. I thank Chairman STEIL for his partnership in working together to protect these important legislative branch agencies and Congress' Article I prerogatives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this very fine piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6028, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BENTZ). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6028, 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.

□ 1550

BLOCK THE USE OF TRANS-ATLANTIC TECHNOLOGY IN IRANIAN MADE DRONES ACT

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2505) to require the development of strategies and options to prevent the export to Iran of certain technologies related to unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2505

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 “Block the Use of Transatlantic Technology in Iranian Made Drones Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Iranian regime has provided financial and material support, including the provision of unmanned aircraft systems, to United States adversaries, including terrorist organizations such as Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Russian Federation as a part of its illegal war of aggression against Ukraine.

(2) In 2022, the United States established an interagency task force to investigate how United States and Western-made technology has been incorporated into unmanned aircraft systems produced by Iran and take appropriate steps in response.

(3) On June 9, 2023, the Department of State, the Department of Justice, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of the Treasury issued a joint advisory to alert persons and businesses globally to the threat of Iran’s unmanned aircraft systems and the need to take appropriate steps to avoid or prevent any activities that would support the further development of Iran’s unmanned aircraft program.

(4) In recent years the United States enacted sanctions targeting—

(A) the unmanned aircraft industry and missile industry of Iran;

(B) entities, individuals, and vessels that played a central role in facilitating and financing the clandestine sale of Iranian unmanned aerial vehicles; and

(C) entities associated with the Iranian defense ministry’s procurement of critical components for missiles and drones.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) controlling the end use of dual use technology and highly ubiquitous parts thereof in the global market is difficult for manufacturers and government regulators alike;

(2) Iranian-made unmanned aircraft systems play a key role in the Russian Federation’s illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, including attacks on civilian population centers and critical infrastructure such as power plants and ports; and

(3) the United States, along with the allies and partners of the United States, must ensure that technology designed or produced by United States or using certain United States software, technology, or production equipment, is not used to support the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine or used by Hamas to attack Israel, particularly in the case of unmanned aircraft systems produced by Iran.

SEC. 4. STRATEGIES TO PREVENT EXPORT OF CERTAIN TECHNOLOGIES RELATED TO UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE STRATEGY.—

(1) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Commerce (in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director of National Intelligence) shall develop a strategy to prevent the illegal export to Iran by United States persons regarding technologies used or that may be used in the design, development, production, or operational employment of unmanned aircraft systems by Iran, including the following microelectronics:

- (A) Microcontrollers.
- (B) Voltage regulators.
- (C) Digital signal controllers.
- (D) GPS modules.
- (E) Microprocessors.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, the following elements:

(A) A process for the Secretary of Commerce (in coordination with the Secretaries and heads specified in paragraph (1)) to proactively identify—

(i) current and emerging technologies used or that may be used by Iran in the design, development, production, or operational employment of unmanned aircraft systems (including critical components thereof);

(ii) United States manufacturers of such technologies; and

(iii) foreign manufacturers and proliferators of such technologies.

(B) A process for the Secretary of Commerce (in coordination with the Secretaries and heads specified in paragraph (1)) to proactively identify third-party distributors and resellers of the technologies specified in subparagraph (A)(i) that, through the use of intermediaries with no or nominal operations or assets, or through other mechanisms, contrive to circumvent export controls for such items with respect to Iran.

(C) A methodology for the Secretary of Commerce to proactively engage the United States manufacturers identified pursuant to the process under subparagraph (A)(ii), to provide such manufacturers with timely updates to the list of third-party distributors and resellers identified pursuant to the process under subparagraph (B).

(3) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the strategy under paragraph (1).

(4) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)(1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but portions of the report described in paragraphs (1) and (2) may contain a classified annex, so long as such annex is provided separately from the unclassified report.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF STATE STRATEGY.—

(1) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of State (in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director of National Intelligence) shall develop a strategy to prevent the export to Iran of technologies from the United States and allied and partner countries which are used, or may be used, by Iran in the design, development, production, or operational employment of unmanned aircraft systems (including the microelectronics listed in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of subsection (a)(1)).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, the following elements:

(A) A process for the Secretary of State (in consultation with the relevant Secretaries and heads specified in paragraph (1)) to proactively identify foreign manufacturers of the technologies referred to in such paragraph.

(B) A process for the Secretary of State to engage with any ally or partner of the United States regarding technologies which have been incorporated into an unmanned aircraft system produced by Iran, for the purpose of synchronizing the export control regime of such ally or partner with the United States export controls developed by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to the strategy under subsection (a) with respect to such technology.

(3) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the strategy under paragraph (1).

(4) FORM.—The report required by subsection (b)(1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but portions of the report described in paragraphs (1) and (2) may contain a classified annex, so long as such annex is

provided separately from the unclassified report.

(c) REQUIREMENT FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO DEVELOP RANGE OF OPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense (in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence) shall develop a range of options that may be employed by the Armed Forces of the United States to counter or otherwise deny Iran the ability to acquire technologies used, or that may be used, in the design, development, production, or operational employment of unmanned aircraft systems by Iran, including the following technologies:

- (A) Microcontrollers.
- (B) Voltage regulators.
- (C) Digital signal controllers.
- (D) GPS modules.
- (E) Microprocessors.
- (F) Computer Aided Design (CAD) software.

(G) Computer numerical control machines.

(2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on the options developed under paragraph (1).

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

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

(A) The Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(B) The Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(2) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT; UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The terms “unmanned aircraft” and “unmanned aircraft system” have the meanings given those terms in section 130i of title 10, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. 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 H.R. 2505.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2505, the Block the Use of Transatlantic Technology in Iranian Made Drones Act.

Iranian drones are being used to terrorize civilians and attack Americans and our allies throughout the world. Too often, those drones contain technology that originated in the United States or in Europe.

That should alarm every Member of this body.

Iran has become one of the world’s leading exporters of unmanned aerial

systems to rogue regimes and terrorist proxies. Its drones have been used by Russia to strike Ukrainian cities, energy infrastructure, and civilians. They have been supplied to Iranian-backed groups across the Middle East, and they are part of Iran's broader strategy to destabilize the region.

Many of the components found in these drones are commercially available dual-use technologies, products that may have legitimate civilian applications but can be repurposed for lethal military use.

Existing sanctions and export controls are clearly not enough. If American and allied technology is still ending up inside Iranian-made drones, then we need to identify the gaps, tighten the enforcement, and work more closely with our partners to stop it.

That is exactly what this bill does.

It requires the Departments of Commerce, State, and Defense to develop coordinated strategies and options to prevent Iran from acquiring U.S. and allied technologies used in unmanned aerial systems.

It strengthens interagency coordination and engagement with our allies to ensure that we block Iran's access to drone technology.

This is not just about Iran. It is about making sure American innovation is not exploited by our adversaries to kill innocent people.

Every Iranian drone that reaches Russia, Hezbollah, the Houthis, or other malign actors strengthens America's enemies, and it puts lives at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. KEATING for introducing this important piece of legislation, which passed out of the committee with broad bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2505.

Mr. Speaker, I will add this: Iranian drones are not just a regional threat. They are a global threat. They are being used to attack Ukraine, threaten Israel, empower terrorist proxies, and undermine international security. The United States cannot allow American or allied technology to become the backbone of Iran's drone arsenal.

This bill helps to close those gaps. It is a commonsense, low-cost, high-impact measure to protect U.S. technology, support our allies, and counter Iran's malign activities.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 2505.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 28, 2025.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MAST: I write concerning H.R. 2505, the Block the Use of Transatlantic Technology in Iranian Made Drones Act. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H.R. 2505 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services, I agree to forego any further consideration of this resolution so that

it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Committee on Armed Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 2505 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this resolution or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction.

This legislation contains provisions that may require further modification prior to final consideration to ensure the support of the House Committee on Armed Services, particularly language related to export matters.

Finally, I ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included by House Committee on Foreign Affairs in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL D. ROGERS,
Chairman, House Committee on
Armed Services.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, June 8, 2026.

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2505, the Block the Use of Transatlantic Technology in Iranian Made Drones Act, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BRIAN MAST,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2505, the Block the Use of Transatlantic Technology in Iranian Made Drones Act.

I thank my colleague from Massachusetts, Representative KEATING, for his leadership in advancing bipartisan efforts to counter Iran's drone program, a threat that continues to hound Ukraine, and now our own forces and allies in the Middle East.

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Iran has exported thousands of Shahed drones to the Russian military, fueling attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure and civilians.

Now, Iranian drones continue to threaten and damage critical energy, military, and civilian infrastructure across the Middle East.

Most recently, Iranian drones struck Kuwait International Airport, heavily damaging a passenger terminal, killing one person, wounding dozens more, and briefly closing the airfield.

H.R. 2505 closes critical gaps in enforcement and aligns our intelligence and interdiction policies with our national security interests. I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill to help ensure that the United States and European technologies smuggled by illicit intermediaries don't fuel Iran's drone program.

Mr. Speaker, this bill closes a critical gap in enforcement to ensure that U.S. and European technologies don't fuel Iran's drone program.

This is a commonsense bill that will defend civilians and protect our allies and partners, and I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 2505, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2505.

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.

US-JAPAN-ROK TRILATERAL COOPERATION ACT

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3429) to establish an inter-parliamentary dialogue to facilitate closer cooperation between the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea on shared interests and values.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 3429

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 "US-Japan-ROK Trilateral Cooperation Act".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should continue to strengthen trilateral cooperation between the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (in this Act referred to as the "ROK") to enhance and implement a shared vision to meet regional challenges and to promote a free, open, inclusive, resilient, and healthy Indo-Pacific region;

(2) the historic Camp David summit on August 18, 2023, marked a new era of trilateral partnership between the United States, Japan, and the ROK, reaffirming their commitment to align collective efforts for regional security and prosperity;

(3) the Spirit of Camp David, as outlined in the joint statement, should guide future trilateral cooperation, emphasizing shared values, strategic alignment, and commitment to regional peace and stability;

(4) the United States, Japan, and the ROK should enhance Trilateral Maritime Security Cooperation to promote stability and freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific region;

(5) the United States, Japan, and the ROK should collaborate on countering foreign information manipulation and interference to protect democratic institutions and promote accurate information sharing;

(6) President Biden's decision to elevate the US-Japan-ROK trilateral partnership to the leaders level was critical to bolstering cooperation, and all three countries should work to ensure that the Trilateral Leaders' Summit continues to take place regularly;

(7) the ambitious framework for ongoing cooperation laid out by the three leaders at the historic Camp David summit on August 18, 2023, should continue and be strengthened; and

(8) the formation of a regular US-Japan-ROK Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue will—

(A) sustain and deepen engagement between senior officials of the three countries on a full spectrum of issues; and

(B) be modeled on the successful and long-standing bilateral inter-parliamentary groups between the United States and other allied nations.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF US-JAPAN-ROK INTER-PARLIAMENTARY DIALOGUE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with Congress, shall seek to enter into negotiations with the Governments of Japan and the ROK with the goal of reaching a written agreement to establish a US-Japan-ROK Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values.

(b) UNITED STATES GROUP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—At such time as the governments of the United States, Japan, and ROK enter into a written agreement described in subsection (a) to establish a US-Japan-ROK Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue, there shall be established a United States Group, which shall represent the United States at the US-Japan-ROK Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The United States Group shall be comprised of not more than 8 Members of Congress.

(B) APPOINTMENT.—Of the Members of Congress appointed to the United States Group under subparagraph (A)—

(i) two shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, from among Members of the House, not fewer than one of whom shall be a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs;

(ii) two shall be appointed by the House Minority Leader, from among Members of the House, not fewer than one of whom shall be a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs;

(iii) two shall be appointed by the Senate Majority Leader, from among Members of the Senate, not fewer than one of whom shall be a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations; and

(iv) two shall be appointed by the Senate Minority Leader, from among Members of the Senate, not fewer than one of whom shall be a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(C) TERM.—Appointments to the United States Group shall be for the duration of two years.

(3) MEETINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The United States Group shall seek to meet not less frequently than annually with representatives and appropriate staff of the legislatures of Japan and the ROK, and representatives and appro-

priate staff of any other country invited by mutual agreement of the three countries.

(B) LIMITATION.—A meeting described in subparagraph (A) may be held—

(i) in the United States;

(ii) in another country during periods when Congress is not in session; or

(iii) virtually.

(4) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

(A) ROTATION.—The positions of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the United States Group shall alternate between the House and Senate delegations every two years, coinciding with each new Congress.

(B) HOUSE DELEGATION.—

(i) In Congresses with an odd number, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate the Chairperson of the United States Group from among members of the House delegation who are also members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

(ii) In Congresses with an even number, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate the Vice Chairperson of the United States Group from among members of the House delegation who are also members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

(C) SENATE DELEGATION.—

(i) In Congresses with an even number, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate the Chairperson of the United States Group from among members of the Senate delegation who are also members of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(ii) In Congresses with an odd number, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate the Vice Chairperson of the United States Group from among members of the Senate delegation who are also members of the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(D) TERM.—The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall serve for the duration one each Congress.

(5) PRIVATE SOURCES.—The United States Group may accept gifts or donations of services or property, subject to the review and approval, as appropriate, of the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Ethics of the Senate.

(6) CERTIFICATION OF EXPENDITURES.—The certificate of the chairperson of the delegation from the House of Representatives or the delegation of the Senate of the United States Group shall be final and conclusive upon the accounting officers in the auditing of the accounts of the United States Group.

(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—The United States Group shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report for each fiscal year for which an appropriation is made for the United States Group, which shall include its expenditures under such appropriation and a description thereof.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. 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 H.R. 3429.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3429, the U.S.-Japan-ROK Tri-

lateral Cooperation Act, introduced by House Foreign Affairs Committee's East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee Ranking Member AMI BERA to my left.

I have learned during my time as chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee that trust is the ultimate currency in foreign relations. Allies come to the United States with many asks: for arms, for trade, for diplomatic support, and everything in between. Sometimes the United States can only judge these requests based on the trust that they have or have not built with the United States of America.

This legislation is about building that trust with Japan and South Korea, and doing so with these two partners could not be more important. Japan and South Korea are key allies that are working together to resist aggression from the Chinese Communist Party and from North Korea to prevent a Chinese attack on Taiwan, to re-industrialize, and to decouple our economies from China in strategic sectors.

This is not about building lopsided alliances. This is about strengthening relationships that are good for America.

This bill would cultivate these alliances by establishing a parliamentary dialogue program between four Members from the House and four Members from the Senate and selected counterparts from the Parliaments of Japan and South Korea. This is about ensuring that our alliance system in the Indo-Pacific can resist Beijing's aggression.

With this important legislation, we will be one step closer to ensuring that American allies and partners win this century.

Mr. Speaker, Japan and South Korea are two of America's most important treaty allies in the Indo-Pacific. This legislation builds upon our long-standing alliance with these two countries so we can ensure these relationships can survive the struggles to come and to deter aggression from the Chinese Communist Party and North Korea.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3429, the U.S.-Japan-ROK Trilateral Cooperation Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues Representatives WILSON, KELLY, CASTRO, SMITH, and the late Honorable Gerry Connolly, co-chairs of the Korea and Japan caucuses, for introducing this bill with me.

Congressman Connolly was a tireless advocate for America's alliances and a strong believer in the power of trilateral cooperation between the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. I am proud to see the House continuing his important work today.

The Indo-Pacific is at the center of America's economic and strategic future. In the region, the United States

faces a complex array of challenges, including authoritarian aggression, economic coercion, and emerging security threats.

Our ability to address these challenges requires strong alliances and close coordination with our partners.

□ 1600

The trilateral relationship between the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea is one of the most strategically significant partnerships that we have.

These are two of our closest allies, democracies that share our values, interests, and commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The 2023 Camp David Leaders' Summit marked a historic step forward in trilateral cooperation, leading to expanded collaboration on military exercises, ballistic missile defense, cybersecurity development, finance, maritime security, and science and technology.

Strong partnerships need strong institutions. Since the Camp David summit, all three countries have experienced changes in executive leadership. That reality underscores why we must create mechanisms that ensure trilateral cooperation endures beyond any single administration.

This is exactly what H.R. 3429 seeks to accomplish. The bill codifies an annual inter-parliamentarian dialogue among the United States Congress, Japan's National Diet, and South Korea's National Assembly. It creates a formal mechanism for lawmakers from all three countries to meet regularly and coordinate on issues including defense, economic security, public health, and emerging technologies.

The legislation establishes a bipartisan and bicameral congressional delegation to participate in these discussions, ensuring that congressional engagement remains consistent and sustained over time.

Most importantly, this bill helps institutionalize trilateral cooperation so that our partnership continues to grow, regardless of political transitions in any of the three countries.

The bill sends a clear message: The United States is committed to long-term cooperation with our allies in Japan and South Korea. It recognizes that our trilateral partnership is not simply a response to the current challenges but a strategic investment in a more secure, prosperous, and stable Indo-Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, diplomacy is key to peace because we are stronger together with our allies. Whether it is the challenges posed by North Korea or the People's Republic of China, trilateral cooperation is one of the critical ways to ensure that America and our two closest allies in Asia are working hand in hand toward our common interests and advancement of peace and prosperity in the region. Congressional engagement with Japan and Korea will sustain long-term support and resources for trilateral cooperation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, Japan and South Korea are two of America's most important treaty allies in the Indo-Pacific. This legislation builds upon our long-standing alliance with these two countries, so that we can ensure that these relationships can survive the struggles to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 3429, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3429.

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.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2026

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1744) to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2028, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1744

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 "United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 207(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435(a)) is amended by striking "2025 and 2026" and inserting "2027 and 2028, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2028, and ending on December 31, 2028".

(b) EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION.—Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) is amended by striking "September 30, 2026" and inserting "December 31, 2028".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. 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 H.R. 1744.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MAST. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1744, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2026.

Congress created this commission, otherwise known as USCIRF, in 1998 with a clear statutory mandate to monitor conditions of religious freedom around the world and make recommendations to Congress and to the President to protect this right.

Since then, Congress has reauthorized the commission's operations, appropriations, and mandate numerous times. Under current law, USCIRF terminates on September 30th of this year. This bill reauthorizes the Commission through December of 2028.

America was founded on the principle that all human beings are endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights. One of these, the very first laid out in the Bill of Rights to the Constitution, is the right to freely exercise one's religion according to one's conscience. Yet, throughout the world, believers suffer extreme persecution. Throughout history, tyrants and radical regimes always target religion first.

In Nigeria, seemingly every week, Christians are massacred by radical Fulani Muslims wielding machetes and crying: "Allahu akbar." Christians in China are forced to worship underground. In Nicaragua, the dictatorship has just forbidden Bibles from being brought into the country. Christians across much of the Middle East and South Asia are relegated to second-class citizens, harassed and discriminated against simply for professing their beliefs.

Even in Europe, nations with freedom of religion enshrined in their constitutions, Christians, who hold traditional biblical views on marriage, gender, and sexuality, have been convicted under so-called hate speech laws.

It is not only Christians who are persecuted globally. The Chinese Communist Party right now is committing a horrific genocide against Uyghurs. Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan, Rohingya Muslims in Burma, Buddhists in Vietnam, and many more face severe restrictions on their religious freedom.

USCIRF gives Congress tools to confront persecution and protect religious freedom.

As Vice President VANCE said last year: Part of this country's moral leadership "means recognizing in our foreign policy the difference between regimes that respect religious freedom and those that do not."

USCIRF is a critical tool to that end.

I thank my colleague, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, as well as Mr. SHERMAN of California, for leading this bipartisan effort. Mr. SMITH has been leading on this for many years.

Mr. Speaker, the bill advanced out of Committee unanimously, and I urge

my colleagues to join in advancing it on the floor today.

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, or USCIRF, through fiscal year 2028.

Since its establishment 28 years ago, USCIRF has served as an independent, bipartisan watchdog monitoring conditions on the ground and providing policy recommendations to Congress and the administration.

Its work reinforces the principles reflected in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and helps ensure that our advocacy for religious freedom is consistent, credible, and universal.

True religious liberty cannot mean protection for only a favored few. It extends to all people.

A consistent defense of freedom of thought, consciousness, religion, and belief, or nonbelief, strengthens our voice globally and advances global stability, security, and prosperity.

When governments suppress religious belief, broader repression often follows. In many parts of the world, severe restrictions on religion are an early warning sign of authoritarian consolidation and instability.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, we need to reauthorize this commission so they can continue to do their good work.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank our very distinguished chairman for his strong leadership on religious freedom generally but for this legislation as well. I do appreciate that so much. I want to thank BRAD SHERMAN, who is the Democratic cosponsor, for his leadership in backing this important reauthorization of the United States International Religious Freedom Commission.

As I think Members know, USCIRF was created—the acronym we all use for the commission—by Congress to protect religious freedom through the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, a historic landmark law authored by Frank Wolf in 1998.

USCIRF's high-quality reporting and high-profile commissioners influence the State Department's work on religious freedom, and also provide Congress with insights with its incisive commentary, making all of the work that all of us do, especially State, more transparent, honest, and effective.

The Commission defends the universal right to freedom of religion abroad. It sponsors hearings, fact-finding trips, reviews reports from all comers, especially NGOs and others, religious communities who are, unfortu-

nately, being repressed in many countries of the world. They make very, very good recommendations that often are followed.

□ 1610

I also point out that I have probably chaired more than 700 hearings on human rights over the years. I have been here since the year 1980. I always want to have somebody from the commission there, always. They come. They give whatever—the name of the country. They give their insights after a great deal of due diligence. And what a difference that makes in terms of our understanding what is actually going on.

USCIRF commissioners are appointed by the President and the congressional leadership. There are nine of them of both parties, so it is totally bipartisan.

Last month, our former colleague, Vicky Hartzler, completed a distinguished term on the commission. None of you would be surprised to know that she was very active as the chair of the commission and did a magnificent job. She was appointed by Speaker JOHN-SON, as was Maureen Ferguson, who also just completed her term and did so with great distinction.

Again, I remind my colleagues, it was our very good friend, Frank Wolf, who, in 1998, with great legislative skill, commitment, and driving passion, drove the adoption of a singularly important human rights law, the International Religious Freedom Act, or IRFA. This law created a system for naming and taking action of what was now called Countries of Particular Concern, or CPCs.

History has shown that when the United States elevates religious freedom and that priority is conveyed to Countries of Particular Concern, conditions often change for the positive. Prisoners of conscience gain their freedom, and progress is made toward the free exercise of religious liberty.

As the author of the Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2016, which updated Frank's legislation, I do follow the CPC recommendations very closely. In that law, we created entities of particular concern, like Boko Haram and some of these horrible organizations that kill people simply because of their faith.

The USCIRF acts as a true watchdog, recommending with incisive commentary that the State Department designated countries not leave somebody off because of political considerations. If they are committing human rights abuses against people of faith, they need to be held to account.

CPC is followed by a two-step process: first a designation, followed thereafter by sanctions, more than 18 of them prescribed into law. We are hoping that they won't be used. We want to see real reform and people protected like in China and elsewhere from people who wish them ill.

I again thank our Members, BRAD SHERMAN, GUS BILIRAKIS, HENRY

CUELLAR, and all the others who have supported this bill and ask my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, reauthorizing USCIRF would ensure continuity in its important work. Protecting religious freedoms abroad advances both our values and interests, and it promotes stability and respect for fundamental rights. Join me in supporting this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the right to freely exercise your religion without fear of persecution is an unalienable right that belongs to all people.

By passing this bill, the U.S. Congress is recommitting itself to that fundamental truth, that fundamental freedom.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, and I call upon the Senate to take up and pass H.R. 1744 as soon as possible.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1744, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through December 31, 2028."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING EUROPE FROM ANTISEMITIC CRIME AND EXTREMISM ACT

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6297) to require the Department of State to provide briefings on anti-semitism in Europe, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6297

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 "Protecting Europe from Antisemitic Crime and Extremism Act" or the "PEACE Act".

SEC. 2. CONSULTATIONS ON ANTISEMITISM IN EUROPE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, in consultation with other relevant officials of the Department of State, should assess the persistent and growing threat of antisemitism and acts of international terrorism in Europe as a matter of importance to the foreign policy of the United States; and

(2) the Under Secretary for Political Affairs, acting through the Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, should diplomatically engage governments of countries of apparent concern on efforts for transatlantic cooperation to counter and address antisemitism and acts of international terrorism that may threaten transatlantic stability, the safety and security of United States citizens, and institutions abroad.

(b) CONSULTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for two years, the Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs shall consult with the appropriate congressional committees on the matters described in subsection (a).

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

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

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 6297.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, anti-Semitism and international terrorism in Europe are real threats that undermine regional stability, transatlantic security, and the safety of American citizens living abroad. This threat skyrocketed after Hamas' October 7 terrorist attack. France recorded over 1,000 anti-Semitic incidents in just 1 month alone. Germany experienced a 240 percent increase. More recent incidents further underscore that threat.

On October 2, 2025, a deadly anti-Semitic attack at a Manchester synagogue during Yom Kippur killed two and injured others. In March 2025, a 22-year-old was arrested in Madrid for attempting to set fire to Rimmon Kosher, a busy kosher restaurant. Authorities charged him with anti-Semitic hate crime, attempted murder, and arson.

In March of 2026, two suspects on a motor scooter detonated an explosive device against the outer wall of an Orthodox Jewish school in Amsterdam. Also, in March of 2026, an explosive device detonated in front of a historic synagogue in Belgium during the early morning hours.

Beyond anti-Semitic attacks, Europe continues to face threats from the Islamic extremism. In February of 2025, French authorities classified a deadly knife attack in Mulhouse as an Islamic terrorist act, while German authorities

disrupted and investigated multiple suspected Islamist-inspired plots during 2025.

This legislation builds on the Trump administration's effort to combat anti-Semitism and strengthen international counterterrorism cooperation. It ensures continued U.S. diplomatic engagement with European allies, and it requires regular consultations with Congress.

I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FINE), my colleague and the sponsor of this bill, for his leadership on the issue. The bill passed the Committee on Foreign Affairs with broad bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to join me in advancing it on the floor today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the PEACE Act.

Acts of anti-Semitism are on the rise globally. This is also true in Europe, where increasingly vocal fringe political movements, particularly far-right movements, are emboldened by increased political discourse on both sides of the Atlantic that harkens back to the unacceptable political rhetoric of old.

Combating anti-Semitism has long been a priority for both Democratic and Republican administrations and has been a central element of U.S. foreign policy for years.

This bill expresses the sense of Congress that the State Department should assess and address the threat of anti-Semitism in Europe and requires consultation with Congress on addressing these threats.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FINE).

Mr. FINE. Mr. Speaker, one would have thought after October 7, 2023, the world's worst attack against Jews since the Holocaust, which obviously took place in Europe, there would have been an outpouring of sympathy and less anti-Semitism in the world. In Europe, in particular, that is not what happened.

A study conducted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights recorded an increase of up to 400 percent in anti-Semitic activity since October 7. That same study also found that 96 percent of European Jews that were surveyed, almost every single one said that they encounter anti-Semitism in their daily lives—not once a month, not once a year, but every day in their actual existence.

Crimes linked to anti-Semitism are on the rise all throughout Europe. Even our major allies in the region have seen a dramatic increase.

France saw 1,600 anti-Semitic acts in 2024, a 300 percent increase since before October 7. The United Kingdom had

over 3,500 anti-Semitic incidents in 2024, up dramatically from the 1,600, which is still too many, that they had before October 7, 2023.

Statistics only show part of the picture. My friend and colleague, the chairman, gave some stories. What is remarkable is we didn't coordinate, and every story that he told is different than one that I am about to tell you.

On February 11 in Paris, a 13-year-old Jewish boy was attacked by five men on his way to synagogue—13 years old, five adult men. During the attack, he was called Jewish slurs by the perpetrators.

On March 23, in London, four ambulances operated by a Jewish charity were destroyed in an arson attack by three men.

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Mr. Speaker, these are stories that affect Europeans, but the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe affects Americans, as well, particularly when we visit Europe. This isn't just about protecting European Jews. It is about protecting Americans when we go there.

On April 29 of this year, two Jewish men were stabbed by someone who said that he went out with the intention of stabbing people who looked visibly Jewish. One of the two was an American.

On November 10, 2025, in Milan, a Jewish American was attacked after he was identified based on his “Orthodox Jewish attire.” These are Americans being attacked in Europe.

My bill would direct the State Department to assess the growing threat of anti-Semitism in Europe and provide diplomatic channels to make clear to our European allies that this conduct is simply unacceptable. After this assessment, the Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs will engage with European countries that are identified as countries of concern to say that they have to cooperate with us to deal with this rising anti-Semitism problem.

This commonsense, bipartisan legislation passed through committee unanimously, 49–0, and I thank the cosponsors of the bill, Republicans MAX MILLER, MIKE LAWLER, and Representative CLAUDIA TENNEY, but also Democrats EUGENE VINDMAN and LAURA GILLEN.

I also thank the chairman and the ranking member, both of whom have supported the bill, and I thank the majority leader for putting it on the floor today.

Finally, I would just say this. We said, after the Holocaust, never again, but the facts are that there is a real risk of it happening.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote today to take this one small step to make sure that it doesn't happen ever again.

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I support this measure. I encourage all of my colleagues to do so, as well, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the rise of anti-Semitic violence and terrorist attacks across Europe is a stark reminder that radical extremism is not a relic of the past. It is a clear and present danger to freedom, to democracy, and to Western civilization.

The United States has to stand firmly with our allies, with the Jewish people, and with all those who reject terror and defend liberty.

Peace through strength is not just a slogan. It is a necessity. Weakness invites aggression. Strength deters aggression. H.R. 6297 sends a clear message that America will continue to lead in confronting anti-Semitism and strengthening international efforts to combat terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I urge 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 Florida (Mr. MAST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6297, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill To require the Department of State to consult with Congress on antisemitism in Europe."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRODUCING RETURNS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR INVESTMENT AND TRADE ACT OF 2026

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5248) to ensure the alignment of economic and foreign policies, to position the Department of State to reflect that economic security is national security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5248

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

TITLE V—ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

SEC. 501. UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be in the Department an Under Secretary for Economic Affairs who shall be responsible to the Secretary for matters pertaining to economic growth, commercial expansion, energy, technology policy and innovation, scientific research, commercial outer space affairs, critical minerals, water and the environment, protection of natural resources, sanctions policies, and such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the responsibilities described under subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Economic Af-

fairs shall maintain continuous observation and coordination of all matters pertaining to economic and business affairs in the conduct of foreign policy, including, as appropriate, the following:

(1) Preparing an annual strategic plan for expanding opportunities for United States private sector companies in international markets, coordinating the use of sanctions to achieve national security objectives, promoting international trade and investment, developing international policies around new and emerging technologies, ensuring United States leadership in science and technology, protecting natural resources, and promoting United States energy interests.

(2) Developing policies for consideration by the Secretary to promote economic growth, facilitate market access, create business enabling environments abroad, expand trade and investment opportunities for United States companies, promote United States energy exports and energy security, conserve and manage economically important ecosystems and resources, expand access to critical minerals abroad, support United States civil and commercial space governance, promote international standards, policies, and best practices for emerging technology that facilitate United States economic growth, and safeguard the preeminence of the United States dollar in international markets.

(3) Promoting United States international economic interests to be addressed in the Bi-annual National Economic Security Strategy Report, coordinated by the Office of the Chief Economist.

(4) Attending and participating in meetings of the National Security Council, and National Space Council, when applicable, at the direction of the Secretary, for matters related to economic growth, energy, and commercial expansion, commercial outer space affairs, oceans, science and technology developments, natural resource protection, and fulfill the role of Foreign Affairs Sous Sherpa relating to the activities of the Group of Seven Industrial Nations (G-7).

(5) Providing guidance to Department personnel in the United States and overseas who conduct or implement policies, programs, and activities related to economic growth, energy, and commercial expansion, science and technology affairs, natural resource conservation, and civil and commercial activities in outer space.

(6) Coordinating activities related to promoting economic growth, facilitating market access, creating business enabling environments abroad, expanding trade and investment opportunities, promoting of energy exports, conserving and managing economically important ecosystems and resources, expanding access to critical minerals, maintaining United States leadership in science, technology, and outer space, and safeguarding the preeminence of the United States dollar in international markets.

(7) As directed by the Secretary, representing the Department at interdepartmental meetings including the National Economic Council, Homeland Security Council, Council on Environmental Quality, and in providing policy advice to the Secretary on matters under consideration by these groups.

(c) FIRST APPOINTMENT.—On the date of the enactment of this Act, the individual serving before such date of enactment as the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment shall be the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs. Any subsequent appointment of an individual to the position of Under Secretary for Economic Affairs shall be subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

SEC. 502. ADMINISTRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECURITY AND INNOVATION FUND.

Section 102(c) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167; 136 Stat. 1375) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “, acting through the Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs” after “Secretary of State”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: “Within the Department of State, the Fund shall be overseen and administered by the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs.”

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting “, acting through the Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs” after “Secretary of State”.

SEC. 503. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

(a) ADMINISTRATION OF ACCOUNTS.—The Under Secretary for Economic Affairs shall direct, oversee, and otherwise exercise responsibility of funds made available for the International Technology Security and Innovation Fund.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State under section 141, the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs shall receive the funds necessary to fulfill the Under Secretary's responsibilities for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

SEC. 504. CHIEF ECONOMIST.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be in the Department a Chief Economist who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs for matters pertaining to analyzing and forecasting the impact of economic trends on diplomatic functions and national security priorities, and such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the responsibilities described under subsection (a), the Chief Economist shall provide research and analysis to inform the Department's strategy for deploying international economic policy to strengthen alliances, deter malign foreign actors, and reduce dependencies on strategic rivals in the conduct of foreign policy, including, as appropriate, the following:

(1) Providing research and analysis to inform the development of the Department's strategy for deploying foreign policy to ensure supply chain resilience, secure access to raw materials and critical minerals, and maximize international market access.

(2) Providing analysis of complex, emerging geoeconomic issues and offer advice to Department leadership on economic diplomacy challenges.

(3) Conducting research and rigorous, data-driven analysis of high priority issues at the intersection of economics and foreign policy to inform decision-making and diplomatic engagements by senior Department officials.

(4) Maintaining analytical products for the Department on international economic issues, including on sanctions evasion and the vulnerabilities of the United States and its partners to economic coercion, as well as the economic opportunities for United States businesses.

(5) Contributing to the expansion of the economic expertise of the Department through collaboration with the Foreign Service Institute, the academic community, international organizations, and other Federal departments and agencies the Chief Economist determines necessary.

(6) Serving as a liaison to technical experts in economics and related fields in partner governments, international institutions, and elsewhere in the United States government and academic community.

(7) Performing such other duties as the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs may from time to time designate.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and every two years for the subsequent four years, the Chief Economist shall transmit to Congress a report on the international economic strategy of the United States and its analytical basis. In preparing the report, the Chief Economist shall coordinate input and analysis from other bureaus within the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs.

SEC. 505. OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish an Office of the Chief Economist, which shall perform such functions related to the provision of expert economic advice and analysis, as the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs may prescribe.

(b) **CHIEF ECONOMIST.**—The Chief Economist shall be the head of the Office of the Chief Economist.

SEC. 506. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CHIEF ECONOMIST.

Of the funds authorized to be appropriated to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs under section 503, the Chief Economist shall receive the funds necessary to fulfill Office functions and the Chief Economist's responsibilities for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

SEC. 507. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is authorized to be in the Department an Assistant Secretary for Commercial Diplomacy who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs for matters pertaining to the trade and investment promotion and policy, international finance and development, transportation affairs, and such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—In addition to the responsibilities described under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary for Commercial Diplomacy shall be responsible for leading Department policies and programs, and coordinating with other United States agencies as appropriate, for all matters pertaining to the following:

(1) Trade and investment promotion, such as—

(A) assisting and advocating for United States businesses and commercial interests overseas;

(B) identifying foreign market opportunities for United States businesses and helping United States firms overcome challenges in foreign business climates;

(C) helping United States companies compete for and win contracts in foreign markets;

(D) attracting foreign investment into the United States by identifying high potential businesses in foreign countries;

(E) ensuring United States private sector concerns are integrated into United States foreign policy and economic policy; and

(F) promoting international commercial projects that advance the national security interests of the United States, regardless of domestic content thresholds.

(2) International trade policy, including negotiating and implementing trade agreements, resolving trade disputes, bolstering supply chain resilience, and protecting intellectual property rights.

(3) International investment policy, including monitoring international investment climates, negotiating and implementing investment agreements, representing the Department in the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, and assisting United States companies involved in investment disputes with foreign governments.

(4) Development finance, including the mobilization of private, bilateral, and multilat-

eral development finance for developing countries, particularly investments focused on infrastructure projects.

(5) The negotiation and extension of debt relief and sovereign loan guarantees for United States allies and partners.

(6) The promotion of sound, transparent, and stable economic policies overseas.

(7) Perform such other duties as the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs may from time to time designate.

(c) **FIRST APPOINTMENT.**—On the date of the enactment of this Act, the individual serving before such date of enactment as the Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs shall be the Assistant Secretary for Commercial Diplomacy. Any subsequent appointment of an individual to the position of Assistant Secretary for Commercial Diplomacy shall be subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

SEC. 508. BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish a Bureau of Commercial Diplomacy which shall perform such functions related to trade and investment promotion and policy, international finance and development, and transportation affairs, as the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs may prescribe.

(b) **ASSISTANT SECRETARY.**—The Assistant Secretary for Commercial Diplomacy shall be the head of the Bureau of Commercial Diplomacy.

SEC. 510. ENHANCING SUBNATIONAL DIPLOMACY.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There shall be established in the Department an Office of Subnational Diplomacy. The Office shall enable the Department's work with subnational governments (state, county, city, and municipal) within the United States to improve the ability of subnational governments to attract foreign investment, counter foreign malign influence within the United States, and contribute to the foreign policy priorities of the United States.

(b) **COORDINATOR.**—The head of the Office shall be the Coordinator for Subnational Diplomacy. The head of the office shall report through the Assistant Secretary for Commercial Diplomacy to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs.

(c) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—In addition to the responsibilities described under subsection (a), the Coordinator for Subnational Diplomacy shall maintain continuous observation and coordination of all matters pertaining to subnational diplomacy and Department engagements with subnational governments in the conduct of foreign policy, including the following:

(1) Advising the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs on subnational engagements within the United States and serve as the principal official on such matters within the Department.

(2) Coordinating the Department's support for local and municipal governments' engagements with foreign governments.

(3) Advising subnational government officials on the potential risks of engagements with countries of concern and share best practices to build resilience against foreign political interference and malign influence.

(4) Assisting subnational governments in the following areas:

(A) Attracting or bidding to host major international events.

(B) Tracking foreign direct investment at the county and municipal levels to highlight trends and opportunities.

(C) Attracting foreign direct investment and other forms of economic cooperation.

(D) Building the capacity and knowledge of subnational government staff who have responsibility for engaging with foreign countries.

(E) Advancing sports diplomacy with foreign countries and entities.

(F) Implementing programs to cooperate with foreign governments and entities on policy priorities or managing shared resources.

(G) Understanding the local implications of foreign policy developments or policy changes.

(5) Supporting the economic interests of the United States through subnational engagements, in consultation and coordination with other relevant agencies.

(6) Advising and informing local officials as they negotiate agreements and memoranda of understanding with foreign governments related to subnational engagements and priorities.

(7) Coordinating subnational engagements with associations of subnational elected leaders, including the United States Conference of Mayors, National Governors Association, National League of Cities and similar associations.

(8) Performing other such duties as the Assistant Secretary for Commercial Diplomacy and the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs may from time to time designate.

SEC. 511. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY.

Of the funds authorized to be appropriated to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs under section 503, the Assistant Secretary for Commercial Diplomacy shall receive the funds necessary to fulfill Bureau functions and the Assistant Secretary's responsibilities for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

SEC. 512. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR WATER, ENVIRONMENT, AND SPACE AFFAIRS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is authorized to be in the Department an Assistant Secretary for Water, Environment, and Space Affairs who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs for matters pertaining to space, oceans, polar affairs, environmental quality, freshwater, fisheries, wildlife and wildlife trafficking, conservation, and such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—In addition to the responsibilities described under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary for Water, Environment, and Space Affairs shall maintain continuous observation and coordination of all matters pertaining to oceans, fisheries, natural resource conservation, and outer space in the conduct of foreign policy, including, as appropriate, the following:

(1) Developing United States policy on global environmental security issues with respect to oceans, fisheries, Antarctic region, waste and global pollution, and natural resource management and conservation, including water.

(2) Representing the Department in bilateral and multilateral negotiations involving the law of the sea, including freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the ocean; maritime security; United States maritime zones, including the United States extended continental shelf; marine science; sustainable management and protection of marine habitats and resources; marine pollution; and maritime claims and boundaries.

(3) Leading United States engagement on Antarctica and in international oceans agreements and conventions with foreign governments and international organizations to promote solutions that advance United States national security, economic, and environmental interests.

(4) Coordinating the development of policies and programs to conserve and manage economically important ecosystems, including, forests, wetlands, drylands, and coral reefs.

(5) Developing policies and programs to address international threats to natural resources including but not limited to illicit trade; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; wildlife trafficking; and illegal logging and associated trade.

(6) Developing and implementing United States foreign policy related to air, water and soil pollution and risks to human health and the environment caused by the transboundary movement of hazardous chemicals and waste and other forms of pollution to promote environmental security with trade partners and in multilateral institutions.

(7) Representing the Department in bilateral and multilateral engagements including organizations, institutions, and negotiation of international agreements on related issues.

(8) Developing policies and programs, in coordination with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Commerce, and other relevant Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, to support partnerships between the United States and international and private industry partners in the development of infrastructure and policies that expand economic growth in outer space, including—

(A) countering malign efforts by foreign adversaries and other actors that threaten United States interests in civil and commercial space;

(B) expanding access to foreign markets for United States commercial industry, including by encouraging reforms that reduce barriers to trade and cooperation with United States civil and commercial space actors; and

(C) providing assistance to foreign governments and organizations, including national, regional, and international institutions, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may determine.

(9) Leading bilateral and multilateral engagements related to civil and commercial space activities, resilient space services, burden sharing, and other matters related to international space law and diplomacy and other United States international obligations and commitments.

(10) In accordance with the National Space Policy, leading United States Government engagement with international Global Navigation Satellite Systems providers to ensure compatibility and encourage interoperability of civil global navigation satellite services based on United States-based global positioning systems, including through the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems.

(11) Leading Department efforts to implement international arrangements and promote cooperation on Earth observation satellite systems.

(12) Leading Department engagement in multilateral and bilateral forums on international space policy, space law, and commercial and civil treaties or agreements.

(13) Leading Department efforts on transparency in space by maintaining the official United States space object registry and promoting best practices for safe operations in space, preservation of the space environment, space traffic coordination, and space situational awareness.

(14) Leading Department efforts to align foreign space law, regulatory, and policy frameworks with United States-endorsed models, approaches, and best practices.

(15) Performing such other duties as the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs may from time to time designate.

(c) **FIRST APPOINTMENT.**—On the date of the enactment of this Act, the individual serving as the Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs on the day before such date of enact-

ment shall be the Assistant Secretary for Water, Environment, and Space Affairs. Any subsequent appointment of an individual to the position of Assistant Secretary for Water, Environment, and Space Affairs shall be subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

SEC. 513. BUREAU OF WATER, ENVIRONMENT, AND SPACE AFFAIRS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish a Bureau of Water, Environment, and Space Affairs, which shall perform such functions related to space, oceans, environmental quality, fisheries, wildlife, and wildlife trafficking, and conservation affairs, as the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs may prescribe.

(b) **ASSISTANT SECRETARY.**—The Assistant Secretary for Water, Environment, and Space Affairs shall be the head of the Bureau of Water, Environment, and Space Affairs.

SEC. 514. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR WATER, ENVIRONMENT, AND SPACE AFFAIRS.

Of the funds authorized to be appropriated to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs under section 503, the Assistant Secretary for Water, Environment, and Space Affairs shall receive the funds necessary to fulfill Bureau functions and the Assistant Secretary's responsibilities for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

SEC. 515. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND DIPLOMACY.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is authorized to be in the Department an Assistant Secretary for Energy Security and Diplomacy who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs for all matters pertaining to the formulation and implementation of international energy, energy technology, critical minerals, and relevant supply chain policies in the conduct of foreign policy by the Department, including, as appropriate, to protect United States energy security interests, lead the coordination of energy programs carried out by United States Government agencies abroad, and such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—In addition to the responsibilities described under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary for Energy Security and Diplomacy shall maintain continuous observation and coordination of all matters pertaining to the development of policies to secure access to international energy markets and diversify critical mineral supply chains in the conduct of foreign policy, including, as appropriate, the following:

(1) Representing the Secretary in interagency efforts to develop the international energy policy of the United States.

(2) Leading the analysis, formulation, and implementation of international policies aimed at protecting and advancing United States energy interests.

(3) Effectively managing United States bilateral and multilateral relations and, as directed by the Secretary, representing the Secretary in relevant international fora and organizations, including the International Energy Agency, to bolster global energy security and advance the interests of the United States.

(4) Ensuring that analyses of the national security and economic security implications of global energy developments are reflected in the decision-making processes within the Department.

(5) Incorporating energy and critical mineral security priorities into the activities of the Department.

(6) Coordinating energy activities of the Department with relevant Federal departments and agencies, including the Departments of Energy, Commerce, Defense, and

Interior, and the Development Finance Corporation to promote United States energy security and energy development to support United States national security readiness.

(7) Coordinating with the Bureau of Sanctions Policy on economic sanctions pertaining to the international energy sector.

(8) Coordinating energy security and other relevant functions within the Department currently undertaken by—

(A) the Bureau of Commercial Diplomacy;

(B) the Bureau of Water, Environment, and Space Affairs;

(C) the Bureau of Arms Control and Non-proliferation; and

(D) other bureaus and offices within the Department.

(9) Working internationally to—

(A) support the development of energy technologies, natural resources, critical minerals, and supply chains for the benefit of the United States and United States allies and trading partners for their energy security and economic development needs;

(B) promote secure and diversified energy and critical minerals supply chains, and a well-functioning global market for energy resources, energy technologies, critical minerals;

(C) resolve international disputes regarding the exploration, development, production, or distribution of energy and critical minerals resources where the United States strategic interests are present;

(D) support the economic and commercial interests of United States persons operating in the energy markets of foreign countries; and

(E) support and coordinate international efforts to alleviate energy poverty, enhance energy access and energy efficiency to promote United States strategic interests and offer alternatives to adversary initiatives for United States allies and partners.

(10) Conducting public diplomacy with regard to United States international energy policy to strengthen transparency and governance.

(11) Performing such other duties as the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs may from time to time designate.

(c) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter for three years, the Assistant Secretary for Energy Security and Diplomacy shall submit to Congress a report on the United States international energy strategy.

SEC. 516. BUREAU OF ENERGY SECURITY AND DIPLOMACY.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish a Bureau of Energy Security and Diplomacy, which shall perform such functions related to the formulation and implementation of international energy, energy technology, critical minerals, and relevant supply chain policies, as the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs may prescribe.

(b) **ASSISTANT SECRETARY.**—The Assistant Secretary for Energy Security and Diplomacy shall be the head of the Bureau of Energy Security and Diplomacy.

SEC. 517. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND DIPLOMACY.

Of the funds authorized to be appropriated to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs under section 503, the Assistant Secretary for Energy Security and Diplomacy shall receive the funds necessary to fulfill Bureau functions and the Assistant Secretary's responsibilities for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

SEC. 518. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SANCTIONS POLICY.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is authorized to be in the Department an Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy, who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs for matters pertaining to the

development of policies governing the imposition of sanctions, in consultation with the Under Secretary for International Security Affairs and the Assistant Secretary for Arms Control and Nonproliferation as appropriate, and such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—In addition to the responsibilities described under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy shall maintain continuous observation and coordination of all matters pertaining to the development and implementation of sanctions policies as part of United States diplomatic strategies in the conduct of foreign policy, including, as appropriate, the following:

(1) Developing the foreign policy strategy of United States sanctions programs, including consideration of the use of sanctions in combination with other United States foreign policy tools and the political and economic implications of sanction policies.

(2) Coordinating the effective implementation and enforcement of sanctions, including all activities, policies, and programs pertaining to sanctions within the Department.

(3) Coordinating sanctions policy with foreign partners and allies to ensure the maximum effectiveness of sanctions imposed by the United States and such allies and partners.

(4) Consulting regularly with a broad range of stakeholders on the implications of United States sanctions policy for United States economic interests.

(5) Contributing to the reports to Congress produced by the Chief Economist.

(6) Leading the Department's efforts to identify and designate individuals for visa sanctions related to human rights violations.

(7) Developing policies and programs, in coordination with the Department of the Treasury and other Federal departments and agencies as necessary and with foreign partners, to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, cybercrimes, and other illicit financial activities.

(8) Representing the Department in all interagency groups or organizations within the executive branch that plan, assess, analyze, or review United States sanctions policies, such as interagency groups organized under the auspices of the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Homeland Security.

(9) Performing such other duties as the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs may from time to time designate.

(c) **REDELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may delegate, or authorize successive re delegation of, authority to the Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy to act and to render decisions, with respect to all sanctions policies administered by the Department. Within the limitations of such delegations, redelegations, or assignments, all official acts and decisions by the Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy shall have the same force and effect as though performed or rendered by the Secretary.

(d) **FIRST APPOINTMENT.**—On the date of the enactment of this Act, the individual serving before such date of enactment as the Coordinator for Sanctions shall be the Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy. Any subsequent appointment of an individual to the position of Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy shall be subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

SEC. 519. BUREAU OF SANCTIONS POLICY.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish a Bureau of Sanctions Policy, which shall perform such functions related to the development of policies governing the imposition of sanctions and sanctions strategies, as the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs may prescribe.

(b) **ASSISTANT SECRETARY.**—The Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy shall be the head of the Bureau of Sanctions Policy.

SEC. 520. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR SANCTIONS POLICY.

Of the funds authorized to be appropriated to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs under section 503, the Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy shall receive the funds necessary to fulfill Bureau functions and the Assistant Secretary's responsibilities for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

SEC. 521. REFERENCES.

Any reference in any statute, reorganization plan, Executive order, regulation, agreement, determination, or other official document or proceeding to—

(1) the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment shall be deemed to refer to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs;

(2) the Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs shall be deemed to refer to the Assistant Secretary for Commercial Diplomacy;

(3) the Bureau for Economic and Business Affairs shall be deemed to refer to the Bureau for Commercial Diplomacy;

(4) the Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs shall be deemed to refer to the Assistant Secretary for Water, Environment, and Space Affairs;

(5) the Bureau for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs shall be deemed to refer to the Bureau for Water, Environment, and Space Affairs;

(6) the Sanctions Coordinator shall be deemed to refer to the Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy; and

(7) the Office of the Sanctions Coordinator shall be deemed to refer to the Bureau of Sanctions Policy.

SEC. 522. CLASSIFICATION IN UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) The Office of Law Revision Counsel is directed to—

(1) utilize sections 129–159 of title 22, United States Code, to classify the sections of this title; and

(2) maintain the legislative history, under editorial notes, of repealed law which previously occupied the corresponding sections of United States Code.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. 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 H.R. 5248.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5248, the **PROFIT** Act, a bill that I am proud to have worked on with my colleague Representative **YOUNG KIM**, who is to my right.

When I became chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, more than 80 percent of the State Department was unauthorized, meaning that Congress really hadn't examined it in a long

time. It has been decades since the Department was forced to articulate its priorities and identify how it would align its resources.

Programs that had long outlived their purpose had been allowed to continue, wasting taxpayer dollars. Entire offices and bureaus had become redundant.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that today, because of the bills we passed into law last year, in addition to H.R. 5248, we have now authorized more than 55 percent of the State Department. Clearly, there is still more work to be done.

Within the Department, the bureaus and offices that support the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment are at the tip of the spear for implementing the America First foreign policy. These are the offices charged with leveling the playing field so that American companies can compete and win overseas.

This bill codifies the administration's America First foreign policy agenda by ensuring those offices and bureaus are aligned to advance our economic interests. As the President has repeatedly said, economic security is national security, and economic policy is foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, I will pause on that and reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5248, and I thank Representative **YOUNG KIM** and Chairman **MAST** for working to move this package of economic diplomacy measures in a bipartisan manner.

This bill highlights the critical importance of the State Department's E family of bureaus, which engage in critical diplomacy related to energy and supply chains around the world. They help enhance America's economic security by engaging in bilateral and multilateral cooperation on issues ranging from critical minerals to space to our oceans and the environment.

The bill codifies economic diplomacy elements and functions at the State Department. The bill establishes a Bureau for Energy Security and Diplomacy and a new Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy to coordinate and strengthen sanctions policies at the State Department.

It codifies existing bureaus, such as the Water, Environment, and Space Affairs Bureau, the Economic and Business Affairs Bureau, as well as the Office of the Chief Economist and the Office of Subnational Diplomacy.

Taken together, this bill will make economic statecraft a more central part of the State Department and elevate the importance of economic security and commercial diplomacy as critical elements of U.S. foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, I support this measure, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), chairwoman of the East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee.

(Pursuant to a unanimous-consent request, the remarks of Mrs. KIM were moved to debate on H.R. 5248, as amended, in the RECORD.)

□ 1630

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I was just alerted that there is a technical error with the version of the bill that was submitted. We are going to enjoy the debate that we just had, but we are going to withdraw the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion is withdrawn.

TEHRAN INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE ACT

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6230) to designate certain individuals as specially designated global terrorists, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6230

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 “Tehran Incitement to Violence Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Abdolmajid Kharghani, a hardline cleric and Quranic studies expert, reportedly revealed an online fundraising campaign to the assassination of U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Kharghani claimed in a state-television appearance that this could be achieved in Europe with \$10-\$20 million.

(2) Following Abdolmajid Kharghani's remarks, the website THAAR.IR was launched to crowdsource funding to execute the aforementioned assassination attempts, which has since claimed to have raised more than \$20 million. This figure and fund have not been independently verified.

(3) During and following the 12-Day War against the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear, missile, and military facilities, Iranian clerics and various other political and religious figures have variously described U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as being a “Mohareb” (one who wares against God), a “Mahdur al-Dam” (one whose blood must be spilled), a “Mufsid fil-Arz” (a spreader of corruption on earth), and a “Kafir Harbi” (a warring infidel) all of which under Islamic Law (Sharia) invite violence against the offender.

(4) Ayatollah Hossein Mazaheri has reportedly issued a fatwa against President Trump, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and others charging them with the crime of Moharebeh which under the Islamic penal system has had various punishments throughout which include the death penalty, crucifixion, cross amputation, and exile. Under the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this charge carries the death penalty.

(5) Ayatollah Jafar Sobhani, a senior member of the Assembly of Experts, reportedly issued a fatwa charging President Trump, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and others, with the crime of Moharebeh.

(6) Alireza Panahian, a senior member of the Office of Supreme Leader, is an extremist cleric affiliated with—

(A) the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps;

(B) the IRGC's intelligence-security apparatus, which is involved in gross human rights violations in Iran and proliferating terrorism abroad;

(C) the inner ring of Mojtaba Khamenei's personal network; and

(D) the so-called “Habib Circle”, one of the regime's highest informal security-intelligence networks, which has committed human rights violations and is involved in terrorist activities.

(7) Alireza Panahian has publicly endorsed and propagated the fatwas of Ayatollah Naser Makarem-Shirazi, a member of Iran's Assembly of Experts and an illicit profiteer in Iran's sugar market, and Ayatollah Hossein Nouri Hamedani, disciple and former representative in Europe of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, including their characterization of President Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a “Moharebeh”—an offense that, under Iranian law, can carry the death penalty.

(8) Alireza Panahian serves as a leading figure in the IRGC's indoctrination system and is described by analysts as one of the main ideological architects of its militarized, apocalyptic Mahdism doctrine.

(9) Within hardline currents of Iran's post-1979 political-religious establishment—especially IRGC-linked Mahdist ideology—Mahdism is interpreted as requiring the destruction of Israel as a prelude to the return of the Hidden 12th Imam.

(10) Ayatollah Abbas Kaabi, a member of the leadership committee of the Assembly of Experts, an affiliate with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, and is described as a key figure in the establishment of Hezbollah in Lebanon, and who possesses extensive ties to Iran-backed Shia militias in Iraq, has publicly endorsed the charge of Moharebeh against President Donald Trump, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and others.

(11) Ahmad Khatami, a member of the Guardian Council and Assembly of Experts and Interim Friday Prayer Leader of Tehran, has been sanctioned by the European Union for human rights abuses due to his egregious conduct and is reported to have called for the executions of President Donald J. Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

(12) Mohsen Araki, a member of the Assembly of Experts and Expediency Council and the Supreme Leader's former representative to the United Kingdom and head of the Islamic Center of England, has threatened President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by saying “their lives and property are no longer protected”.

(13) Mohsen Araki declared the United States Government, including President Donald J. Trump, as a “hostile infidel government by all Muslims”.

(14) The Qom Seminary, and including the organization's head Ayatollah Alireza Araf, has endorsed Moharebeh Fatwas against President Donald J. Trump, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and others. Statements released through Qom's Seminary's press office and signed by hundreds to thousands of clerics, professors, and students describe President Donald J. Trump's “blood wealth” as religiously permissible, effectively signaling their willingness to see the fatwa carried out.

(15) These Fatwas and charges of Moharebeh by senior clerical leaders from Iran's state-linked clerical institutions and religious leaders are a clear incitement of violence and consequently endanger the lives of President Donald J. Trump and Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, thus imperiling the national security of the United States and Israel.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION ON CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS FOR IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, not later than 2 years thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a determination as to whether the foreign persons described in subsection (b) meet the criteria for sanctions described in subsection (c) based on their role in issuing and amplifying fatwas advocating for violence, including as the fatwas relate to the deaths of President Donald J. Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and other political leaders.

(b) FOREIGN PERSONS DESCRIBED.—The foreign persons described in this subsection include the following:

- (1) Ayatollah Naser Makarem-Shirazi.
- (2) Ayatollah Hossein Nouri Hamedani.
- (3) Ayatollah Hossein Mazaheri.
- (4) Ayatollah Ja'far Sobhani.
- (5) Alireza Panahian.
- (6) Ayatollah Abbas Kaabi.
- (7) Abdolmajid Kharghani.
- (8) Ahmad Khatami.
- (9) Mohsen Araki.
- (10) Ayatollah Alireza Araf.
- (11) Qom Seminary (Howzeh Elmieh Qom).
- (12) Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).
- (13) Assembly of Experts.
- (14) Expediency and Discernment Council.
- (15) Guardian Council.
- (16) Ayatollah Ahmad Alamolhoda.
- (17) Society of Seminary Teachers of Qom (Jaameh Modaresin Howzeh Elmieh Qom).
- (18) Hojjat al-Eslam Amin Assadpour.

(c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President shall exercise all authorities granted under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of foreign persons described in subsection (b) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien described in subsection (b) shall be—

- (i) inadmissible to the United States;
- (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and
- (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of any alien described in subsection (b) shall be revoked regardless of the issue date of the visa or other entry documentation.

(ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under clause (i) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i))—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of the alien.

(d) PENALTIES.—Any person that violates, or attempts to violate, subsection (c) or any regulation, license, or order issued pursuant to that subsection, shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the

same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(e) **WAIVER.**—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign person if, not later than 15 days after the date on which the waiver is to take effect, the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a written determination and justification that the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

(f) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out any amendments made by this section.

(g) **REGULATIONS.**—The President shall, not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, promulgate regulations as necessary for the implementation of this Act.

(h) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

(1) **EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.**—Sanctions under this section shall not apply to any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) **EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.**—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary—

(A) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations; or

(B) to carry out or assist authorized law enforcement activity in the United States.

(3) **EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions authorized under this section shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) **GOOD DEFINED.**—In this paragraph, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(i) **TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.**—This section shall cease to be effective beginning on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the Government of Iran no longer repeatedly provides support for international terrorism as determined by the Secretary of State pursuant to—

(1) section 1754(c)(1)(A) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A));

(2) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

(3) section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

(4) any other provision of law.

(j) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(2) the term “foreign person”—

(A) means an individual or entity that is not a United States person; and

(B) includes a foreign state (as such term is defined in section 1603 of title 28, United States Code);

(3) the term “Government of Iran” has the meaning given such term in section 560.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on January 1, 2021; and

(4) the term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen;

(B) a permanent resident alien of the United States;

(C) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(D) a person in the United States.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. 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 H.R. 6230.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this legislation addresses a simple but important question: When senior officials of the Iranian regime call for violence, incite terrorism, or encourage attacks against Americans and our allies, are we using every tool available to hold them accountable?

Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. It has armed, funded, and directed terrorist proxies across the Middle East. It has targeted American servicemembers, threatened U.S. officials, and plotted attacks abroad.

In the 30 months prior to Operation Epic Fury, there were over 350 attacks by Iran against the United States of America. Yet many of the individuals and institutions responsible for this conduct continue to operate because of weak sanctions.

H.R. 6230 addresses that problem. This bill requires the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to regularly assess whether key Iranian leaders, clerics, and Iran-backed proxies meet the criteria for designation under existing U.S. terrorism, human rights, and sanctions authorities.

This legislation does not create new sanctions programs. It does not mandate designations. Instead, it ensures that the administration conducts regular, transparent reviews and reports its findings to Congress so that we can determine whether the existing authorities are being fully utilized.

I thank the sponsors of this legislation for their leadership in advancing this important measure. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6230, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, May 28, 2026.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MAST: The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform agrees to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6230, the Tehran Incitement to Violence Act, so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor.

By foregoing consideration of H.R. 6230 at this time, I do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and I ask to be appropriately consulted and involved on this or similar legislation as it moves forward. I also would seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from my committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I ask that you place a copy of our exchange of letters on this bill in the bill report filed by the Committee on Foreign Affairs and in the Congressional Record during House floor consideration thereof. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this bill and look forward to future opportunities to work together on matters of shared jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

JAMES COMER,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, June 8, 2026.

Hon. JAMES COMER,
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and
Government, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMER: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6230, the Tehran Incitement to Violence Act, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BRIAN MAST,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, May 29, 2026

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MAST: I write regarding H.R. 6230, the Tehran Incitement to Violence Act. Provisions of this bill fall within the Judiciary Committee's Rule X jurisdiction, and I appreciate that you consulted with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee agrees that it shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that forgoing further consideration of this measure does not in any way alter the Committee's jurisdiction or waive

any future jurisdictional claim over these provisions or their subject matter. We also reserve the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees in the event of a conference with the Senate involving this measure or similar legislation.

I ask that you please insert this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor. I appreciate the cooperative manner in which our committees have worked on this matter, and I look forward to working collaboratively in the future on matters of shared jurisdiction. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JIM JORDAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, June 8, 2026.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,
Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6230, the Tehran Incitement to Violence Act, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BRIAN MAST,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, June 8, 2026.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MAST: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 6230, the Tehran Incitement to Violence Act. There are certain provisions in the legislation that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive the Financial Services Committee's consideration of the bill. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Financial Services Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill that fall within its jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this committee to any conference committee that is named to consider such provisions.

Please include this letter in the committee report on H.R. 6230 or in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

FRENCH HILL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, June 8, 2026.

Hon. FRENCH HILL,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6230, the Tehran Incitement to Violence Act, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BRIAN MAST,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, June 8, 2026.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MAST, I am writing with respect to H.R. 6230, the "Tehran Incitement to Violence Act." As you are aware, the Committee on Ways and Means was granted an additional referral on this bill. I agree to forego action on this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 6230.

Sincerely,

JASON SMITH,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, June 8, 2026.

Hon. JASON SMITH
Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6230, the Tehran Incitement to Violence Act, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

atives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BRIAN MAST,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of passage of H.R. 6230, a bill that seeks to apply standard International Emergency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA, property-blocking sanctions against a set of Iranian religious and government figures, as well as the institutions they represent, who have publicly threatened the life of the President of the United States and allied leaders.

No matter my disagreement with the President and his policies, these threats are unacceptable.

The bill also includes reasonable waiver authorities that allow the executive branch to scale these sanctions up or down, preserving diplomatic leverage.

To be clear, many of the sanctions' targets, and in some cases their entire networks, are already subject to U.S. sanctions under current authorities. Additional listings may feel satisfying, but they will not on their own cause a meaningful change in Iran's calculus or behavior.

Sanctions by themselves are not a strategy, and they are not a substitute for one.

What we need from the Trump administration is an end to this costly war, followed by a clear articulation on an Iran strategy that protects the American people, supports our partners, and restores credible diplomacy.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 6230, the Tehran Incitement to Violence Act.

This bill would require a sanctions determination for Iranian clerics, organizations, and regime-linked entities for issuing and amplifying fatwas that explicitly call for the deaths of political leaders.

These sanctions would include property-blocking sanctions and total immigration bans to deter such deadly incitement.

By passing this bill, Congress sends an unmistakable message: The United States will never accept death threats.

I thank Chairman MAST and Ranking Member MEEKS for supporting this commonsense, bipartisan bill in markup.

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill because threats made against the United States President and others by those this legislation targets are completely unacceptable.

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

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

The Iranian regime and its affiliates have spent decades spreading terror, exporting instability, and threatening the United States of America and our allies.

H.R. 6230 ensures that those responsible are not overlooked in any way and that the administration continually evaluates whether they should be held accountable under existing U.S. law.

This is a commonsense measure, strengthens oversight, reinforces deterrence, and supports our broader effort to counter Iran's malign activities.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 6230, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6230, 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.

□ 1640

DEVELOPING OVERSEAS MINERAL INVESTMENTS AND NEW ALLIED NETWORKS FOR CRITICAL ENERGIES ACT

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7037) to promote United States and allied energy and mineral security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7037

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the "Developing Overseas Mineral Investments and New Allied Networks for Critical Energies Act" or the "DOMINANCE Act".

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purpose.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—MINERALS SECURITY PARTNERSHIP AUTHORIZATION

- Sec. 101. International cooperation to secure critical minerals supply chains.
- Sec. 102. Minerals Security Partnership authorization.

Sec. 103. United States membership in the International Nickel Study Group.

Sec. 104. Diplomatic strategy for securing critical minerals.

Sec. 105. Mechanism to support critical mineral projects in foreign countries.

TITLE II—ENERGY SECURITY COMPACTS

Sec. 201. Energy Security Compacts.

Sec. 202. Office of Energy Security Compacts.

Sec. 203. Energy security compact structure.

Sec. 204. Energy Security Compacts Council.

Sec. 205. Congressional notification.

Sec. 206. Government Accountability Office.

TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATIONS

Sec. 301. Assistant Secretary for Energy Security and Diplomacy.

Sec. 302. Bureau of Energy Security and Diplomacy.

Sec. 303. Critical Mineral Mining Fellowship Program.

Sec. 304. Visiting Mining Scholars Program.

Sec. 305. Amendment to the Mutual and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961.

Sec. 306. Definitions.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States is heavily dependent on the People's Republic of China for the production, processing, and refinement of many key critical minerals and materials;

(2) the Government of the People's Republic of China has weaponized its dominance of critical mineral production and has intentionally created overcapacity and sold products at below-market rates in order to gain market share and move up the value chain;

(3) it is in the economic and national security interests of the United States to prevent further inroads by strategic competitors into key sectors such as energy infrastructure, critical and rare earth minerals, and other supply chains essential to United States industrial capacity and strategic security;

(4) a reliable, resilient, and diversified supply chain for energy and critical minerals is essential to meet the defense, manufacturing, technological, and energy needs of the United States;

(5) energy security is a fundamental component of United States national security, economic stability, and foreign policy strategy;

(6) the United States must utilize available trade enforcement mechanisms, as well as other appropriate policy tools, to counter coercive economic practices by strategic competitors and complement the growth of a robust domestic critical minerals industry;

(7) United States strategic interests are best served by reducing reliance on adversarial nations for energy and critical minerals, ensuring reliable and affordable electricity for industrial and strategic supply chains, expanding commercial opportunities for United States energy technologies, and securing diversified and reliable access to critical minerals for the United States and allied economies; and

(8) Government financing, development, and diplomatic tools should all be deployed in a manner that maximizes the mobilization of private capital, strengthens cooperation with allies and partners, and advances the statutory objectives of United States foreign policy, economic development, and national security—thereby making the United States safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to—

(1) reduce the dependence of the United States and partner countries on strategic

competitors for energy, critical minerals, and related technologies;

(2) support economic growth and energy-sector modernization in partner countries through responsible and transparent development of domestic energy and mineral resources;

(3) advance United States national security and foreign policy objectives through strategic investments, policy coordination, and expanded cooperation with allies and partners;

(4) establish a coordinated interagency mechanism to align United States diplomatic, development, trade, and financing tools;

(5) strengthen the commercial competitiveness of United States energy and critical mineral companies in global markets; and

(6) secure a diversified and resilient supply and processing capacity for critical minerals necessary for United States industry, energy systems, and defense requirements, as well as those of allied and partner countries.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ALLY; ALLIED COUNTRY.**—The term "ally" or "allied country" means—

(A) any country described in section 2350a(a)(2) of title 10, United States Code; and

(B) any member country of an organization listed in such section.

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

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(3) **ASSISTANT SECRETARY.**—The term "Assistant Secretary" means the Assistant Secretary for Energy Security and Diplomacy, as established in section 301.

(4) **COUNTRY COMPACT TEAM.**—The term "Country Compact Team" means a dedicated team formed by the Director for Energy Security Compacts to manage the day-to-day activities related to the development, negotiation, implementation, and monitoring of the Energy Security Compacts.

(5) **CRITICAL MINERAL.**—The term "critical mineral" means any mineral on the list of critical minerals required by section 7002(c)(3) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(c)(3)) on or after January 1, 2026.

(6) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term "Department" means the Department of State.

(7) **PARTNER COUNTRY.**—The term "partner country" means any country eligible for an Energy Security Compact under title II.

(8) **PROCESSED.**—The term "processed", with respect to a critical mineral, means the mineral has undergone the activities that occur after critical mineral ore is extracted from a mine up through its conversion into a metal, metal powder, or a master alloy.

(9) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of State.

(10) **UNDER SECRETARY.**—The term "Under Secretary" means the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs.

TITLE I—MINERALS SECURITY PARTNERSHIP AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO SECURE CRITICAL MINERALS SUPPLY CHAINS.

(a) **STATEMENT OF POLICY ON CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS.**—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to collaborate with allies and partners of the United States to build secure and resilient critical mineral supply chains, including in the mining, processing, reclamation and recycling, and valuation of critical

minerals, as well as with respect to advanced manufacturing that includes critical minerals;

(2) to prioritize the development and production of critical minerals domestically, including both to supply domestic needs and for export to allies and partners that participate in secure and resilient supply chains for critical minerals;

(3) to reduce or eliminate reliance on critical mineral supply chains controlled by the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, Iran, or any other strategic competitor to the United States;

(4) to work with allies and partners on enhancing evaluation capability, tracing, and technology in trusted countries that produce critical minerals to avoid the export of mined and processed critical minerals to adversaries of the United States;

(5) to identify and implement market-based incentives for the purposes of facilitating the creation and maintenance of secure and resilient critical mineral supply chains, including for reclamation and recycling of critical mineral resources from waste streams, in collaboration with allies and partners;

(6) to prioritize securing critical mineral supply chains in the United States foreign policy, including through the use of economic tools to invest responsibility in beneficiation and value-adding projects in partner countries in a manner that both benefits local populations and bolsters the supply of critical minerals to the United States;

(7) to work with allies and partners to address the distortive effects of predatory economic, pricing, and market manipulation practices used by the People's Republic of China the Russian Federation, Iran, or any other strategic competitor of the United States;

(8) to coordinate policy tools and investments with allies and partners to accelerate the development of transparent, traceable, diversified, and fair markets for critical minerals and rare earths; and

(9) that collaboration with allies and partners to build secure and resilient critical mineral supply chains shall not replace United States efforts to increase domestic development and production or recycling of critical minerals.

(b) INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS RELATING TO PROTECTING CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may negotiate an agreement with the governments of foreign countries for the purposes of establishing a coalition to—

(A) facilitate the transparent mining, processing, supply, and procurement of critical minerals;

(B) facilitate advanced manufacturing that includes critical minerals; and

(C) secure an adequate supply of critical minerals and relevant products, manufacturing inputs, and components that are heavily dependent on critical mineral resources for the United States and other members of the coalition (in this title referred to as “member countries”).

(2) NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES.—The overall objectives for negotiating an agreement described in paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) to establish mechanisms for member countries to build secure, resilient, and transparent supply chains for critical minerals, including in—

(i) the mining, refinement, processing, and valuation of critical minerals; and

(ii) advanced manufacturing of products, components, and materials that are dependent on critical minerals;

(B) to improve economies of scale and joint cooperation with international partners in securing access to and means of production

throughout the supply chains of critical minerals and manufacturing processes dependent on critical minerals;

(C) to establish mechanisms, with appropriate market-based disciplines, that provide and maintain opportunities among member countries for creating industry economies of scale to attract joint investment among member countries, including—

(i) cooperation on joint projects, including cost-sharing on building appropriate infrastructure to access deposits of critical minerals; and

(ii) creation or enhancement of national and international programs to support the development of robust industries by providing appropriate sector-specific incentives, such as political risk and other insurance opportunities, financing, and other support, for—

(I) transparent mining and processing of critical minerals;

(II) manufacturing of products, components, and materials that are dependent on critical minerals and are essential to consumer technology products or have important national security implications; and

(III) associated transportation needs that are tailored to the handling, movement, and logistics management of critical minerals and products, components, and materials that are dependent on critical minerals;

(D) to establish market-based rules for member countries regarding adoption of qualifying tax and other incentives to stimulate investment to ensure a fair playing field among member countries;

(E) to establish recommended best practices to protect—

(i) labor rights;

(ii) the natural environment and ecosystems near critical mineral industrial sites;

(iii) the safety of communities near critical mineral industrial activities through consultation; and

(iv) supply chain diversity;

(F) to advance economic growth in developing countries with critical mineral reserves, including for the benefit of the citizens of such countries;

(G) to establish rules allowing for the establishment of a consortium that is resourced and empowered to bid and compete in acquiring and securing potential deposits of critical minerals in countries that are not member countries;

(H) to establish a mechanism for joint resource mapping with procedures for equitable sharing of information on potential deposits of critical minerals not less frequently than annually;

(I) to establish appropriate mechanisms for the recognition and enforcement by a member country of judgements relating to environmental and related harms caused by mining operations within such member country in contravention of the laws of such country; and

(J) to improve supply chain security among member countries by providing for national treatment investment protections among member countries that are equal to, or better than, the standards set forth in the United States model bilateral investment treaty.

(3) CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In the course of negotiations described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, not less frequently than annually, consult with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and shall keep such committees fully apprised of such negotiations.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter any other provision of United States domestic

law or regulation applicable to critical minerals.

SEC. 102. MINERALS SECURITY PARTNERSHIP AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, may lead United States participation in a “Minerals Security Partnership”, for the following purposes:

(1) To identify and support investment and advocate for commercial and military use critical mineral mining, processing, and refining projects that enable robust, secure, and transparent critical mineral supply chains, in consultation with the other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(2) To coordinate with relevant regional bureaus to develop regional diplomatic engagement strategies related to critical minerals projects and to identify projects that are priorities.

(3) To coordinate with United States missions abroad on projects, programs, and investments that enable robust and secure critical mineral supply chains.

(4) To coordinate with current and prospective members of the Minerals Security Partnership.

(5) To establish a mechanism for information-sharing with members of the Minerals Security Partnership.

(6) To establish policies and procedures, and if necessary, to provide funding to facilitate cooperation on joint projects with members of the Minerals Security Partnership and any related organizations established by the Minerals Security Partnership (including the Mineral Security Partnership Forum), including those related to cost-sharing agreements, political risk insurance, financing, equity investments, pricing mechanisms, procurement, and other support, in coordination with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(7) To coordinate with Development Finance Institutions, Export Credit Agencies, multilateral banks, and private banks headquartered in Minerals Security Partnership member countries to promote information exchange and co-financing through the Minerals Security Partnership Finance Network.

(8) To identify individuals within the Bureau of Energy Security and Diplomacy to monitor and coordinate responses to trade measures or policies that may adversely affect United States and allied country supplies of critical minerals or investments in third-country critical mineral markets, especially investments supported by the Minerals Security Partnership.

(9) To establish procedures to prevent, review, and deter critical mineral asset sales to prohibited foreign entities (as such term is defined in section 7701 of the Internal Revenue Code) by companies within the jurisdiction of Minerals Security Partnership and Minerals Security Partnership Forum member countries.

(10) To establish a framework for the transparent evaluation of member countries' compliance and effectiveness in fulfilling the purposes listed in paragraphs (1) through (9) of this section.

(11) To identify and recommend priority countries for future engagement, including through an Energy Security Compact described in section 201 or any other relevant alliance between the United States and a foreign country related to securing and diversifying critical mineral supply chains.

(b) DATABASE.—As part of the Minerals Security Partnership, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary, may establish and maintain a database of critical mineral projects for the purpose of providing high quality and up-to-date information to the

private sector in order to spur greater investment, increase the resilience of global critical minerals supply chains, and boost United States supply of critical minerals.

(c) **EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WITH THE MINERALS SECURITY PARTNERSHIP.**—

(1) **PROCEDURE.**—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary, shall develop a procedure for the collection, handling, and transmission of commercial information or data that is provided by other Federal departments and agencies and transmitted to members of the Minerals Security Partnership.

(2) **LIMITATIONS.**—The procedure required in paragraph (1) shall include the following limitations:

(A) Any information or data which is geological or geophysical information or a trade secret or commercial or financial information shall, prior to transmittal, be aggregated, accumulated, or otherwise reported in such a manner as to avoid, to the fullest extent feasible, identification of any person from whom the United States obtained such information.

(B) The limitations on disclosure described in the following:

(i) section 11(d) of the Energy Supply and Environmental Coordination Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 796(d));

(ii) section 14(b) of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 773(b));

(iii) section 9 of title 13, United States Code;

(iv) the first section of the Act of January 27, 1938, entitled “An Act to make confidential certain information furnished to the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and for other purposes” (15 U.S.C. 176a);

(v) section 1905 of title 18, United States Code; and

(vi) section 252 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6274).

(3) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

(A) **INTERNATIONAL ENERGY EMERGENCY.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Secretary may make any information or data available to members of the Minerals Security Partnership during an international energy supply emergency.

(B) **PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Secretary may make any information or data available to members of the Minerals Security Partnership if the President certifies, after opportunity for presentation of views by interested persons, that the Minerals Security Partnership has adopted and is implementing security measures such that such information or data will not be disclosed by member countries of the Minerals Security Partnership or the agencies or employees of such countries to any person or foreign country without having been aggregated, accumulated, or otherwise reported in such manner as to avoid identification of any person from whom the United States obtained such information or data.

(d) **MINERAL SECURITY PARTNERSHIP STAFF.**—The Secretary shall prioritize staffing the Mineral Security Partnership with individuals who have the following qualifications:

(1) Substantive knowledge and experience in issues related to critical minerals supply chains and the application of such supply chains to strategic industries, including in the defense, energy, and technology sectors.

(2) Substantive knowledge and experience in large-scale multi-donor project financing and related technical and diplomatic arrangements, international coalition-building, development finance, and project management.

(3) Substantive knowledge and experience in trade and foreign policy, defense-indus-

trial base policy, or national security-sensitive supply chain issues.

(e) **PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY COORDINATION.**—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, shall ensure close coordination between the Department, the private sector, and relevant civil society groups regarding the implementation of this section.

(f) **PROJECT SELECTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The United States, through participation in the Minerals Security Partnership, shall prioritize projects that advance the national and economic security interests of the United States and allies and partners of the United States.

(2) **CRITERIA REQUIREMENTS.**—The United States shall advocate for the Minerals Security Partnership to use environmental, societal, and governance standards, including as criteria for project selection, that are consistent with United States law or international agreements approved by Congress.

(3) **PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION.**—The Department shall coordinate with the private sector to leverage expertise and ensure projects supported by the Minerals Security Partnership are catalyzed by private sector investments and commercial offtake, with priority to the United States, through the Minerals Investment Network for Vital Energy Security and Transformation (commonly known as “MINVEST”).

SEC. 103. UNITED STATES MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL NICKEL STUDY GROUP.

(a) **UNITED STATES MEMBERSHIP.**—The President may accept the Terms of Reference of and maintain membership of the United States in the International Nickel Study Group.

(b) **PAYMENTS OF ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS.**—For fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter, the United States assessed contributions to the International Nickel Study Group may be paid from amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 8 of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 (22 U.S.C. 287e).

SEC. 104. DIPLOMATIC STRATEGY FOR SECURING CRITICAL MINERALS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall develop a strategy for securing the supply chains of a diverse set of critical minerals.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategy required by subsection (a)—

(1) include—

(A) a review of the roles and responsibilities of offices and positions within the Department engaged, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, in efforts to secure critical mineral supply chains; and

(B) processes to ensure that such offices coordinate and deconflict such efforts;

(2) leverage use of United States financial, commercial, and development assistance tools and resources to advance the critical mineral policies of the United States;

(3) include targeted engagement plans for both countries that are allies or partners of the United States and countries with significant proven or estimated deposits of critical minerals or processing capacity for minerals critical to national security interests;

(4) provide for coordination with relevant Federal agencies to align trade policies to address both price volatility and incentivize the sourcing of critical minerals from trusted suppliers;

(5) strengthen collaboration with countries that are allies and partners of the United States, and leverage the leadership role of the United States in multilateral institu-

tions engaged on critical mineral issues to shape international standards;

(6) extend the diplomatic and commercial advocacy support of the United States to private sector entities throughout critical mineral supply chains; and

(7) facilitate coordination with countries that are allies and partners of the United States to—

(A) identify best practices and develop coordinated standards for critical mineral projects;

(B) protect against inhumane labor practices; and

(C) minimize adverse environmental and social impacts from the critical minerals supply chain.

(c) **BRIEFING REQUIRED.**—Not later than 210 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide a briefing on the strategy developed under subsection (a) to—

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

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

SEC. 105. MECHANISM TO SUPPORT CRITICAL MINERAL PROJECTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that United States private sector entities competing for critical mineral projects abroad need support from the United States Government.

(b) **SUPPORT FOR CRITICAL MINERAL PROJECTS.**—The Secretary shall direct an appropriate official or office of the Department to establish a mechanism and process for the United States to provide support for critical mineral projects in foreign countries, which may include—

(1) a mechanism for certifying that critical mineral projects uphold labor rights and minimize environmental impacts; and

(2) a process for United States private sector entities to engage with United States embassies in foreign countries for support when pursuing critical mineral projects in such countries.

TITLE II—ENERGY SECURITY COMPACTS

SEC. 201. ENERGY SECURITY COMPACTS.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF TRANSFERS.**—The Secretary is authorized to transfer funds authorized to be appropriated for the operation of National Security Investment Programs for the purpose of establishing multiyear agreements (to be known as “Energy Security Pacts”) with partner countries to enhance the energy and economic security and stability of the United States and such partner countries, including through efforts to counter economic coercion through the diversification of critical mineral and energy supply chains.

(b) **TRANSFERS.**—Amounts made available pursuant to subsection (a) may be transferred to and merged with amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2027 or any fiscal year thereafter for the United States Trade and Development Agency, Millennium Challenge Corporation, United States International Development Finance Corporation, or the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

(c) **CONSULTATION AND NOTIFICATION.**—The transfer authority provided by this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law, and is subject to—

(1) prior consultation with—

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

(B) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the regular notification procedures of such committees.

(d) ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPACTS.—The Director for Energy Security Compacts may—

(1) enter into contracts for required technical support related to Energy Security Compacts;

(2) make grants to any partner country for the purpose of building the administrative or technical capacity necessary to facilitate the development and implementation of an Energy Security Compact between the United States and such country; and

(3) form Country Compact Teams with a designated lead, who will regularly engage with the Council, to carry out the implementation of the Compact.

(e) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) PROHIBITION ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—Assistance under this section may not include military assistance or military training for a country.

(2) PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE RELATING TO UNITED STATES JOB LOSS OR PRODUCTION DISPLACEMENT.—Assistance under this section may not be provided for any project that is likely to cause a substantial loss of United States jobs or a substantial displacement of United States production.

(3) PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, OR SAFETY HAZARDS.—Assistance under this section may not be provided for any project that is likely to cause a significant, unmitigable environmental, health, or safety hazard.

(4) FOREIGN AID TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT COMPLIANCE.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated or expended for an Energy Security Compact unless the compact and all associated activities comply with the monitoring, evaluation, performance measurement, and public reporting requirements of section 4 of the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 2394c).

(5) LIMITATION RELATING TO THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to provide any grant, contract, loan, or other financial assistance to an entity in which the President, the Vice President, or an immediate family member (as such term is defined in section 1128(j) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a-7(j))) of the President or Vice President holds, directly or indirectly, any ownership interest or serves in any managerial, officer, director, or board capacity.

(f) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not less frequently than annually until the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director for Energy Security Compacts shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, the Executive Office of the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary a report describing—

(1) the current status of activities authorized under this title;

(2) any obstacles to the implementation of such activities; and

(3) any updates to the multiyear financial plan developed pursuant to section 203(c)(6).

SEC. 202. OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY COMPACTS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an Office of Energy Security Compacts, which shall perform such functions related to the administration and implementation of the Energy Security Compacts described in section 201 as the Assistant Secretary may prescribe.

(b) DIRECTOR FOR ENERGY SECURITY COMPACT.—The Office of Energy Security shall be led by a Director for Energy Security Compacts who shall be responsible to the Assistant Secretary for all matters pertaining

to the administration and implementation of the Energy Security Compacts described under section 201 and such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the responsibilities described under subsection (a), the Director for Energy Security Compacts shall be responsible for supporting the Department's participation in and leadership of the Economic Resilience Initiative and the Energy Security Compacts Council, including for all matters pertaining to the following:

(1) Drafting the contribution of the Secretary to the strategy identified in section 7030(d) of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 119-37).

(2) Leading the development, negotiation, and management of all Energy Security Compacts funded through the Economic Resilience Initiative.

(3) Consulting and coordinating with agencies and departments that are members of the Energy Security Council to develop prospective Energy Security Compacts and implement ongoing Energy Security Compacts, as appropriate.

(4) Serving as the recipient for—

(A) solicited proposals under the Energy Security Compact; and

(B) unsolicited proposals for projects to be considered for inclusion in any Energy Security Compact by national, regional, and local governments and private corporations.

(5) Signing joint agency agreements, transferring or receiving appropriated funds with any department, agency, or independent establishment of the United States Government (with the consent of the head of such department, agency, or establishment) for the purpose of developing, implementing, or otherwise participating in an Energy Security Compact described under section 301, including for the use as credit subsidy.

(6) Coordinating with other donor entities, including countries that are allies and partners of the United States, the Minerals Security Partnership, and other multilateral fora, for the purposes of deconflicting, augmenting, and leveraging, where appropriate, Energy Security Compact workplans with the development and financing activities performed by others.

(d) PERSONNEL.—The Director for Energy Security Compacts may—

(1) detail staff to a collaborating agency head with relevant sectoral, financial, or regional expertise for the negotiation or implementation of an Energy Security Compact;

(2) request core agency heads and collaborating agency heads detail personnel to the Office of Energy Security Compacts with relevant sectoral, financial, or regional expertise for the negotiation or implementation of an Energy Security Compact; and

(3) appoint, without regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3318 of title 5, United States Code, candidates directly to positions in the competitive service, as defined in section 2102 of that title.

(e) TERMINATION.—The authority provided under this section shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains plans to attract and retain diplomatic, policy, legal, and technical expertise for civil service officers in the Office of Energy Security Compacts, including career promotion tracks to supervisory and non-supervisory GS-15 positions.

SEC. 203. ENERGY SECURITY COMPACT STRUCTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each Energy Security Compact should increase reliable access to energy, electricity, or critical minerals for both parties to the Energy Security Compact, for the purpose of stimulating economic growth, enabling follow-on private sector investment, supporting the commercial competitiveness of United States companies, or diversifying relevant supply chains.

(b) PRIOR ANALYSIS REQUIRED.—Before establishing an Energy Security Compact, the Office of Energy Security Compacts, in collaboration with the Energy Security Compact Council, shall conduct a constraints analysis of the energy sector and supply-chain segments needed to strengthen the partner country's energy security, consistent with United States energy security risks and commercial opportunities.

(c) ENERGY SECURITY COMPACT ELEMENTS.—Each Energy Security Compact shall contain—

(1) a constraints analysis of the energy sector which identifies insufficiencies in the energy sector and supply-chain segments needed to ensure the partner country's energy security, consistent with United States energy security risks and commercial opportunities;

(2) specific objectives that the partner country and the United States expect to achieve during the term of the Energy Security Compact, including—

(A) increased energy production, reliability, and affordability in the partner country;

(B) economic growth in the partner country that may reduce the need for foreign assistance;

(C) improved access to energy, in consultation with affected communities and civil society; and

(D) improved infrastructure that enables access to critical minerals mining and processing;

(3) the responsibilities of the partner country and the United States in the achievement of such objectives;

(4) regular quantitative benchmarks to measure, where appropriate, progress toward achieving such objectives;

(5) an identification of the intended impact of the activities carried out in accordance with the Energy Security Compact;

(6) a multiyear financial plan, updated annually until the expiration of the term of the Energy Security Compact, that—

(A) estimates the amount of contributions, commitments, and other participation to be provided by the Department, Core Agencies, Collaborating Agencies, the partner country, and other entities;

(B) ensures compacts with low-income countries incorporate and are complementary to development programs administered by other United States agencies and departments, so that United States funds are used to improve feasibility for private sector investment to further development goals;

(C) identifies proposed mechanisms to implement the plan and provide oversight of the plan; and

(D) describes how the requirements described in paragraphs (1) through (5) will be met, including the role of the private sector in the achievement of such requirements;

(7) as appropriate, a description of the current and potential participation of other donors, including countries that are allies and partners of the United States or collaborating agencies in the achievement of such objectives;

(8) a description of how oversight and transparency of the foreign assistance provided through the Economic Resilience Initiative will be maintained;

(9) as appropriate, a process or processes for considering—

(A) solicited proposals under the Energy Security Compact; and

(B) unsolicited proposals by national, regional, and local units of government and private corporations;

(10) a requirement that open, fair, competitive, and transparent procedures are used in the administration of grants or cooperative agreements or the procurement of goods and services for the accomplishment of objectives under the Energy Security Compact;

(11) the strategy of the partner country to sustain progress made toward achieving such objectives after expiration of the Energy Security Compact;

(12) a description of the role of both core and collaborating agencies in any design, implementation, and monitoring of programs and activities funded through the Energy Security Compact; and

(13) a description of any contribution, as appropriate, from the partner country relative to its national budget and taking into account the prevailing economic conditions, toward meeting the objectives of the Energy Security Compact.

(d) **ELIGIBILITY.**—A country shall be considered eligible for support under this section if—

(1) the per capita income of the country is not greater than the World Bank loan threshold or the country is eligible for support from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the International Development Association graduation process at the beginning of the year in which negotiations are initiated;

(2) the country has been identified as strategically or commercially important for the United States by the Director for Energy Security Compacts, Secretary, a member of the National Security Council, or the President;

(3) the Assistant Secretary determines that the country has the capacity and commitment to implement the Energy Security Compact; and

(4) the country is not a foreign country of concern, as such term is defined in section 10612(a) of Public Law 117-167 (42 U.S.C. 19221(a)).

(e) **PROHIBITION ON TAXATION.**—In addition to the elements described in subsection (c), each Energy Security Compact shall contain a provision stating that assistance provided by the United States under the Energy Security Compact shall be exempt from taxation by the government of the partner country.

(f) **APPROVAL.**—Each Energy Security Compact shall be recommended by the Director for Energy Security Compacts and approved by the Secretary before the United States enters into such an Energy Security Compact.

(g) **DURATION.**—The duration of each Energy Security Compact may not exceed 10 years.

(h) **SUBSEQUENT AND CONCURRENT COMPACTS.**—A partner country that has entered into, and has in effect, an Energy Security Compact under this section may enter into, and concurrently have in effect, additional Energy Security Compacts.

(i) **REPORT REGARDING INCREASE OR EXTENSION OF ASSISTANCE.**—Not later than 15 days after making a determination to increase or extend assistance under an Energy Security Compact with a partner country, the Secretary, acting through the Director for Energy Security Compacts, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a written report that contains—

(1) a justification for such a determination;

(2) a detailed summary of the proposed increase in, or extension of, assistance under the Energy Security Compact; and

(3) a copy of the full text of the amendment to the Energy Security Compact.

SEC. 204. ENERGY SECURITY COMPACTS COUNCIL.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President should establish an Energy Security Compacts Council (in this title referred to as “the Council”) to coordinate and implement the Energy Security Compacts identified in this section.

(b) **COMPOSITION.**—The Council shall be chaired by the Secretary and be composed of principal officers of executive departments from the following agencies:

(1) The United States International Development Finance Corporation.

(2) The Department of Energy.

(3) The United States Trade and Development Agency.

(4) The Export-Import Bank of the United States.

(5) The Department of Commerce.

(6) The United States Trade Representative.

(7) The Department of Defense.

(8) The Department.

(9) The Department of the Interior.

(10) Any other Federal agency or organization that the President determines to be appropriate.

(c) **VACANCIES.**—Where there is a vacancy in the office of a principal officer of an executive department, the individual acting in that capacity shall serve as a member of the Council until a new principal officer of the executive department is appointed.

(d) **DELEGATION.**—The principal officer of an executive department may delegate a senior official (as described in section 1(d) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(d))) to serve on the Council, as appropriate.

(e) **DUTIES.**—The Council shall—

(1) meet not less frequently than quarterly;

(2) coordinate Energy Security Compact-related activities of the core and collaborating agencies;

(3) make annual recommendations to the Director for Energy Security Compacts, taking into account the stated priorities of the National Security Council and the President, regarding the prioritization of eligible countries for Energy Security Compact negotiation; and

(4) make recommendations to improve interagency collaboration for the purposes of promoting energy security and United States national security interests abroad.

(f) **SUNSHINE ACT COMPLIANCE.**—Meetings of the Council are subject to section 5532b of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Government in the Sunshine Act”).

SEC. 205. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.

Not later than 30 days before entering into an Energy Security Compact, the Director for Energy Security Compacts shall—

(1) notify and consult with the appropriate congressional committees regarding such Compact;

(2) transmit to the appropriate congressional committees the text of such Compact; and

(3) provide to the appropriate congressional committees an in-person briefing regarding such Compact.

SEC. 206. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.

The Government Accountability Office shall, not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, submit to Congress an evaluation of the efficiency and development impact of projects supported by an Energy Security Compact.

TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 301. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND DIPLOMACY.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is authorized to be in the Department an Assistant Secretary for Energy Security and Diplomacy who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs for all matters pertaining to the formulation and implementation of international energy, energy technology, critical minerals, and relevant supply chain policies in the conduct of foreign policy by the Department, including, as appropriate, to protect United States energy security interests, lead the coordination of energy programs carried out by United States Government agencies abroad, and such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—In addition to the responsibilities described under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary shall maintain continuous observation and coordination of all matters pertaining to the development of policies to secure access to international energy markets and diversify critical mineral supply chains in the conduct of foreign policy, including, as appropriate, the following:

(1) Representing the Secretary in interagency efforts to develop the international energy policy of the United States.

(2) Leading the analysis, formulation, and implementation of international policies aimed at protecting and advancing United States energy interests.

(3) Effectively managing United States bilateral and multilateral relations and, as directed by the Secretary, representing the Secretary in relevant international fora and organizations, including the International Energy Agency, to bolster global energy security and advance the interests of the United States.

(4) Ensuring that analyses of the national security and economic security implications of global energy developments are reflected in the decision-making processes within the Department.

(5) Incorporating energy and critical mineral security priorities into the activities of the Department.

(6) Coordinating energy activities of the Department with relevant Federal departments and agencies, including the Departments of Energy, Commerce, Defense, and Interior, and the United States International Development Finance Corporation to promote United States energy security and energy development to support United States national security readiness.

(7) Coordinating the Department's engagement with foreign governments regarding protection of onshore and offshore critical energy infrastructure from sabotage or other deliberate interference by malign foreign actors.

(8) Analyzing and developing policies to counter the use of energy and critical minerals infrastructure and supply chain dependencies by adversaries to coerce, influence, or manipulate the United States and allied countries.

(9) Coordinating energy security and other relevant functions within the Department, as appropriate.

(10) Working internationally to—

(A) support the development of energy technologies, natural resources, critical minerals, and supply chains for the benefit of the United States and United States allies and trading partners for their energy security and economic development needs;

(B) promote secure and diversified energy and critical minerals supply chains, and a well-functioning global market for energy resources, energy technologies, critical minerals;

(C) develop new policies and regulatory frameworks, multilateral initiatives, and other tools to protect allied onshore and offshore critical energy infrastructure from sabotage or other deliberate interference by malign foreign actors;

(D) counter the weaponization of energy and critical mineral dependencies by adversaries;

(E) resolve international disputes regarding the exploration, development, production, or distribution of energy and critical minerals resources where United States strategic interests are present;

(F) support the economic and commercial interests of United States persons operating in the energy markets of foreign countries; and

(G) support and coordinate international efforts to alleviate energy poverty, enhance energy access and energy efficiency to promote United States strategic interests, and offer alternatives to adversary initiatives for United States allies and partners.

(11) Conducting public diplomacy with regard to United States international energy policy to strengthen transparency and good governance.

(12) Performing such other duties as the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs may from time to time designate.

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the status of efforts by the Department to establish the Bureau of Energy Security and Diplomacy required in section 302, including a description of current and projected staffing levels and resources deployed to execute the responsibilities described in paragraph (b).

(d) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for three years, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the United States international energy strategy and the actions taken by the Bureau to fulfill such strategy.

SEC. 302. BUREAU OF ENERGY SECURITY AND DIPLOMACY.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish a Bureau of Energy Security and Diplomacy, which shall perform such functions related to the formulation and implementation of international energy, energy technology, critical minerals, and relevant supply chain policies, as the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs may prescribe.

(b) **ASSISTANT SECRETARY.**—The Assistant Secretary shall be the head of the Bureau.

(c) **BUREAU EMPLOYMENT.**—

(1) **TEMPORARY EXPEDITED HIRING AUTHORITIES.**—For a period of one year beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary may—

(A) appoint employees to the Bureau whose expertise aligns with the responsibilities listed in section 301(b) without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, regarding appointments in the competitive service; and

(B) fix the basic compensation of such employees without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title regarding classification and General Schedule pay rates.

(2) **PRIORITY APPOINTMENTS.**—The Secretary shall prioritize the appointment of employees to the Bureau—

(A) who were separated from employment with the Bureau of Energy and Natural Resources in 2025 as a result of a reduction in force; and

(B) whose expertise aligns with the responsibilities listed in section 301(b).

(d) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Assistant Secretary

should be a standing participant in the Investment Committee or any other interagency working group established at or chaired by the White House National Security Council or National Economic Dominance Council to coordinate and implement United States policy regarding international critical mineral and energy supply chain diversification.

SEC. 303. CRITICAL MINERAL MINING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

The Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 116. CRITICAL MINERAL MINING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is authorized to be established the Critical Mineral Mining Fellowship Program (referred to in this section as the ‘Fellowship Program’) within the J. William Fulbright Educational Exchange Program.

“(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Fellowship Program are—

“(1) to advance foreign policy priorities of the United States by promoting studies, research, and international exchange in the mining industry;

“(2) to send United States citizens who are enrolled in or have received a degree from an accredited postsecondary institution in the United States to mining institutions in foreign countries, in order to build the capacity of the United States mining workforce;

“(3) to develop a robust and skilled workforce that can support and fill the gaps within the United States’ growing domestic critical mineral supply chain; and

“(4) to reduce dependency on foreign energy and critical mineral supplies and enhance competitiveness of the United States within the global critical mineral marketplace.

“(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State (referred to in this section as the ‘Bureau’) shall administer the Fellowship Program in accordance with policy guidelines established by the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (referred to in this section as the ‘Board’), in consultation with binational Fulbright Commissions, mining industry leaders, institutions of higher education, governments of foreign countries, and United States Embassies in the foreign countries described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (d)(4).

“(d) **SELECTION OF FELLOWS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Board shall select qualified individuals to participate in the Fellowship Program and ensure a broad geographic representation in order to develop region-specific specialties.

“(2) **NUMBER OF FELLOWS.**—The Bureau shall determine the number of fellows selected each year.

“(3) **CRITERIA FOR FELLOWS.**—

“(A) **PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS.**—Each fellow shall—

“(i) have a conferred bachelor’s or equivalent degree before the start of the Fellowship Program period;

“(ii) be a student currently enrolled in an institution of higher education in the United States completing an advanced degree in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or a field relating to the mining industry; or

“(iii) have had a conferred postdoctoral degree for not longer than five years before the start of the Fellowship Program period.

“(B) **POST-COMPLETION REQUIREMENT.**—Upon completion of the Fellowship Program, demonstrate intent to seek employment in a mining profession that directly benefits the growth, progress, and development of the mining industry in the United States Gov-

ernment, an academic institution, a private sector company, or any organization approved by the Bureau.

“(4) **ELIGIBLE UNIVERSITIES.**—United States fellows shall attend universities approved by the Bureau, in consultation with the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, that have a mining program and are located in a foreign country. To the extent practicable, the Bureau should prioritize fellow enrollment in higher education mining programs in—

“(A) member countries of the Minerals Security Partnership; or

“(B) any country identified by the Bureau, in consultation with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, as containing sufficiently qualified mining programs.

“(5) **OUTREACH.**—To the extent practicable, the Bureau shall conduct outreach at United States undergraduate and graduate institutions the Bureau determines are likely to produce a range of qualified applications for the Fellowship Programs.

“(e) **STRUCTURE.**—

“(1) **FELLOWSHIP REQUIREMENTS.**—To achieve the purposes described in subsection (b)—

“(A) each fellow selected pursuant to subsection (d)(1) is encouraged to arrange placement in a mining education program at an eligible university in a foreign country;

“(B) each fellow shall—

“(i) participate in advanced coursework, research projects, and practical training opportunities offered by the host institution;

“(ii) engage with faculty advisors and industry partners to gain hands-on experience through internships, laboratory work, and field studies relevant to the mining industry;

“(iii) serve as a cultural and academic ambassador of the United States, fostering mutual understanding in the academic and professional mining community of the foreign country;

“(iv) participate in professional development activities, such as conferences, workshops, and seminars, to expand knowledge of global best practices in mining engineering and related fields; and

“(v) build and strengthen networks with international peers, faculty, and industry professionals to facilitate ongoing collaboration and knowledge exchange; and

“(C) the Bureau shall, for each fellow, approve a work plan that identifies the target objectives for the fellow, including specific duties and responsibilities relating to those objectives.

“(2) **FELLOWSHIP PERIOD.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each fellowship under this section shall continue for a period determined by the Bureau, which, whenever feasible, may not be less than one year.

“(B) **RENEWAL.**—A renewal for a second year may be granted only with the approval of the Bureau in consultation with a United States embassy or the Fulbright Commission.

“(f) **FELLOWSHIP AWARD.**—The Bureau shall provide each fellow in the Fellowship Program with an allowance that is equal to the amount needed for the fellow’s reasonable costs during the fellowship period, including—

“(1) mandatory university fees, including tuition, associated with graduate study;

“(2) living expenses, including housing, basic food costs, and daily transportation;

“(3) essential textbooks and other academic materials;

“(4) mandatory visa application, immigration fees, and other essential pre-departure requirements;

“(5) relocation expenses, including airline and rail travel;

“(6) research allowance, including essential travel to field sites and laboratory work; and

“(7) other reasonable costs approved by the Bureau.

“(g) REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of completion of the Fellowship Program by the initial cohort of fellows selected under subsection (d), and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report providing information on the implementation of the Fellowship Program, including—

“(1) the demographics and geographical origins of the fellows who completed a Fellowship Program fellowship during the preceding 1-year period;

“(2) a description of the academic placements of the fellows and the relation of such placements to the development of United States region-specific specialties under the Fellowship Program, including participant feedback on program implementation and feedback on lessons learned; and

“(3) a plan for factoring lessons learned and acquired skills based knowledge into future Fellowship Program programming.”.

SEC. 304. VISITING MINING SCHOLARS PROGRAM.

The Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.), as amended by section 303, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 117. VISITING MINING SCHOLARS PROGRAM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be established the Visiting Scholars Mining Program (referred to in this section as the ‘Visiting Scholars Program’) within the J. William Fulbright Educational Exchange Program.

“(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Visiting Scholars Program is to bring mining academics and professionals to the United States to—

“(1) build and expand the United States mining education programs at institutions of higher education;

“(2) bolster workforce development programs; and

“(3) advance research and development initiatives in the mining industry and adjacent fields.

“(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (referred to in this section as the ‘Bureau’) shall administer the Visiting Scholars Program in accordance with policy guidelines established by the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (referred to in this section as the ‘Board’), in consultation with binational Fulbright Commissions, mining industry leaders, institutions of higher education, foreign governments, and United States Embassies in the foreign countries described in clause (i) or (ii) of subsection (d)(3)(B).

“(d) SELECTION OF VISITING MINING SCHOLARS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall select qualified individuals to participate in the Visiting Scholars Program, each of whom is not a citizen of the United States and—

“(A) is employed as a mining professional, practitioner, or operator in a foreign country; or

“(B) is employed as an academic working at an institution of higher education in a foreign country with a mining education program, as approved by a Fulbright Commission or United States embassy, in consultation with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

“(2) NUMBER OF FELLOWS.—The Bureau shall determine the number of fellows selected each year, which, whenever feasible, shall be not fewer than 10.

“(3) ELIGIBLE VISITING MINING SCHOLARS.—

“(A) REQUIREMENTS.—Visiting mining scholars may not be citizens of the United States, and shall be—

“(i) a citizen of a country where another Fulbright Foreign Student Program operates; and

“(ii) a citizen of a country that has expertise or specialized knowledge or engages in practices that could benefit the mining industry.

“(B) PREFERRED COUNTRIES.—To the extent practicable, the Board should prioritize selection of visiting mining scholars who live or work in—

“(i) a member country of the Minerals Security Partnership; or

“(ii) any country identified by the Bureau, in consultation with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, as containing individuals that have academic expertise or specialized knowledge or engage in practices that could benefit the mining industry.

“(4) OUTREACH.—To the extent practicable, the Bureau shall conduct outreach, in coordination with United States embassies, mining industry leaders, and mining institutions in foreign countries that are likely to produce a range of qualified applicants for the Visiting Scholars Program.

“(e) STRUCTURE.—

“(1) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—To carry out the purpose described in subsection (b)—

“(A) each individual selected pursuant to subsection (d)(1) who is coming to the United States as a visiting mining scholar shall arrange placement in a United States academic institution approved by the Bureau;

“(B) each visiting mining scholar should—

“(i) consult with faculty members to provide technical assistance on how to develop or expand a mining education program at the host institution of higher education;

“(ii) assist in the development and review of mining education curricula, including course syllabi, laboratory modules, and fieldwork components;

“(iii) participate in collaborative research projects with faculty, students, and third-party research institutions, focusing on innovative mining technologies, sustainable mining practices, and resource management;

“(iv) facilitate partnerships between the host institution and mining organizations, government agencies, and other institutions to foster academic exchange, research collaboration, and workforce development;

“(v) mentor undergraduate and graduate students interested in mining education, offering guidance on academic projects and career development; and

“(vi) contribute to the development of outreach programs aimed at increasing awareness of the mining industry as a career path and to increase awareness of the types of mining professions available; and

“(C) the bureau shall, for each visiting mining scholar, approve a work plan that identifies the target objectives for the scholar, including specific duties and responsibilities relating to those objectives.

“(2) ELIGIBLE UNITED STATES INSTITUTIONS.—Visiting mining scholars shall be placed in a United States institution of higher education approved by the Bureau that—

“(A) demonstrates a commitment to developing or expanding academic programs in the mining industry;

“(B) possesses existing faculty expertise or research activity in the mining industry or related extractive fields;

“(C) provides institutional support and resources, such as laboratory facilities, field sites, or equipment, relevant to mining education and research, including in geology;

“(D) demonstrates a commitment to integrate the visiting scholar into curriculum development, faculty training, or workforce pipeline initiatives in mining;

“(E) demonstrates a plan for sustaining mining or critical mineral resources programs beyond the duration of the visiting scholar’s placement;

“(F) can provide evidence of student interest or regional workforce demand for mining education programs or training; and

“(G) agrees to provide mentoring, administrative support, and opportunities for the visiting scholar to engage with students, faculty, and local industry.

“(3) SCHOLARSHIP PERIOD.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The duration of each scholarship period under this section shall be determined by the Bureau and shall, whenever feasible, be not less than three months and not more than one year.

“(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Any exception to the duration of the scholarship period described in subparagraph (A) shall be submitted by the visiting mining scholar to and approved by the Bureau before such exception takes effect.

“(f) SCHOLARSHIP AWARD.—The Bureau shall provide each visiting mining scholar under this section with an allowance to cover the scholar’s reasonable costs of living during the scholarship period.

“(g) REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of completion of the Visiting Mining Scholars Program by the initial cohort of scholars selected under subsection (d), and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report providing information on the implementation of the Visiting Scholars Program, including—

“(1) the demographics and geographical origins of the cohort of scholars who completed a Visiting Scholars Program during the preceding 1-year period;

“(2) the United States universities that visiting scholars were placed in;

“(3) the foreign universities or other postgraduate institutions that the cohort of scholars were chosen from;

“(4) a description of academic placements selected, under the Visiting Scholars Program, including participant feedback on program implementation and feedback on lessons learned; and

“(5) a plan for factoring lessons learned into future programming.”.

SEC. 305. AMENDMENT TO THE MUTUAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE ACT OF 1961.

Section 112(a) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2460(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in the first paragraph designated as paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(3) by redesignating the second paragraph designated as paragraph (10) as paragraph (11);

(4) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(12) the Mining Fellowship Program established under section 116, which provides funding for studies, research, and international exchange for students seeking or completing advanced degrees from United States institutions of higher education in self-arranged placements with universities

with mining education programs in foreign countries; and

“(13) the Visiting Mining Scholars Program established under section 117, which provides funding for international mining academics, practitioners, professionals and operators in self-arranged placements with universities in the United States.”.

SEC. 306. DEFINITIONS.

The Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.), as amended by section 303 and section 304, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 118. DEFINITIONS.

“In this Act:

“(1) **ADVANCED DEGREE.**—The term ‘advanced degree’ means a master’s or doctoral degree from an institution of higher education.

“(2) **CRITICAL MINERAL.**—The term ‘critical mineral’—

“(A) means any mineral on the list of critical minerals required by section 7002(c)(3) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(c)(3)) on or after January 1, 2026; and

“(B) includes gold and copper.

“(3) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term ‘institution of higher education’, unless otherwise provided in this Act, has the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

“(4) **MINING EDUCATION PROGRAM.**—The term ‘mining education program’ means an academic program related to the mining industry.

“(5) **MINING INDUSTRY.**—The term ‘mining industry’ means the mining industry of the United States, consisting of activities related to naturally occurring metal and nonmetal critical minerals, including the following:

“(A) Geological mapping, geophysical surveying, geochemical sampling, and management of geological data.

“(B) Mineral system analysis, exploration, and resource delineation, including exploratory drilling and resource estimation and classification.

“(C) Project development, feasibility studies, financing, and permitting.

“(D) Mine construction, extraction, and operational support activities.

“(E) Mineral processing, beneficiation, smelting, refining, chemical conversion, and separation.

“(F) Material conversion and advanced materials manufacturing.

“(G) Transportation, logistics, and handling of intermediate and finished material products.

“(H) Reclamation, remediation, reuse, recycling, and recovery of materials from primary and secondary sources, including mine waste and end-of-life products.

“(6) **MINING PROFESSION.**—The term ‘mining profession’ means the body of jobs directly relevant to the mining industry.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7037, the DOMINANCE Act, introduced by Chairwoman KIM and Ranking Member BERA.

Battles are won with the right tools and the right team, often before the first shot is ever fired. Today, America’s readiness depends on more than just troops, tanks, and ships. It depends on supply chains that power our economy and power our military.

The minerals used in fighter jets, missile systems, semiconductors, advanced communications technologies, and energy infrastructure are essential to American strength. When those supply chains are vulnerable, the United States of America is, in turn, vulnerable.

For decades, Beijing pursued a deliberate strategy to dominate critical mineral supply chains. Today, China controls much of the world’s processing and refining capacity for the minerals that underpin our industrial base and our national defense.

Last year, Beijing reminded the world how easy it can weaponize that dominance when it restricted exports of critical rare earth materials, disrupting global markets without firing a shot.

Congress cannot afford to ignore that warning. That is why I am proud to be a supporter of the DOMINANCE Act. This legislation strengthens America’s ability to work with our allies, mobilize investment, and build resilient supply chains for critical minerals and energy technologies our economy and our military depend on.

I commend Chairwoman KIM and Ranking Member BERA for their leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, the readiness of our country cannot be improvised. It has to be protected every day. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7037, the Developing Overseas Mineral Investments and New Allied Networks for Critical Energies Act, or the DOMINANCE Act.

Over the past year, through hearings, briefings, and engagement with industry, government, and our international partners, one fact has become increasingly clear: Securing reliable access to critical minerals is not a Democratic or Republican issue, it is an American issue.

Today, the People’s Republic of China controls roughly 90 percent of global rare earth processing capacity. That concentration creates a strategic vulnerability for the United States and our allies, and Beijing has demonstrated its willingness to leverage that dominance through export restrictions and other forms of economic coercion.

The United States must continue expanding domestic mining, processing,

refining, and recycling capacity. However, building secure and resilient supply chains cannot be accomplished by the United States acting alone. We need stronger partnerships with trusted allies and partners. We need coordinated investment strategies, and we need a whole-of-government approach that aligns our diplomatic, development, and economic tools to reduce dependence on vulnerable supply chains.

This is exactly what the DOMINANCE Act does. The bill establishes a Bureau of Energy Security and Diplomacy at the Department of State, led by a Senate-confirmed Assistant Secretary. This Bureau will serve as the focal point for U.S. international energy and critical minerals policy, ensuring greater coordination across agencies and stronger engagement with allies and partners.

This diplomatic capacity is increasingly important in a world where geopolitical instability, such as the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, can disrupt energy markets with significant economic consequences for our country and our constituents.

Second, the legislation formally authorizes the United States’ participation in the Forum on Resource Geostrategic Engagement, or FORGE. FORGE builds upon the successful work of the Biden administration’s Minerals Security Partnership by bringing together like-minded countries to coordinate investments, share information, and advance strategic partnerships and projects that strengthen supply chain resilience.

Authorizing U.S. participation ensures that America remains at the table, working with our partners to diversify sources of critical minerals and reduce reliance on strategic competitors.

Third, the bill creates energy security pacts that align the capabilities of the State Department, the Development Finance Corporation, EXIM, USTDA, MCC, the Department of Commerce, and other agencies in support of strategic energy and mineral projects overseas.

These partnerships will help mobilize private sector investment, strengthen economic resilience, support developing economies, and counter efforts by authoritarian governments to use economic dependence as a tool of coercion.

The legislation also invests in the workforce needed to secure our energy future. It expands educational and workforce development opportunities through initiatives such as the Critical Minerals Mining Fellowship Program and the Visiting Mining Scholars Program, helping develop the expertise needed to support secure and sustainable mineral supply chains.

Lastly, the bill strengthens U.S. diplomatic and national security capacity by expanding Foreign Service Institute training on energy and critical minerals issues and by codifying a special adviser for critical minerals and supply

chains on the National Security Council to help coordinate a whole-of-government strategy.

Taken together, these provisions represent a comprehensive approach to one of the most important strategic challenges facing our country.

The DOMINANCE Act sends a clear message that the United States is committed to working with allies and partners to build secure, diversified, and resilient critical mineral supply chains. It also provides the certainty that businesses and investors need to make long-term investments in transparent, sustainable, and secure energy and mineral projects around the world.

I thank Chairwoman YOUNG KIM for her partnership on this important bill. I am proud that this bill received a unanimous vote in the House Foreign Affairs Committee. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on East Asia and Pacific.

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7037, the Developing Overseas Mineral Investments and New Allied Networks for Critical Energies, or DOMINANCE Act.

Critical minerals are the foundation of military power, industrial strength, and economic security. They enable fighter jets, semiconductors, batteries, and energy infrastructure. They increasingly determine which nations lead the modern world and which ones fall behind.

Today, far too many of these supply chains are controlled by China, creating a strategic vulnerability the United States cannot afford to ignore.

Over the past year, Congress has taken a serious look at this challenge. Last July, the Foreign Affairs Committee's East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee held a hearing on breaking China's chokehold on critical mineral supply chains. The message was clear: America must boost domestic production while building a coordinated strategy with our allies and trusted partners.

We have also spent the past year listening to the companies, manufacturers, and investors building these supply chains, including Freeport-McMoRan, MP Materials, KoBold Metals, and the National Association of Manufacturers.

Earlier this year, my colleague Congressman BERA and I traveled to Peru to see firsthand the opportunities and challenges facing critical mineral development. Across all of these conversations, one consistent theme emerged—America needs a durable, long-term strategy.

The Trump administration has advanced important initiatives, such as FORGE, Pax Silica, and Project Vault. I recognize administration officials David Copley, Jacob Helberg, and Ben Black for their leadership in advancing America's energy and mineral security interests.

Yet Congress must ensure these efforts endure beyond any single administration. As China executes a decades-long plan, America cannot afford to shift strategies every few years. That is why Representative BERA and I introduced the bipartisan DOMINANCE Act.

This legislation aligns America's diplomatic, financing, and strategic tools to strengthen critical mineral and energy supply chains with our trusted partners.

I thank Congressman PETE STAUBER of Minnesota, chairman of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, for his leadership on domestic mining. I also thank Congressman ROB WITTMAN for his leadership on strengthening our defense industrial base, and Congressman JOHN MOOLENAAR for confronting the challenges posed by the Chinese Communist Party.

□ 1650

The DOMINANCE Act complements their work by ensuring international efforts reinforce, not replace, U.S. domestic production and industrial resilience.

The bill establishes the Bureau of Energy Security and Diplomacy at the State Department. It creates long-term energy security pacts with our allies and partners. It authorizes the Forum on Resource Geostrategic Engagement, FORGE, and improves interagency coordination.

It supports key investments in energy supply chains, launches mining fellowship and exchange programs to build future talent, codifies key White House positions, and requires specialized training for Foreign Service officers in critical posts around the world. This legislation is about economic security, industrial strength, and national security. The United States must stop depending on China for the materials that power the modern world.

The DOMINANCE Act ensures that America and its allies, not our adversaries, shape the future of global energy and critical mineral supply chains.

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

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will strengthen critical mineral supply chains by bolstering U.S. cooperation with our allies and partners, instituting needed reforms at the State Department, and making our supply chains more resilient and less susceptible to the type of choke holds that the PRC has employed against us.

The DOMINANCE Act is a critical step forward.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill. I thank the

partnership of Chairwoman KIM as well as Chairman MAST and all the others who put this legislation together.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, critical minerals are the lifeblood of American industry, our military-industrial complex, and so many items or tools that we use in our day-to-day way of life.

This bill is an important step toward reasserting control over what is the American economic destiny.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7037, 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.

ALLIED DEFENSE SALES ACT

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8665) to require the implementation of a strategy to encourage foreign partners to participate in the foreign military sales and direct commercial sales processes on a multinational basis, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8665

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 "Allied Defense Sales Act".

SEC. 2. STRATEGY AND REPORT ON MULTINATIONAL PROCUREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES.

(a) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall implement a strategy to encourage foreign partners to participate in the foreign military sales and direct commercial sales processes on a multinational basis. Such strategy shall incorporate existing efforts by the Department of State to—

(1) survey interest in participating in such multinational procurement processes among potentially eligible countries;

(2) identify countries and partners who may be eligible to serve as the lead purchase coordinator for a multinational procurement process, and potential incentives for their participation as lead coordinator;

(3) review pathways for participation in foreign military sales or direct commercial sales processes for countries determined to be ineligible for foreign military financing loans;

(4) identify challenges and solutions for the Department in carrying out such processes in accordance with the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), including applicable end-use monitoring, technical assistance agreements, and license filing requirements;

(5) identify ways to provide for expedited license authorizations, sales other than for programs of record, and other potential efforts to increase speed and ease enhanced use of multinational procurement processes;

(6) detailing the benefits of multinational procurement processes to the national security interest, including enhanced military interoperability and strengthening the domestic industrial base; and

(7) identify opportunities to develop and promote exportable defense articles and services, including for purposes of supporting the AUKUS partnership.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the strategy required by subsection (a) and its implementation. Such report shall also include—

(1) an update on the development and implementation of the initial strategy during the period following the most recent prior submission of such report (if any);

(2) a description of challenges faced in the implementation of the strategy;

(3) a description of all efforts the Department has undertaken to overcome such challenges;

(4) a list and description of any potential legislative changes necessary to fully implement a multinational procurement process for foreign military sales and direct commercial sales; and

(5) a description of efforts to promote exportable defense articles and services specifically for use in multinational procurement processes, including those supporting the AUKUS partnership.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form and may include a classified annex.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the term “AUKUS partnership” means the enhanced trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States announced in September 2021; and

(3) the term “multinational procurement process” refers to a process by which defense articles or services are sold by the United States to a lead foreign nation, with the intent that the articles or services so sold will subsequently be retransferred to a previously identified group of participating countries, or to countries identified by reference to a qualifying multilateral partnership agreement, such as a cross-servicing agreement described in section 2350 of title 10, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 8665.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, it has long been recognized by our partners and allies that the American foreign military sales system is slow, inefficient, and opaque.

While the benefits outweigh the costs for many of our closest allies, it takes a real investment of personnel, time, and resources for our foreign partners to be able to successfully participate in our foreign military sales.

American-made defense systems remain the most effective, advanced, and sought-after in the world, but we need to keep expanding our base of foreign partners that purchase American defense systems.

H.R. 8665, the Allied Defense Sales Act, is a bipartisan effort to break down barriers for smaller allies and smaller countries that do not have a longstanding defense sales relationship with the United States.

This bill allows smaller countries to pool resources and participate in the foreign military sales system, expanding America's circle of equipped, interoperable allies without requiring new foreign aid spending.

I thank my colleague Mr. ZINKE of Montana, the sponsor of this bill, who led the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Foreign Arms Sales Task Force and has continued the important work of ensuring America remains the partner of choice for foreign defense sales.

This legislation passed the Foreign Affairs Committee with broad bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it on the floor today.

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill I co-lead with Representative ZINKE regarding the promotion of multicountry defense article purchases, which can result in lower prices, greater efficiencies, and interoperability for our allies and partners.

While most foreign defense sales are conducted by individual countries as purchasers, multicountry purchases can provide more competitive pricing, coordination, and other benefits, including for smaller countries that are less frequent purchasers, as well as multinational alliances.

This bill directs the Secretary of State to develop and implement a strategy to encourage U.S. foreign partners to participate in the foreign military sales, DCS, and direct commercial sales, DCS, processes on a multinational basis.

The bill also includes reporting requirements providing Congress with details on this strategy and its implementation. While multinational purchases are not currently prohibited by statute, this bill requires a strategy for socializing, promoting, and making available said options for multinational cases to purchasing countries and an accompanying report to Congress.

This will be beneficial to both the U.S. and our partners and allies and provides helpful additional information to Congress as we conduct necessary oversight over this initiative. Therefore, I am pleased to support it, and I encourage my colleagues to do so, as well.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), who is the chairwoman of the East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee.

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8665, the Allied Defense Sales Act.

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Foreign Military Sales Task Force, I am proud to co-sponsor this bipartisan bill introduced by our task force chair, Representative ZINKE.

H.R. 8665 is a practical step forward to strengthen our defense industrial base while reinforcing partnerships with trusted partners.

America produces the most advanced and reliable defense systems in the world. Our partners across Europe, Asia, and beyond consistently prefer U.S. equipment for its quality, performance, and the security relationships that come with it. Yet, many smaller nations face significant obstacles when pursuing individual purchases. The administrative burden, minimum order sizes, and unpredictable timelines often discourage sales that would otherwise benefit both our allies and American industry.

H.R. 8665 addresses these challenges head-on. The bill directs the State Department to develop a clear strategy for enabling multinational procurement. A partner nation would agree to serve as the lead nation to enable a multinational procurement, ensuring other qualified allies are able to participate in important foreign military sales.

By combining demand, we can achieve more predictable production schedules, lower unit costs, faster deliveries, and greater overall efficiency for manufacturers here at home.

This model also improves interoperability among our partners, allowing them to work more seamlessly alongside U.S. forces and with one another.

This legislation requires the Department to assess allied interest, identify suitable lead coordinators, examine financing options for partners that may not qualify for standard programs, address regulatory hurdles under existing export laws, and highlight opportunities to make more U.S. capabilities available for export. The Department will need to regularly report to Congress on implementation and on its results.

□ 1700

In an era when competitors are aggressively marketing their systems abroad, we must make it easier for allies to choose American. This bill does that without compromising our rigorous oversight or security standards.

It supports good-paying jobs in defense manufacturing hubs nationwide, including in Orange and Riverside Counties in my district, which many aerospace and defense primes, SMEs,

and startups call home. It enhances collective deterrence and advances U.S. foreign policy that prioritizes both economic strength and strategic advantage.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8665 is a common-sense step forward. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill will promote multicountry defense article purchases that will, in practice, lower prices, boost interoperability, and provide other benefits. It will help streamline these purchases, including for multinational alliances and smaller countries. I support this bill and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is essential that we do everything we can to equip our allies, big and small, with the best U.S. defense technology, ensuring that we remain interoperable with our partners in a conflict. This legislation is a key step forward to strengthening the U.S. defense industrial base and bolstering our allies' defense capabilities with the best equipment anywhere on the globe, the United States of America equipment, which is generations beyond everybody else's.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 8665, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8665.

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.

COUNTERING CHINA'S CONTROL OF THE CAUCASUS ACT

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7668) to require a report on Russian and Chinese intelligence assets in Georgia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7668

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 "Countering China's Control of the Caucasus Act".

SEC. 2. REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS.

(a) REPORT ON RUSSIAN AND CHINESE INTELLIGENCE ASSETS IN GEORGIA.—

(1) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term "relevant congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(F) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

(G) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(H) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, shall submit a classified report, as appropriate, to the relevant congressional committees that meets the requirements set forth in paragraph (3).

(3) CONTENTS.—The report required under paragraph (2) shall—

(A) be prepared consistent with the protection of sources and methods;

(B) examine the penetration of Russian and Chinese intelligence elements and their assets in Georgia; and

(C) examine the potential intersection of Russian and Chinese influence and cooperation in Georgia.

(b) 5-YEAR UNITED STATES STRATEGY FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GEORGIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the relevant congressional committees a detailed strategy that—

(A) outlines specific objectives for enhancing bilateral ties which reflect the current domestic political environment in Georgia;

(B) includes a determination of the tools, resources, and funding that should be available to achieve the objectives outlined pursuant to subparagraph (A) and an assessment of whether Georgia should remain a top recipient of United States funding in the Europe and Eurasia region;

(C) includes a determination of the extent to which the United States should continue to invest in its partnership with Georgia; and

(D) includes a determination of whether the Government of Georgia remains committed to expanding trade ties with the United States and Europe and whether the United States Government should continue to invest in Georgian projects.

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, with a classified annex.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. 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 H.R. 7668.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7668, the Countering China's Control of the Caucasus Act, introduced by my colleague to my right here from South Carolina, Mr. JOE WILSON.

Now, over the last few years, there have been serious questions raised about the status of democracy and the prevalence of malign influence from U.S. adversaries in the Republic of Georgia.

To this day, Russia occupies 20 percent of Georgia's sovereign territory following its 2008 invasion. Despite efforts to militarily resist Russia, concerns remain over Russia's longstanding influence in Georgia.

Equally concerning is the influence of the People's Republic of China within the country. In the last few years, this led to a Chinese consortium being selected over a U.S. company for developing a massive seaport project. Competition is good, but when it comes to critical infrastructure like this, our partners should take into consideration the risks posed by the PRC.

This bill would require an assessment of Russian and Chinese intelligence activities and influence within the Republic of Georgia and identify any areas of cooperation between Russia and China within Georgia.

The bill would also require a strategy for the future relationship between the United States and Georgia and help us assess if Georgia is serious about a path of improved relations.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank my colleague, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, for introducing this effort, and I urge my colleagues to advance this bill today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7668, a bipartisan bill designed to make sure the United States is clear-eyed about the threats from Russia and the PRC in Georgia as well as whether Georgia remains committed to a relationship with the United States and Europe centered around shared values and interests.

In this spirit, I thank my good friend Representative WILSON for his tireless work in support of the Georgian people and for bringing forward this legislation which builds on his work on the MEGOBARI Act.

In recent years, the current Georgian Dream Government, as well as foreign malign influence from Russia and China in Georgia, have threatened Georgia's hard-fought democratic gains, corrupted some of its State institutions, and caused a rift in the U.S.-Georgia relations and between the Georgian Government and its people.

This legislation, along with the MEGOBARI Act, that this body passed with overwhelming bipartisan support last year is a response to this deterioration. The goal is to let the Georgian people know that we stand by them in their quest for democracy, respect for their rights, and deeper integration in the Euro-Atlantic community.

This legislation ensures we are clear-eyed about what that continued support from the U.S. to Georgia will require and provides a framework for appropriate cooperation with the Georgian Government going forward.

I am pleased with the bipartisan work on this bill and look forward to its passage.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), who I suspect will tell us something about war criminal Putin.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BRIAN MAST for being so perceptive.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7668, the Countering China's Control of the Caucasus Act, to reassert, as the speaker expressed earlier, to support freedom and prosperity in the South Caucasus region of Asia.

President Donald Trump has presented a historic opportunity to expand economic prosperity in Central Asia, benefiting the region and America. Georgia has been a courageous, long-time ally of the United States with a population that overwhelmingly supports a strong relationship with the West.

Congressman BERA is correct that the House has already passed the MEGOBARI Act which provides for the strengthening relationship with the people of Georgia 349-42 and to support the people of Georgia.

The illegitimate Georgian Dream regime is in the process of selling out the country to the Chinese Communist Party and, indeed the chairman is correct, war criminal Putin and Iran, against the wishes of the Georgian people and the interests of the United States.

The election was rigged in Georgia. With this, they have peddled the vilest anti-American propaganda and constantly insult President Trump, accusing him of acting as an agent of the "deep state."

In fact, we also note that the legitimate President, Salome Zourabichvili, has been a valued guest for the inauguration of President Donald Trump, and almost daily, there are demonstrations in Tbilisi where people carry giant posters of President Donald Trump, expressing their love and affection for President Trump and the United States.

The puppet Georgian Dream Prime Minister just last week accused our Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, of lying. The behavior of this rogue regime threatens all that President Trump has accomplished in the South Caucasus, and it must change.

The sea route to the Middle Corridor must run through Georgia and the Communist Chinese Party is set, as the chairman has identified, to own and control the strategic deep seaport in the region, the Anaklia Port on the Black Sea.

Congratulations to Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in neighboring Armenia on his astounding election victory yesterday. Unlike Georgian Dream, Pashinyan is working with the United States and with President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan to remove Russian influence from the region and normalize relations with the very valued and appreciated NATO ally, Turkiye.

This is a once in a 3,000 year opportunity for stability, peace, and prosperity in the region. I am grateful for President Trump orchestrating the peace deal between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Georgian Dream nightmare regime with fair and free elections must abandon its anti-American course, release political prisoners, end politically motivated prosecutions, ensure a fair election environment, revoke draconian laws that are suffocating U.S. businesses, and seek to end the repression of free speech.

The Countering China's Control of the Caucasus Act ensures that Chinese and Russian covert operations in the country are brought to light and that the United States strongly considers whether Georgia should remain a top recipient of aid while it attacks America in its propaganda on an almost daily basis.

Georgian troops have fought bravely with Americans in Afghanistan and Iraq, along with our chairman. We know that Georgia has been a close partner and ally of the United States.

We must reestablish the strong relationship that has been between the United States and Georgia. It will not be able to normalize unless we have fair and free elections.

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the utmost attention to this issue, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7668 does not seek to malign the Georgian government but, rather, demonstrate to the people of Georgia the United States remains committed to its Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank my good friend Representative WILSON for his steadfast support of the Georgian people and hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the United States and Georgia to move forward. Doing so requires clarity on what is happening in their country behind the scenes and a responsible strategy for future engagement.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, to better inform U.S. policy toward the Republic of Georgia.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7668, 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.

STOP ILLEGAL FISHING ACT

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6338) to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons and foreign vessels that engage in illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6338

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 "Stop Illegal Fishing Act".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the Sense of Congress that—

(1) illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (referred to in this section as "IUU fishing") is a rising and harmful global trend;

(2) the People's Republic of China is the primary perpetrator of IUU fishing and the largest exploiter of global fisheries;

(3) IUU fishing is a concerning and significant driver of overfishing, thereby threatening fisheries, damaging marine ecosystems, and inhibiting conservation;

(4) IUU fishing in another country's exclusive economic zone violates international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, undermines the rules-based order, ignores sovereign rights, reinforces excessive maritime claims, exploits finite resources, and unfairly seizes economic access at the expense of coastal states;

(5) IUU fishing is often associated with substandard and illicit conditions for crew, including lack of safety controls, illegally low pay, inhumane treatment, and, in some cases, outright forced labor or human trafficking;

(6) IUU fishing has a particularly nefarious impact on coastal communities in poor and developing nations that rely on ocean bounties;

(7) IUU fishing undermines the economic security of the United States and undermines maritime security around the globe; and

(8) the United States Government should utilize sanctions to deter and prevent IUU fishing.

SEC. 3. SANCTIONS.

(a) **SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS.**—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (e) with respect to any foreign person that knowingly—

(1) owns any vessel that engages in IUU fishing;

(2) works as a captain or senior crew member on such a vessel;

(3) operates as an entity primarily engaged in IUU fishing; or

(4) serves as an officer or senior manager in an entity primarily engaged in IUU fishing.

(b) **SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN VESSELS.**—The President shall impose the

sanctions described in subsection (e) with respect to any foreign vessel that engages in IUU fishing.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five years, the President shall submit to the appropriate committees a report that—

(1) describes all efforts to carry out the requirements of subsections (a) and (b); and

(2) lists all foreign persons and foreign vessels sanctioned thereunder.

(d) SANCTIONS PROGRAM REQUIRED.—In carrying out subsection (a) and subsection (b), the President shall direct the creation of an IUU fishing sanctions program.

(e) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(1) ASSET BLOCKING.—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701), the President may exercise of all powers granted to the President by that Act to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of the foreign person or foreign vessel if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason to believe, is described in subsection (a) is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible for a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien described in subparagraph (A) regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is issued.

(ii) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under clause (i)—

(I) shall take effect immediately; and

(II) shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

(f) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under subsection (e)(2) shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(2) EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions under this section may not be imposed with respect to transactions or the facilitation of transactions for—

(A) the sale of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, or medical devices;

(B) the provision of humanitarian assistance;

(C) financial transactions relating to humanitarian assistance; or

(D) transporting goods or services that are necessary to carry out operations relating to humanitarian assistance.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply to any authorized intelligence, law enforcement, or national security activities of the United States.

(4) EXCEPTION FOR SAFETY OF VESSELS AND CREW.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to a person providing provisions to a vessel otherwise subject to sanctions under this section if such provisions are intended for the safety and care of the crew aboard the vessel, the protection of human life aboard the vessel, or the maintenance of the vessel to avoid any environmental or other significant damage.

(g) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations promulgated to carry out this section to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person who commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of that Act.

(h) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions imposed with respect to a foreign person or foreign vessel under this section if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees, not later than 15 days before such waiver is to take effect, that the waiver is important to the national security interests of the United States.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person” means an individual or entity that is not a United States person.

(3) FOREIGN VESSEL.—The term “foreign vessel” means a vessel of foreign registry or operated under the authority of a foreign country.

(4) IUU FISHING.—The term “IUU fishing” has the meaning given the term in section 3532 of the Maritime SAFE Act (16 U.S.C. 8001).

(5) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen;

(B) a permanent resident alien of the United States;

(C) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(D) a person in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. 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 H.R. 6338.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6338, the Stop Illegal Fishing Act, led by Chairwoman KIM and Ranking Member MEEKS.

Illegal fishing is a national security problem. The Chinese Communist Party uses so-called commercial fishing fleets as an instrument of state power. These vessels violate sovereign waters, undermine local economies, and in the end, they support Beijing's broader campaign of coercion around the globe.

This is not simply about catching fish. It is about the CCP using economic pressure, maritime intimidation, and lawless behavior to expand its influence and weaken the sovereignty of other nations.

For years, China has operated in the world's worst illegal and unreported and unregulated fishing fleet. The United States cannot allow this behavior to continue without consequences.

The Stop Illegal Fishing Act gives our government additional tools to identify, expose, and hold accountable those responsible for illegal fishing and the networks that do enable it.

Just as importantly, it sends a clear message that the United States stands for free and open oceans, governed by rules, not governed by coercion.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman KIM and Ranking Member MEEKS for their leadership on this bipartisan legislation. I absolutely urge all Members to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,

Washington, DC, May 28, 2026.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,

Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MAST: I write regarding H.R. 6338, the Stop Illegal Fishing Act. Provisions of this bill fall within the Judiciary Committee's Rule X jurisdiction, and I appreciate that you consulted with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee agrees that it shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that forgoing further consideration of this measure does not in any way alter the Committee's jurisdiction or waive any future jurisdictional claim over these provisions or their subject matter. We also reserve the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees in the event of a conference with the Senate involving this measure or similar legislation.

I ask that you please insert this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor. I appreciate the cooperative manner in which our committees have worked on this matter, and I look forward to working collaboratively in the future on matters of shared jurisdiction. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JIM JORDAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, June 8, 2026.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6338, the Stop Illegal Fishing Act, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BRIAN MAST,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Ranking Member MEEKS' legislation, H.R. 6338, the Stop Illegal Fishing Act.

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing is a threat to the economic security, environment, and sovereignty of small Island nations, including our partners in the Pacific Islands. For many Pacific Island nations, the ocean is their greatest national resource. Fisheries support livelihoods, government revenues, and the well-being of communities. Yet, too often, foreign vessels engage in illegal fishing practices that deplete fish stocks, undermine local economies, and erode the ability of Pacific nations to manage their own maritime resources.

These activities can also fuel broader instability and coercive behavior in a region that is central to America's strategic interests.

The United States has made a commitment to deepen our partnership with Pacific Island countries and to support a free, open, and resilient Pacific. By strengthening consequences for those who engage in illegal fishing, this legislation helps protect marine resources, supports sustainable fisheries, and stand with our Pacific partners as they defend their economic futures.

Mr. Speaker, illegal fishing is an issue around the world. Countries like China, Iran, and Russia are willfully or, at best, negligently violating international law, undermining human rights, and hurting communities for their own benefit. It is time to put a stop to this.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Stop Illegal Fishing Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MAST. I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, the United States will not stand by while China uses eco-

nomic coercion as an intimidation tactic.

This bill is an important reminder to show our allies and our partners in the Indo-Pacific that we are the United States of America. We do not back down.

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 gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6338, 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.

PRODUCING RETURNS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR INVESTMENT AND TRADE ACT OF 2026

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5248) to ensure the alignment of economic and foreign policies, to position the Department of State to reflect that economic security is national security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5248

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Producing Returns and Opportunity for Investment and Trade Act of 2026” or the “PROFIT Act of 2026”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment.
- Sec. 4. Administration of the International Technology Security and Innovation Fund.
- Sec. 5. Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy.
- Sec. 6. Chief Economist.
- Sec. 7. Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs.
- Sec. 8. Enhancing subnational diplomacy.
- Sec. 9. Energy security and diplomacy.
- Sec. 10. Assistant Secretary for Water, Environment, and Space Affairs.
- Sec. 11. Strengthening economic expertise at the Department of State.
- Sec. 12. References.
- Sec. 13. Energy diplomacy.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

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

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

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) DEPARTMENT; SECRETARY.—The terms “Department” and “Secretary” mean the Department of State and the Secretary of State, respectively.

SEC. 3. UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

Section 1(b) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(b)) is amended by—

(1) redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (7) respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be in the Department an Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment who shall be responsible to the Secretary.

“(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment shall maintain continuous observation and coordination of all matters pertaining to economic and business affairs in the conduct of foreign policy, including, as appropriate, the following:

“(i) Preparing an annual strategic plan for expanding opportunities for United States private sector companies in international markets, coordinating the use of sanctions to achieve national security objectives, promoting international trade and investment, developing international policies around new and emerging technologies, ensuring United States leadership in science and technology, protecting natural resources, and promoting United States energy interests.

“(ii) Developing policies for consideration by the Secretary to promote economic growth, facilitate market access, create business enabling environments abroad, expand trade and investment opportunities for United States companies, promote United States energy exports and energy security, conserve and manage economically important ecosystems and resources, expand access to critical minerals abroad, support United States civil and commercial space governance, promote international standards, policies, and best practices for emerging technology that facilitate United States economic growth, and safeguard the preeminence of the United States dollar in international markets.

“(iii) Promoting United States international economic interests to be addressed in the Biannual National Economic Security Strategy Report, coordinated by the Office of the Chief Economist.

“(iv) Attending and participating in meetings of the National Security Council, and National Space Council, when applicable, at the direction of the Secretary, for matters related to economic growth, energy, and commercial expansion, commercial outer space affairs, oceans, science and technology developments, natural resource protection, and fulfill the role of Foreign Affairs Sous Sherpa relating to the activities of the Group of Seven Industrial Nations (G-7).

“(v) Providing guidance to Department personnel in the United States and overseas who conduct or implement policies, programs, and activities related to economic growth, energy, and commercial expansion, science and technology affairs, natural resource conservation, and civil and commercial activities in outer space.

“(vi) Coordinating activities related to promoting economic growth, facilitating market access, creating business enabling environments abroad, expanding trade and investment opportunities, promoting of energy exports, conserving and managing economically important ecosystems and resources, expanding access to critical minerals, maintaining United States leadership in science, technology, and outer space, and

safeguarding the preeminence of the United States dollar in international markets.

“(vii) As directed by the Secretary, representing the Department at interdepartmental meetings including the National Economic Council, Homeland Security Council, Council on Environmental Quality, and in providing policy advice to the Secretary on matters under consideration by these groups.”.

(3) redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (7);

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECURITY AND INNOVATION FUND.

Section 102(c) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167; 136 Stat. 1375) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “, acting through the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment” after “Secretary of State”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: “Within the Department of State, the Fund shall be overseen and administered by the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment.”.

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting “, acting through the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment” after “Secretary of State”.

SEC. 5. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SANCTIONS POLICY.

Section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a) is amended by striking subsection (1) and inserting the following new subsection:

“(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND BUREAU FOR SANCTIONS POLICY.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be in the Department an Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy, who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment for matters pertaining to the development of policies governing the imposition of sanctions, in consultation with the Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs and the Assistant Secretary for Arms Control and Nonproliferation as appropriate, and such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

“(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the responsibilities described under paragraph (1), the Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy shall maintain continuous observation and coordination of all matters pertaining to the development and implementation of sanctions policies as part of United States diplomatic strategies in the conduct of foreign policy, including, as appropriate, the following:

“(A) Developing the foreign policy strategy of United States sanctions programs, including consideration of the use of sanctions in combination with other United States foreign policy tools and the political and economic implications of sanction policies.

“(B) Coordinating the effective implementation and enforcement of sanctions, including all activities, policies, and programs pertaining to sanctions within the Department.

“(C) Coordinating sanctions policy with foreign partners and allies to ensure the maximum effectiveness of sanctions imposed by the United States and such allies and partners.

“(D) Consulting regularly with a broad range of stakeholders on the implications of United States sanctions policy for United States economic interests.

“(E) Contributing to the reports to Congress produced by the Chief Economist.

“(F) Leading the Department's efforts to identify and designate individuals for visa sanctions related to human rights violations.

“(G) Developing policies and programs, in coordination with the Department of the Treasury and other Federal departments and agencies as necessary and with foreign partners, to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, cybercrimes, and other illicit financial activities.

“(H) Representing the Department in all interagency groups or organizations within the executive branch that plan, assess, analyze, or review United States sanctions policies, such as interagency groups organized under the auspices of the Department of Treasury, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Homeland Security.

“(I) Performing such other duties as the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment may from time to time designate.

“(3) REDELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may delegate, or authorize successive redelegation of, authority to the Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy to act and to render decisions, with respect to all sanctions policies administered by the Department. Within the limitations of such delegations, redelegations, or assignments, all official acts and decisions by the Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy shall have the same force and effect as though performed or rendered by the Secretary.

“(4) FIRST APPOINTMENT.—On the date of the enactment of this Act, the individual serving before such date of enactment as the Coordinator for Sanctions shall be the Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy. Any subsequent appointment of an individual to the position of Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy shall be subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(5) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Bureau of Sanctions Policy, which shall perform such functions related to the development of policies governing the imposition of sanctions and sanctions strategies, as the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment may prescribe.

“(6) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy shall be the head of the Bureau of Sanctions Policy.”.

SEC. 6. CHIEF ECONOMIST.

Section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a), as amended by section 7, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (j) through (q) as subsections (1) through (r), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (i) the following new subsection:

“(j) OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; CHIEF ECONOMIST AS HEAD OF THE OFFICE; PERSONNEL WITHIN THE OFFICE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be in the Department a Chief Economist who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment for matters pertaining to analyzing and forecasting the impact of economic trends on diplomatic functions and national security priorities, and such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

“(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the responsibilities described under paragraph (1), the Chief Economist shall provide research and analysis to inform the Department's strategy for deploying international economic policy to strengthen alliances, deter malign foreign actors, and reduce dependencies on strategic rivals in the conduct of foreign policy, including, as appropriate, the following:

“(A) Providing research and analysis to inform the development of the Department's strategy for deploying foreign policy to en-

sure supply chain resilience, secure access to raw materials and critical minerals, and maximize international market access.

“(B) Providing analysis of complex, emerging geoeconomic issues and offer advice to Department leadership on economic diplomacy challenges.

“(C) Conducting research and rigorous, data-driven analysis of high priority issues at the intersection of economics and foreign policy to inform decision-making and diplomatic engagements by senior Department officials.

“(D) Maintaining analytical products for the Department on international economic issues, including on sanctions evasion and the vulnerabilities of the United States and its partners to economic coercion, as well as the economic opportunities for United States businesses.

“(E) Contributing to the expansion of the economic expertise of the Department through collaboration with the Foreign Service Institute, the academic community, international organizations, and other Federal departments and agencies the Chief Economist determines necessary.

“(F) Serving as a liaison to technical experts in economics and related fields in partner governments, international institutions, and elsewhere in the United States government and academic community.

“(G) Performing such other duties as the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment may from time to time designate.

“(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and every 2 years for the subsequent four years, the Chief Economist shall transmit to Congress a report on the international economic strategy of the United States and its analytical basis. In preparing the report, the Chief Economist shall coordinate input and analysis from other bureaus within the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment.

“(4) OFFICE.—The Secretary shall establish an Office of the Chief Economist, which shall perform such functions related to the provision of expert economic advice and analysis, as the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment may prescribe.

“(5) CHIEF ECONOMIST.—The Chief Economist shall be the head of the Office of the Chief Economist.

“(6) PERSONNEL OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Office of the Chief Economist shall include—

“(i) the Chief Economist, shall be a member of the Senior Executive Service or its equivalent, should have a doctorate in Economics, and at least 5 years of experience working at the intersection of policy and international economics in the private or public sectors;

“(ii) not fewer than 6 and not more than 12 full-time Civil Service officers, notwithstanding the limitations provided under section 501 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3981), at the GS-15 level or below;

“(iii) one full-time Foreign Service Officer, notwithstanding such limitations, at the FS-01 level or below; and

“(iv) time-limited detailees from other offices of the Department or of other Federal departments or agencies, on a mutually agreeable, non-reimbursable basis.

“(B) CONTRACTORS.—The Office of the Chief Economist shall have maximum contracting flexibility, including—

“(i) personal services contracting authority authorized under section 2 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2669), for domestic positions; and

“(ii) other transaction authority authorized under section 701 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4021), to adopt innovative technology and data analytics in its research.”.

SEC. 7. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS.

Section 1(c) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following new paragraph:

“(4) ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be in the Department an Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment for matters pertaining to the trade and investment promotion and policy, international finance and development, transportation affairs, and such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

“(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the responsibilities described under subparagraph (A), the Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs shall be responsible for leading Department policies and programs, and coordinating with other United States agencies as appropriate, for all matters pertaining to the following:

“(i) Trade and investment promotion, such as—

“(I) assisting and advocating for United States businesses and commercial interests overseas;

“(II) identifying foreign market opportunities for United States businesses and helping United States firms overcome challenges in foreign business climates;

“(III) helping United States companies compete for and win contracts in foreign markets;

“(IV) attracting foreign investment into the United States by identifying high potential businesses in foreign countries;

“(V) ensuring United States private sector concerns are integrated into United States foreign policy and economic policy; and

“(VI) promoting international commercial projects that advance the national security interests of the United States, regardless of domestic content thresholds.

“(ii) International trade policy, including negotiating and implementing trade agreements, resolving trade disputes, bolstering supply chain resilience, and protecting intellectual property rights.

“(iii) International investment policy, including monitoring international investment climates, negotiating and implementing investment agreements, representing the Department in the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, and assisting United States companies involved in investment disputes with foreign governments.

“(iv) Development finance, including the mobilization of private, bilateral, and multilateral development finance for developing countries, particularly investments focused on infrastructure projects.

“(v) The negotiation and extension of debt relief and sovereign loan guarantees for United States allies and partners.

“(vi) The promotion of sound, transparent, and stable economic policies overseas.

“(vii) Perform such other duties as the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment may from time to time designate.”.

SEC. 8. ENHANCING SUBNATIONAL DIPLOMACY.

Section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a), as amended by section 8, is further amended by inserting the after subsection (j) following new subsection:

“(k) OFFICE OF SUBNATIONAL DIPLOMACY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; COORDINATOR AS HEAD OF THE OFFICE; LOCATION OF THE OFFICE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be established in the Department an Office of Subnational Diplomacy. The Office shall enable the Department's work with subnational governments (State, county, city, and municipal) within the United States to improve the ability of subnational governments to attract foreign investment, counter foreign malign influence within the United States, and contribute to the foreign policy priorities of the United States.

“(2) COORDINATOR.—The head of the Office shall be the Coordinator for Subnational Diplomacy. The head of the office shall report through the Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs to the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment.

“(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the responsibilities described under paragraph (1), the Coordinator for Subnational Diplomacy shall maintain continuous observation and coordination of all matters pertaining to subnational diplomacy and Department engagements with subnational governments in the conduct of foreign policy, including the following:

“(A) Advising the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment on subnational engagements within the United States and serve as the principal official on such matters within the Department.

“(B) Coordinating the Department's support for local and municipal governments' engagements with foreign governments.

“(C) Advising subnational government officials on the potential risks of engagements with countries of concern and share best practices to build resilience against foreign political interference and malign influence.

“(D) Assisting subnational governments in the following areas:

“(i) Attracting or bidding to host major international events.

“(ii) Tracking foreign direct investment at the county and municipal levels to highlight trends and opportunities.

“(iii) Attracting foreign direct investment and other forms of economic cooperation.

“(iv) Building the capacity and knowledge of subnational government staff who have responsibility for engaging with foreign countries.

“(v) Advancing sports diplomacy with foreign countries and entities.

“(vi) Implementing programs to cooperate with foreign governments and entities on policy priorities or managing shared resources.

“(vii) Understanding the local implications of foreign policy developments or policy changes.

“(E) Supporting the economic interests of the United States through subnational engagements, in consultation and coordination with other relevant agencies.

“(F) Advising and informing local officials as they negotiate agreements and memoranda of understanding with foreign governments related to subnational engagements and priorities.

“(G) Coordinating subnational engagements with associations of subnational elected leaders, including the United States Conference of Mayors, National Governors Association, National League of Cities and similar associations.

“(H) Performing other such duties as the Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs and the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment may from time to time designate.

“(4) LOCATION.—The Office of Subnational Diplomacy shall be co-located with the Office of Foreign Missions—Los Angeles, authorized under section 203(4) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 4303(4)).”.

SEC. 9. ENERGY SECURITY AND DIPLOMACY.

Section 1(c) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(c)), as amended by section 9, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through (17) as (9) through (18), respectively; and

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

“(8) ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND BUREAU FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND DIPLOMACY.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be in the Department an Assistant Secretary for Energy Security and Diplomacy who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment for all matters pertaining to the formulation and implementation of international energy, energy technology, critical minerals, and relevant supply chain policies in the conduct of foreign policy by the Department, including, as appropriate, to protect United States energy security interests, lead the coordination of energy programs carried out by United States Government agencies abroad, and such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

“(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the responsibilities described under subparagraph (A), the Assistant Secretary for Energy Security and Diplomacy shall maintain continuous observation and coordination of all matters pertaining to the development of policies to secure access to international energy markets and diversify critical mineral supply chains in the conduct of foreign policy, including, as appropriate, the following:

“(i) Representing the Secretary in interagency efforts to develop the international energy policy of the United States.

“(ii) Leading the analysis, formulation, and implementation of international policies aimed at protecting and advancing United States energy interests.

“(iii) Effectively managing United States bilateral and multilateral relations and, as directed by the Secretary, representing the Secretary in relevant international fora and organizations, including the International Energy Agency, to bolster global energy security and advance the interests of the United States.

“(iv) Ensuring that analyses of the national security and economic security implications of global energy developments are reflected in the decision-making processes within the Department.

“(v) Incorporating energy and critical mineral security priorities into the activities of the Department.

“(vi) Coordinating energy activities of the Department with relevant Federal departments and agencies, including the Departments of Energy, Commerce, Defense, and Interior, and the Development Finance Corporation to promote United States energy security and energy development to support United States national security readiness.

“(vii) Coordinating with the Bureau of Sanctions Policy on economic sanctions pertaining to the international energy sector.

“(viii) Coordinating energy security and other relevant functions within the Department currently undertaken by—

“(I) the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs;

“(II) the Bureau of Water, Environment, and Space Affairs;

“(III) the Bureau of Arms Control and Non-proliferation; and

“(IV) other bureaus and offices within the Department.

“(ix) Working internationally to—

“(I) support the development of energy technologies, natural resources, critical minerals, and supply chains for the benefit of the United States and United States allies and trading partners for their energy security and economic development needs;

“(II) promote secure and diversified energy and critical minerals supply chains, and a well-functioning global market for energy resources, energy technologies, critical minerals;

“(III) resolve international disputes regarding the exploration, development, production, or distribution of energy and critical minerals resources where the United States strategic interests are present;

“(IV) support the economic and commercial interests of United States persons operating in the energy markets of foreign countries; and

“(V) support and coordinate international efforts to alleviate energy poverty, enhance energy access and energy efficiency to promote United States strategic interests and offer alternatives to adversary initiatives for United States allies and partners.

“(x) Conducting public diplomacy with regard to United States international energy policy to strengthen transparency and governance.

“(xi) Performing such other duties as the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment may from time to time designate.

“(C) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, and annually thereafter for three years, the Assistant Secretary for Energy Security and Diplomacy shall submit to Congress a report on the United States international energy strategy.

“(D) BUREAU.—The Secretary shall establish a Bureau of Energy Security and Diplomacy, which shall perform such functions related to the formulation and implementation of international energy, energy technology, critical minerals, and relevant supply chain policies, as the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment may prescribe.

“(E) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The Assistant Secretary for Energy Security and Diplomacy shall be the head of the Bureau of Energy Security and Diplomacy.”

SEC. 10. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR WATER, ENVIRONMENT, AND SPACE AFFAIRS.

Section 1(c) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(c)), as amended by section 11, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(19) BUREAU OF WATER, ENVIRONMENT, AND SPACE AFFAIRS WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF STATE; ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE AS HEAD OF BUREAU.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be in the Department an Assistant Secretary for Water, Environment, and Space Affairs who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment for matters pertaining to space, oceans, polar affairs, environmental quality, freshwater, fisheries, wildlife and wildlife trafficking, conservation, and such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

“(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the responsibilities described under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary for Water, Environment, and Space Affairs shall maintain continuous observation and coordination of all matters pertaining to oceans, fisheries, natural resource conservation, and outer space in the conduct of foreign policy, including, as appropriate, the following:

“(i) Developing United States policy on global environmental security issues with respect to oceans, fisheries, Antarctic region,

waste and global pollution, and natural resource management and conservation, including water.

“(ii) Representing the Department in bilateral and multilateral negotiations involving the law of the sea, including freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the ocean; maritime security; United States maritime zones, including the United States extended continental shelf; marine science; sustainable management and protection of marine habitats and resources; marine pollution; and maritime claims and boundaries.

“(iii) Leading United States engagement on Antarctica and in international oceans agreements and conventions with foreign governments and international organizations to promote solutions that advance United States national security, economic, and environmental interests.

“(iv) Coordinating the development of policies and programs to conserve and manage economically important ecosystems, including, forests, wetlands, drylands, and coral reefs.

“(v) Developing policies and programs to address international threats to natural resources including but not limited to illicit trade; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; wildlife trafficking; and illegal logging and associated trade.

“(vi) Developing and implementing United States foreign policy related to air, water and soil pollution and risks to human health and the environment caused by the transboundary movement of hazardous chemicals and waste and other forms of pollution to promote environmental security with trade partners and in multilateral institutions.

“(vii) Representing the Department in bilateral and multilateral engagements including organizations, institutions, and negotiation of international agreements on related issues.

“(viii) Developing policies and programs, in coordination with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Commerce, and other relevant Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, to support partnerships between the United States and international and private industry partners in the development of infrastructure and policies that expand economic growth in outer space, including—

“(I) countering malign efforts by foreign adversaries and other actors that threaten United States interests in civil and commercial space;

“(II) expanding access to foreign markets for United States commercial industry, including by encouraging reforms that reduce barriers to trade and cooperation with United States civil and commercial space actors; and

“(III) providing assistance to foreign governments and organizations, including national, regional, and international institutions, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may determine.

“(ix) Leading bilateral and multilateral engagements related to civil and commercial space activities, resilient space services, burden sharing, and other matters related to international space law and diplomacy and other United States international obligations and commitments.

“(x) In accordance with the National Space Policy, leading United States Government engagement with international Global Navigation Satellite Systems providers to ensure compatibility and encourage interoperability of civil global navigation satellite services based on United States-based global positioning systems, including through the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems.

“(xi) Leading Department efforts to implement international arrangements and promote cooperation on Earth observation satellite systems.

“(xii) Leading Department engagement in multilateral and bilateral forums on international space policy, space law, and commercial and civil treaties or agreements.

“(xiii) Leading Department efforts on transparency in space by maintaining the official United States space object registry and promoting best practices for safe operations in space, preservation of the space environment, space traffic coordination, and space situational awareness.

“(xiv) Leading Department efforts to align foreign space law, regulatory, and policy frameworks with United States-endorsed models, approaches, and best practices.

“(xv) Performing such other duties as the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment may from time to time designate.

“(C) FIRST APPOINTMENT.—On the date of the enactment of this Act, the individual serving as the Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs on the day before such date of enactment shall be the Assistant Secretary for Water, Environment, and Space Affairs. Any subsequent appointment of an individual to the position of Assistant Secretary for Water, Environment, and Space Affairs shall be subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(D) BUREAU.—The Secretary shall establish a Bureau of Water, Environment, and Space Affairs, which shall perform such functions related to space, oceans, environmental quality, fisheries, wildlife, and wildlife trafficking, and conservation affairs, as the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment may prescribe.

“(E) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The Assistant Secretary for Water, Environment, and Space Affairs shall be the head of the Bureau of Water, Environment, and Space Affairs.”

SEC. 11. STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC EXPERTISE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) OFFICE DIRECTORS AND DEPUTY DIRECTORS.—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 501 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3981), the positions of Office Director and Deputy Office Director, as well as special assistant positions, under the purview of the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, shall generally be filled by civil service officers.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary is authorized to take such steps as may be necessary to phase-in the requirement under subsection (a) over the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) EXCEPTIONS.—The Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment may approve the appointment of a Foreign Service officer to an Office Director or a Deputy Office Director position if—

(1) the individual has the requisite expertise, as determined by the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment; and

(2) in the 5-year period following the date of the enactment of this Act, not more than one-third of all Office Director and Deputy Office Director positions under the purview of the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment are filled by Foreign Service officers.

(d) DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment may appoint, without regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3318 of

title 5, United States Code, candidates directly to positions in the competitive service, as defined in section 2102 of that title.

(2) **TERMINATION.**—Except with respect to the Office of the Chief Economist, the authority provided under paragraph (1) shall terminate on the date that is 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that contains plans to attract and retain economic, policy, legal, and technical expertise for civil service officers in the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, including career promotion tracks to supervisory and non-supervisory GS-15 positions.

SEC. 12. REFERENCES.

Any reference in any statute, reorganization plan, Executive order, regulation, agreement, determination, or other official document or proceeding to—

(1) the Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs shall be deemed to refer to the Assistant Secretary for Water, Environment, and Space Affairs;

(2) the Bureau for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs shall be deemed to refer to the Bureau for Water, Environment, and Space Affairs;

(3) the Sanctions Coordinator shall be deemed to refer to the Assistant Secretary for Sanctions Policy; and

(4) the Office of the Sanctions Coordinator shall be deemed to refer to the Bureau of Sanctions Policy.

SEC. 13. ENERGY DIPLOMACY.

Section 931 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17371) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 931. ENERGY DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

“The Secretary of Energy may make appropriate arrangements with the Secretary of State to assign personnel from the Department of Energy or the National Laboratories of the Department of Energy to serve as dedicated advisors on energy matters in embassies of the United States or other United States diplomatic missions.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. 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 H.R. 5248.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), the chairwoman of the East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee.

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my remarks on the previous version of this bill be moved to this point in debate in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5248, the Producing Returns and Opportunity for Investment and Trade Act, or PROFIT Act.

I thank Chairman MAST for his leadership on this bill and working with us. This is a bipartisan bill, and it is the result of months of collaborative work by the East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee and my staff.

I thank Chairman MAST for his leadership and getting us this far. His initiative to prioritize State Department reauthorization, as part of a broader all-of-committee effort, is already delivering results.

Before last year's NDAA, nearly 85 percent of the Department was unauthorized. With the passage of H.R. 5248, Chairman MAST will have pushed through legislation to bring that authorization level well above 50 percent. That is truly an amazing achievement.

I also thank Ranking Member MEEKS. During the September 2025 committee markup, he rightly called this bill “a distinct bright spot” in the authorizing process due to its strong bipartisan refinement.

I am delighted that we have been able to bring this bill to the House floor under suspension today. Passing H.R. 5248 alongside other State Department authorization legislation fulfills a core responsibility of the Foreign Affairs Committee, producing an annual authorization bill.

Regrettably, the committee has neglected this fundamental duty for over two decades, and the costs of that neglect have grown steadily.

Without regular authorizations, we cede policy direction to other committees and must rely on their vehicles to advance our priorities. Oversight suffers as the Department becomes less responsive, delaying witnesses, ignoring document requests and briefings, and we fall short of our Article I constitutional responsibilities.

Unchecked, the Department, like most government agencies, expands, loses focus, and accumulates bloat. Bureaus and offices created to serve one administration's priorities persist, layering new offices on top of old ones and creating redundancy and inefficiency. The Department of State that this administration inherited was rife with bloat, government waste, and slowed decisionmaking.

The PROFIT Act is a critical step to restoring regular order to the authorization process. It codifies what President Trump has said repeatedly: economic security is national security; economic policy is foreign policy.

This bill realigns bureaus and offices under the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, placing commercial diplomacy at the forefront of America First foreign policy. It signals strong sup-

port to American companies in critical minerals, energy, and related sectors. The Department will work to open markets, reduce dangerous supply chain dependence on China and other adversaries, and level the playing field so U.S. firms can compete and win abroad.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a vital piece of the committee's broader effort. At a time of unprecedented challenges to our economic sovereignty, the Department's tools must be fit for purpose. H.R. 5248 equips it to prioritize economic statecraft and deliver results for years to come.

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

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I urge the support of H.R. 5248, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5248, as amended.

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

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 18 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. MURPHY) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 8466; and
H.R. 8428.

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.

TAXPAYER RESOURCES USED IN EMERGENCIES ACCOUNTABILITY 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. 8466) to require certain agencies to develop plans for internal control in the event of an emergency or crisis, 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 Texas (Mr. GILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 0, not voting 46, as follows:

[Roll No. 208]

YEAS—384

Adams	Davis (NC)	Higgins (LA)
Aderholt	De La Cruz	Hill (AR)
Aguilar	Dean (PA)	Himes
Alford	DeGette	Horsford
Allen	DeLauro	Houchin
Amodei (NV)	DelBene	Houlahan
Ansari	Deluzio	Hoyer
Arrington	DeSaulnier	Hoyle (OR)
Auchincloss	Dexter	Hudson
Babin	Diaz-Balart	Huffman
Bacon	Dingell	Huizenga
Baird	Doggett	Hunt
Balderson	Donalds	Hurd (CO)
Barr	Downing	Issa
Barragán	Edwards	Ivey
Barrett	Elfreth	Jack
Baumgartner	Ellzey	Jackson (TX)
Bean (FL)	Emmer	Jacobs
Beatty	Escobar	Jayapal
Begich	Españillat	Jeffries
Bentz	Estes	Johnson (GA)
Bera	Evans (CO)	Johnson (LA)
Beyer	Evans (PA)	Johnson (SD)
Bice	Ezell	Jordan
Biggs (AZ)	Fallon	Joyce (OH)
Biggs (SC)	Fedorchak	Joyce (PA)
Bilirakis	Feenstra	Kamlaager-Dove
Bishop	Fields	Kaptur
Boebert	Figures	Kelly (IL)
Bonamici	Fine	Kelly (MS)
Bost	Finstad	Kelly (PA)
Boyle (PA)	Fischbach	Kennedy (NY)
Bresnahan	Fitzgerald	Kennedy (UT)
Brown	Fitzpatrick	Khanna
Brownley	Fleischmann	Kiggans (VA)
Budzinski	Fletcher	Kiley (CA)
Burchett	Flood	Kim
Burlison	Fong	Knott
Bynum	Foster	Krishnamoorthi
Calvert	Foushee	Kustoff
Cammack	Fox	LaHood
Carbajal	Franklin, Scott	LaLota
Carey	Friedman	Landsman
Carson	Frost	Langworthy
Carter (GA)	Fry	Larsen (WA)
Carter (TX)	Fuller	Larson (CT)
Casar	Garamendi	Latimer
Case	Garbarino	Latta
Casten	Garcia (CA)	Lawler
Castor (FL)	Garcia (IL)	Lee (FL)
Castro (TX)	Garcia (TX)	Lee (NV)
Chu	Gill (TX)	Lee (PA)
Ciscomani	Gillen	Leger Fernandez
Cisneros	Jimenez	Levin
Clark (MA)	Golden (ME)	Liccardo
Clarke (NY)	Goldman (TX)	Lieu
Cleaver	Gomez	Lofgren
Cline	Gonzalez, V.	Loudermilk
Cloud	Gooden	Lucas
Clyburn	Goodlander	Luna
Clyde	Gosar	Luttrell
Cohen	Graves	Lynch
Cole	Green, Al (TX)	Mackenzie
Collins	Griffith	Magaziner
Comer	Grothman	Malliotakis
Correa	Guest	Maloy
Courtney	Guthrie	Mann
Craig	Hageman	Mannion
Crane	Hamadeh (AZ)	Massie
Crank	Harder (CA)	Mast
Crawford	Haridopolos	Matsui
Crenshaw	Harrigan	McBath
Crow	Harris (MD)	McBride
Cuellar	Harris (NC)	McClain
Davids (KS)	Harshbarger	McClain Delaney
Davidson	Hayes	McClellan
Davis (IL)	Hern (OK)	McClintock

McCormick	Pfluger
McDowell	Pingree
McGarvey	Pocan
McGovern	Pou
McGuire	Pressley
McIver	Quigley
Mejia	Ramirez
Menefee	Randall
Menendez	Raskin
Meng	Reschenthaler
Messmer	Riley (NY)
Meuser	Rivas
Miller (IL)	Rogers (AL)
Miller (OH)	Rogers (KY)
Miller (WV)	Ross
Miller-Meeks	Rouzer
Mills	Roy
Min	Ruiz
Moolenaar	Rulli
Moore (AL)	Rutherford
Moore (NC)	Ryan
Moore (UT)	Salinas
Moore (WI)	Sánchez
Moore (WV)	Scalise
Moran	Scanlon
Morelle	Schmidt
Morrison	Schneider
Moskowitz	Scholten
Mrvan	Schrier
Murphy	Schweikert
Nadler	Scott (VA)
Neguse	Scott, Austin
Nehls	Self
Newhouse	Sessions
Norcross	Sewell
Nunn (IA)	Sherman
Obornolte	Shreve
Ocasio-Cortez	Simpson
Ogles	Smith (MO)
Olzewski	Smith (NE)
Omar	Smith (NJ)
Onder	Smith (WA)
Pallone	Smucker
Palmer	Sorensen
Panetta	Soto
Pappas	Spartz
Patronis	Stansbury
Pelosi	Stanton
Perez	Stauber
Perry	Steil
Peters	Steube
Pettersen	Stevens

Strickland	Strong
Stutzman	Stutzman
Subramanyam	Sykes
Takano	Taylor
Tenney	Tenney
Thanedar	Thandekar
Thompson (CA)	Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)	Thompson (PA)
Timmons	Tlaib
Tokuda	Tonko
Torres (CA)	Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)	Torres (NY)
Trahan	Tran
Turner (OH)	Turner (OH)
Underwood	Underwood
Valadao	Van Drew
Van Epps	Van Dwyne
Van Orden	Van Epps
Vargas	Van Orden
Vasquez	Vargas
Veasey	Velázquez
Vindman	Vindman
Walberg	Walberg
Walkinshaw	Wasserman
Wasserman	Schultz
Waters	Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)	Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)	Webster (FL)
Westerman	Whitesides
Wied	Williams (GA)
Williams (GA)	Williams (TX)
Williams (TX)	Wilson (FL)
Wilson (FL)	Wilson (SC)
Wittman	Wittman
Womack	Womack
Yakym	Yakym
Zinke	Zinke

FEDERAL FRAUD PREVENTION WORKFORCE TRAINING 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. 8428) to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish a mandatory antifraud and improper payment training program for Federal program administrators, to provide for the availability of such training to State and local entities administering Federally funded programs, 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 Texas (Mr. GILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 0, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 209]

YEAS—393

Adams	Cloud	Friedman
Aderholt	Clyburn	Frost
Aguilar	Clyde	Fry
Alford	Cohen	Fuller
Allen	Cole	Garamendi
Amo	Collins	Garbarino
Amodei (NV)	Comer	Garcia (CA)
Ansari	Correa	Garcia (IL)
Arrington	Costa	Garcia (TX)
Auchincloss	Courtney	Gill (TX)
Babin	Craig	Gillen
Bacon	Crane	Jimenez
Baird	Crank	Golden (ME)
Balderson	Crawford	Goldman (TX)
Barr	Crenshaw	Gomez
Barragán	Crow	Gonzalez, V.
Barrett	Cuellar	Gooden
Baumgartner	Davids (KS)	Goodlander
Bean (FL)	Davidson	Gosar
Beatty	Davis (IL)	Graves
Begich	Davis (NC)	Gray
Bell	De La Cruz	Green, Al (TX)
Bentz	Dean (PA)	Griffith
Bera	DeGette	Grothman
Beyer	DeLauro	Guest
Bice	DelBene	Guthrie
Biggs (AZ)	Deluzio	Hageman
Biggs (SC)	DeSaulnier	Hamadeh (AZ)
Bilirakis	Dexter	Harder (CA)
Bishop	Diaz-Balart	Haridopolos
Boebert	Dingell	Harrigan
Bonamici	Doggett	Harris (MD)
Bost	Donalds	Harris (NC)
Boyle (PA)	Downing	Harshbarger
Brecheen	Edwards	Hayes
Bresnahan	Elfreth	Hern (OK)
Brown	Ellzey	Higgins (LA)
Brownley	Emmer	Hill (AR)
Budzinski	Escobar	Himes
Burchett	Españillat	Hinson
Burlison	Estes	Horsford
Bynum	Evans (CO)	Houchin
Calvert	Evans (PA)	Houlahan
Cammack	Ezell	Hoyer
Carbajal	Fallon	Hoyle (OR)
Carey	Fedorchak	Hudson
Carson	Feenstra	Huffman
Carter (GA)	Fields	Huizenga
Carter (LA)	Figures	Hunt
Carter (TX)	Fine	Hurd (CO)
Casar	Finstad	Issa
Case	Fischbach	Ivey
Casten	Fitzgerald	Jack
Castor (FL)	Fitzpatrick	Jackson (TX)
Castro (TX)	Fleischmann	Jacobs
Chu	Fletcher	Jayapal
Ciscomani	Flood	Jeffries
Cisneros	Fong	Johnson (GA)
Clark (MA)	Foster	Johnson (LA)
Clarke (NY)	Foushee	Johnson (SD)
Cleaver	Fox	Jordan
Cline	Franklin, Scott	Joyce (OH)

NOT VOTING—46

Amo	Gray
Balint	Grijalva
Bell	Hinson
Bergman	Jackson (IL)
Brecheen	James
Buchanan	Kean
Carter (LA)	Johnson (TX)
Conaway	Keating
Costa	Letlow
Crockett	Mace
DesJarlais	McCaul
Dunn (FL)	McCollum
Frankel, Lois	McDonald Rivet
Fulcher	Meeks
Goldman (NY)	Mfume
Gottheimer	Moulton

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1856

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.

Stated for:

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for a recorded vote today due to travel delays. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On Roll Call No. 208, H.R. 8466, Taxpayer Resources Used in Emergencies (TRUE) Accountability Act, as amended, VOTE YEA.

Joyce (PA) Moolenaar Shreve
 Kamlager-Dove Moore (AL) Simon
 Kaptur Moore (NC) Simpson
 Kelly (IL) Moore (UT) Smith (MO)
 Kelly (MS) Moore (WI) Smith (NE)
 Kelly (PA) Moore (WV) Smith (NJ)
 Kennedy (NY) Moran Smith (WA)
 Kennedy (UT) Morelle Smucker
 Khanna Morrison Sorensen
 Kiggans (VA) Moskowitz Soto
 Kiley (CA) Mrvan Spartz
 Kim Murphy Stansbury
 Knott Nadler Stanton
 Krishnamoorthi Neguse Stauber
 Kustoff Nehls Steil
 LaHood Newhouse Steube
 LaLota Norcross Stevens
 Landsman Nunn (IA) Strickland
 Langworthy Obernolte Strong
 Larsen (WA) Ocasio-Cortez Stutzman
 Larson (CT) Ogles Subramanyam
 Latimer Olaszewski Suozzi
 Latta Omar Sykes
 Lawler Onder Takano
 Lee (FL) Pallone Taylor
 Lee (NV) Palmer Tenney
 Lee (PA) Panetta Thanedar
 Leger Fernandez Pappas Thompson (CA)
 Levin Patronis Thompson (PA)
 Liccardo Pelosi Timmons
 Lieu Perez Tlaib
 Lofgren Perry Tokuda
 Loudermilk Peters Tonko
 Lucas Pettersen Torres (CA)
 Luna Pfluger Torres (NY)
 Luttrell Pingree Trahan
 Lynch Pocan Tran
 Mackenzie Pou Turner (OH)
 Magaziner Pressley Underwood
 Malliotakis Quigley Valadao
 Maloy Ramirez Van Drew
 Mann Randall Van Duynes
 Mannion Raskin Van Epps
 Massie Reschenthaler Van Orden
 Mast Riley (NY) Vargas
 Matsui Rivas Vasquez
 McBath Rogers (AL) Veasey
 McBride Rogers (KY) Velázquez
 McClain Ross Vindman
 McClain Delaney Rouzer Walberg
 McClellan Roy Walkinshaw
 McClintock Ruiz Wasserman
 McCormick Rulli Schultz
 McDowell Rutherford Waters
 McGarvey Ryan Watson Coleman
 McGovern Salinas Weber (TX)
 McGuire Sánchez Webster (FL)
 McIver Scalise Westerman
 Meeks Scanlon Whitesides
 Mejia Schmidt Wied
 Menefee Schneider Williams (GA)
 Menendez Scholten Williams (TX)
 Meng Schrier Wilson (FL)
 Messmer Schweikert Wilson (SC)
 Meuser Scott (VA) Wittman
 Miller (OH) Scott, Austin Womack
 Miller (WV) Self Yakym
 Miller-Meeks Sessions Zinke
 Mills Sewell
 Min Sherman

NOT VOTING—37

Balint James Neal
 Bergman Johnson (TX) Norman
 Buchanan Kean Owens
 Conaway Keating Rose
 Crockett Letlow Salazar
 DesJarlais Mace Schakowsky
 Dunn (FL) McCaul Stefanik
 Frankel, Lois McCollum Thompson (MS)
 Fulcher McDonald Rivet Tiffany
 Goldman (NY) Mfume Titus
 Gottheimer Miller (IL) Wagner
 Grijalva Moulton
 Jackson (IL) Mullin

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1904

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish an antifraud and improper payment training program for Federal program administrators, to provide for the availability of such training to State and local entities administering Federally funded programs, and for other purposes.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and missed roll call votes numbered 208 and 209. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 208, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 8466; and YEA on Roll Call No. 209, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 8428.

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. 208 and YEA on Roll Call No. 209.

□ 1910

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR TOLEDO'S OLD WEST END COMMUNITY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because, over this weekend, my beloved hometown of Toledo, Ohio, suffered tragic and senseless gun violence in our storied Old West End community.

As the annual Old West End Festival was underway Saturday evening, shots rang out. Twelve victims were injured and hospitalized. Our community is praying for them and in gratitude for all the officers and first responders who nobly rescued the injured and those medical personnel who treated them onsite and afterward.

What should have been a beautiful early summer evening filled with music, the arts, food, and friendship was interrupted by chaos. Civil authorities are working to identify and locate those responsible for these barbaric offenses against the community and our civic life.

The Toledo Police and Fire Departments and all first responders proved their courage and utter devotion to duty and restored civil order.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Under extraordinarily difficult circumstances, because there were thousands of people, they answered the call and saved innocent lives. Much of the courage and valor they displayed may never be fully seen. Our community owes them a profound debt of gratitude for their selfless service.

They were quick to secure the scene while getting those injured the urgent medical care they needed. Mercifully, all have survived, but with varying degrees of serious injuries.

As well, our community is forever grateful for the strength and quiet heroism of Old West End residents and festivalgoers who stepped up in a time of great danger. They applied tourniquets, administered first aid, and protected those in the line of fire.

My prayers remain with the victims and our Old West End community who saw a joyous celebration turn into deep tragedy. It will take time and work to restore comfort, security, and trust, and we all must help. I know our community and our region will endure because I know the people.

Please let me thank those from across our Nation and around the globe who held Toledo in prayer this weekend. The values that define our community, faith, compassion, resilience, hard work, and love of neighbor, are stronger than violence and stronger than fear.

I join our local law enforcement partners in asking anyone who might have footage or firsthand information to share that confidentially so that we can locate those perpetrators by calling Crime Stoppers at 419-255-1111.

Together, we will find answers and a better road forward. Now, let us help our neighbors feel safe again on our streets and in their beautiful neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join in a moment of silence.

RECOGNIZING 82ND ANNIVERSARY OF ALLIED D-DAY INVASION OF FRANCE

(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 82nd anniversary of the Allied D-day invasion of France.

On June 6, 1944, thousands of American soldiers stormed the beaches of Normandy to defend the freedoms and liberties that we hold dear. As General Dwight Eisenhower said: “The eyes of the world are upon you.”

D-day reflects the courage of the brave men who landed in France and their sense of duty to protect our country. This past Saturday was a solemn reminder of the more than 6,000 U.S. soldiers we lost. Their sacrifice reshaped the course of history.

In 2018, I had the honor of attending the wreath-laying ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery in France. Standing upon those hallowed grounds was a reminder that freedom is never free.

Mr. Speaker, let us take this moment to remember and honor those who sacrificed so much for so many. May we honor the selflessness and commitment to country. Their impact has been felt for generations and will always be remembered.

God bless our troops and this Nation.

CELEBRATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTRO HISPANO

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 60th anniversary of Centro Hispano, one of the longest-running Latino-serving organizations in Pennsylvania and a cornerstone of Reading and Berks County since 1966.

For six decades, Centro Hispano has supported generations of Latino families as they navigated education, healthcare, immigration, employment, and everyday life in our community.

Today, Reading is home to one of the most vibrant and diverse Latino populations in the Northeast, and Centro Hispano remains a trusted first stop for families seeking help, guidance, and opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, there would be no Centro Hispano without Mike Toledo. Mike has spent decades moving mountains for the people of Reading. When families needed food, he found it. When children needed nutrition, he connected local dairy farmers with Centro's meal programs. When the community needed COVID vaccines, he operated organized clinics. When tragedy struck at the R.M. Palmer factory, Mike was already mobilizing help. When people questioned whether their voices mattered, he organized voter registration drives and reminded the community why democracy does matter.

Mike greets people with two simple words: Hello, family. That spirit of compassion, dignity, and community defines both the man and the institution he helped build.

To Mike Toledo and everyone at Centro Hispano, congratulations on 60 extraordinary years of service.

Berks County is stronger because of them, and we are all grateful.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT L. BURTON

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Robert L. Burton, who passed away on May 1 at the age of 102.

Born in Georgia, Robert lived a remarkable life defined by patriotism, hard work, and devotion to his family and community. As a young man, he served in the Civilian Conservation Corps, answering the call to serve his country during the Great Depression.

At just 18 years old, Robert enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces as a gunner before transferring to the Army, 28th Infantry. He landed on Normandy Beach just 9 days after D-Day and went on to serve throughout the European theater. For his bravery and

sacrifice, he earned four battle stars, the Bronze Star, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

After the war, Robert settled in Peoria, Illinois, in my district, where he built his life and contributed to one of the region's defining corporations, Caterpillar. He spent more than 32 years as a skilled trades welder in East Peoria. He was a proud member of UAW Local 974, serving his fellow workers in several leadership roles.

My heartfelt prayers are with his children, Patricia, Barbara, Pamela, Debra, Sheila, and Mike, and the entire Burton family. His legacy of service, courage, patriotism, and devotion to his community will endure for generations.

CHILDREN FALLING BEHIND

(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, if you have kids, the Annie E. Casey Foundation's "2026 KIDS COUNT Data Book" should concern you. It showed that children across the country are falling behind. Fewer children today have insurance than before the pandemic, and that should shake the ground beneath your feet.

I am not talking just about physical health, Mr. Speaker. I am talking about an almost 10-percent increase in deaths among our young people between 2019 and 2024 related to mental health. I am talking about our children carrying the economic problems that we have yet to solve right on their shoulders into adulthood. I am talking about math and reading proficiency declining in 47 States. These are the consequences of our inaction.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today committed to action. Lower costs, strong schools, affordable housing, and good opportunities are how we start getting ahead.

Mr. Speaker, my K-30 agenda does exactly that, and supporting our kids means investing in the next generation of this country.

□ 1920

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ANTHONY HOLDAMPF

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Anthony Holdampf, a longtime firefighter, veteran, and public servant who passed away on May 30 at the age of 88.

Tony was a proud veteran of the 101st Airborne Division and dedicated decades of his life to serving others, first in uniform and then through a distinguished 37-year career with the FDNY.

During the FDNY's war years of the 1960s and 70s, Tony served on the front

lines with Engine 43 and Ladder 19 in the south Bronx. He later became a charter member of the Tactical Control Unit 712, an elite unit assigned to some of the city's most dangerous fires.

After retiring from the FDNY, Tony continued serving his community as a life member of the Volunteer Hose Company No. 2 in West Haverstraw and was honored with the Rockland County Fireman of the Year award.

His commitment to the fire service inspired future generations, including his son, David, and his son-in-law, Robert, both FDNY firefighters.

Whether helping a neighbor, supporting his fellow firefighters, or serving his community, Tony always answered the call. He embodied the very best of service, courage, and selflessness. My thoughts and prayers are with his beloved wife, Mary Ellen; his children; grandchildren; and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

RECOGNIZING EDMONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the exceptional energy and effort of the Edgemont Community Council, an organization of over 225 families in the Edgemont section of the town of Greenburgh. It brings together that community in ways that strengthen involvement and a host of different activities of interaction.

The council covers the area of 8,500 residents and is comprised of a 23-member board led by its president, Dylan Pyne, and ably assisted by other local leaders, including Paul Wooten, Eliana Weissman, Sharon Bench, Sharyn Lewis, and Anshu Kalhan, among many others.

The council has an extensive annual schedule of events with parades, things that people join together from Lunar New Year celebration, Halloween, holiday tree lighting and Menorah lighting, often activities around Crane's Pond in Edgemont.

The group makes use of the Greenburgh Nature Center, Edgemont High School, and other schools as sites for their ongoing programs.

Substantively, the council advocates for resident issues in the town and county government and has a close working relationship with elected officials and decisionmakers.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, I salute the Edgemont Community Council and the Edgemont neighborhood for their good work.

MODERNIZING THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS OF PET AND ANIMAL FOOD

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

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that the House last week approved the FY27 agriculture appropriations bill, the second FY27 appropriations bill brought to the floor under regular order.

The bill we passed contained the PURR Act, which is a bill I have championed to modernize the labeling requirements of pet and animal food.

The Kansas Second District is the pet and animal food capital of America, employing nearly 20,000 people in all aspects of the industry, from nutrition research and development to production.

Overall, the animal feed and pet food industries annually contribute nearly \$100 billion in value to the U.S. economy and more than 750,000 jobs.

Modernizing the labeling requirements on these products will improve efficiency and reduce compliance costs for pet food manufacturers. It will strengthen the industry. This will have a direct benefit for the affordability of pet food for consumers and animal feed for our farmers and ranchers.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Appropriations Committee for including this important measure from my district in the bill. I look forward to the Senate advancing it and the President signing it into law.

CONGRATULATING DAVISON IGBINOSUN

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

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Davison Igbinosun for being selected by the Buffalo Bills with the 62nd pick in the 2026 NFL draft.

Davison is a graduate of Union High School and was New Jersey's top recruit in the 2022 high school football class. Davison began his college football journey at Ole Miss before transferring to Ohio State. There he developed into one of the Big Ten's top defensive backs and a pivotal player on one of America's strongest college football defenses.

In his three seasons at Ohio State, Davison started 42 of 43 games. He was a First-Team All-Big Ten selection in 2025.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District, I congratulate Davison as he continues to represent Union High School and embarks on his professional football career.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS ARE ELIMINATING WASTEFUL SPENDING

(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, I am grateful that under the leadership of Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, House Republicans are eliminating

wasteful spending, exposing fraud, and keeping taxpayer dollars for the American families.

House Republicans are supporting President Donald Trump, passing the Rescissions Act of 2025, cutting wasteful spending, stopping the funding of radical agendas, holding agencies accountable, and implementing congressional oversight.

Being loyal to President Trump, I am here tonight and tomorrow and not present at the South Carolina Republican primary that I have always attended with voters who I so appreciate for their support.

I am here because I am loyal to President Donald Trump, and I request loyalty reciprocal. Attorney General Alan Wilson and the Wilson family, Roxanne and myself, have been loyal to Donald Trump since 2015, and we are urging that there be a coendorsement in the upcoming election, which will be the runoff of June 23 for Governor of South Carolina.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstituting peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump, mocking Trump, with war criminal Putin murdering children with a tax on civilian population.

RECOGNIZING EASTMAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

(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, it is a proud history, a new beginning, and a brighter future for eastern North Carolina.

After closing in 2009, the historic Eastman School in Halifax County is reopening its doors as Eastman Leadership Academy. From its humble beginnings in 1894, serving generations of families, to closing due to consolidation, Eastman's story has always been about community.

Soon, students will fill these hallways again: learning, growing, and writing the next chapter of this incredible legacy.

With the dedicated vision of Superintendent Cunningham, the Halifax County Board of Education, and the Board of Commissioners, the school will serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Eastman's reopening is a reminder that when communities invest in education, they are investing in new opportunities, leadership, and the future.

FIGHTING ISLAMOPHOBIA

(Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as it was only 18 days ago when two gunmen opened fire

at the Islamic Center of San Diego, killing three, injuring one, and inflicting terror on not just a community but to Americans everywhere.

Since taking office, I have met with religious communities across my incredibly diverse Sixth District of Maryland, including many of our Islamic community centers. My Muslim neighbors not only fear this violence spreading to Maryland but are concerned they must prepare for it.

Today, I share their concerns and a request to fight Islamophobia in this body. Sadly, one of my Republican colleagues recently did tweet: Dogs were preferable to Muslims. It was very reprehensible.

I for one believe we must fight all targeted violence or hateful intimidation or religion or classification, be it Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, racist targeting, or anti-LGBTQ.

Curiously, the House GOP leadership has remained silent as some support the Sharia Free Caucus where 66 congressional Members advanced legislation that singles out Muslim communities saying they threaten the U.S. system in our country. It is not only untrue but counters our freedom of religion. Our Muslim communities must feel that they are treated with respect. Hate has no place in our Congress.

□ 1930

HONORING CONGRESSMAN BILL POSEY

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS of Florida was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart today, we recognize our former colleague of 16 years here in the House of Representatives, Congressman Bill Posey.

Sadly, on May 9th he passed away surrounded by his lovely family, led by his fantastic wife, Katie; and their two children, Cathi and Pam.

We have many Members here tonight who would like to express their not only condolences to the family but, of course, talk about his success serving our country, State, and community.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), chairman of the Science Committee.

Mr. BABIN. The first thing I would like to say is I appreciate this Special Order for our good friend, sponsored by my good friend, MIKE HARIDOPOLOS, who is representing that great district on the Florida Space Coast.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of our friend and former colleague, Congressman Bill Posey. For more than a decade in Congress, Bill faithfully served the people of Florida's Space Coast with integrity, humility, and a deep love of his country.

Before coming to Washington, he dedicated years to serving his community in local and State government, always guided by the belief that elected

officials should answer first and foremost to those that they represent.

Today, I remember Bill not only as a colleague but as a good friend. For eight years, my wife Roxanne and I were neighbors across the hall from Bill and his wife Katie. Bill and Katie were the kind of friends who were always there when you needed them. Roxanne and I used to joke that if you ever needed to borrow a cup of milk or an egg in Washington, we knew exactly where to go, and that was across the hall.

Bill represented one of the most fascinating districts in America: home to Cape Canaveral and Kennedy Space Center. Over the years, I made many trips to Florida's Space Coast, and Bill was always very, very proud to show me around.

We attended launches and events together. We marveled at America's achievements in space exploration. We shared dinners, including Florida rock shrimp. As an east Texan, I wasn't sure what a rock shrimp was. Bill convinced me they were worth trying, and he was right.

Bill's enthusiasm for America's space program was contagious. He understood better than most the importance of innovation, exploration, and maintaining our Nation's leadership in space. He championed the men and the women whose work keeps America at the forefront of discovery and inspired future generations to reach for the stars.

Bill, as a young man, even worked on the Apollo program in the late sixties and early seventies, and he shared those experiences with me.

Many people may not know that Bill was also a race car driver. That adventurous spirit never left him. Whether he was racing down a track or advancing America's space program, Bill approached life with energy and determination. He was a fierce champion of keeping America's science, space, and technology secure from our adversaries' prying eyes as well.

Roxanne and Katie became the closest of friends over the years, and that friendship is something that our family will always cherish.

For those who served alongside Bill, they will remember not only his accomplishments but also his no-nonsense conservatism and his presence.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and our prayers are with Katie, his family, his friends, former staff, and countless Floridians whose lives were touched by his long service. Bill Posey was a good man, a faithful public servant, a great friend, and he will be deeply missed. I am jealous of you being able to represent that great district.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for the kind words for our good friend.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), the chairman of the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for

sponsoring this Special Order hour, recognizing my dear friend, Bill Posey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to share a few words about my dear friend, former Congressman Bill Posey.

Bill was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and a friend to many. He dedicated more than 20 years to public service in this Chamber and as a Florida State legislator.

Bill's reputation as a Florida legislator was one of a changemaker. As the Florida Governor noted: Bill Posey earned a reputation in the Florida legislature as a principled conservative, a problem-solver, and a pioneer in government transparency and accountability, serving in both the Florida House from 1992 to the year 2000, and in the Florida Senate from 2000 to 2008. He was widely respected for constituent service and principled leadership.

Bill and I were first elected to Congress in 2009. It was really during the November orientation after the election that I found my friend, when we were sitting in new Congress Member school, basically. That was also the same time that my wife, Penny, and Katie started a relationship as dear friends that continues to this day. They both quickly became dear friends.

Bill was a mentor, helping me to find my legislative feet, as someone who had never served in the State legislature. He and his wife, Katie, helped Penny and I navigate life in Washington, D.C. He truly was an esteemed colleague who was unwavering in his commitment to American values.

Bill's love for Katie was undeniable. Katie and my wife Penny continue to be the closest of friends.

Bill served on the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, fitting for a man who represented Florida's Space Coast and one who spent part of his career working at the Kennedy Space Center.

I remember fondly his personal tour of Cape Canaveral and his pride in sharing the behind-the-scenes tour of the industry, from the launchpad to the rubber room.

During a personal visit to Florida, Penny and I spent time with Bill and Katie at their church camp for a couple's faith retreat. The messages were inspiring, and the fellowship was outstanding.

I was troubled by the fact that they actually swam and canoed in water shared by alligators. I guess that is a Florida thing, definitely not a Pennsylvania thing.

I had the opportunity to experience firsthand Bill's passion for racing, a.k.a., driving fast. I rode with Bill in his muscle car to a local car show, and that is a ride I will not soon forget.

Bill poured his heart into all he did. He served with dignity and humility. His character and his wisdom will be sorely missed. He was a patriot. He was

a conservative. He was a family man. He was a man of faith, and he was my friend.

I find comfort in knowing that he was welcomed into the arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Penny and I will be attending a memorial and celebrating Bill's life this coming Saturday in Florida.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless Bill's loved ones. I thank the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kind words. I know they were dear friends.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Congressman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS). Actually, the first time I had the pleasure of meeting him is because of Bill Posey. I remember that event we did in Vero Beach and I look forward to serving together in years to come.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. I remember that well, and I thank you for allowing me to speak a little bit about our friend.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Congressman Bill Posey, who represented Florida's 15th and Eighth Districts for more than 16 years and devoted his career to serving the people he loved.

Bill's public service began in the 1970s on the Rockledge City Council, and he went on to serve in both the Florida House and the Florida State Senate. He earned a reputation as champion of fiscal responsibility, government accountability, and policies that strengthened working families.

He never viewed public office as a platform for himself. He saw it as a responsibility to serve others with integrity and purpose.

Bill's commitment to his district was unmatched. He loved his district. He loved the Space Coast. He understood its history, industries, and people. No one fought harder for America's leadership in space exploration.

Drawing on his own experience working on the Apollo program at Kennedy Space Center, he became one of Congress' strongest advocates for NASA, domestic manufacturing, and the aerospace workforce that defines Florida's Space Coast.

He showed how a Member can fiercely defend a district's core industries without falling into subsidies and cronyism, staying true to his principles of limited government and free market strength. Bill was also a national leader in advancing transparency.

□ 1940

He pushed Congress to read the bills it votes on and was instrumental in securing the rule that requires legislation be publicly available for 72 hours before a vote. Wouldn't it be nice to go back to that? Sure would be nice to go back to that standard that Bill worked so hard to set up.

He worked to reform and strengthen trust in the institution and reminded all of us that accountability begins right here at home in Congress.

I had the privilege of serving with Bill in the House Freedom Caucus, where we fought side by side for limited government, fiscal discipline, and the belief that Washington works best when it works within the Constitution.

Bill lived those principles every day.

Getting back to what we were talking about, he invited me to come down to his district. I was the chairman of the Freedom Caucus, and he said: I need you to come on down to my district. We went, and it was basically a day-and-a-half of real education for me in campaigning because there was not a free moment to sit down.

I will tell you this: I couldn't understand why he thought I needed to be down there, because he was so well loved. It was amazing.

Bill Posey approached public service with humility, steadiness, and a deep love for the people he represented. He will be missed. I miss him.

I wish to express my condolences to his wonderful wife, Katie. What a gracious host she was for me when I was down there. She made sure I had everything I needed and more.

I will say this: Bill leaves behind a legacy of principled leadership, tireless advocacy, love of family, love of country, love of God, and an example of how to be a Member of Congress.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BIGGS for his personal visit, as well. It means a lot to us. I thank him for being here tonight.

Next, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), my colleague from Florida. He and I, of course, served together with Congressman Posey in the Florida Legislature in the early 2000s as part of that memorable election of 2000, as well.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I did serve with Bill Posey in the legislature, and I remember my first year in 1998. I had made a campaign promise, and I was going to keep that promise.

I am not going to get into the legislation, but the leadership was pushing a particular bill. I had made a promise to my constituents that I would not be for that particular policy. Bill stuck up for me. It is tough when you are a freshman, and he stuck up for me. He said: Just go right ahead and do what you think is right and what is in the best interests of your constituents. I never forgot that.

Also, Bill endorsed me when I first ran for Congress. He was one of the first ones to do that.

Integrity, he kept his word.

Now, I will tell you this: He had a great sense of humor, as well. When I first ran in 1998, my opponent, I guess because of my stature, called me Danny DeVito. So Bill, on the floor of the House of Representatives for 16 years, called me Danny. When he did it publicly, other Members would whisper in his ear and say: Bill, that is not his name. His name is Gus. He would say: I know that. It is a joke between the two of us.

He was just a genuine great guy and cared about this country so very much.

I rise to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and former colleague, Congressman Bill Posey, whose decades of public service left an indelible mark on the State of Florida and, of course, our Nation.

Bill was a dedicated public servant. Again, he never deviated from his principles. He was a conservative and, above all, a man of integrity.

Long before we served together in the House of Representatives, as I said, Bill and I had the privilege of serving alongside one another in the Florida Legislature. He was a senior member, and I was a junior member; but he never treated me differently.

During those years, I came to know him as a thoughtful policymaker, and a tireless advocate for his constituents. He was someone who approached every issue with humility, common sense, and a deep respect for the people he represented.

When Bill was elected to Congress, he carried those same values with him to Washington, D.C. He never lost sight of who sent him here. He worked diligently to ensure that the voices of Florida's families, seniors, veterans, small businesses, again, taxpayers, were heard.

His commitment to fiscal responsibility, government accountability, and public service earned the respect of his colleagues, as we can see here, on both sides of the aisle. Even if the other side didn't agree with him, they certainly respected him.

What I will remember most, however, is not Bill's legislative accomplishments, as impressive as they were, but his character, Mr. Speaker. He was a loyal friend, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and a man of deep faith whose actions reflected his values every single day. He treated everyone with kindness and respect and conducted himself with a level of civility that serves as an example for all who choose a life of public service. He truly was a throwback.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wonderful wife, Katie. What a great individual and what a wonderful person. He loved her so much very much. My thoughts and prayers are with his children, his grandchildren, his friends, his former staff, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

While he will be greatly missed, his legacy of service, leadership, and dedication to the people of the State of Florida and the United States of America will endure for generations to come. He was a great role model. May his memory be eternal.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BILIRAKIS for his comments for our good friend, Congressman Posey.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY). I thank her for joining us tonight.

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and legacy of Representative

Bill Posey and his long legacy in public service to the State of Florida, to our country, and to the field of science and innovation.

My husband, John Delaney, served with him on the Committee on Financial Services and considered him a friend and greatly admired his knowledge of the banking sector, his integrity, his ability to always reach across the aisle and to always be pragmatic.

I admire him now as a current Member, looking back on my long experience on SST, where he had a commitment to aerospace, to NASA, to satellite services, and to innovation generally.

Most especially, I was a friend of Katie Posey for many years while a congressional spouse at the Congressional Club. Both of them served well in terms of their bipartisan relationships, lifting up to know the other congressional families. They were always full of faith, civility, and a deep sense of service to country and to others.

May God bless their family. I send my deepest condolences, and I thank him for his service. I give my best to Katie and family.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman MCCLAIN DELANEY for her kind words. I know she is dear friends, especially with Katie, and it means a lot to us that she is here tonight.

I know there are others who are coming in and out tonight, but I wanted to kind of give those who were listening some background, as some had mentioned, about Bill's storied career in Florida politics. It is a memorable one.

I had the opportunity to know Bill for almost 30 years. He was a true mentor of mine as I was elected back to the House of Representatives in 2000 when he had moved over to the State Senate. He always offered a guiding, smart hand to a young member of the legislature. It was that confidence that allowed me to find some success in the legislature because he treated me like a son. It really meant a lot to me that a person who was just such a storied person in our community would take the time for new members to get up to speed on some of the challenges we faced in Tallahassee at that time.

□ 1950

One of the people who really made a difference on me, as well, was one of his former staffers, now my staffer, Valentina Valenta. She is a remarkable person and understands the budget inside and out because Bill focused so much on the transparency angle in the budget. That was his passion.

As Congressman BIGGS talked about earlier, this idea of a 72-hour rule is something we have in the State of Florida. We are the Sunshine State, and he really believed that when you are spending other people's money, you should allow time so that it goes into the sunshine. He would like to say: Good ideas in the sunshine prosper and grow. Bad ideas will wither under that powerful sunshine, as well.

That was the vision of what Bill Posey had when he served in not only the United States Congress but before then, the State Senate; before then, the State legislature; and before then, in local government on the city council in Rockledge. Bill was a person who, put simply, when there was a problem, like a good NASCAR or maybe a NASA mechanic, he went out and fixed it.

Bill didn't care about the headlines. In fact, whenever I talked to him, he tried to avoid the press. He wanted to do his work behind the scenes, work with people and just go out and solve problems and then get back to his family and friends, who understood his commitment to his home community, known as Brevard County.

That is what Bill—we already mentioned this—as I think Congressman BABIN and others talked about, his heart was always in Brevard. Though he served here in Washington for 16 years, he was always focused on Brevard County and making sure we did not have some of the challenges we faced after the Apollo program.

He did so much to make sure that when the shuttle program was ended in 2011 and 2012, we made a successful transition over to what we now know as the Artemis project that is so successful, which, back in April, found, of course, so much success, going around the Moon for the first time since 1972.

It was his work behind the scenes with so many other Members here in Congress. I am proud to say that, with NASA, as my colleague, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, is here today, it was a bipartisan project to make sure that Florida stayed the epicenter of space flight in America, and we are seeing that success today.

It is, again, that work behind the scenes that no one saw, and no one really thought possible, that we could find the amazing success we are seeing today with new companies along the lines—in fact, one of those being SpaceX, which is being potentially valued at over \$1.75 trillion, to show where we are going in space.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my former senate colleague in the legislature and now congressional colleague, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I recognize her and thank her for joining us tonight.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership and, really, compassion for our dear friend Bill Posey. The term “friend” is thrown around loosely in politics, and Bill was someone who had a wry sense of humor, someone who you knew where you stood with him. He was someone who didn't mince words and someone who didn't take himself or, really, almost anything too seriously.

He always had kind of a joke that was on his lips, but he was, as Congressman HARIDOPOLOS mentioned, really someone who lived and breathed the Space Coast. He was really the voice of NASA here in Congress, and he

always fiercely stood up for his community and his people.

He was humble. He was someone who did not swing from the rafters. You knew that he cared about the issues that he worked on, but he kept his head down, his nose to the grindstone, and he focused on his core set of priorities.

That is why I am here today to honor our late colleague, Congressman Bill Posey. He was a man who loved his home State of Florida and someone who was willing to put aside partisan politics to make it a better place for all of us.

I can personally vouch for this because he and I worked together since we began our public service work all the way back in 1992, when we were both elected to the Florida House of Representatives, in the legislature. We were also subsequently elected in the same year to the State senate, and it continued well into our time here in Congress.

Congressman Posey was a no-nonsense, principled legislator. Of course, we had our differences. We had many of them, in fact. We used to laugh about how little we agreed on, but when we came together and when we could find an issue on which we could work together, really, it was always incredibly impactful.

Bill Posey was committed to making Florida's coastlines and our children safer. He could drop his partisan flags and cross the aisle even in our most recent times when so many others would waver or refuse.

I saw it immediately, too, when he and I both worked in Tallahassee, Florida's capital. We joined forces to prevent children from drowning by ensuring our pools and spas were safer. That is no small matter in the Sunshine State.

I will tell you that I was working for 3 years to pass the Preston de Ibern/McKenzie Merriam Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act in Florida, and it was tough. There was a lot of Republican opposition. I remember the day like it was yesterday, when Bill came over to me and said: You make a lot of sense. We have to stop the kids from drowning. These are entirely preventable tragedies.

He just got it, so he spent political capital because he knew that it mattered, and he knew it would save lives. He was someone in Congress who just continually kept at the issues that mattered to his constituents. He was a fierce advocate for the Space Coast, as well as Florida's estuaries.

Those are the common bonds, really, that draw all Floridians together. We are a delegation that there is a boatload of things that we don't agree on, but when it comes to fiercely protecting our coastline, whether it is from oil drilling, or whether it is making sure that we can continue to restore the Florida Everglades, or if it is ensuring that we can protect our homeowners, condominium owners, kids in

our year-round warm-weather State who really have a much higher likelihood of drowning, Bill was right there on so many issues.

Another example is, after the Nation saw the tragic death of 98 souls in Surfside, Florida—you remember when the Surfside condominium building came crashing down in the middle of the night, 1:30 in the morning. That Champlain Towers South was in my congressional district at the time. I went to Bill, and we knew we had to do something about making sure that those condominium buildings, especially on the coastline, were safe.

I asked him to co-lead the Making Condos Safer and Affordable Act. People all over our State need that help, so we worked together to push legislation that would help maintain their structural integrity and keep residents safe.

There are other bright moments over his long career, as my colleagues have attested to, and for that, he will be truly missed.

My heart is with his beloved wife, Katie, who was always by his side, never far. She was a true life partner. My condolences to their loved ones. May Bill's memory be a blessing.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for her kind words. It is great to see her. I know Bill spoke highly of how you all worked together across party lines. I am really grateful that she is here tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to close tonight by walking through some of the things that Bill did work on, as the Congresswoman just spoke of. Again, it was a passion for him. He saw problems, and he fixed them.

That is what, again, I loved about Bill, as I mentioned earlier. He was a person who stayed out of the limelight. He didn't really care about who got the credit, but he wanted to just go out and solve problems. He was, again, a mechanic at heart.

One of those issues, as Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ talked about, was the Indian River Lagoon. This is a lagoon that historically has had challenges, and Bill was passionate about taking this on. One of the issues that he did, again, work across the aisle on was what he created with Members of the other side of the aisle on the Congressional Estuary Caucus.

That is where we are focused on solving the problem, where it is not happening just in our home State but around the country, how we can clean up our rivers that eventually work into our oceans.

It was mentioned with NASA—again, a champion for NASA, not just because he represented the area, but he literally worked on the Apollo program, and it was something that he knew would bring America together, even in the most partisan of times.

□ 2000

Before entering politics, he was a person who, after leaving his work at

the Kennedy Space Center, went into the real estate business and found tremendous success. But he was willing to put aside that incredible economic success for his own family because he wanted to serve this country. That is why he entered public life and left a lot of, candidly, resources on the sideline because he chose to serve in public life.

He was known as Mr. Fix-It. I will be talking about this at his celebration of life on Saturday in Melbourne. But one of the issues that really separated him, as Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ talked about on some fronts, was everybody remembers the election of 2000. That was the year where we had the hanging chads and, of course, that incredibly razor-thin election where Florida would decide the election.

Candidly, we were embarrassed of what happened in the election of 2000. So when people looked around the room in the Florida House and Florida Senate and when Jeb Bush was Governor, they said: Who are we going to bring in to fix the election laws in the State of Florida? They brought on Bill Posey.

If you haven't noticed, guess who is running the best elections right now in the entire country: The State of Florida.

I remember when I was elected last November, in 2024, within 7 minutes we knew not only who won the election, but almost all the results were in after the polls closed at 7 p.m. in Florida. That is how remarkable and that is how efficient we want it to be. We were counting those early votes, counting those absentee ballots, and once those ballots were tabulated, within minutes you knew the verdict, which is very different than what we are seeing right now in some States.

That is who Bill Posey was. He saw a problem, he wanted to fix it, and he never talked about it again. That was the ironic part about it.

Here is a person who should be known around the country for fixing elections in a positive way and getting the tabulations done quickly and correctly. That is what we need more of in America is a problem-solver like him.

Also mentioned was Bill being on the Financial Services Committee. When I was thinking about what committees to serve on as I enter Congress, I went to him and said: Where was your passion? He said: MIKE, I held out for one job, and that was to be on Financial Services.

He really felt like some of the banking laws in our country needed commonsense reforms, and he worked all 16 years on the Financial Services Committee. So many people saw his work with NASA, but as FRENCH HILL, our current chairman, talks about, Bill Posey was always diligently there pushing for the idea of transparency.

Through the years, we have seen horrible situations, whether it be Enron or the housing market crash. He was making sure that when people put those dollars in banks or in invest-

ments, there was more transparency, that the investor actually had the information in front of them. That was the kind of person he was.

I am just so grateful that his colleagues who served with him so long showed up tonight because it was that work behind the scenes that really made a difference.

What I saw firsthand in our 25-year-plus relationship was that it was always remarkable watching Bill, a tried-and-true fiscal conservative, be willing to listen to whoever came before him. He was a person who said you can disagree without being disagreeable. That is what I loved about him. He could be a little cantankerous at times, but he always took the time to listen.

As I mentioned and I will mention again over and over, he never left Brevard County. Whenever he could get out of Washington, he got out of Washington. He and Katie loved to get back home and be around the people they loved most, especially their daughters Pamela and Cathi.

After he left Congress in 2024, after those elections, he spent really the last 18 months being involved in those passion projects. One of those is he was actually involved in a car rally across the country as he and Katie went around the country. I am still amazed they actually did it because it was a challenging race, but he had such a passion for cars.

I remember he even went to New Smyrna racetrack for the Governor's Cup for many years because he just loved stock car racing. That was his passion and it was in his blood.

Most recently, he spent so much time with his grandkids, whether it was out West in California or in Alabama, and spending a ton of time with his daughters, especially those who lived in Brevard County.

He was a guy who put family first. It wasn't a cliché. He was a person who, again, was passionate about things when other people took passion in those same ideas.

I am just so grateful that I had the opportunity to know him for so long as he served our country so ably, and he gave back so much and took on so many financial challenges because he loved this country so much.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.) Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, as I close, before I yield to our friends on the other side of the aisle: Bill Posey will not be forgotten because he never forgot those folks who gave him the opportunity to be here.

I am looking forward to seeing so many friends back home on Saturday as we celebrate his life.

I was with him sadly that Thursday before he passed on that Saturday. To see the love that his family expressed in those days as they knew they were going to leave him for a period of time, it just shows the commitment that his family had for him because he loved his family and he loved this country.

I will try to leave it on a lighter note. I remember he said to me when I got elected to the legislature: MIKE, I remember when I first was elected to the legislature, and I couldn't believe I was in the Florida Legislature. Here was a guy from Rockledge, Florida, who grew up loving cars and space and had a beautiful family and a young wife.

Then he said: After about a month or so, I couldn't believe how these other people got here.

That was the thing about Bill Posey. He had that wry sense of humor, as Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ spoke of.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity for us to speak about our good friend Bill Posey. He will be dearly missed. He was a true patriot and friend to our community, and I know I have very big shoes to fill here in the United States Congress.

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

COMMEMORATING JUNETEENTH

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. MCCLELLAN of Virginia was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour commemorating Juneteenth.

Next week, the Nation will pause to celebrate Juneteenth. Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order No. 3, which finally freed more than 250,000 enslaved people in that State.

For while the Emancipation Proclamation officially went into effect on July 1, 1863, emancipating those enslaved in the rebelling States of the Confederacy, it took over 2½ years for the news to reach the western-most Confederate State of Texas.

Broadly, Juneteenth marks Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, or Black Independence Day. Juneteenth is considered the

longest-running African-American holiday. While communities have celebrated the date since 1866, it was not officially signed into United States law as a Federal holiday until June of 2021.

Juneteenth symbolizes that, unlike what we were taught in our schoolbooks, emancipation was not a moment. It was a movement. It was a movement that included acts of resistance, rebellion, and self-liberation since Africans first arrived on American soil in bondage.

As the first Black woman serving in this body from the Commonwealth of Virginia, I am all too familiar with this story, for the Commonwealth is both the birthplace of American democracy and the birthplace of the American slave trail.

In July of 1619, the House of Burgesses met at Jamestown, bringing the concept of a representative democracy modeled after the English Parliament that evolved into the modern-day bicameral legislature. The House of Burgesses continues to operate today as the Virginia House of Delegates.

A month later, in August of 1619, a Dutch privateer arrived at Point Comfort, Virginia, containing, “20 and odd” Africans that John Rolfe recorded were traded for provisions. They were originally captured by Portuguese slavers in West Central Africa, known today as Angola.

While slavery was not officially acknowledged in the laws of Virginia until 1661, there is no doubt that the first Africans aboard the White Lion were treated as slaves, assigned heavy labor, and treated as property by the colonial elite.

□ 2010

I am quite cognizant that 250 years ago when Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence and said that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, he did not include the nearly half a million enslaved men, women, and children or, indeed, any women at all in the Thirteen Colonies. He did not include those enslaved at his beloved Monticello, including his own children.

I am quite clear that when James Madison wrote the Virginia Plan that formed the foundation for a government by, of, and for we the people in order to form a more perfect Union, he did not include the over 300 enslaved people who lived and labored at his Montpelier estate under three generations of his family.

The U.S. Constitution, adopted in 1789, considered enslaved individuals only three-fifths of a person for the purpose of how many people would serve in this body and for taxation. The States that came together to create that more perfect Union treated those people as property.

Since 1789, the story of America has been one of each generation trying to reconcile the ideals upon which we

were founded with the reality and making the ideals true for us all.

Despite what some would have you believe, slavery literally tore this country apart, for as then Abraham Lincoln predicted in 1858, a house divided against itself cannot stand. He said this government could not endure permanently, half slave and half free. While he did not expect the Union to be dissolved, and he did not expect the house to fall, he expected it would cease to be divided. It took a war to do that.

Once Abraham Lincoln was elected President, and South Carolina became the first State to secede from the Union, its 1860 Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina explicitly and repeatedly states that the preservation and expansion of slavery was the primary reason for leaving the Union.

Mississippi, Georgia, and Texas likewise formally published Declarations of Causes that explicitly cited the preservation and expansion of slavery as their primary reason for seceding. States like Alabama and Virginia passed shorter ordinances of secession directly citing the hostile attitudes of the Federal Government toward their “domestic institutions” and the election of a sectional party based on anti-slavery platforms. It was clear they were seceding because of slavery, so that they could keep it.

After the war, Reconstruction sought to bind the country’s wounds and expand the promise of its founding to the formerly enslaved, and Congress expanded suffrage to Black citizens, used Federal troops to vigorously defend it in response to a violent backlash across the South.

Congress passed three Reconstruction amendments designed to guarantee equal, civil, and legal rights to formerly enslaved Americans. All three granted Congress the power to enforce their provisions through legislation: the 13th Amendment finally abolishing slavery in the United States; the 14th Amendment guaranteeing citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States and prohibited any State from abridging the privileges or immunities of citizenship, applied due process of laws to the States, and provided equal protection under the law. It also provided for the reduction of representation in the House of Representatives of any State that disenfranchised any male citizens—and they meant male—over 21 years of age in Federal elections, except for participation in a rebellion or other crime; and the 15th Amendment prohibited the denial or abridgement of the right to vote on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Yet, even with these amendments, Southern States resisted, resorting to paramilitary organizations like the Ku Klux Klan to terrorize Black citizens for daring to seek to vote, run for office, serve on juries, own property,

open businesses, live in the wrong neighborhood, go to the wrong school, eventually drink from the wrong water fountain.

In 1870 and 1871, Congress passed the Enforcement Acts to allow the Federal Government to intervene when States or individuals infringed upon the rights provided in the 14th and 15th Amendments, and as a result Black men gained political power across the South.

In 1870, Senator Hiram Rhodes Revels of Mississippi and Representative Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina became the first Black Members of Congress. A total of 22 Black men served in Congress between 1870 and 1901, including my predecessor, John Mercer Langston of Virginia’s Fourth District, in 1890.

The political, social, and economic power gained by Blacks across the South during Reconstruction then faced a violent backlash, as the KKK and other groups began a reign of terror that relied extensively on lynchings.

To resolve the deadlocked Presidential election of 1876, the Compromise of 1877 brought Reconstruction to an end, the Federal Government removed its troops from the South, and widespread violence, propaganda, and voter suppression began.

In the final year of Reconstruction, the unraveling of Federal protection and voting rights began when the Supreme Court issued two opinions that gutted the Enforcement Act—United States v. Cruikshank and the United States v. Reese. Once Democrats regained control and Reconstruction ended in the South, Congress lost interest in Federal intervention and State disenfranchisement efforts.

Then the long arc toward moral justice began again. When President Harry Truman integrated the Army and when the civil rights movement began to gain ground, those Southern Democrats fled the Democratic Party and became Republicans.

Today, we see a very similar backlash to the backlash to progress that came after Reconstruction. With the first Court case gutting the Voting Rights Act, the Shelby decision, and now the Callais decision, we see a rollback of the Federal Government protecting voting rights. We see a weaponization of the very tools used to ensure that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness was open to all roll back the progress made in civil rights and equal protection under the law. We see an administration that wants to tell one side of the story that I just told that doesn’t want anything uncomfortable to be taught in our schools, that doesn’t want anything about slavery mentioned in our public spaces, in our museums, or in our curriculum, that doesn’t want that backlash taught.

Juneteenth gives us two opportunities: One, to celebrate the extraordinary resilience of Black Americans

who came here through the Middle Passage and bondage, and today are at historic high numbers in political leadership and representation. However, it also gives us an opportunity to acknowledge how we got here—the good, the bad, and the ugly; to recognize the pattern, to recognize the backlash to progress that always includes propaganda, whether it is the lie of white supremacy or the lie of stolen elections; violence, whether it is racial terror, lynchings, or insurrectionists showing up trying to stop for the second time in American history the results of an election they didn't like, or voter suppression, like a modern-day poll tax that we see in the SAVE Act.

We see the same backlash now, but we as the Congressional Black Caucus are here to say: We are not going back, we will fight the backlash, and we will continue the progress until when we say in our Pledge of Allegiance “liberty and justice for all,” it means all.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH).

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia, our esteemed colleague and our good friend, Representative MCCLELLAN, for her historical context, for telling the truth, and for always, always standing up to defend the democracy and the rights of African Americans.

□ 2020

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Juneteenth and reflect on this enduring significance for Black Americans and, in particular, for this Nation.

On June 19, 1865, more than 2 years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, finally learned that they were free.

Juneteenth stands as a powerful reminder that freedom, justice, and equality have never ever been guaranteed in the United States. They have been hard-fought and hard-won.

As we prepare to celebrate our Nation's 250th anniversary, Juneteenth calls on us not only to honor the resilience and sacrifices of those who came before us, but also to confront the work that remains unfinished.

While we celebrate progress, we cannot ignore the challenges facing Black communities today. Recent developments, including the Supreme Court's decision in *Louisiana v. Callais* and the rollback of programs and resources that have helped expand opportunity and representation, remind us that progress is not inevitable. It requires vigilance.

We cannot ignore the urgency of this moment. Many programs that expanded educational access, strengthened healthcare, and supported affordability for working families are being rolled back under this administration's policies. These setbacks deepen inequities and threaten hard-won gains.

That is why we must continue pouring into the programs and community-led efforts that uplift Black families.

By uplifting Black families, we are uplifting all families in America.

At every step, we have a responsibility to speak out against policies that undermine opportunity. The pursuit of equal justice demands our continued commitment.

Yet, Juneteenth is ultimately a story of hope. It is a testament to the strength, perseverance, and determination of generations who refused to give up on the promise of America.

As Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to continue to do this work, whether you want to do it or not. I remain committed to working alongside my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus and across this Nation to advance policies that promote equity, expand opportunity, and strengthen our democracy for future generations.

I hope that everyone in Congress would be willing to honor the legacy of Juneteenth, not only through remembrance but through action.

I grew up in the civil rights movement. At the tender age of 3, I was in the stroller at the March on Washington, so fighting for civil rights is not just talk because I understand that faith without works is dead.

What I do understand is that, in this body, we profess to be Christians. We profess to be people of faith. Yet, at the same time, on one hand we profess to be Christian, and on the other hand, we want to break down the barriers, break down all the hard-earned work, break down the legislation, and break down the policies, the safety nets, and all the work that has been done through the civil rights movement. We want to break it down. Individuals who have worked and toiled in this country to be free yet again, in 2026, are fighting for their freedom.

In this country, we are under a great assault on our ability to be able to vote. Democracy stands right now in a place where I never ever thought that I would ever see again in my lifetime.

All the civil rights leaders and people who gave their lives, volunteers and foot soldiers, for the ability for African Americans and all people of color in this country to be able to exercise their right to vote is completely under assault. I truly believe that our civil rights leaders would roll over in their graves if they knew the assault on democracy and what we are dealing with in today's Congress.

It is unconscionable what is happening here. It is despicable what is happening here. It is deplorable what is happening here.

The Constitution affords every man and woman the ability to be able to exercise their right to vote, to exercise what is important to them. It gives them the ability to be able to live the American Dream and work for the American Dream to be educated, to be given affordable, quality healthcare, and to live in affordable housing. This Congress and the United States continue to strip away the voting rights of

African Americans. That is truly at stake.

Where is the promise? What promise is being kept by this Constitution and by the Declaration of Independence?

The words of the Congressional Black Caucus continue to fall on deaf ears here in these Chambers. Shame on America. Shame on the body.

I pray every single day. I pray over every Member in this body. I pray for wisdom for our colleagues. I pray for the strength to stand and defend democracy and do the right thing. That is because democracy is for everyone in the United States, and we don't get to pick and choose who has access and who doesn't.

They don't get to pick and choose who gets to have a vote and who doesn't. We don't get to pick and choose who has healthcare and who doesn't. We don't get to pick and choose who has access to a good public education and who doesn't.

I, along with the Congressional Black Caucus, will stand and defend our ability to be able to hold dear and hold fast to what was promised to us by the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

As the great woman from Virginia just mentioned, we are not backing down.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY).

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Virginia for hosting this Congressional Black Caucus special hour. I also thank my colleague from Georgia, who just finished speaking. I appreciated the powerful statement that she made and the insightful comments that she shared with us tonight.

Juneteenth is just around the corner. Juneteenth was a special day for me. It is one that we celebrated my mother's birthday on frequently, and certainly, as a child of North Carolina and Virginia, had special meaning, as well. I have had a chance to enjoy those days, but the meaning of them has evolved over time for me.

□ 2030

I was a child in North Carolina, Rocky Mount, North Carolina in the late 1960s. It was still segregated. Across the street was Booker T. Washington High School, and I lived on the side of the tracks that the African-American community lived in back then.

The schools were segregated. Stores, many of them, you couldn't try on clothes if you wanted to go get fit. There were a lot of restaurants you couldn't go into and if you did want to go in, they tried to make you go in through the backdoor. That is where we stood as a nation when I was a child.

Then, as you heard from my colleague from Virginia, the movement that came along that grew into the civil rights movement changed all of

that for the United States of America. We had gone from a real dark time after the North withdrew from the South, the return of Jim Crow, the growth of the Ku Klux Klan, the return of almost a version of enslavement return to the South in the late 1870s and it got worse over the next decades.

We had lynchings. It was a regular tool of terrorism in the South during those days. It was used to keep people in line if they did something radical or dramatic, like trying to vote or even register to vote. That is what we were in. That is what my grandfather was born into in North Carolina in 1895.

Things changed over time, thank God. We grew as a community, the African-American community. We started schools, historically Black colleges like Howard University and others that gave us a chance to gain an education, even in a segregated environment. We started groups, fraternities, sororities, especially for kids going to college.

The Divine Nine we call them now. I belonged to Kappa Alpha Psi. It was one of those sources of strength for our community. We had to develop our own newspapers since White newspapers wouldn't cover what was going on in the Black community.

We developed alternative structures that allowed us to train people to become doctors and the like. The NAACP grew and became a force for change, fighting against segregation in America and especially against lynching.

All of that grew over the years. We didn't have a lot to work with. Segregation was hard, and the further South you went, the harder it was. But ultimately in the late 1950s in Montgomery, Alabama, there was something called the Montgomery bus boycott that took off.

The Montgomery bus boycott was led by the faith community there, the African-American faith community, because the buses in Montgomery if you were African American, you were supposed to sit in the back. If the front of it filled up and new White people got on to the bus, if you were African American, you were expected to get up and give your seat. That was the nature of the way things were in those days. A woman named Rosa Parks decided she had had enough and she refused to get up and give her seat up.

Now, actually, that wasn't just a coincidence. This is something that people had been preparing for for years. The churches, the NAACP, and the like, and something called the SCLC, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, all were working together to try and figure out how can we push back and fight back against this. How can we try and change this?

The boycott began and just coincidentally, a young pastor almost fresh out of divinity school came down from Boston. His father had been a pastor in Atlanta and he wanted to become a pastor like his father, but he didn't want to try and start in Atlanta, so they sent him to Montgomery. And

just at the time that this young man got there, this man named Martin Luther King, Jr., they were looking for new leadership to lead the bus boycott and lead the faith community forward.

This is a man who was still writing his Ph.D. dissertation while he was leading the bus boycott. He was married and beginning a family while he was leading the bus boycott. If that wasn't enough, the hate, the anger, the opposition rolled up against him and his house, for example, was bombed while he was at church one day preparing for the Sunday service.

The house was blown up. He knew that his wife and his child were there and he didn't know if they were dead or not until he was able to run back home and see for himself.

When he got there, he saw a group of people who were angry and they wanted revenge. They wanted to go strike back and retaliate against the people who had bombed his house.

Dr. King said that is not how we do things. That is not the Christian way. That is not the way we are going to lead this movement. We are going to fight hate with love. We are going to fight violence with nonviolence, and we are going to win the hearts of these people and change the course of this Nation.

Now, it took a long time to get there. The bus boycott took a year. People were walking to work day in and day out in the snow and the rain and the cold, but they kept walking. They tried to create ways to ferry each other to and from where they had to go. Many of them were working as domestics, for example. They had tried giving each other rides and they put this whole structure in place to permit that.

The bus boycott was successful. The bus company thought they could hold out, that they could outlast them, but as it turned out, they were wrong. One woman said, "My feet is tired, but my soul is rested."

They came together and won that bus boycott, and it was the first giant step with respect to the civil rights movement. There were other forces that had gathered prior to that, there was the desegregation of the Army.

My father-in-law fought in World War II. There were colored units back then, and he rose up to the level of captain. He left the service, re-enlisted for ground combat during the Korean war and went to fight again. There were many others like him who put their lives on the line. Many of them gave their lives in the fight to protect our country.

One of the things my father-in-law told me was that when they had come back from Europe, he was stationed in Italy—they put a lot of what they called Negro troops then in Italy to fight there—and when they were bringing them back, many of the German soldiers had turned themselves into them because they didn't want to have to turn themselves into the Russians. One of the ironies was that when they

got back to the United States, the Black troops who had fought to protect and defend the United States of America, had saved Europe from totalitarianism and in many instances had given their lives and lost their friends and colleagues in this fight still had to ride in the back of the train behind these German soldiers. That is where America was.

Mr. Speaker, when the civil rights movement moved forward and gained momentum and culminated, as you heard from my colleague from Virginia, in the crown jewel of the civil rights movement was the Voting Rights Act. Other pieces came along. The Civil Rights Act was there, too. The Fair Housing Act, all those things came together. But the Voting Rights Act was the key tool to the transformation of the South in this country.

John Lewis was one of the key players in that movement. I saw a play about him. It is called "Young John Lewis." They ran it here in D.C. a couple weeks ago, and I went to see it. The culmination of the "Young John Lewis" play is the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

It was supposed to be a cause for celebration. It is supposed to be the climax, the high-water moment of this play, but a strange thing had happened just a few days before.

The United States Supreme Court, the Trump majority in the United States Supreme Court, had essentially eviscerated the Voting Rights Act that they were supposed to be celebrating.

Instead of there being a big cheer in the audience, there was this sad kind of pall that came over the crowd, including me. The voting rights piece, that first Supreme Court opinion that I mentioned just a few days ago, Callais, Justice Alito said he is not totally gutting it. He is just changing the standard of review, the legal ways to analyze those cases.

□ 2040

So we thought, let's hope and see how it plays out. It just turns out that there was another case in Alabama 3 years before where the Supreme Court had basically supported the Voting Rights Act and affirmed it. A three-judge panel had been appointed, because there were more challenges coming from the State. That three-judge panel consisted of one Clinton appointee, but two Trump appointees. That three-judge panel had said, after weeks of hearings—I think it was like 80 witnesses, 800 exhibits, extensive, detailed, thorough hearings—and that three-judge panel, which including two Trump appointees, concluded that the lines that had been drawn by the Republicans in Alabama constituted intentional racial discrimination. There was an intentional effort to dilute Black Alabamians' voting strength.

They said that the map that the Republicans were trying to put in place—and, remember, this was triggered by President Trump's call to Texas a few

months earlier saying: I need five seats. I will come back to that in a minute.

The three-judge panel said: Nope, you still can't put that map in place. There were two seats, one is held by our current colleagues TERRI SEWELL and SHOMARI FIGURES. It is the SHOMARI FIGURES' seat they were going after. They were trying to draw it out. The three-judge panel said that seat should stay. Then the United States Supreme Court, in an expedited manner, overturned the decision of that three-judge panel, even though they had just said a few weeks ago that intentional discrimination will not be talented in drawing these lines.

Even though there is something called the Purcell Rule, which the Supreme Court had honored for decades, the Purcell Rule is: You know what? We are not going to be doing these election decisions when we get too close to an election, because it can cause problems in how you implement the election. So we won't do that.

They violated that even though the three-judge panel said one of the reasons they didn't want to overturn the lines at that point was because it would cause chaos in the election. The Supreme Court did it anyway.

The Trump majority on the Supreme Court threw it out. Justice Sotomayor wrote a dissent. In that dissent she says: "Now the Court is squarely faced with a record of the turmoil it has caused and the harm it has wrought. Yet just as Alabama doubled down on racial discrimination, the Court today doubles down on chaos."

So that is where we have come from Juneteenth: The gutting of the Voting Rights Act.

It is not just in Alabama, unfortunately. I was down in North Carolina, back in my home State. I have got a colleague named DON DAVIS who is running for reelection. North Carolina is playing the exact same game as Alabama is. In fact, they did it a few years ago. This will be the third election that Congressman DAVIS has to run where they have tried to change the lines to make it harder for him to win.

When they did it in 2024, they knocked off three other Democrats who had been my colleagues when I first served here. The Republican legislature drew out those three Democrats and put them in districts that were predominantly Republican so that they couldn't win. We lost those three seats, but that is not enough. They want to take more. They went after DON DAVIS' district and cut the African American voting bloc in half there.

Now, I went down because I want to try and help him win anyway. I know that area a little bit. I know that those voters were angry that there is an attempt to disenfranchise them in that way, but I think they see past the moment and understand the importance of what we need to do right now.

There are challenges coming up this November. One of the main challenges

is to show that these, I think, illegal efforts to disenfranchise voters in this way, African American voters who were explicitly protected by the Voting Rights Act—which was explicitly based on the 14th Amendment, which was explicitly written to address all of the challenges and dangers and awful history that we created with slavery and segregation—all of that we have to fight back.

Now, the Trump administration is not going to make it easy. In addition to appointing a Supreme Court that would strike down the Voting Rights Act, they have gutted the part of the Department of Justice that is supposed to be protecting voting rights enforcement.

When Mr. Trump came into office, one of the first things he did was force out all but two of the attorneys in the voting rights section. Only two were left. In addition to that, they threw out all of the voting rights cases under section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. He did that immediately. He did that before the Supreme Court had even ruled. He was telegraphing exactly what he wanted to have happen with this.

He is not done there. Let's keep in mind a couple of things. In addition to gutting the unit at the Department of Justice that is supposed to protect voting rights, he is making aggressive moves on it. Remember, he did that speech where he talked about nationalizing elections? Well, we all know that Federal elections are run by the States. The Constitution says that. He still announced that anyway.

He also sent the FBI to do a raid on the Fulton County Department of Elections to seize the ballots. Now, I have never seen anything like that.

At first he started out, he sent requests—demands, actually, to 47 States saying: Hey, we want all your voting files. The States resisted, and you can imagine why, especially States where Democrats are at risk of the type of gerrymandering that we have seen in Alabama and North Carolina.

He said he needed to do it based on the theft of the 2020 election. Now, he is still acting like he actually won the 2020 election. This would be kind of like if the team that lost the Super Bowl last year was still running around acting like they actually won it. That is what Donald Trump is doing. Six years later, even though all of the statements they have made about this have been discredited, they have lost in over 60 courts all across the country, including courts with Republican appointees, including courts that are managed by the Republicans with Trump appointees on them. Over and over and over again they say: Nope, you actually lost that election. He won't give it up.

I don't think it is really about the 2020 election anymore. I think in his mind it is really about 2026 and what they might do in November.

We need to keep in mind a couple of things, based on the history that you

heard from my colleague from Virginia—and we know history can repeat itself—there is a saying that the arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice. The thing to remember is it does not bend on its own. It only bends in the right direction when we make it bend in the right direction.

On Juneteenth this year, the Obama library is going to open in Chicago, a long time coming, an exciting moment. I think it was in some ways a crowning achievement for the United States of America. At least it was viewed that way not just around the world but by many here in the United States. I am going to be excited to see what they have done and what they have built.

The legacy is the most important part of what that is about. The legacy of that Obama election, of what we can do and where we can go is something I think we need to focus on.

I watched a little bit of a special about it, and they played some of his speeches back from that era. The thing that is interesting is they are so different from the speeches we get from the White House now. They are not about division. They are not about anger. There is no hostile attacks on reporters, even when he disagreed with them. There is no threats to wipe out an entire civilization. There is no wars started, just because somebody woke up on the wrong side of the bed. There is none of that stuff.

As he said, there is no red States. There is no blue States. There is the United States of America.

□ 2050

There is a call to a certain type of America that he made that reminded me of John Kennedy's in the 1960s. It reminds me of Dr. King's in the civil rights movement in the late 1960s.

Many of our greatest leaders made the statements that pulled us together, that brought us together, despite the divisions we had in our history, realizing that, as they say, we might have come over here on different ships, but we are all on the same boat now. We need to find a way to start working together again, but we can't keep undermining the rights of other people. We can't keep disrespecting the rule of law. We can't keep undermining democracy if we are going to move in that direction again.

For this Juneteenth, my hope is that the America that we aspire to will get back in the front window and that we will start moving in that direction again and that we can start raising ourselves and our Nation up to those high standards again.

To my colleague from Virginia, I thank her for doing this. I appreciate the work that she has done for the Congressional Black Caucus. I thank my colleagues in the caucus for the work that they do day in and day out. Here in the House, I thank my colleagues. Even when I disagree with them, we can find a way to disagree without being disagreeable. We can find a way

to remember that we are all supposed to be fighting for the same things, that we can turn to each other and not on each other at this critical moment.

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of West Virginia). The gentlewoman from Virginia has 15 minutes left.

Ms. McCLELLAN. We the people, in order to form a more perfect union, as I mentioned, the history of our country is how we the people includes everyone. It is how to reconcile the ideals upon which this country was founded as articulated so beautifully by Thomas Jefferson, with the reality upon which this country was founded, as we grapple with the fact that Thomas Jefferson in writing that all men were created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness did not even include in that sentiment the human beings who labored, enslaved by him treated as property, including his own children.

I think of our country as a family, the American people as a family. Like any family, you cannot heal from family trauma if you don't talk about it, if you don't acknowledge it, if you don't acknowledge the pain of it, if you don't forgive and move forward.

Unfortunately, in our country, too often when we get close to that moment, when we get close to that healing moment, when we get close to that ideal becoming true for everyone, there is a backlash.

Every time in American history that we have begun to address the impact of over 300 years of slavery and Jim Crow on African Americans, there is a backlash.

The first one was the backlash to reconstruction. During reconstruction, when formerly enslaved men gained the right to vote after gaining citizenship, after being promised equal protection under the law, after electing members of their community to Congress—over 22—and after electing hundreds from their communities to State legislatures across the country, gaining social, political, and economic power, working together, in some cases, with White communities—like the Readjuster Party in Virginia, which worked together to create what was, at the time considered—with a small p—the most progressive Constitution that Virginia ever had, where it finally promised, for the first time, every child in Virginia the right to a free public education. And the old power structure said: We have got to break that up.

To break up that coalition, the backlash used three things: propaganda, the lie of White supremacy, the lie of the Lost Cause narrative, that began to ignore what was actually said in articles of succession and say: Well, no, the war was about something else. It wasn't about slavery.

It began to use the lie of the Lost Cause narrative in iconography that

said we need to put Black people back in their place by putting these gigantic monuments in front of the courthouse that says: Justice for all, except for you.

Then when they didn't get the message from the propaganda, they said: We are going to use violence through racial terror lynching, and 6,500 people, Black people, were murdered by White mobs through racial terror lynchings from 1865 through the 1960s—1968. Because if they don't get the message of the propaganda, we are going to use violence. We are going to use a mob that will start a race riot when people in Louisiana are trying to register to vote. We are going to use voter suppression because in a country—in a government of the people, of the people, for the people, the government will reflect the perspective and, therefore, meet the needs of the people who participate. If we can keep certain people from participating, we don't have to meet their needs.

So whether it was the literacy test that my great-grandfather had to take in Alabama in 1901, the character requirement he had to meet by finding three White men to vouch for his character to register to vote; whether it was the poll tax that my father and my grandfather had to pay in Tennessee; or voter intimidation and threats, the voter suppression is always part of the backlash.

We are in that backlash now, but the difference is the people who lived through Jim Crow are dying off. There is a concerted effort to keep their stories out of our schools, out of our public places, out of our museums through an executive order. Yet, history is a funny thing. Those stories, just like through all the traditions that were handed down generation to generation, we will continue to tell these stories, no matter how many executive orders are written. No matter how many orders the National Park Service is given to erase the names of people enslaved who worked at the President's house in Philadelphia, we will tell their story. We will work to continue to eliminate the impact of over 300 years of slavery and Jim Crow, even though we have an administration that wants to dismantle the progress we made in doing so, because that impact didn't go away with the wave of a magic wand with the Civil Rights Act or the Voting Rights Act. Now that we see efforts to unwind it, we are going to fight back.

I will close with this: I can't help but think of John Lewis. We are also going to come up on the anniversary of his passing. In his final words to us, John Lewis said: "Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to build what we call the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself."

□ 2100

My parents, my grandparents, and my great-grandparents fought for that beloved community, and they used the

ballot to elect people who would help to build that beloved community.

Now, the Supreme Court has basically said that the medicine for the cancer of racism has worked, so let's get rid of the medicine, that we don't need it anymore, but the cancer is still there.

We are going to fight back as the Congressional Black Caucus. We will not let our voices be silenced. We will not let our history be erased. We will not let our votes be suppressed. We will continue to fight until every American has the right, unencumbered by this government, to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. When we say in the Pledge of Allegiance, "liberty and justice for all," it finally becomes true.

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker. I rise today with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus at a moment of profound consequence for our democracy—a moment when Black representation in America is under attack.

What we are witnessing is about more than just a court case. It is about more than just a political disagreement. We are witnessing a coordinated effort to dismantle the hard-fought gains of the Civil Rights Movement and take us back to the Jim Crow era.

Mr. Speaker, this is a five-alarm-fire.

When the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act in the *Callais* decision, they told states that it is okay to dilute the voices of Black voters if it means helping Republicans cling to power.

Think about that. They gave states a license to discriminate in the name of partisanship.

Now, unless Congress acts, we could be on the verge of witnessing the largest reduction in Black representation since Reconstruction.

In my home state of Alabama, the consequences are already being felt.

For years, Alabama's congressional maps have been at the center of a legal battle over the rights of Black Alabamians. Federal courts repeatedly found that state leaders intentionally discriminated against Black voters and illegally diluted their political power. In fact, the congressional map Alabama is now seeking to implement was struck down not once, but twice, for intentionally discriminating against Black voters.

Despite those findings, the Supreme Court has now cleared the way for Alabama officials to put that very map back into place.

Let that sink in.

Alabama now has a congressional map that federal courts determined was drawn with discriminatory intent—a map with only one seat out of seven where Black voters can elect candidates of their choice.

In a state where Black voters make up nearly one-third of the electorate, that is unacceptable.

I want to be clear—This is not just an issue for Black voters. This is an attack on every American. They may be targeting Black voters today, but no one is safe when a handful of extremists can decide whose voices matter and whose do not.

This is about whether every American, regardless of race or zip code, will have an opportunity to make their voice heard. It is about whether we are willing to learn from our Nation's history or repeat our mistakes.

The struggle for voting rights has never been easy. From Selma to Montgomery, brave Americans shed blood, sweat, and tears to secure the right to vote. They marched, they organized, and some gave their lives so that future generations could participate fully in our democracy.

We owe it to them to continue that fight.

That is why I will never stop working to restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act. It is why we must revise and pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act without delay.

Here is what those state legislators need to understand: They can draw unfair maps, but they cannot silence our voices.

Come November, we will send a message that cannot be ignored—that every voice deserves to be heard in our democracy.

We will not give up. And we will not go back.

HONORING MARY JANE FLORES

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor the beautiful, generous, faithful, and patriotic life of Mary Jane Flores.

A graduate of Newton-Wellesley Hospital School of Nursing, she commissioned in 1959 and served proudly as a nurse at Bethesda Naval Hospital here in Washington before her honorable discharge in 1961.

While there, she met and cared for her future husband, beloved Judge Joseph Flores, a veteran who rose to serve as lieutenant commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He was elected the first Hispanic judge in Ohio—I might say Toledo, Ohio—and first Hispanic elected to both municipal and juvenile courts. Their first date was over Mexican food on the evening of John F. Kennedy's inauguration.

Dedicated to advancing her education and career, Mary Jane attended Toledo's St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia, becoming certified in 1970.

Her passion for helping others extended far beyond her profession. She traveled annually to the Dominican Republic with Midwest Medical Mission. She was instrumental in establishing the first mobile migrant health clinic in northwestern Ohio and volunteered with the Farm Labor Organizing Committee's Summer Health Clinic.

Lovingly known as Memere, a name that began with her first grandchild, Memere quickly became what everyone called her.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Judge Joseph Flores, and is survived by her son, Andre; daughters Maria and Judith; three grandchildren; her sisters, Nancy and Barbara; and many loving nieces, nephews, and dear, forever friends.

I saw her most recently quietly attending to many senior citizens in nursing homes across our region. She did it quietly with no public attention, but she was always there.

Mary Jane was a lifelong Catholic who not only practiced her faith, but she lived it. Her legacy lives on in all the thousands of lives she so nobly touched, certainly in her own family but far beyond that.

KENNEDY CENTER DECISION

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was a World War II hero, the only U.S. President ever to be awarded the Purple Heart.

In 1943, his PT-109 patrol boat was sunk in the Pacific, struck by a Japanese destroyer. Though wounded in action, Kennedy's athletic prowess allowed him to swim miles in dangerous open seas to safety. The physical damage he sustained caused him to be hospitalized and endure severe back pain throughout the rest of his life.

A gifted orator with a precious sense of humor, he was elected U.S. President in 1960.

His sheer eloquence during his inaugural address called the people of our Nation to highest purpose. He inspired and challenged the American people and especially our youth to "ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

Globally, he successfully proposed the establishment of the United States Peace Corps and called upon Americans to voluntarily aspire to higher purpose and meet the real world beyond our shores.

A valorous war veteran, he envisioned a higher purpose for our Nation as liberty's champion, to serve humanity across the world by building peaceful global relationships and to carry out practical joint projects for community betterment.

Early on, President Kennedy was faced with a chilling nuclear confrontation with Soviet Russia. Russian naval vessels with nuclear warheads were dispatched by Russian dictator Nikita Khrushchev and entered the Gulf of Mexico, headed toward Cuba, which was ruled by a pro-Russian Communist dictator, Fidel Castro. Within 2 weeks, Kennedy was able to diffuse that real threat to U.S. security. That was the first standoff in the nuclear era.

He and his gifted wife, Jacqueline Kennedy, brought intelligence, artistry, beauty, history, poetry, music, and literary excellence to the White House for special occasions. Their partnership inspired a nation that sought excellence from our leaders at the dawn of a new American age.

His wife, Jacqueline Kennedy, planted a living, beautiful rose garden on the south side of the White House. Recently, that was destroyed by President Trump, who paved it over in concrete in favor of a country club-style patio.

JFK, a highly educated man of arts and letters, inspired and challenged our Nation to aspirational new horizons to land a man on the Moon by the end of the decade, but Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963, by a formerly discharged U.S.

marine, Lee Harvey Oswald, who defected to the Soviet Union and returned to the United States shortly before this horrible, horrible incident.

President Kennedy did not live to see that feat on the Moon achieved as the Apollo 11 mission succeeded in July 1969.

Kennedy's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "Profiles in Courage," records the stories of several U.S. Senators who lost their elections and their political careers for standing up for their principles. All of those he reported on lost their next elections because they actually stood for something worthy.

He proposed path-breaking civil rights legislation, founded the Peace Corps to embrace a struggling world, and inspired a new generation of public servants who were to follow.

A man who understood history, JFK was determined not to repeat it. His soaring rhetoric, coupled with that of his elegant, educated wife, Jacqueline, worked to restore the White House as a center for arts, culture, the environment, and history.

□ 2110

This past December 2025, it truly came as a shock that the current President of our country forced a hand-picked board at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Center for the Performing Arts to approve adding the Trump name to precede the Kennedy name at this cherished living memorial to our valorous, fallen, former President.

Understandably, the people of our Nation immediately called out this outrage and backlashed, as did the Kennedy family themselves.

Former Congressman Joe Kennedy, III, said: "The Kennedy Center is a living memorial to a fallen President and named for President Kennedy by Federal law. It can no sooner be renamed than can someone rename the Lincoln Memorial."

Kerry Kennedy, niece to President Kennedy and the daughter of Robert F. Kennedy who, too, was tragically assassinated in 1968 as a Presidential candidate said: "President Trump and his administration have spent the past year repressing free expression, targeting artists, journalists, and comedians, and erasing the history of Americans whose contributions made our Nation better and more just."

Maria Shriver, daughter of President Kennedy's sister Eunice Kennedy Shriver said: "Some things leave you speechless and enraged and in a state of disbelief."

Then, the Federal court properly ordered President Trump's name be removed. The rule of law really means something. That stopped closure and demolition of this living memorial to a great veteran and sacrificial, revered President.

This removal must be done by court order by close of business this Friday, June 12.

Erasing this stain on the sacrificial legacy that inspired this noble cultural

institution means it will endure as a living center of culture for the American people, not only an edifice for a very brave, intelligent, historic President.

Restoring its proper name, historical worth, and its heritage of fine, artistic expression across all mediums shall proceed as the Kennedy family would wish and as history requires.

Thank you to those who wrote our Constitution and placed meaning in the rule of law.

No President, no Member of Congress, can avoid the rule of law.

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

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 254—An act to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to protect the cultural practices and livelihoods of products of Alaska Native handicrafts and marine mammal ivory products, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3745. A letter from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual report for calendar year 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-3746. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of War, transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of War requests be enacted during the second session of the 119th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3747. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of War, transmitting legislative proposals that the Department of War requests be enacted during the second session of the 119th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3748. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to South Korea, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3); July 31, 1945, ch. 341, Sec. 2 (as added by Public Law 102-266, Sec. 102); (106 Stat. 95); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-3749. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to South Korea, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3); July 31, 1945, ch. 341, Sec. 2 (as added by Public Law 102-266, Sec. 102); (106 Stat. 95); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-3750. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank, transmit-

ting a report involving U.S. exports to various countries, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3); July 31, 1945, ch. 341, Sec. 2 (as added by Public Law 102-266, Sec. 102); (106 Stat. 95); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-3751. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2025 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A and B Supplemental Awards Report to Congress, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 300ff-13(e); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVI, Sec. 2603(e) (as amended by Public Law 109-415, Sec. 104(e)); (120 Stat. 2776) and 42 U.S.C. 300ff-29a(d); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVI, Sec. 2620(d) (as amended by Public Law 109-415, Sec. 205(2)); (120 Stat. 2798); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3752. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Report Number: 007176, Determination and Certification of Countries That Are Not Fully Cooperating with U.S. Anti-Terrorism Efforts, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2781(a); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 40A (as added Public Law 104-132, Sec. 330); (110 Stat. 1258); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3753. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3754. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: RSAT 26-51, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3755. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Report Number: 007300, Report Title: Protective Services, pursuant to Public Law 118-47, Sec. 7034(k)(5); (138 Stat. 788) and Public Law 118-47, Sec. 7034(k)(5); (138 Stat. 788); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3756. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: RSAT 26-42, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3757. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: RSAT 26-40, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3758. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: RSAT 26-0P, pursuant to Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3759. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: RSAT 0A-26, pursuant to Section 36(b)(5)(a) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3760. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: RSAT 26-0Q, pursuant to Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3761. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: RSAT 26-0M, pursuant to Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3762. A letter from the Office Manager, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report titled, "Education Budget Brief", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 455(d); (87 Stat. 803); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-3763. A letter from the Chair Pro Tempore, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's Semiannual Report to Congress prepared by the Office of Inspector General, covering the six-month period ending March 31, 2026; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-3764. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's semiannual report, pursuant to Sec. 405(c) of the Inspector General Act of 1976; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-3765. A letter from the Director of Executive Services, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting a notification of an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-3766. A letter from the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting a decision by the Department of Justice to dismiss its pending appeal of *United States v. Aranda*, No. 26-5218 (6th Cir.), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 530D(a)(1); Public Law 107-273, Sec. 202(a); (116 Stat. 1771); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3767. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting the Office's twenty-first annual report to Congress on crime victims' rights, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3771 note; Public Law 108-405, Sec. 104(a); (118 Stat. 2265); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3768. A letter from the Chair, United States Sentencing Commission, transmitting amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and official commentary, together with the reasons for the amendments; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3769. A letter from the Vice President, Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's General and Legislative Annual Report, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 24320(a)(1); Public Law 114-94, Sec. 11203(a)(1); (129 Stat. 1630); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3770. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Medicare National Coverage Determinations for Fiscal Year 2025", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395ff(f)(7)(A); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XVIII, Sec. 1869(f)(7) (as amended by Public Law 106-554, Sec. 1(a)(6)); (114 Stat. 2763A-546); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

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. WOMACK: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 9170. A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation,

and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-686). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SIMPSON: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 9171. A bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-687). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COMER: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 8463. A bill to establish governmentwide requirements for pre-payment fraud prevention actions, to provide the U.S. Treasury appropriate data resources, to facilitate participation in governmentwide anti-fraud data sharing, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-688, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. STEIL: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 6028. A bill to modify the appointment and removal process for certain legislative branch officers, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-689, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. LANGWORTHY: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1345. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8312) to establish fraud prevention and program integrity functions and data sharing authorities within the Department of Treasury and a permanent governmentwide Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8464) to amend title 31, United States Code, to authorize pausing and segmenting payments, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1335) condemning actors seeking to defraud the United States Government, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that governmentwide fraud and improper payment prevention reforms will meaningfully improve the financial prosperity of the United States, and that Federal program eligibility should be verified before payment; and providing for consideration of the bill (S. 2) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 33 (Rept. 119-690). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 8463 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 9172. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply the wash sale rules and constructive sale rules to digital assets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 9173. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to except digital assets from the appraisal requirement applicable to certain charitable contributions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BEAN of Florida:

H.R. 9174. A bill to establish the Digital Assets Voluntary Disclosure Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CAREY:

H.R. 9175. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide rules for taxation of income relating to the mining and staking of digital assets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KUSTOFF:

H.R. 9176. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the application of certain rules with respect to the trading of digital assets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MCCLELLAN (for herself, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. ROSS):

H.R. 9177. A bill to amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to carry out a mentorship demonstration program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 9178. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce certain tax compliance burdens with respect to digital asset ownership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. GILLEN (for herself and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 9179. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for adjustments in the individual income tax rates to reflect regional differences in the cost-of-living; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BELL:

H.R. 9180. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to access unmet community development-related needs in areas impacted by disasters on an ongoing basis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mrs. FOUSHEE, and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 9181. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration to establish a pilot program relating to integrating the use of multiple power sources into the rail system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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. BEYER (for himself, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 9182. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration to study improving rail and integrating new rail power technologies in the southeastern United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself and Ms. BARRAGÁN):

H.R. 9183. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out a study on the environmental impacts of artificial intelligence data centers and associated energy infrastructure, to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to convene a consortium on such environmental impacts, and to require the Administrator to develop a reporting system for the reporting of the environmental impacts of artificial intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BOEBERT (for herself, Mr. CRANK, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr.

KENNEDY of Utah, Mr. HURD of Colorado, and Mr. DOWNING):

H.R. 9184. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 with respect to the listing of threatened and endangered species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 9185. A bill to direct the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program to reduce air pollution and harmful underwater acoustic impacts and the risk of fatal vessel whale strikes by recognizing voluntary reductions in the speed of vessels transiting the western coast of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 9186. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to more closely align the Act with modern medical knowledge, terminology, and practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. COLE (for himself and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 9187. A bill to establish the Commission on Long-Term Social Security Solvency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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. ELFRETH (for herself and Mr. BERGMAN):

H.R. 9188. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize interagency agreements to expedite reviews of priority programs and projects of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. FROST:

H.R. 9189. A bill to establish an express cause of action for violations of the right to record, observe, or peacefully protest law enforcement activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself and Mr. BIGGS of Arizona):

H.R. 9190. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize the use of investigational individualized medical treatments by patients diagnosed with a life-threatening disease or condition or severely debilitating illness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. HOUCHIN (for herself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. MALOY, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Mr. MANN):

H.R. 9191. A bill to amend chapter 3 of title 36, United States Code, to designate the American mastodon as the national fossil mammal and the Tyrannosaurus rex as the national fossil dinosaur of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 9192. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require health insurance coverage of drugs indicated for the treatment of autoimmune diseases and certain blood disorders; to the

Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Workforce, 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. KENNEDY of Utah (for himself and Mr. MOORE of North Carolina):

H.R. 9193. A bill to advance NASA's use of nuclear propulsion and power systems for deep space exploration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. MANN (for himself, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. CORREA, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. MCGUIRE):

H.R. 9194. A bill to clarify the evidentiary treatment of documentation generated under a qualifying process standard for purposes of compliance with the Build America, Buy America Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MCGARVEY (for himself, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. DOGETT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LIEU, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MANNION, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RILEY of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. WHITESIDES):

H.R. 9195. A bill to promote and ensure delivery of high-quality special education and related services to children and youth who are blind or visually impaired, deaf, hard of hearing, deafdisabled, or deafblind through instructional methodologies meeting their unique language and learning needs, to enhance accountability for the provision of such services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. MCGARVEY (for himself, Mr. GARBARINO, and Mr. RILEY of New York):

H.R. 9196. A bill to promote and ensure delivery of high-quality special education and related services to children and youth who are deafblind, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. MOORE of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 9197. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to study new technologies and opportunities for recycling spent nuclear fuel; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 9198. A bill to create a national commission to combat workplace sexual harassment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mr. PERRY, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. DONALDS, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana):

H.R. 9199. A bill to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Ways and Means, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. PERRY, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. DONALDS, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana):

H.R. 9200. A bill to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes; to

the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Ways and Means, Foreign Affairs, and Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RYAN (for himself and Mr. MORELLE):

H.R. 9201. A bill to authorize the award of the Purple Heart to Daniel Nimham for injuries incurred during the Revolutionary War; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 9202. A bill to direct the President to submit to Congress a report on fugitives currently residing in other countries whose extradition is sought by the United States and related matters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself and Ms. GILLEN):

H.R. 9203. A bill to increase the transparency of colleges and universities in carrying out their civil rights responsibilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. SUBRAMANYAM (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York):

H.R. 9204. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to support the development of safe firearm storage devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SUBRAMANYAM (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. BEYER, Mr. FROST, and Ms. CRAIG):

H.R. 9205. A bill to expand the Gun Free School Zones Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THANEDAR (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 9206. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a Department of Homeland Security-wide policy for public communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 9207. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude pensions of members of the Armed Forces from gross income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CASE, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. IVEY, and Mr. CASTEN):

H.R. 9208. A bill to regulate firearm silencers and firearm mufflers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H. Res. 1343. A resolution recognizing World Oceans Day and celebrating the maritime heritage, ocean leadership, fisheries stewardship, and coastal communities of the United States; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. YAKYM (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H. Res. 1344. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of June 7 through June 13, 2026, as "National Trailer Safety Week" in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Trailer Safety Week to educate American motorists about the importance of proper towing techniques and maintenance; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FULLER:

H. Res. 1346. A resolution impeaching Eleanor L. Ross, Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, for high crimes and misdemeanors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JAMES:

H. Res. 1347. A resolution recognizing the roles and contributions of automotive workers in the United States, with particular recognition of their impact in Michigan, and expressing support for the designation of September 2026 as "American Automotive Worker Recognition Month"; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. LICCARDI, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. PANNETTA):

H. Res. 1348. A resolution expressing support for the James Lick Observatory celebrating their 150th anniversary on June 7, 2026, and recognizing its contributions to science and astronomy; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. TAYLOR (for himself, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. BOST, Ms. TITUS, Ms. HAGEMAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SHREVE, Mr. MCDOWELL, and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H. Res. 1349. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of May 31 through June 6, 2026, as "Our Roads, Our Safety Week"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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. WOMACK:

H.R. 9170.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 9171.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the

Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States” Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 9172.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 9173.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 (Taxing and Spending Clause)

By Mr. BEAN of Florida:

H.R. 9174.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

[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. CAREY:

H.R. 9175.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. KUSTOFF:

H.R. 9176.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Ms. McCLELLAN:

H.R. 9177.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 Section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 9178.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. GILLEN:

H.R. 9179.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. BELL:

H.R. 9180

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 9181.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 9182.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 9183.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BOEBERT:

H.R. 9184.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 9185.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 9186.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 2, Clause 3, Clause 18

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 9187.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Ms. ELFRETH:

H.R. 9188.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. FROST:

H.R. 9189.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 9190.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. HOUCHIN:

H.R. 9191.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 9192.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Article I, Section 8, Clause 18)

By Mr. KENNEDY of Utah:

H.R. 9193.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 9194.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. McGARVEY:

H.R. 9195.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. McGARVEY:

H.R. 9196.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MOORE of North Carolina:

H.R. 9197.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 U.S. Constitution

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 9198.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 9199.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 9200.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 9201.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 9202.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 9203.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 and Amendment XIV Section 5 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. SUBRAMANYAM:

H.R. 9204.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SUBRAMANYAM:

H.R. 9205.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 9206.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Clause 18 of Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 9207.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Sec. 8

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 9208.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

[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.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 139: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.

H.R. 381: Mr. COHEN and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 429: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 507: Mr. MCGUIRE.

H.R. 515: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. FROST.

H.R. 516: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 539: Mr. AMODEI of Nevada.

H.R. 1083: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 1178: Mr. MCGUIRE.

H.R. 1267: Mr. SORENSEN and Mr. FIGURES.

H.R. 1340: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1502: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 1548: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 1564: Ms. MEJIA.

H.R. 1628: Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. SELF, Mr. CLINE, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. KUSTOFF, and Mr. HUDSON.

- H.R. 1703: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 1970: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 2028: Ms. GOODLANDER, Ms. SEWELL, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 2031: Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 2055: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 2089: Ms. BUDZINSKI and Mr. DUNN of Florida.
H.R. 2102: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 2120: Mr. EVANS of Colorado.
H.R. 2145: Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 2314: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 2368: Ms. STRICKLAND and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 2424: Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 2477: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 2484: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 2531: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 2555: Mr. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 2586: Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 2598: Ms. POU.
H.R. 2660: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.
H.R. 2694: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. CAMMACK, and Mr. HARRIGAN.
H.R. 2729: Mr. MAST.
H.R. 2757: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 2766: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 2790: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. LATIMER, and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 2902: Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 2911: Mr. STEIL.
H.R. 2936: Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 3054: Mr. COHEN and Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 3164: Mr. PFLUGER and Ms. FEDORCHAK.
H.R. 3199: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3449: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 3452: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 3508: Mr. FIGURES.
H.R. 3512: Mr. CAREY.
H.R. 3514: Mr. WHITESIDES and Ms. MACE.
H.R. 3526: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3543: Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 3696: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3757: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 3805: Ms. BALINT and Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 3921: Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 3954: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 3978: Mr. MCGUIRE.
H.R. 4045: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 4084: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 4167: Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 4253: Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 4265: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 4382: Mr. MIN and Mr. PALMER.
H.R. 4477: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 4509: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 4602: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 4606: Mr. EVANS of Colorado.
H.R. 4642: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 4644: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4721: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 4731: Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 4733: Mr. FIGURES.
H.R. 4821: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, and Ms. DEXTER.
H.R. 4888: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 4921: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 4966: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 5035: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 5115: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 5152: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5178: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 5206: Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 5269: Mr. SHREVE.
H.R. 5272: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H.R. 5351: Mr. VAN EPPS and Mr. WHITESIDES.
H.R. 5387: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 5408: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OMAR, Mr. BELL, and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 5434: Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 5439: Mr. TORRES of New York and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 5658: Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 5684: Mr. WALKINSHAW.
H.R. 5753: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 5946: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 6056: Mr. RYAN, Ms. MORRISON, Mrs. MCIVER, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 6069: Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 6089: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.
H.R. 6130: Mr. SHREVE, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Ms. MEJIA, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SIMON, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Ms. ROSS, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BOST, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 6138: Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 6251: Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 6527: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 6635: Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 6688: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 6694: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 6718: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 6830: Mr. DELUZZIO.
H.R. 6832: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 7014: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 7100: Ms. MEJIA.
H.R. 7187: Mr. STUTZMAN.
H.R. 7223: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 7335: Mr. FROST and Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 7409: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 7457: Mr. JAMES.
H.R. 7526: Mr. MANNION.
H.R. 7546: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 7548: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina and Mr. BARR.
H.R. 7622: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 7657: Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 7730: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 7745: Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 7769: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia and Mr. STUTZMAN.
H.R. 7805: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 7866: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 7868: Ms. MCBRIDE.
H.R. 7871: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. BALDERSON.
H.R. 7905: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. PFLUGER, Ms. BALINT, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 7960: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 7963: Mr. GILL of Texas.
H.R. 7977: Mr. FIGURES.
H.R. 8023: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 8041: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 8101: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 8112: Mr. GILL of Texas.
H.R. 8119: Mr. VAN DREW.
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H.R. 8630: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.
H.R. 8662: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.R. 8687: Mr. JAMES.
H.R. 8694: Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. LATIMER.
H.R. 8697: Mr. GUEST.
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H.R. 8761: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H.R. 8780: Mr. OWENS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. BARR.
H.R. 8791: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Ms. PRESSLEY.
H.R. 8794: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 8814: Mr. LATIMER.
H.R. 8817: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. SELF.
H.R. 8887: Ms. NORTON and Ms. ELFRETH.
H.R. 8892: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CALVERT, and Ms. VAN DUYN.
H.R. 8909: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 8925: Mr. WHITESIDES.
H.R. 8955: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 8982: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 9000: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 9009: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 9017: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 9047: Mr. PALLONE.
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H.R. 9072: Mr. FONG and Mr. YAKYM.
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H.R. 9124: Mr. QUIGLEY.
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H.R. 9156: Mr. COLLINS.
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H. Res. 475: Mr. ALLEN.
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H. Res. 1168: Mr. GILL of Texas.
H. Res. 1204: Mrs. LUNA.
H. Res. 1205: Mrs. LUNA.
H. Res. 1261: Mr. JAMES.
H. Res. 1279: Mr. JAMES.
H. Res. 1310: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.
H. Res. 1322: Mr. SHERMAN.
H. Res. 1335: Ms. BOEBERT.
H. Res. 1338: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GILL of Texas, and Mr. FINE.
H. Res. 1342: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. BALINT, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.



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Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we give our hearts to You, for You are good and Your mercies endure forever. You rule the day and the night. You are our hope for the years to come.

Lord, we thank You for Your faithfulness, Your guidance, and Your un-failing love. Strengthen our lawmakers when they are weak, give them wisdom when they are uncertain, and give them peace in every season of their lives. Help them to trust You with their cares, to walk in Your ways, and to reflect Your goodness to those around them. Lord, bless their families and all who are in need of Your grace. May Your presence comfort our Senators and Your truth lead them each day.

And, Lord, thank You for our new summer 2026 page class.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be

in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. On June 6, 1944, the United States and Allied nations led that historic invasion on the beaches of Normandy, France. Two days ago, there was a remembrance of that occasion at a place called Omaha Beach.

Nearly 160,000 Allied troops, 5,000 ships, and 13,000 aircraft supported the assault against Hitler-dominated Europe. That allowed the Allied Powers to gain a foothold in Europe, and 11 months later Europe was free of Adolf Hitler.

While victory eventually followed, D-Day came with very heavy casualties. Thousands of paratroopers died before they even landed out of the sky, and amphibious tanks faced rough surf, and only 2 of 29 tanks made it ashore.

Courageous infantrymen who stormed Omaha Beach were also severely disadvantaged and met with a brutal welcome from German artillery.

On D-Day alone, more than 9,000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded. More than 2,000 were American servicemen.

Knowing this history ought to prepare us for today and tomorrow and well into the future because these sacrifices remind us of a hard truth; that failing to confront aggression early deepens the cost as time goes on. That lesson is something that we should keep top of mind as we continue efforts to address aggression today, whether it is Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Iran's destabilization efforts across the Middle East, or rising tensions with China.

These challenges are different than they were in World War II, but the pattern is very familiar.

As we reflect on the anniversary of D-Day, we should be reminded not only of the bravery of those who fought but

the united front that made that victory possible.

That same unity forged by America's doctrine of "peace through strength" will determine whether we preserve peace or pay a far higher price in the future.

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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, sometimes, I have to wonder if Democrats remember the last election and how 4 years of recordbreaking illegal immigration on President Biden's watch helped hand the House, the Senate, and the White House to Republicans, because to watch the Democrat Party right now, you would think that 2024 never happened. Democrats not only haven't rejected the open borders philosophy of the Biden administration; they have doubled down.

At least we had the Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement under President Biden. Now, every Senate Democrat is on record as wanting to shut down those Agencies. That is right. Democrats voted to defund—to defund—the agents who stand guard on our Nation's borders and help prevent dangerous individuals from entering our country. They voted to defund the agents who remove criminal illegal immigrants who do make their way into the United States.

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



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And when I say “defund,” I mean defund. Democrats opposed giving these Agencies a single dollar. And I hope—I really hope—that my Democrat colleagues are not going to attempt to defend themselves by claiming that they simply wanted reforms of these Agencies and that Republicans wouldn’t give them to them, because as the record amply, amply reflects, Democrats were offered reforms again and again. The White House not only made reforms on its own; it repeatedly offered Democrats a robust legislative package. But Democrats weren’t interested, presumably because they somehow thought that “defund law enforcement” and “abolish border security” would play well for them in November.

Of course, I am pretty sure most Americans don’t think we should eliminate security at our Nation’s borders or open the floodgates for unchecked illegal immigration. But that hasn’t stopped Democrats from embracing “defund the police 2.0.”

I am happy to report that, as of Friday, Democrats’ crusade to defund border security and law enforcement is well on its way to failure—for now—for now, at any rate. Senate Republicans passed legislation to fund Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the next 3 years to ensure that Democrats can’t try defunding these Agencies again this fall. But it is deeply disturbing that we are in this position, that we are having to use the reconciliation process just to get normal appropriations passed for border security and immigration enforcement.

The damage that Democrats caused in the 2026 fiscal year has been immense: two recordbreaking government shutdowns, critical workers at DHS left for months without pay, government workers lined up at food banks, TSA agents quitting in droves. And that is not to even mention what could be irreparable harm to the appropriations process here in the Senate.

And then there is our subject today, “defund the police 2.0”—the Democrats’ resolute refusal to spend a single dollar protecting our Nation’s borders or deporting criminals here in our country illegally.

It is absurd that Republicans are having to act unilaterally to fund basic national security responsibilities.

What is the Democratic Party going to propose defunding next? The DEA? The FBI? Our Nation’s military? Where exactly does this insanity end?

The Democrat leader has repeatedly attempted to cloud the issue, going so far as to make the insane suggestion that Congress somehow has to choose between our national security responsibilities and addressing the challenges facing hard-working Americans—to which I say not only can we walk and chew gum at the same time, but we have an obligation to do so. It is our responsibility as Members of Congress to work to alleviate not only the economic challenges facing Americans but

to protect our Nation’s security, and that includes securing our borders and attempting to ensure that criminals, drug traffickers, terrorists, and other dangerous individuals do not make their way into our country and that, if they do make their way in, they are identified and deported.

As long as Republicans are in charge, we will be focused on both the economic challenges facing our country and on securing peace and safety for hard-working Americans. On our watch, there will be agents at our borders to prevent terrorists, traffickers, and other dangerous individuals from making their way into our country, and there will be agents to take criminal illegal immigrants off of America’s streets.

I only wish I could say the same of our Democrat colleagues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I met a woman at a hearing, from Chicago, which I am honored to represent. Her name was Marimar Martinez.

On a Saturday morning, last October, Ms. Martinez decided she had some spare clothes that she was going to take to her church to give to people who needed clothing. She got in her car on Kedzie Avenue and was driving along, when she ran into a group of ICE agents, who stopped her.

She is Hispanic and appears to be Hispanic, and they decided to question whether or not she was in America legally. She had committed no crime, violated no law. She was just driving, looking Hispanic, which was enough for them.

Before it was all over, she was driving away from the scene and was shot five times by the ICE agents. How this woman survived, I will never know, but she did. And, of course, she had to go through a lot of hospitalization and a lot of trouble. But she insisted to the ICE agents that she had never violated the law.

And when it was all over, they sought her out at a hospital and arrested her and then, within days or weeks, dropped all charges. They argued, in the original charge, that her car had crashed into one of the ICE agent’s cars and therefore she had committed a criminal act.

When it was all over, that car was removed from the scene and never produced again. They took it to New England, for goodness’ sake, from Chicago so that no one could actually look to see if there was any damage on it. There wasn’t.

Marimar Martinez survived. It was nothing short of a miracle. She was swept up into this hysteria that President Trump started at his rallies, where he would get up and say over and over again: We have to stop these rap-

ists and murderers and terrorists and the criminally insane and child predators who came across the border under the Biden administration. We are going to get them, and we are going to send in people to make sure that happens.

In came the ICE agents. Did you happen to watch what happened in Minnesota? Did you notice the two innocent individuals who were protesting for sure but were not violating the law, who were shot down and killed in Minneapolis?

That is what has happened here and what has led to what the Republican leader just described, the difference between Democrats here, Republicans there, about how we should handle this issue.

Let me say here again what I have said many times. I was chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I am now the ranking Democrat. Immigration is one of our issues, and here is what I think is the bottom line I feel everyone agrees with—I hope they do. The bottom line is this: We should never knowingly allow a dangerous person to come into this country. Short declarative sentence: Never knowingly allow a dangerous person to come into this country.

Second, if someone is in this country and wants to stay, wants any kind of legal status, and commits a dangerous crime, they are gone, no ifs, ands, or buts. They are gone.

Third point, we need an orderly process at our border. We cannot accept all of the people in the world who want to immigrate to the United States at this moment. There has to be an orderly process.

Those, I think, are the three basic principles that most Americans agree on. Some will disagree.

But I come to this issue with a personal agenda. My mother was an immigrant to this country. She was brought here at the age of 2. Hers was a poor family from Lithuania that came to the land of opportunity—East St. Louis, IL, where I was born and raised.

My grandfather worked jobs that required manual labor, as immigrants do. They took jobs other people wouldn’t consider. And here, the next generation produces a grandson who was elected to the U.S. Senate.

That is my story. That is my family’s story. That is America’s story. We are a nation of immigrants—some brought here involuntarily, some came here voluntarily—and it has made us a great nation. I am proud of it.

In my office just a few steps from here is my mother’s naturalization certificate by my desk. I want everyone who comes to my office to know I am the proud son of an immigrant. I don’t believe immigrants are inherently evil or bad. I think just the opposite—they are people who come here and work themselves to death so that their kids have a better life.

We have now reached a mindset in this country that anyone who wants to come here is suspected of a crime or

dangerous conduct. We should do a background check for sure. But listen to what happened.

I have been in the Senate for a number of years, and 20 years ago, I introduced a bill called the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act basically said: If you were brought to the United States as a child, grew up in the United States, and have nothing serious in your background that raises any question; if you went to that school every day and pledged allegiance to that flag believing you were part of America, you deserve a chance to earn your pathway to citizenship.

That is what the DREAM Act said.

Lucky for me, one of my colleagues in the Senate by the name of Barack Obama was a cosponsor of my bill. Turns out he got a promotion from the Senate and became President of the United States.

I wrote him a letter cosigned by Senator Richard Lugar, Republican of Indiana, asking him by Executive order to try to create a mechanism like the DREAM Act that gave these kids brought to America a chance to earn their way to citizenship. He came up with something called DACA.

Under DACA, these young people, if they would step forward and identify themselves to the government—they are undocumented—if they identify themselves to the government, if they were brought here as children, we would give them a chance. But the chance was simply this: You can legally work in the United States, and you won't be deported. Every 2 years, you have to apply for DACA again—every 2 years—pay a \$600 fee every 2 years, and go through a lengthy criminal background check. If you pass it, you get DACA for another 2 years.

Mr. President, 980,000 young people stepped forward in the United States to sign up for DACA. How are we doing with these people from DACA? Pretty good. They are teachers. They are nurses. They are doctors. They are policemen. They are serving in our military. They are proving the point they wanted to make: They love this country; they believe they are part of this country. They are not the problem. They have never been the problem.

So what is the Trump administration doing to them? Denying them another opportunity to sign up for another 2 years. Their time is up. They are ready to do it, and they are holding them back. Sadly, they are deporting these young people who have done nothing wrong except try to prove themselves to be loyal Americans.

So when you look at the environment here created by the Trump administration on the issue of immigration, you see overwhelmingly that you have to sit and listen to the whole story. Of every seven people who are arrested and deported by ICE under the Trump administration—out of every seven, six of them have no criminal record. They are not the rapists and the murders and the terrorists. They are people who live

next door to you. They go to the same church you go to. They are the ones who just took care of your sale at the convenience store. They are doing their thing in America, and they are not breaking any laws, and the Trump administration has said they still have to be deported. That, I think, is too much.

When it comes to this debate over funding ICE, what the Republican leader—and he is my friend. JOHN THUNE is my friend from South Dakota. We disagree on a lot of politics. I respect him as a person. We disagree on this issue. And when he talks about these individuals who are involved with the ICE agents and Border Patrol and such and how they need to be funded, what he doesn't mention is we have already funded them for this year and last year.

Do you know what the funding level is for those Agencies? It is more than the appropriation for the U.S. Marine Corps—more than the appropriation for the U.S. Marine Corps for these ICE agents who insist on wearing masks and don't want to be held responsible for what they are doing in the streets of Chicago and Minnesota and other places.

I think it is reasonable to say to them: You should be held to the same standards as any law enforcement official in America.

My State troopers in Illinois don't wear masks. The sheriff's deputies don't wear masks. The policemen in Chicago don't wear masks. They wear video cameras, which we are insisting that these ICE agents also carry. They have their names above their badges so that you know who they are and can hold them responsible for any misconduct.

It is not unreasonable to do this. The Republicans say: No. We will make the rules.

You probably saw—maybe you didn't; it was a Chicago occurrence, and we all saw it—when they broke down the door of a man's home and went in and said: You are undocumented. We are going to deport you.

They dragged him out, and he was wearing a bathrobe. They took him out of the shower. It took 2 or 3 days to finally square it away. He was an American citizen. They had the wrong house. They had no warrant to tear down his front door; they did it anyway.

That sort of thing should stop. ICE agents should play by the same rules as policemen, professional law enforcement all across America. That is what we feel on the Democratic side. We are getting nowhere on that issue on the Republican side.

So I think the bottom line is this: We want a safe country, but we also have values. We don't want to mistreat people who are doing a good job in their lives and serving us in very important ways.

I think about my State of Illinois and most other States, and we have a very serious problem finding caregivers

in daycare centers for children, for disabled people, and certainly for our parents and grandparents who are in nursing homes and places. Who are those caregivers? Go in and take a look. Forty percent of them are immigrants. They are the ones who make sure your mom and your grandmother are treated with respect and have a chance for decent human treatment during the course of a day. We want them gone? Who is going to take their place? We know better. These are tough jobs. They don't pay an awful lot of money. These folks deserve a lot more than they are currently being paid.

The reality is immigrants are critically important.

The Farm Bureau is a very conservative organization in my State of Illinois. Politically, I know they are on the other side for most issues from me. But I always welcome them each year to hear what they have to say. They came to see me recently and talked about farm labor, migrant farm labor.

There was a lady who has an orchard in Southern Illinois that is pretty well known for peaches and apples and the like. She said: Senator, I can't get the local high school kids to take any job at my orchard. I can't even get them to go to the fruit stand—and I put in an air-conditioner—to sell fruit to people who drive by.

I have to deal—if I am going to deal with anybody—with migrant labor, people that I have known and who have worked for me for years. Now they are afraid to come to the United States. Will you help me?

I said: I will try to help you if I can, but the bottom line is that they are scared, they are frightened of what is going to happen to them if they come to the United States.

Is that a healthy thing?

This lady said: I am not going to be able to keep this orchard for another year or two if I can't get workers to pick the fruit and sell the fruit as part of the operation.

A lady from a dairy farm in Northern Illinois, hundreds of miles away—same story. She said: We don't have enough kids. We used to have a lot of kids in dairy farm families. We don't have enough kids anymore. We need migrant labor to come in and help us on the farm.

That is part of America. It is a job that most people don't jump to take, but it is an important job and an important part of our future.

So I would just say to my friend the Senator from South Dakota: We ought to be able to work this out—don't you think?—it seems to me, if we are reasonable.

There are people like Stephen Miller, who works in the White House and advises the President. He doesn't like immigrants. I know Mr. Miller. I have worked on the other side of the table from him for a long time. I know what his values are. He just doesn't like them, and he is pretty clear about that. He inspires a lot of the conduct

coming out of the White House. But there are others sitting on the other side of the aisle, the Republican side, who I know feel differently who would be willing to sit down and work.

Is it possible for a partisan U.S. Senate to write a comprehensive immigration bill that both sides agree on? The answer is clearly yes. There were eight of us, four Democrats and four Republicans. I was on the Democratic side with SCHUMER and a couple other Senators, and the Republican side was led by John McCain. We put together a comprehensive immigration bill and brought it to the floor, Democrats and Republicans, and passed it with over 60 votes.

It can be done, but you have to have people who are willing to sit down and say: Let's be honest about it. Keep the bad guys out, but give those DACA kids, for example, a chance to be part of America's future.

That is what I think is the middle ground most Americans would agree on. It is still something I think we should aspire to.

I don't know where we are going next on this immigration matter, but I worry about what is going to happen to a lot of people that I represent in Chicago. They are so frightened in the Hispanic communities in Chicago that they have stopped going to church, and some won't send their kids to school. They are just afraid of what is going to happen—somebody is going to be arrested, somebody will be deported or, like Marimar Martinez, God forbid, be shot on the street because they look too Hispanic.

That is the reality of where we are today. We are a better nation than that. We can do a better job than that. We can't leave the debate where it is: Who is in favor of law enforcement and who isn't?

I am in favor of law enforcement. I certainly was in favor on January 6 when the insurrectionists mobbed this Capitol and ran us out that door of the Senate because they were coming into this Chamber, rifling through our desks, aping for cameras. That was the reality. They attacked the law enforcement in this building that protected all of you, still protects you to this minute, and protects me and everyone else who works here—the Capitol Hill police. A hundred and forty of them were victimized by those insurrectionists.

Some people are trying to rewrite history and say this didn't happen. They have a problem. It is called videotape. Videotape tells the story, and we all saw it.

So let's respect law enforcement for the job they are doing. Let's not give them impossible tasks. Let's not ask them to wear masks, for goodness' sake, so people don't know who they are. America is better than that.

NOMINATION OF TODD BLANCHE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, President Trump announced that

he intends to nominate his former personal attorney Todd Blanche to serve as the next Attorney General of the United States.

When Blanche was under consideration to be Deputy Attorney General, the No. 2 position at the Justice Department, I reminded him of the importance of DOJ maintaining its independence from the President and the pull of politics.

Regrettably, over the past year, he has disregarded that call and erased that line, placing loyalty to President Trump above all else and damaging the independence and credibility of the Department in ways that will have ramifications for decades.

It appears that blind loyalty has paid off for Blanche, which is exactly how President Trump incentivizes his appointees to compromise their integrity.

How did Blanche earn the nod? I will tell you.

During his brief audition as Acting Attorney General, Blanche took the weaponization of the Department to new extremes.

He presided over the creation of a \$1.8 billion slush fund that would funnel money to allies of the President, including January 6 insurrectionists who beat up cops, in a purported legal settlement between the President and the government he runs.

It gets worse.

As part of that settlement, the IRS is permanently barred from auditing past tax returns of President Trump, his family, and related companies.

Let me state this another way: The President of the United States sued the government he runs in order to get cooperating Federal agents to give away taxpayer dollars to the President's political allies and permanently shield the President, his family, and his companies from accountability for any past tax crimes.

And Blanche acted exactly how President Trump expected him to: He advanced Trump's personal interests at the expense of the American people.

While deploying the Justice Department as a shield for the President and his cronies, Blanche has also used our top law enforcement agency as a sword against Trump's political opponents.

He brought a paper-thin indictment against the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights organization that has a long history of exposing violent White supremacist extremists who are allies of this White House.

And he brought DOJ's second baseless, vindictive indictment against former FBI Director James Comey. This prosecution was personally ordered up by the President, who despises Comey for overseeing the investigation of Russia's interference in the 2016 election.

Blanche's misconduct as Acting Attorney General is just the most recent link in a chain of controversies that has surrounded Blanche during his tenure at DOJ—controversies that demand transparency and answers.

Last week, appearing before the House Oversight Committee, former Attorney General Pam Bondi told lawmakers, "[Todd Blanche] was in charge of the process and the entire release of the Epstein files."

Setting aside Bondi's failures in leadership on this issue, Blanche's direct role in the Department's failure to follow the law and protect the victims and survivors of Epstein's abuse is disqualifying.

These failures follow the inexplicable transfer of Ghislane Maxwell, Epstein's coconspirator, to a minimum-security prison after Blanche personally conducted an inappropriate and ineffectual 2-day interview with her.

Such a move is unprecedented for someone convicted of the crimes she committed and rightly received bipartisan scrutiny.

Survivors deserve an Attorney General who will ensure transparency and fairness in the justice system; instead, many of them were exposed while the network of people around their abusers remained redacted.

When Blanche appears before the Senate Judiciary Committee for his confirmation hearing, my Democratic colleagues and I will press him for answers and urge him to comply fully with the Epstein Files Transparency Act.

Consider Blanche's own words when, at an April press conference, he made clear that he was so devoted to President Trump that he would serve him in any capacity, even if he was not chosen to be the Attorney General nominee.

He said that if he was not nominated, his message to the President would be "[t]hank you very much, I love you sir." He added that "I don't have any goals or aspirations beyond" serving Donald Trump.

That should tell the American people all they need to know about where Blanche's loyalty lies.

That love manifests as slush funds, partisan prosecutions against those the President feels have slighted him, and redirecting DOJ resources from protecting the American people from grave threats to treating the American people as grave threats.

Blanche has helped Trump achieve the goal that he couldn't in his first administration: fully warping the Department of Justice, the Nation's top law enforcement agency, into his personal law firm; corruption with doors wide open; political loyalty to the extreme; and a willingness to ignore the values of the Constitution.

When the Senate considered the confirmation of Todd Blanche to be Deputy Attorney General a year ago, I voted no.

The independence of DOJ has been decimated under Blanche's authority. I had no confidence in him before, and after everything we have seen, I doubt we can have confidence in him now.

After his fingerprints were found all over this so-called "Anti-Weaponization" fund, a few of my Republican colleagues signaled he may

face hurdles on the road to confirmation.

Will any of them muster the courage to join Democrats in actually holding Blanche accountable and demanding answers regarding the host of concerns I have outlined today? Time will tell.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, 87,000, that is how many lives were at risk in August 2024 when Austrian security services thwarted a devastating terrorist attack on a Taylor Swift concert in Vienna.

Many of these lives could have been young girls from around the world, including Americans. Now this tragedy was halted because, thanks to section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, Austrian authorities were able to cancel the concert and apprehend the plotting terrorists, all because U.S. intelligence Agencies were able to share critical intelligence gathered under section 702 authority before the attack occurred.

In 4 very short days, title 7 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, including this essential service, expires. We can't let that happen.

Section 702 happens to be our most nimble and effective intelligence collection tool. Section 702 equips our military with a strategic advantage. It protects our troops overseas, and it keeps terrorists, foreign adversaries, and dangerous illicit drugs from harming Americans, enabling over 90 percent of synthetic drug disruptions.

It helps our intelligence and law enforcement community to defend our homeland from attacks, and it is essential for protecting our cyber security infrastructure.

Title 7 then is critical to our national security, but it doesn't just protect us from security threats; it also protects us from government abuse and government overreach.

Now, if title 7 expires, not only do we lose section 702's utility, we also lose all of its civil liberties, privacy, transparency, and accountability measures. There is a dangerous assumption that the program will function seamlessly if this statute expires on Friday.

Well, I hope the certifications issued a few months ago will still apply in the event of the statute lapsing. This is not a certainty. There will be high-stakes litigation and a very real possibility that intelligence collection will cease, at least temporarily. And in this work of intelligence gathering, minutes do matter. Letting 702 lapse is a real gamble that we can't afford to take.

So let's be very clear, if section 702 lapses, our adversaries will benefit greatly and Americans will suffer. In other words, we will be less secure in our safety as well as our privacy. Over the last few weeks, I have worked

closely with Senators COTTON and WARNER, the administration, the national security community, and Members of the House to develop a product that delivers meaningful reforms while maintaining section 702's essential operational effectiveness.

This product is bipartisan, bicameral, and it strikes the right balance. The reforms in our bill build on the substantial reforms passed by the Congress in 2024. Again, I want to be clear that the reforms of 2024 that goes by the acronym RISAA are working. FBI query compliance is at 98.9 percent, with the remaining noncompliant queries due to typos and other harmless errors.

This isn't the same program plagued by abuse a few years ago that civil libertarians rightly condemned and by their condemnation brought about some of the reforms in the 2024 bill. Because our bill builds on what the House sent us a few weeks back, it retains and strengthens the provisions and the good progress made by our colleagues in the other Chamber and, at the same time, adds 11 additional reforms that deliver real transparency and accountability.

So let me list just a few. First, it requires the Justice Department to rescind and replace the Department of Justice memo drafted by the previous administration that, quite frankly, illegally restricts congressional oversight access to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

Now, why the previous administration didn't want to carry out the transparency requirements of the last Congress, I don't know, but they didn't do it.

Secondly, it gives Congress a voice in the amici appointment process by requiring leadership to submit a bipartisan list of candidates to whom the FISC court is obliged to give the highest preference.

Third, it levies criminal penalties on those who willfully violate querying standards.

Fourth, it limits and clarifies the definition of an "electronic communication service provider," thus addressing a concern of civil liberties groups across the political spectrum.

Fifth, it requires the FBI monthly to submit U.S. person query justifications to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and the Civil Liberties Protection Officer for review.

And, sixth, it requires noncompliant queries and abuse to be referred to the inspector general.

Now, there is other points that could be made, and I could go on, but I think the point is very clear when it comes to transparency and accountability that we have added to what was started in 2024.

There is no doubt that this bill is a compromise. That is how things are done in the U.S. Congress and, particularly, in the Senate. This bill isn't the clean reauthorization called for by the administration. This bill also isn't the

maximalist approach called for by some skeptics of this program.

This bill reflects what the American people expect and the American people deserve: the reauthorization of a very important national security tool but coupled with meaningful guardrails and transparency.

If title 7 lapses, not only will these thoughtful and thorough reforms fail to become reality, but we will lose many of the key reforms instituted in the last reauthorization of 2024.

This section 702 is the most transparent and most scrutinized intelligence collection in history. If it lapses, so does Congress' essential insight into and oversight of its functions.

So we owe it to our constituents to protect them from threats, from terrorists, and other adversaries, but also to defend their privacy and civil liberties. Our bipartisan, bicameral, thoughtful bill accomplishes both goals.

I appreciate the collaboration with my colleagues Senator COTTON and WARNER, and I appreciate the collaboration and engagement from the administration and from our national security partners.

I am grateful for the engagement from the House of Representatives. We got this bill to a very good place, and it is the kind of a bill that should have significant support from both sides of the aisle.

Now, we need to finish this job. We need to put aside partisanship and do what is right by the American people. We need to advance this bill to the President's desk and reauthorize this very critical program.

My Democratic colleagues should recognize that walking away from this deal isn't hurting President Trump; it is hurting the American people.

I hope my colleagues appreciate this bill for what it is, and I pray that we can consider this bill later this week. And I urge everyone in this Chamber to vote yes on reauthorizing section 702 in this very careful and very thoughtful way now before the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Democratic leader is recognized.

ANTI-WEAPONIZATION FUND

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, well, just about everyone in America hates Trump's slush fund, but every Senate Republican but one is culpable for allowing Trump to go forward with the slush fund. Again, people in America hate the fund. Every Senate Republican allowed Trump to go forward with the slush fund. They supported a reconciliation bill that had no restraints on Trump's corrupt slush fund even after Democrats forced vote after

vote in trying to ban the fund. The American people will remember how Senate Republicans sided with Trump instead of them, and it doesn't bode well for the GOP.

Yesterday, Trump showed how empty Todd Blanche's promise is to drop the MAGA slush fund. Asked whether he would stop trying to give cash payouts to his corrupt cronies, convicted criminals, and January 6 insurrectionists, Trump said:

If it was up to me, I'd pay them the kind of money that they deserve.

What they deserve? The only thing January 6 insurrectionists deserve for maiming police officers is to sit in a prison cell, but Donald Trump and Senate Republicans think the rioters deserve a cut of Americans' paychecks.

Trump went on to say:

I think the weaponization fund is a great idea, and so do many other Republicans.

Listen to that, America. Donald Trump has no intention of dropping his slush fund.

You don't have to be a Senator to see just how corrupt—just how crooked—Trump's slush fund scheme is, but Senate Republicans chose not—not—to outlaw Trump's plan to line his pockets with Americans' tax dollars. Senate Republicans are complicit in Trump's corruption.

Democrats set up a procedure and used reconciliation to show exactly where Republicans stood on the slush fund, and the American people were aghast. Republicans could have supported Democratic amendments to ban the slush fund permanently. Republicans could have voted for our amendment to prevent taxpayer-funded payouts to violent January 6 rioters. Republicans could have stood with the American people, but, instead, they reaffirmed their loyalty to Trump and his corrupt administration.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, yesterday marked 100 days since Donald Trump launched one of the most foolish misadventures in the history of American foreign policy. Trump launched his disastrous war with Iran without a clear objective, without a coherent strategy, and without a care for how it would endanger our brave servicemembers and hurt the American people.

One hundred days later, Trump still has no idea how to extricate America from this mess of his own making, and he still doesn't seem to care that the American people are struggling to bear the costs at the gas pump every day.

Trump said it himself:

I don't think about Americans' financial situation.

He doesn't think about it—the No. 1 issue facing the American people, and he doesn't think about it. What kind of President is that?

Trump had better start thinking about Americans' financial situation

because, as it becomes more and more dire, Americans are becoming more and more livid. Costs on everything from gasoline to groceries to consumer goods are through the roof because of Trump and his war. American families have spent an extra \$750, on average, these past 100 days to meet the rising costs of Trump's war, and every time Americans go to the pump and see a gallon of gasoline costing well over \$4, they know whom to blame—Donald Trump.

For 100 days, Trump has claimed that peace is just days away, only for negotiations to crumble over and over and over again. Trump's efforts at peace by press release won't stop the fighting. Congress need to reassert its powers under the Constitution and end this war. Soon, Senate Democrats will force another vote on a War Powers Resolution to end the war—the ninth opportunity we have given Republicans to do their jobs and dig themselves and Trump out of this hole.

The walls are closing in on Trump and the U.S. economy. Republicans need to find their courage and end this war.

NEW YORK KNICKS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on the Knicks' playing tonight, New Yorkers love the New York Knicks. Some of us remember the good old days when the Knicks won the championship with Debusschere and Bradley at the forward, with Willis Reed in center, and with Earl the Pearl and Clyde as the point guards. Those were the glory days, and the glory days are back.

So, with the New York Knicks set to play the San Antonio Spurs in a few hours, tonight ought to be all about the game, the players, and the fans, but Donald Trump wants to make tonight all about himself like he always does. Midtown has to shut down. Bars near the Garden are about to take a huge hit on what should be their biggest night of the year, and free watch parties near the arena have been canceled because Trump can't bear letting anyone else be the center of attention for one night.

After waiting nearly three decades to see the Knicks play in the finals, New Yorkers deserve better than this.

Knicks fans would give Trae Young wearing a Reggie Miller jersey a warmer welcome than the one they will give Donald Trump when he walks into Madison Square Garden tonight. Knicks fans know that tonight is about New York, not about any one New Yorker.

Best of luck to the Knicks tonight. You will hear us from the streets of New York to the Senate floor: "Knicks in Four!"

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NAVAL WEAPONS STATION CRANE

Mr. BANKS. Madam President, Indiana sits at the crossroads of America, but we also sit at the crossroads of more than just freight traffic and geography. Indiana is also the crossroads of our country's defense industrial base.

Indiana's defense and manufacturing industry is helping to make America stronger each and every single day. And now that one of our most important military assets, the Naval Weapons Station Crane, will be getting a one-star Reserve flag officer, Indiana's defense industry will be stronger than it has ever been before.

And I just wanted to come to the floor today, as we begin this week, and talk about the important role that Indiana is playing in leading America's defense industry.

Indiana has one of the highest concentrations of manufacturing jobs anywhere in the country, and we have a great business environment, which is why we have a major defense footprint. In my backyard, in Fort Wayne, IN, a number of companies are located there, like BAE Systems, L3Harris, Raytheon, Ultra Maritime, and General Dynamics. They all call Northeast Indiana, where I live, home, employing thousands of Hoosiers.

Indiana leads the Nation, as well, in steel production, and the steel mills in Burns Harbor forge the steel plates that make up our Navy's ships.

And Indiana is home, as well, to some of the brightest minds that are working in national security and national defense. We have top engineering schools that send their graduates to Crane Navy base. Schools like Purdue, Notre Dame, Trine, and Rose-Hulman pump out a lot of engineers who get good-paying jobs at Crane and in a number of these defense companies.

At Purdue University, the Hypersonics and Applied Research Facility is running some of the most advanced wind tunnel tests anywhere in the world, and the results of those tests will help better our advanced missile technology.

Purdue also has a presence at Crane at the WestGate@Crane Technology Park, a 750-acre campus dedicated to the research and development of hypersonics, energetic materials, and micro-electronics.

At Notre Dame, the Hypersonic Systems Initiative is focused on researching and developing advanced hypersonic flight vehicles. Notre Dame is also part of the Naval Engineering Education Consortium, a Navy-funded research and workforce bridge that allows Notre Dame students and faculty to work on hypersonics projects that are taking place at Crane Naval Base.

But perhaps more important than all of that, our coveted asset is the Crane

Naval Weapons Station. Crane is the third largest Navy base in the world. A lot of people don't even know it exists, and it is in Indiana. In less than a decade, Crane has made nearly 2,000 new hires and has had over \$3 billion of economic impact on the State of Indiana. It has been incredible to watch Crane grow into a truly state-of-the-art defense industrial powerhouse.

Earlier this year, I took part in the groundbreaking ceremony of the Prometheus project at Crane. Prometheus will be a leader in the production of solid rocket motors, which are vital for critical munitions that are increasingly in short supply. And I was proud to fight hard here in Congress to secure \$150 million in the One Big Beautiful Bill to help projects like Prometheus take off. Crane is doing some of the most advanced missile and hypersonic testing and development anywhere in the world. I also helped secure almost half a billion dollars for the MACH-TB Program, a joint Department of War effort to accelerate hypersonics testing, which is also taking place at Crane.

Crane is also, by the way, managing the MACH-XL Program, another Department of War initiative designed to accelerate the development, testing, and production of affordable high-speed hypersonic weapon systems. And Crane is also leading the development of the Navy's nuclear sea-launched cruise missile, also known as SLCM-N.

I could go on for a long time. I am very proud of what happens at Crane and what is going on in Indiana. I have only scratched the surface of the incredible defense projects taking place in my great State. But it is precisely because of how important our defense industrial industry is, especially at Crane, that I applaud Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and Acting Secretary of the Navy Hung Cao's decision to assign a one-star flag officer to Crane—a really important development for our State. This is the most significant expansion of Crane since its creation. It will bring game-changing new authorities and manpower to our State and further cements Indiana as the heart of America's hypersonic enterprise.

The one-star position will be responsible for integrating the Navy's nuclear sea-launched cruise missile and conventional prompt strike weapons systems into and onto surface ships and submarines. It will bring more manpower, more authority, and high-skilled jobs to Indiana while strengthening Crane's role in protecting our country. Our country will be stronger because of this move that Secretary Hegseth and Acting Secretary Hung Cao have made.

President Trump and Secretary of War Hegseth are rebuilding our Nation's military to make it even more lethal than it already was, and part of making our military stronger is by re-vamping our defense industrial base. Look no further than the great State of Indiana, which is leading the charge and showing the rest of the country

what a robust defense industrial base can look like.

Hoosiers will continue to work hard to make our country safer, and I look forward to welcoming this one-star Navy admiral to Crane when he arrives later this year.

I thank the Presiding Officer for her time. I love to brag about Indiana and our defense industrial base and all the great things happening in our State to contribute to our national defense and our national security.

I yield the floor.

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BANKS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Mattivi nomination.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

NOMINATION OF ANTHONY W. MATTIVI

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, the Senate will, here this evening, soon vote or at least begin the nomination process to vote for Tony Mattivi to serve as a U.S. district judge for the District of Kansas.

I have often said that one of the most important responsibilities given to the U.S. Senate is that of providing advice and consent on judicial nominations.

Over many years, I have had the opportunity to get to know Mr. Mattivi, and I have seen firsthand his dedication to public service, to our justice system, and to our country.

He is a graduate of the Metropolitan State College of Denver and Washburn University Law School in Topeka, KS. During law school orientation, he met his wife Mary, who now serves as a Shawnee County district judge, a State judge, and they have three children.

Mr. Mattivi served as a Federal prosecutor for more than 20 years, handling complex cases on behalf of the Department of Justice involving drug trafficking, violent crime, and terrorism.

Following his time in Federal service, Mr. Mattivi was confirmed as the director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, providing him with additional capabilities and utilizing his capabilities in additional law enforcement responsibilities. He has provided strong leadership at the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the KBI, and he has made the public safer, as is his priority.

I am the chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee that funds the Department of Justice, and in that regard, I have worked with Mr. Mattivi throughout his time as the director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. He has demonstrated his devotion to serving Kansans and improving the judicial system, and I am confident his experience in the courtroom and in law en-

forcement will aid him well on the Federal bench.

During the White House's selection process to fill vacancies in Kansas' U.S. district courts, I met again with Mr. Mattivi and had a serious conversation about this position—this being his becoming a district judge for the Federal District of Kansas. As he has throughout his career, he continued to impress me with his qualifications, experience, and commitment.

For these reasons, I urged the White House to nominate him, and I am confident Mr. Mattivi will serve Kansans well in performing this role. I now urge my colleagues to join me in supporting his nomination to serve as a U.S. district judge for the District of Kansas.

Madam President, that concludes my remarks about Mr. Mattivi, and I now ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled rollcall vote occur immediately.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 744, Anthony W. Mattivi, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, Pete Ricketts, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Jim Banks, Rick Scott of Florida, Todd Young, David McCormick, Shelley Moore Capito, Jerry Moran, Jon Husted, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, Katie Boyd Britt, Eric Schmitt.

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 Anthony W. Mattivi, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, 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 North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "yea," the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET),

the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 165 Leg.]

YEAS—49

Armstrong	Fischer	Moran
Banks	Grassley	Moreno
Barrasso	Hagerty	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hawley	Paul
Boozman	Hoeven	Ricketts
Britt	Husted	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Curtis	McConnell	Young
Daines	McCormick	
Ernst	Moody	

NAYS—42

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Coons	Lujan	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Markey	Smith
Duckworth	Murphy	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murray	Warner
Gallagher	Ossoff	Warnock
Gillibrand	Padilla	Warren
Hassan	Peters	Welch
Heinrich	Reed	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Rosen	Wyden

NOT VOTING—9

Bennet	Fetterman	Merkley
Booker	Graham	Risch
Cramer	Klobuchar	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETS). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 42. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Anthony W. Mattivi, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the postcloture time with respect to Executive Calendar No. 744 be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m. tomorrow; finally, that if the nomination is 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 745.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Anthony J. Powell, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant executive 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. 745, Anthony J. Powell, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, Pete Ricketts, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Jim Banks, Rick Scott of Florida, Todd Young, David McCormick, Shelley Moore Capito, Jerry Moran, Jon Husted, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, Katie Boyd Britt, John R. Curtis.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 765.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Brock Dahl, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant executive 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. 765, Brock Dahl, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

John Thune, Ted Budd, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Chuck Grassley, Katie Boyd Britt, Roger Marshall, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Tim Sheehy, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Rounds, Tommy Tuberville, Bernie Moreno, Tim Scott of South Carolina, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, Shelley Moore Capito.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

EMERGENCY PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION ON REFUGEE ADMISSIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the attached letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington DC, June 8, 2026.

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT TRUMP: On May 21, 2026, you issued an Emergency Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2026, increasing the refugee admissions goal from 7,500 to 17,500. We offer the following observations and recommendations on your Administration's shameful efforts to gut the refugee admissions program.

We have identified multiple legal defects with the Emergency Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2026. First, your Administration did not conduct the appropriate consultation required by Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) section 207(a)(2) before the President may increase the refugee admissions goal in response to an unforeseen refugee situation. INA section 207(e) defines an appropriate consultation as including "discussions in person by designated Cabinet-level representatives of the President with members of the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and of the House of Representatives to review the refugee situation or emergency refugee situation." The purported consultation on May 21 occurred with the Deputy Secretary of State and Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, and no attempts were made to ensure that members of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate could attend. Prior to the consultations for Fiscal

Year 2026, there are no recorded instances of a consultation occurring without at least one cabinet level official. The consultation therefore did not meet statutory requirements for an appropriate consultation. This follows multiple instances in the first Trump Administration when the Executive Branch violated the Refugee Act by failing to hold timely and meaningful consultations with Congress.

We also observe that there is no “unforeseen refugee emergency” in South Africa justifying an increase in the refugee admissions goal. Congress created a process in the Refugee Act of 1980 under which the President can increase the refugee admissions allocation when a crisis resulted in an unexpected impact on countries of first asylum or when a U.S. response would alleviate grave humanitarian concerns or promote national interests. The Senate Judiciary Committee report on the Refugee Act (S. Rept. 96-256) listed the following examples: a “sudden exodus of people from a country where there had been no refugee flow before,” “a substantial increase in the number of refugees in an area of the world where ‘normal flow’ refugees were anticipated, but urgent new numbers developed,” or “any catastrophic circumstance affecting an asylum area requiring immediate action.”

No such unforeseen emergency was described by the Administration’s briefers during the consultation or through supplemental materials. To justify the increase in refugee admissions, your designees pointed to an increase in ongoing reports of “rhetoric” attacking Afrikaners by the South African government. However, in your Executive Order issued on February 7, 2025, entitled, “Addressing Egregious Actions of the Republic of South Africa,” you cite “hateful rhetoric and government actions” by the South African government against Afrikaners—if we accept these representations as accurate, continued rhetoric was not unforeseen. Similarly, the Report to Congress on Proposed Emergency Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2026 discusses a raid by South African officials on a U.S. Refugee Processing Center. By all accounts, the U.S. government had contracted officials to work in the Center without lawful work authorization, and enforcement action against individuals working unlawfully could hardly be called unforeseen. During the consultation, your designees further admitted that South Africa’s official policies regarding Afrikaners have not changed since the previous consultation in November 2025.

By contrast, there are numerous forced displacement crises and conflicts worldwide that would justify an emergency increase in the ceiling, including, for example, in Sudan, Burma, and Haiti. During the consultation, some members raised resettlement of refugees from Iran, including religious minority community members and political dissidents. Escalating violence in South Sudan, including attacks on civilians, led 100,000 people to flee into Ethiopia in March 2026 alone. Since the November 2025 consultation, escalating violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo between the Congolese Armed Forces and M23 rebel group led more than 40,000 people to flee to Burundi in a single week. Since early March 2026, more than one million people in Lebanon, or 20 percent of the country’s population, have been internally displaced due to escalating hostilities in the Middle East.

Your designees also stated that only Afrikaners are being considered for an exception to the bar on refugee admission. On January 20, 2025, you signed Executive Order 14163, putting an indefinite pause on the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. This Executive

Order allows the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security to admit refugees to the United States on a case-by-case basis, in their discretion, but only so long as they determine that the entry of such noncitizens as refugees is in the national interest and does not pose a threat to the security or welfare of the United States. On December 19, 2025, the Secretary of State designated this authority to the Deputy Secretary, the Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, and the Under Secretary for Foreign Assistance, Humanitarian Affairs, and Religious Freedom.

During the consultation, however, the designees noted that only Afrikaners are currently being excepted from the Executive Order and could not describe a process by which any other applicant for refugee admission may be considered for an exception. There were 42.5 million refugees worldwide at the end of 2025, including many who present no threat to the security or welfare of the United States, and whose admission would be in the national interest of the United States. For example, many refugees remain separated from their families in the United States. Thousands of Afghan allies remain stranded abroad after risking their lives to serve alongside our servicemembers. There are also 123,000 fully vetted refugees who were in the pipeline to come to the United States on the first day of this Administration, 12,000 of whom had their travel to the United States scheduled. During the consultation, your designees stated these refugees will remain stranded until the policy is changed. We urge you to consider additional refugees for exceptions to the ban on refugee admission under Executive Order 14163.

The U.S. refugee admissions program has been the gold standard of vetting and served as a key diplomatic tool for 46 years. The program was created by Congress with the express purpose to give “statutory meaning to our national commitment to human rights and humanitarian concerns.” Your decision only to admit as refugees members of a group favored by your Administration is a betrayal of our nation’s longstanding bipartisan commitment to serve as a safe haven for those fleeing persecution. We urge you to conduct an appropriate consultation that complies with the law and to admit refugees impacted by the emergencies described above.

Sincerely,

RICHARD J. DURBIN,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary.
ALEX PADILLA,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
Subcommittee on Border Security and
Immigration.

REMEMBERING BARNEY FRANK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Barney Frank was one of the brightest Members of Congress I have ever had the pleasure of serving with. He was smart, outrageous, colorful, and courageous. Most importantly, he was a good man. Barney passed away last month, and I would like to take a moment to recognize his lifetime of public service.

Born in Bayonne, NJ, Barney discovered his interest in government at the age of 10 watching Senate hearings on his father’s television set. Barney said in his own words: most children were interested in becoming “a cowboy, a boxer, or a puppeteer. I preferred the idea of sitting behind an impressive dais grilling colorful Mafiosi.” To feed his passion, Barney volunteered for

Adlai Stevenson’s second Presidential campaign in 1956 while he was in high school, and the next year, he arrived at Harvard University to study public policy. Barney remained in Massachusetts for 56 years, rising in the ranks of government from executive assistant to the mayor of Boston to the Halls of Congress.

Anyone who met Barney knew that he was the last person you would want to argue with. His sharp tongue and acerbic retorts were legendary, and Barney was never afraid to use his talents to defend the causes that he believed in. Fortunately for our country, his cause was often that of the disenfranchised and powerless. Elected in 1980—the same year as President Ronald Reagan—Barney fought against the Reagan administration’s attempts to cut government programs that helped working families, and he passionately defended the Legal Services Corporation, which was facing backlash for assisting the United Farm Workers. Barney’s political acumen was as strong as his intelligence, and he achieved huge success for a new congressman.

Yet Barney’s early years in the House are perhaps best remembered for his courageous decision to come out as gay at a time when LGBTQ+ people were still banned from serving in the Armed Forces or holding a security clearance. That decision took guts. No congressman had ever come out of the closet willingly before Barney, and many had warned him that doing so would jeopardize his ability to reach higher office. But Barney refused to take the easy way out, and in 1987, he became the first openly gay Member of Congress. Barney had already been a staunch advocate for gay rights long before he came out; he even introduced the first gay rights bill in Massachusetts history as a State representative in 1972, and he continued that fight long after he announced his sexuality. Barney worked to remove homophobic provisions from America’s immigration laws, advocated for funding for AIDS and HIV research and treatment, and fought passionately against the discrimination of the LGBTQ+ community at every level of government. By the time Barney left Congress, gay people were able to openly serve in the military, sodomy laws were declared unconstitutional, and hate crimes based on an individual’s sexuality were explicitly prohibited by law.

Behind Barney’s brilliant wit and courage was also a statesman who was just as comfortable crafting bipartisan compromise as he was delivering a soundbite. Barney was indispensable in picking up the pieces of our economy in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. Not only did he work with the Bush administration to prevent the crisis from deepening, but he also joined forces with Senator Christopher Dodd to pass the Dodd-Frank Act, the largest reform to Wall Street and the American financial system in the post-war era. This bill created the Consumer

Financial Protection Bureau, an Agency tasked with defending American consumers from dishonest business practices; it regulated the securities and derivatives markets that brought our Nation to financial ruin; and it increased capital requirements for banks to avoid future defaults. While Barney wished that the rules enshrined in Dodd-Frank went further in protecting Americans, it still made a meaningful difference for millions of families.

Before leaving office, Barney had one more accomplishment he was determined to achieve. On July 7, 2012, Barney married his partner Jim Ready and became the first Member of Congress to be married to a same-sex partner. I am pleased to say that while they were the first, they are no longer the only partnership in this category. While more must be done to end discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community, it is worth recognizing Barney and Jim's contributions to equality in America. Loretta and I would like to offer Jim our deepest condolences for his loss.

Barney refused to allow the prejudice and bigotry of his time to define him. His courage and intelligence were an inspiration to many of his colleagues, and his legacy is still felt in Congress today. He will be missed.

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the 80th anniversary of the National School Lunch Act. Eight decades after President Harry S. Truman signed the legislation into law, we celebrate a program that has nourished generations of American children and helped build a stronger, healthier, and more prosperous nation.

As a former public school board member, I have seen firsthand the powerful connection between nutrition and learning. Children who have access to healthy meals are better prepared to succeed in the classroom, participate in extracurricular activities, and reach their full potential. That simple truth has guided the program.

Arkansas is proud to be part of this success story. Every school day, school meal programs serve hundreds of thousands of Arkansas students, giving them access to the nutrition necessary to learn, grow, and thrive. These meals not only support academic achievement but also promote long-term health and well-being.

We have also worked to build on the success of the National School Lunch Act and extend nutrition support beyond the school year. The Hunger-Free Summer for Kids Act, signed into law in 2022, delivered the most significant modernization of summer feeding programs in more than 60 years. By permanently expanding noncongregate meal options, the law helps ensure that children in rural and underserved communities can continue receiving nutritious meals when school is out of session.

These efforts built on a long, bipartisan tradition of strengthening child

nutrition programs, including support for school breakfast programs, summer meal initiatives, and policies that connect America's farmers, ranchers, and producers with the schools that serve our children every day.

The mission of the National School Lunch Act remains as important as ever. The program continues to nourish children in Arkansas and all across the country and invest in the future of our Nation.

Eighty years of feeding hungry students, supporting families, and creating opportunities for success is a record worth celebrating. I look forward to building on that legacy for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WILKINSON

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an exemplary leader, dedicated public servant, and distinguished soldier: Brigadier General Scott D. Wilkinson. Since 2024, General Wilkinson has served as both military deputy chief of legislative liaison and as chief of legislative liaison. In these roles, he has helped maintain strong relations between military and congressional leaders, ensuring that Congress is well informed of our Armed Forces' critical missions. He brought a wealth of experience to these positions, having previously served as chief of the Senate liaison division.

Throughout his time working with Congress, he has demonstrated a commitment to our national security that has remained constant throughout his more than 30 years of military service. He deployed in support of Operations JOINT ENDEAVOR and JOINT GUARD in Bosnia-Herzegovina; to Operation ATLANTIC RESOLVE in Eastern Europe; and to combat in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, FREEDOM SENTINEL, IRAQI FREEDOM, INHERENT RESOLVE, and YUKON SCEPTER. His awards include the Legion of Merit with three bronze oakleaf clusters, the Bronze Star Medal with four bronze oakleaf clusters, and the Meritorious Service Medal with silver oakleaf cluster, among numerous other decorations.

Tennessee is lucky to call General Wilkinson one of our own. He served for many years at Fort Campbell, ultimately assuming the positions of commander of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment and deputy commander for Support of the 101st Airborne Division. Prior to his service in the legislative liaison office, he most recently served as commanding general of the U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command. Throughout his assignments, his exemplary leadership has set a standard worthy of recognition and emulation by the soldiers he led and mentored.

As General Wilkinson's time at the Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison comes to a close, I extend my deepest thanks to General Wilkinson, his wife

Mindy, and their family for their extraordinary service and sacrifice to our Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SENIOR AIRMAN LARRY THOMAS

• Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, in addition to accepting the call to serve our Nation's military, many of our veterans have also accepted an even higher calling: being a parent. But what is more is many of them were also influenced to serve by their own parents. That is true for Senior Airman Larry Thomas of Eufaula, AL. As the son of a WWI veteran and the brother of a WWII veteran, when the call to join arms came for Larry, he knew he had to do his part and join the Air Force.

Larry took time off from earning his education at Auburn University to valiantly serve the United States when we needed it the most. He spent 4 years in the early 60s at Eglin Air Force Base in northwest Florida serving our country at the onset of the Vietnam war. During those four years, he supported flight operations and even earned a Presidential Unit Citation for his squadron's help in the first-ever human orbit around the earth in 1962.

But finishing his degree was always in the back of his mind, especially after he met and married his late wife Jean, who was a lifelong educator herself. Larry and Jean married in Walton County, FL, and welcomed home their first two of three sons Channing and Sean while there. After Larry left the Air Force, he kept his promise both to himself and his wife and finished his degree; he graduated from Troy in 1969 exactly 10 years after his high school graduation. The Thomas family finally relocated back to Larry's roots in Eufaula and welcomed their third son Derek in the 70s. And Larry has never left. He went on to work in various roles in textile mills, sales, and more over the next three decades, all the while instilling many of the values he learned from the Air Force in his sons. Whether it be discipline, decision making, keeping your word, working hard, or maintaining order, Larry's time in the uniform was not confined to himself but a shared bond between all the Thomas boys.

To Larry, being a good father, husband, and grandfather is the most important role he has ever had—and his time in the military helped shape him into a father. After retiring in 2011, he has stayed involved in the Eufaula community by serving on the board of directors of the Eufaula Housing Authority and as a part of the vestry at St. James Episcopal Church. He is truly a pillar of his community, but more importantly, of his family.

In June, we celebrate Father's Day. We appreciate the fathers—like Larry—who have helped instill patriotism in the next generation. It is my

honor to recognize Larry Thomas as the June Veteran of the Month.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 254. An act to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to protect the cultural practices and livelihoods of producers of Alaska Native handicrafts and marine mammal ivory products, and for other purposes.

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

At 4:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2913. An act to authorize support for Ukraine, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8646. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 8, 2026, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 254. An act to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to protect the cultural practices and livelihoods of producers of Alaska Native handicrafts and marine mammal ivory products, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3745. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a discontinuation of serv-

ice in an acting role for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3746. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines" ((RIN1902-AG39) (Docket No. RM96-1-044)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3747. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Renewable Energy Production Incentives" (RIN1904-AF76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3748. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Implementation Status of the Innovative Water Technology Grant Program October 2025"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3749. A communication from the Division Chief, Office of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementing PATRIOT Act Improvements: Contraband Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco" (RIN1140-AA31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3750. A communication from the Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revising Machine Gun Definition in Response to Supreme Court Decision" (RIN1140-AA60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3751. A communication from the Division Chief, Office of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to National Firearms Act Tax Remittance Provisions" (RIN1140-AA83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3752. A communication from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consumer Leasing (Regulation M)" (RIN7100-AH11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3753. A communication from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold" (RIN7100-AH12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3754. A communication from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pur-

suant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Community Reinvestment Act Regulations Asset-Size Thresholds (Regulation BB)" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3755. A communication from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Truth in Lending (Regulation Z)" (RIN7100-AH10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3756. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3757. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Reports from the Inspector General and Inspector General for Tax Administration for the period from October 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3758. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3759. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a nomination for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3760. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3761. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3762. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEE, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2033. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on existing programs, rules, and authorities that enable or inhibit wildfire mitigation across land ownership boundaries on Federal and non-Federal land.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. BOOZMAN for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Glen Smith, of Iowa, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. SCHATZ (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4695. A bill to establish a private right of action against a person who transmits unsolicited intimate visual depictions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 4696. A bill to establish an express cause of action for violations of the right to record, observe, or peacefully protest law enforcement activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

S. 4697. A bill to provide for design and safety requirements for autonomous and semi-autonomous weapon systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 4698. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize the use of investigational individualized medical treatments by patients diagnosed with a life-threatening disease or condition or severely debilitating illness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 4699. A bill to restore funding to the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 4700. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for qualified conservation contributions which include National Scenic Trails; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GALLEGU, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. REED, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. BALDWIN,

Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS):

S. 4701. A bill to protect freedom of travel and reproductive rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GALLEGU (for himself and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 4702. A bill to amend the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 to counter subsidies provided by the Government of the People's Republic of China, to protect critical United States industries, and to strengthen United States economic and national security competitiveness; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. ROSEN:

S. 4703. A bill to prohibit Federal funds from being used for certain legal financial settlements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROSEN:

S. 4704. A bill to prohibit Federal funds from being used for certain legal financial settlements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROSEN:

S. 4705. A bill to prohibit Federal funds from being used for certain legal financial settlements, to provide funding for the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 4706. A bill to amend section 1977A of the Revised Statutes to equalize the remedies available under that section and to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to provide any legal or equitable relief available under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. REED):

S. 4707. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a policy for the Department of Defense on maximizing autonomy and artificial intelligence systems, to establish requirements relating to Department review and verification of autonomous weapon systems, and artificial intelligence capabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4708. A bill to improve the security of the Arctic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 4709. A bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act to modify a limitation relating to exports and transfers of defense articles and services under the AUKUS partnership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KAINE, Mr. GALLEGU, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 756. A resolution expressing support for the designation of June 5, 2026, as "National Gun Violence Awareness Day" and June 2026 as "National Gun Violence Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 757. A resolution designating June 11, 2026, as "National Seersucker Day", designating every subsequent Thursday through the last Thursday in August 2026 as "Seersucker Thursday", and designating June 2026 as "Seersucker Appreciation Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. BANKS, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. Res. 758. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the month of June 2026 as "National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month" and June 27, 2026, as "National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 759. A resolution recognizing World Oceans Day and celebrating the maritime heritage, ocean leadership, fisheries stewardship, and coastal communities of the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 760. A resolution recognizing the United States-Philippines alliance on the 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations, the 75th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of the Philippines, and the 10th anniversary of the landmark arbitral award upholding Manila's sovereignty against escalating aggression and lawfare by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 410

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 410, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 455

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 455, a bill to amend section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to limit immigration enforcement actions at sensitive locations, to clarify the powers of immigration officers at sensitive locations, and for other purposes.

S. 547

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 547, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Labor to conduct a study and issue a report on grant programs to support the nursing workforce.

S. 1157

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1157, a bill to direct the Secretary of

Health and Human Services to conduct a review to evaluate the status of research on lung cancer in women and underserved populations, and for other purposes.

S. 1574

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. ARMSTRONG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1574, a bill to amend the Stored Communications Act to include Tribal courts as courts of competent jurisdiction.

S. 1889

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1889, a bill to repeal the sunset provision of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996.

S. 2096

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2096, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the Transition Assistance Program and Solid Start Program to address mental health issues, and for other purposes.

S. 2955

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2955, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish Federal penalties for the knowing and intentional administration of any abortion-inducing drug to a woman without her informed consent, if the abortion-inducing drug has been shipped or transported in interstate commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 3041

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. ARMSTRONG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3041, a bill to allow the U.S. Marshals Service to assist in certain Tribal criminal matters, and for other purposes.

S. 3267

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) were added as cosponsors of S. 3267, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of blood-based dementia screening tests.

S. 3332

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3332, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the exclusion of gain from the sale of a principal residence, and for other purposes.

S. 3400

At the request of Mr. CURTIS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3400, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Serv-

ice Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require coverage of hearing devices and systems in certain private health insurance plans, and for other purposes.

S. 3492

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) 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. 3892

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3892, a bill to prohibit retail food stores from price gouging and engaging in surveillance-based price setting practices, and for other purposes.

S. 3981

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3981, a bill to amend the Burma Unified through Rigorous Military Accountability Act of 2022 to extend the sunset, to require a determination with respect to the imposition of sanctions on certain persons of Burma, and for other purposes.

S. 4419

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4419, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require only foreign entities to report beneficial ownership information, and for other purposes.

S. 4573

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4573, a bill to designate the Great Lakes Commission as a Regional Great Lakes Partnership, and for other purposes.

S. 4604

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4604, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify certain percentage depletion rules with respect to oil and gas wells.

S. 4666

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4666, a bill to require officers and employees of the Department of Homeland Security to receive training with respect to Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 260

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms.

DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 260, a resolution expressing support for the designation of June 6, 2025, as “National Gun Violence Awareness Day” and June 2025 as “National Gun Violence Awareness Month”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 756—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JUNE 5, 2026, AS “NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY” AND JUNE 2026 AS “NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KAINE, Mr. GALLEG0, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 756

Whereas each year in the United States—

(1) nearly 47,000 individuals are killed and nearly 97,000 individuals are wounded by gunfire;

(2) nearly 19,000 individuals are killed in homicides involving guns;

(3) nearly 27,000 individuals die by suicide using a gun; and

(4) more than 400 individuals are killed in unintentional shootings;

Whereas, since 1968, more individuals have died from guns in the United States than have died on the battlefields of all the wars in the history of the United States;

Whereas, in 2025, nearly 15,000 people were killed in gun homicides or nonsuicide-related shootings;

Whereas, in 2025, more than 230 people were unintentionally shot by a child under 18;

Whereas, by one count, in 2025 in the United States, there were at least 406 mass shooting incidents in which at least 4 people were killed or wounded by gunfire;

Whereas, nationwide, more than 88,000 military veterans died by gun suicide from 2004 to 2023;

Whereas, every year in the United States, more than 4,400 children and teens are killed by gun violence, and more than 17,000 children and teens are shot and wounded;

Whereas more than 15,000 people in the United States under the age of 30 die because of gun violence annually, including Hadiya Pendleton, who, in 2013, was killed at 15 years of age in Chicago, Illinois, while standing in a park;

Whereas, on June 5, 2026, to recognize the 29th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born June 2, 1997), people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to—

(1) Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and

(2) the loved ones of those victims; and

Whereas June 2026 is an appropriate month to designate as “National Gun Violence Awareness Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports—

(A) the designation of June 2026 as “National Gun Violence Awareness Month” and the goals and ideals of that month; and

(B) the designation of June 5, 2026, as “National Gun Violence Awareness Day”, in remembrance of the victims of gun violence; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to—

(A) promote greater awareness of gun violence and gun safety;

(B) wear orange, the color that hunters wear to show that they are not targets, on National Gun Violence Awareness Day;

(C) concentrate heightened attention on gun violence during the summer months, when gun violence typically increases; and

(D) bring community members and leaders together to discuss ways to make communities safer.

SENATE RESOLUTION 757—DESIGNATING JUNE 11, 2026, AS “NATIONAL SEERSUCKER DAY”, DESIGNATING EVERY SUBSEQUENT THURSDAY THROUGH THE LAST THURSDAY IN AUGUST 2026 AS “SEERSUCKER THURSDAY”, AND DESIGNATING JUNE 2026 AS “SEERSUCKER APPRECIATION MONTH”

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 757

Whereas seersucker was introduced to the United States in the South in the middle of the 19th century;

Whereas seersucker suits were popularized in the United States in the early 1900s by New Orleans businessman Joseph Haspel at his Broad Street facility in New Orleans, Louisiana;

Whereas, as a lightweight, hard-wearing fabric, seersucker is mostly worn and enjoyed by the people of the United States during hot summer months;

Whereas former Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi brought Seersucker Thursday to Congress in 1996, and after the day went unobserved in 2012 and 2013, then-Representative Bill Cassidy, with the help of the late Senator Dianne Feinstein, revived the tradition in 2014;

Whereas the Senate will remember the historic service of the late Senator Dianne Feinstein, who shall forever remain a part of this tradition, which Senator Raphael Warnock will continue in her stead;

Whereas the name “seersucker” originates from the Persian phrase “shir-o-shakar”, meaning “milk and sugar”, alluding to the alternating textures of the fabric;

Whereas the seersucker textile is made of cotton, linen, or silk (or combinations thereof), woven on a loom with threads at different tensions, creating alternating stripes of smooth and puckered textures that do not lay flat on one’s skin, which is what makes the fabric so breathable;

Whereas cotton is an important crop that producers in the United States, including 3,500 family farms in Georgia, strive to cultivate in the highest quality; and

Whereas one of the alternating stripes in seersucker is frequently in a color, typically blue, but sometimes gray, green, tan, red, pink, or another color, which, in combination with the white stripes, creates the iconic pattern so well known today: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 11, 2026, as “National Seersucker Day”;

(2) designates every subsequent Thursday through the last Thursday in August 2026 as “Seersucker Thursday”;

(3) designates June 2026 as “Seersucker Appreciation Month”;

(4) recognizes the contributions of the hard-working people of the United States

through the wearing of seersucker, the unique warm weather clothing known as the working person’s uniform;

(5) encourages Senators to support the objectives of National Seersucker Day and Seersucker Thursday;

(6) encourages local governments in the United States to build partnerships with local organizations and other members of the clothing industries and enthusiasts to promote the wearing of seersucker; and

(7) invites the people of the United States to don their warm weather finest on National Seersucker Day and every Seersucker Thursday.

SENATE RESOLUTION 758—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE MONTH OF JUNE 2026 AS “NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS MONTH” AND JUNE 27, 2026, AS “NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. BANKS, Mr. COLLINS, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 758

Whereas the brave men and women of the Armed Forces, who proudly serve the United States, risk their lives to protect the freedom, health, and welfare of the people of the United States, and deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being;

Whereas nearly 3,500,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed overseas since the events of September 11, 2001, and have served in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas the current generation of men and women in the Armed Forces has sustained a high rate of operational deployments, with many members of the Armed Forces serving overseas multiple times, placing those members at high risk of enduring traumatic combat stress;

Whereas, when left untreated, exposure to traumatic combat stress can lead to severe and chronic post-traumatic stress responses, commonly referred to as post-traumatic stress, post-traumatic stress disorder, or post-traumatic stress injury;

Whereas the Secretary of Veterans Affairs reports that approximately—

(1) 11 to 20 percent of veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom suffer from severe or chronic post-traumatic stress responses;

(2) 12 percent of veterans who served in the Persian Gulf war have post-traumatic stress in a given year; and

(3) 30 percent of veterans who served in the Vietnam era have had post-traumatic stress in their lifetimes;

Whereas the diagnosis known as post-traumatic stress disorder was initially formulated in 1980 by the American Psychiatric Association to describe and categorize the symptoms and behavioral complications of severe traumatic stress;

Whereas the symptoms and behavioral complications of severe traumatic stress have historically been unjustly portrayed in the media, stigmatizing individuals living with post-traumatic stress;

Whereas electro-magnetic imaging has shown that severe traumatic stress causes physical changes in the brain;

Whereas many post-traumatic stress responses remain unreported, undiagnosed, and untreated due to—

(1) a lack of awareness about post-traumatic stress and the persistent stigma associated with mental health conditions; and

(2) a lack of access to mental health treatment;

Whereas, without timely redress, traumatic stress responses can worsen over time and lead to severe consequences, including self-harm;

Whereas exposure to trauma during service in the Armed Forces can lead to post-traumatic stress;

Whereas post-traumatic stress significantly increases the risk of anxiety, depression, homelessness, substance abuse, and suicide, especially if left untreated;

Whereas public perceptions of post-traumatic stress have created challenges for veterans seeking employment;

Whereas the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and veterans service organizations, as well as the larger medical community, both private and public, have made significant advances in the identification, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of post-traumatic stress and the symptoms of post-traumatic stress, but many challenges remain;

Whereas increased understanding of post-traumatic stress can help to eliminate the stigma attached to the mental health issues of post-traumatic stress;

Whereas additional efforts are needed to find further ways to eliminate the stigma associated with post-traumatic stress, including the recognition that post-traumatic stress is often a repairable injury, and an examination of how post-traumatic stress is portrayed by the media;

Whereas timely and appropriate treatment of post-traumatic stress responses can diminish complications and prevent suicides; and

Whereas the designation of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month and a National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day raises public awareness about issues related to post-traumatic stress, reduces the associated stigma, supports resilience, and helps ensure that those individuals suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates—

(A) June 2026 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month”; and

(B) June 27, 2026, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day”;

(2) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense, as well as the entire medical community, to educate members of the Armed Forces, veterans, the families of members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress;

(3) supports efforts by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to foster cultural change around the issue of post-traumatic stress, understanding that personal interactions can save lives and advance treatment;

(4) encourages the leadership of the Armed Forces to support appropriate treatment of men and women of the Armed Forces who suffer from post-traumatic stress; and

(5) recognizes the impact of post-traumatic stress on the spouses and families of members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

SENATE RESOLUTION 759—RECOGNIZING WORLD OCEANS DAY AND CELEBRATING THE MARITIME HERITAGE, OCEAN LEADERSHIP, FISHERIES STEWARDSHIP, AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 759

Whereas the ocean has shaped the history, security, economy, and identity of the United States since its founding;

Whereas 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the United States of America;

Whereas, for 250 years, the United States has grown into a global maritime leader through naval strength, exploration, scientific discovery, commerce, shipbuilding, fisheries, aquaculture, and ocean innovation;

Whereas the United States is home to vibrant coastal communities and working waterfronts that serve as economic engines supporting millions of jobs in fishing, shipping, tourism, energy, recreation, marine transportation, seafood production, research, and trade;

Whereas the ocean economy contributes trillions of dollars annually to the United States economy and supports millions of American workers;

Whereas generations of American fishermen, mariners, shipbuilders, scientists, members of the Armed Forces, port workers, and indigenous communities have contributed to the strength and prosperity of the United States;

Whereas the strength of the United States Navy, Coast Guard, and Marines has defended the shores of the United States, protected freedom of navigation, safeguarded international commerce, prevented the occurrence of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing from occurring in United States waters and abroad, and strengthened America's maritime leadership throughout the world;

Whereas the United States has developed world-class ports, maritime infrastructure, shipbuilding capacity, and ocean technology that have helped power economic growth and global trade;

Whereas the United States has preserved and celebrated its maritime heritage through historic ships, lighthouses, museums, waterfronts, and educational programs that honor the Nation's seafaring traditions;

Whereas the United States global leadership is due to its excellence in ocean science, mapping, exploration, and innovation through the work of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, academic institutions, Federal agencies, and private sector partners;

Whereas scientists estimate that a majority of the ocean remains unexplored, making ocean exploration one of the last great frontiers for scientific discovery and innovation;

Whereas 2026 marks the 50th anniversary of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), landmark bipartisan legislation that was signed into law in 1976;

Whereas the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act established a 200-mile exclusive economic zone, strengthened United States fisheries management, protected American fishermen from foreign overfishing, rebuilt fish stocks, and helped create one of the most successful and sustainable fisheries management systems in the world;

Whereas commercial, recreational, and Tribal fisheries support food security, sustain cultural traditions, strengthen coastal economies, and contribute to the maritime heritage of the United States;

Whereas American seafood producers, processors, and fishing communities continue to provide high-quality domestic seafood while supporting jobs and economic growth across the United States;

Whereas 2026 marks the 20th anniversary of the Marine Debris Program established under the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1951 et seq.);

Whereas bipartisan efforts through the Save Our Seas Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-265; 132 Stat. 3742) and related legislation have strengthened the country's response to marine debris, supported innovation and international engagement, and protected coastal communities, waterways, fisheries, and marine ecosystems;

Whereas marine debris and microplastics threatens navigation safety, coastal tourism, fisheries, working waterfronts, marine wildlife, and human well-being; and

Whereas World Oceans Day is celebrated annually on June 8 to recognize the importance of the ocean to the people, economy, heritage, and future of the United States and the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes June 8, 2026, as World Oceans Day;

(2) celebrates the ocean's vital role in the history, heritage, economy, security, and future prosperity of the United States;

(3) honors the contributions of America's fishermen, mariners, members of the Armed Forces, scientists, explorers, shipbuilders, port workers, indigenous communities, coastal communities, and working waterfronts;

(4) recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) and its role in strengthening American fisheries, supporting coastal economies, preventing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, protecting the country's seafood resources, and ensuring long-term fisheries stewardship for future generations;

(5) recognizes the 20th anniversary of the Marine Debris Program and bipartisan congressional leadership through the Save Our Seas Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-265; 132 Stat. 3742) to reduce marine debris and protect coastal communities and waterways; and

(6) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to advancing maritime leadership, ocean exploration, scientific discovery, economic opportunity, and responsible stewardship of ocean resources for future generations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 760—RECOGNIZING THE UNITED STATES-PHILIPPINES ALLIANCE ON THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDMARK ARBITRAL AWARD UPHOLDING MANILA'S SOVEREIGNTY AGAINST ESCALATING AGGRESSION AND LAWFARE BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution;

which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 760

Whereas the United States and the Philippines have maintained diplomatic relations for 80 years, which was founded on the basis of deeply interconnected strategic and economic interests and close bonds between the people of both countries;

Whereas there are more than 4,000,000 Filipino-Americans living in the United States, and approximately 300,000 United States citizens permanently residing in the Philippines, including a significant population of retired United States military veterans;

Whereas the United States-Philippines partnership was forged in blood, when more than 20,000 Americans and hundreds of thousands of Filipinos were killed in the Philippines campaigns during World War II;

Whereas, following the Japanese invasion and occupation of the Philippines between 1941 and 1945, the former United States commonwealth secured its official independence on July 4, 1946;

Whereas the United States and the Philippines signed an Agreement Concerning Military Bases in Manila on March 14, 1947;

Whereas, on August 30, 1951, the United States and the Philippines signed the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of the Philippines (referred to in this resolution as the "Mutual Defense Treaty"), which is the United States's longest-standing mutual defense treaty in the Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas the Mutual Defense Treaty clarifies the United States-Philippine collective intent—

(1) to resolve international disputes peacefully;

(2) to undertake separate and joint development of the capacity to resist attack; and

(3) to consult with each another whenever the territorial integrity, political independence, or security of the United States or the Philippines is under threat of external armed attack in the Pacific;

Whereas the Mutual Defense Treaty is the foundation of our security alliance and all other enabling defense agreements between the United States and the Philippines, including the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, done at Manila April 28, 2014;

Whereas the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement allows for a strengthened United States military presence in the Philippines—

(1) to increase bilateral cooperation and interoperability; and

(2) to provide training to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, with increased rotation of United States military personnel and assistance devoted to strengthening the territorial defense and humanitarian and maritime operations of the Philippines;

Whereas, in February 2023, the United States and the Philippines committed to designating 4 additional agreed locations under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, increasing the total number of such locations from 5 to 9;

Whereas these agreed locations—

(1) have strategic value for the United States and the Philippines;

(2) increase confidence in the bilateral alliance; and

(3) provide real opportunities for operational cooperation to advance shared security priorities;

Whereas the Mutual Defense Treaty serves as a deterrent against the increasing territorial aggression by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea;

Whereas, in 2009, the People's Republic of China began unlawfully extending its territorial and sovereignty claims in the South

China Sea under its “nine-dash line” construct, which violates the territorial rights and internationally recognized exclusive economic zones of the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, and Vietnam;

Whereas, in June 2012, the People’s Republic of China seized de facto control of Scarborough Shoal;

Whereas, since 2014, the People’s Republic of China has substantially expanded its ability to monitor and project power throughout the South China Sea via the construction of militarized artificial islands;

Whereas, on September 25, 2015, President of the People’s Republic of China Xi Jinping stated during a White House press conference that “China does not intend to pursue militarization” of the Spratly Islands and China’s outposts would not “target or impact any country”;

Whereas, on July 12, 2016, the arbitral tribunal constituted under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea unanimously decided to invalidate the People’s Republic of China’s claim to nearly 90 percent of the South China Sea, including areas determined by the tribunal to be part of the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone and continental shelf;

Whereas, despite the decision being final and legally binding, the People’s Republic of China, which refused to participate in the arbitration, has continued to reject and further violate the decision;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has employed a variety of assertive and aggressive tactics against the Philippines, including through research vessels, state-subsidized People’s Armed Forces Maritime Militia swarming fleets, the China Coast Guard, and the People’s Liberation Army Navy vessels, to coerce and enforce its arbitrary and unlawful territorial claims in the South China Sea, such as by ramming, shadowing, blocking, encircling, firing water cannons at, and using military-grade lasers against Philippine civilian ships and military vessels;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has repeatedly denied the Philippines from lawfully delivering humanitarian supplies to members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines stationed at the BRP Sierra Madre at Second Thomas Shoal;

Whereas, in April 2024, the United States, Japan, and the Philippines launched the Luzon Economic Corridor to catalyze mutual economic growth, create jobs, strengthen connectivity, and improve transport and logistics, energy, and digital infrastructure along the corridor connecting Subic Bay, Clark, Manila, and Batangas;

Whereas, on June 17, 2024, coast guard sailers from the People’s Republic of China brandished knives and other weapons in a clash with Philippine naval vessels attempting to resupply marines on Second Thomas Shoal, resulting in a severe injury to a member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;

Whereas, in March 2025, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, while visiting the Philippines during his first trip to an Indo-Pacific partner, committed—

(1) to deploy additional advanced military capabilities to the Philippines;

(2) to conduct bilateral training between both nations for high-end operations;

(3) to prioritize bilateral defense industrial cooperation; and

(4) to launch a bilateral cyber campaign;

Whereas, in April 2025, the Chinese Coast Guard temporarily deployed on Sandy Cay, an unoccupied reef located 2 miles from Manila’s largest outpost in the South China Sea, and placed a Chinese flag, indicating an intention to annex, expand, and possibly militarize the feature;

Whereas, in May 2025, the United States and the Philippines conducted Exercise

Balikatan 2025, which included participation by more than 14,000 American, Filipino, Australian, and Japanese service members and the first deployment of the Navy-Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System (NMESIS);

Whereas, on August 11, 2025, a China Coast Guard vessel collided with another People’s Republic of China vessel while aggressively swarming a Philippine Coast Guard vessel that was conducting a humanitarian mission within the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone;

Whereas, in October 2025, China Coast Guard vessels intercepted a Philippine maritime patrol boat near Thitu Island, a major civilian-inhabited feature held by Manila;

Whereas, in December 2025, China Coast Guard ships fired water cannons at Filipino fishermen near the disputed Sabina Shoal, injuring 3 people and causing significant damage to 2 fishing vessels;

Whereas, in March 2026, a People’s Liberation Army Navy vessel locked fire control radar on a Philippine Navy vessel conducting a sovereignty patrol near Sabina Shoal;

Whereas, in April 2026, the Philippine Coast Guard reported that Chinese military forces fired tactical illumination flares directly into the flight paths of passing Philippine maritime surveillance aircraft, which severely threatened flight safety;

Whereas, in April 2026, China deployed a massive 352-meter floating barrier across the mouth of Scarborough Shoal’s lagoon, completely severing access for Filipino fishermen;

Whereas, in April 2026, the United States and the Philippines announced plans to establish a 4,000-acre Economic Security Zone within the Luzon Economic Corridor under the Pax Silica initiative;

Whereas, in May 2026, the Luzon Economic Corridor steering committee formally expanded to include 8 additional global partners, namely Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, South Korea, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, positioning the corridor as a multi-billion-dollar multilateral alternative to the People’s Republic of China’s predatory infrastructure deals;

Whereas, in May 2026, the United States and the Philippines hosted the largest Exercise Balikatan, which included notable developments, such as—

(1) participation of 17,000 troops, including troops from Japan, Australia, Canada, France, and New Zealand;

(2) the deployment of Japanese combat troops on Philippines soil;

(3) the first deployment of Japan’s Type-88 surface-to-ship missile outside of Japan; and

(4) the real-time sharing of command-and-control data among allies to jointly defend against maritime aggression;

Whereas, in May 2026, a United States Coast Guard vessel joined Philippine Navy and Coast Guard vessels for a joint patrol sailing between 35 and 40 nautical miles from the contested Scarborough Shoal;

Whereas, in May 2026, commercial satellite imagery revealed that the People’s Republic of China placed a possible structure at Scarborough Shoal;

Whereas July 4, 2026 marks the 80th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Philippines;

Whereas July 12, 2026 marks the 10th anniversary of an international arbitral tribunal’s ruling overwhelmingly in favor of the Philippines in its dispute with the People’s Republic of China regarding the South China Sea; and

Whereas August 30, 2026 marks the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Philippines: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 80th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the United States and the Philippines;

(2) celebrates the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States of America and the Philippines and the longstanding alliance between our 2 nations;

(3) condemns the People’s Republic of China’s refusal to accept the 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Ruling that rejects its illegal and expansive territorial claims in the South China Sea;

(4) appreciates the trust of the Filipino people in our bilateral alliance and their support for increased defense cooperation and United States military presence in the Philippines;

(5) supports the United States-Philippines alliance’s expanding strategic focus on economic and supply chain security through the Luzon Economic Corridor, Pax Silica, and other measures to strengthen our partnership on critical minerals, advanced manufacturing, emerging technologies, energy, transport, and logistics;

(6) acknowledges the determination of the people and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to resist coercion by the People’s Republic of China;

(7) condemns the People’s Republic of China’s unprovoked aggression and political lawfare in the South China Sea to enforce its unlawful territorial and sovereignty claims;

(8) rejects the People’s Republic of China’s coercive and destabilizing plans to establish a so-called “national nature reserve” at Scarborough Reef;

(9) reaffirms that Article IV of the Mutual Defense Treaty extends to armed attacks on the Armed Forces, public vessels, or aircraft of the Philippines, including the Philippine Coast Guard, anywhere in the South China Sea;

(10) considers aggression by the People’s Republic of China in the Philippines’ internationally recognized exclusive economic zone to be a direct assault on its sovereignty and territorial integrity;

(11) urges the President to continue to take appropriate and necessary actions in response to escalatory behavior of the People’s Republic of China in order to restore deterrence and to help the Philippines defend itself;

(12) supports the unwavering commitment of the United States to deepening security cooperation with the Philippines, including advancing Philippine defense modernization and enhancing interoperability through military exercises, training, joint patrols, and increased information sharing;

(13) supports other nations growing their political and security partnerships with the Philippines;

(14) commits to advance cooperation among the United States, the Philippines, Japan, Australia, South Korea, and other partners; and

(15) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the right to freedom of navigation and overflight, respecting maritime rights under international law, and ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER

The Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in closed session during the session of the Senate on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in closed session during the session of the Senate on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 6 p.m.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in closed session during the session of the Senate on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

NORTH PLATTE CANTEN CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 645 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 645) 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.

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

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 645) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 645

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 "North Platte Canteen Congressional Gold Medal Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Home-front volunteerism was integral to the victory of the United States during

World War II. Numerous exemplars of patriotism emerged throughout the Midwest, galvanizing the rural United States and the rest of the country supporting the war effort.

(2) The North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, was one of the largest volunteer efforts of World War II.

(3) Canteen services boosted morale in the United States by providing free, wholesome entertainment to troops traveling across the country. Approximately 120 community-based canteens operated in the United States during World War II.

(4) The North Platte Canteen greeted and served food to approximately 6,000,000 United States troops traveling across the United States from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946.

(5) On December 17, 1941, the residents of North Platte, Nebraska, received information that a train of Nebraska National Guardsmen would be traveling through North Platte en route to the West Coast of the United States. Although the train carried members of the Kansas National Guard, residents of the community welcomed the men from Kansas with food and other items as an appreciation for their service.

(6) On December 18, 1941, Rae Wilson, of North Platte, proposed to her community the idea of establishing the North Platte Canteen so that residents could greet United States troops en route to serving the United States in the European Theater or the Pacific Theater.

(7) 55,000 individuals, the majority of whom were women, from 125 communities in Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas donated food and volunteered at the North Platte Canteen for approximately 5 years.

(8) The North Platte Canteen provided hospitality to as many as 24 troop trains per day. During a 1-month period, the volunteers at the Canteen served over 40,000 homemade cookies, 30,000 hard-boiled eggs, 6,500 doughnuts, 4,000 loaves of bread, 3,000 pounds of meat, 450 pounds of cheese, 60 quarts of peanut butter, 1,350 pounds of coffee, 1,000 quarts of cream, 750 dozen rolls, and 600 birthday cakes.

(9) The North Platte Canteen principally operated at the Union Pacific Railroad station in North Platte, Nebraska, with volunteers from local communities, organizations, churches, schools, and other groups, and without Federal assistance.

(10) \$137,000 in cash contributions supported the operations of the North Platte Canteen for almost 5 years. The funds were raised through benefit dances, scrap-metal drives, school victory clubs, donation cans in local businesses, and from the relatives of troops who traveled through the North Platte area.

(11) In December 1943, the North Platte Canteen was honored by the United States Army with the presentation of the Meritorious Wartime Service Award by the Secretary of War.

(12) In 2004, the 108th Congress passed a resolution recognizing the heroic efforts of those who made enormous sacrifices to make the North Platte Canteen a success during World War II.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation described in subsection (a),

the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) LINCOLN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM.—Following the presentation described in subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the Lincoln County Historical Museum in North Platte, Nebraska, where the medal shall be available for display as appropriate and made available for research.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

WOMEN AND LUNG CANCER RESEARCH AND PREVENTIVE SERVICES ACT OF 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 308, S. 1157.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1157) to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a review to evaluate the status of research on lung cancer in women and underserved populations, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY REVIEW TO EVALUATE AND IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE LUNG CANCER PREVENTION AND TREATMENT IN WOMEN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall review and, as necessary and appropriate, update Federal programs, activities, and strategic plans related to lung cancer research, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment for purposes of—

(1) identifying and addressing knowledge gaps and improving health outcomes related to lung

cancer in women and populations with few known risk factors; and

(2) improving lung cancer screening rates among populations recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force to receive such screening.

(b) *CONTENT.*—The review under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a review of findings from research on lung cancer in populations described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a), the status of ongoing federally funded research on lung cancer in such populations, and knowledge gaps related to lung cancer in such populations;

(2) consideration of additional research opportunities, including through interagency collaboration and multidisciplinary projects, that would—

(A) eliminate knowledge gaps in research on lung cancer in women, including an evaluation of any environmental and genomic factors that may be related to the etiology of lung cancer in women;

(B) improve screening rates among populations described in subsection (a)(2); or

(C) foster advances in technology and interventions, including biomarker testing, to improve lung cancer risk assessment, diagnosis, and treatment; and

(3) a review of current public health strategies, and consideration of alternative evidence-based strategies, related to lung cancer screening and diagnosis, including an assessment of the need for additional public awareness and education.

(c) *REPORT.*—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the review conducted under subsection (a), including—

(1) a summary of research findings, ongoing research projects, and knowledge gaps described in subsection (b)(1);

(2) a description of any changes made by such Secretary or the head of any other Federal agency to Federal programs, activities, or strategic plans based on the findings of the review; and

(3) any additional changes to Federal programs, activities, or strategic plans recommended by the Secretary based on the review, and any statutory or other barriers that impede implementation of such changes.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1157), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 757 and S. Res. 758.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's record under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 9; 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 to 2:15 p.m. tomorrow for the weekly conference meetings; and that the Senate proceed to executive session to execute the order on the Mattivi nomination at 2:15 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:28 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TODD BLANCHE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE PAMELA BONDI.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING VICTORINA DULAY ROBENIOL

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my belated birthday greetings to a wonderful citizen of my beautiful home island of Guam: Victorina Dulay Robeniol, who was born more than a century ago on May 14, 1922.

Victorina is a living testament to what it means to live a life of profound purpose, unwavering strength, and deep, unconditional love. Her story began in Pangasinan province in her native Philippines. She was the second of ten children of Caridad and Fabian Dulay. From a very young age Victorina was a caretaker. She embraced the responsibility of helping to raise her younger brothers and sisters while her parents worked to support their growing family.

She was barely twenty years old when the hardships of World War II struck, and following the heartbreaking loss of her father, a young Victorina made a choice that defines her character to this day: she paused her own education and stepped into the fields to work. She chose her family's survival over her own personal ambitions. That selfless love became the foundation of everything she would build.

Victorina began a beautiful new chapter in her life on January 29, 1950, when she married her loving husband Teofilo Robeniol. Their bond and dedication to each other led to a 55-year marriage and three loving sons: Romulo, Ruperto, and Cesar.

It was 60 years ago, in 1966, that Victorina and Teofilo made the bold leap across the ocean to Guam. Like so many immigrants, they arrived with hope and a willingness to work for a better future. Like her time raising her brothers and sisters, Victorina embraced the job of raising her boys while also launching a career in the Guam hotel industry.

But Victorina never settled for being just an employee; she was a visionary who possessed a vibrant entrepreneurial spirit. It was a way to provide a little more for her family: she raised and sold livestock, cultivated and sold homegrown produce, and became a beloved, familiar face at the local flea market.

She taught her children—and everyone who knew her—that no honest work is too small, and with grit and creativity, you can build a beautiful life from the ground up.

Her legacy has grown, as that small family that arrived on Guam six decades ago has grown to include four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Even now at 103 years old, Victorina isn't just watching life go by—She finds joy in the simple, beautiful rhythms of the day: watching the stunning Guam sunsets, keeping up with her favorite Filipino TV shows, and passionately cheering on NBA games.

But above all else, Victorina's heart belongs to her family. Whether reminiscing about the

old days in Pangasinan, or simply sitting back and absorbing the laughter of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, her devotion has never wavered.

Our whole island is so proud of Victorina for the life and contributions she has made in making Guam better. We thank her for showing us how to work hard, how to love fiercely, and how to live fully.

She is truly an inspiration. May God continue to bless her. Cheers to 103 beautiful years.

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH ANN POULSEN FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Elizabeth Ann Poulsen, also known to us as "Liz," for her outstanding service to the Committee on Homeland Security during her tenure with the committee. After nearly a year with the Committee on Homeland Security, Liz will conclude her detail and will return to the Government Accountability Office.

Throughout her time on the committee, Liz has been an invaluable member of the staff, providing critical expertise and steadfast dedication across multiple core oversight areas. Liz's work has significantly strengthened the committee's efforts to ensure accountability within the Department of Homeland Security's counterterrorism grant programs and improve national preparedness for emergencies.

Liz played a key role in the committee's oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Liz's abilities to issue spot and analyze complex material helped Members navigate questions regarding disaster preparedness and counterterrorism grant administration. Liz's work consistently reflected an understanding of the value of congressional oversight and a commitment to ensuring that Congress uses its oversight responsibilities thoughtfully.

In addition, Liz contributed meaningfully to the committee's oversight of preparations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup—a large scale, multi jurisdictional event requiring extensive coordination across Federal, State, local, and international partners. Liz also advanced the committee's longstanding oversight of the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) and other counterterrorism grant programs and was instrumental in working on legislation to improve the administration of counterterrorism grants.

Through all these efforts, Liz demonstrated exceptional professionalism, sound judgment, and an unwavering commitment to public service. Liz's thoughtful contributions, proactive

approach, and ability to quickly synthesize complicated policy issues strengthened the committee's oversight and legislative work and proved indispensable to both Members and staff.

We thank Liz for her service to the committee and to the American people, and we wish her continued success in the next chapter of her career.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HISTORIC ROUTE 66

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Route 66 and its special connection to Rolla, Missouri. Known as "The Mother Road," Route 66 has long been central to Rolla's identity as a transportation hub, strengthened by its location between St. Louis and Springfield.

Route 66 was first paved through Rolla in 1928, earning the city the distinction of being the "Inaugural City" of the final pavement project. Originally running through downtown, Route 66 brought new life to the area through increased commerce and tourism. As automobile travel expanded in the 1940s, the route became a symbol of American prosperity, fueling significant economic growth in Rolla as new businesses emerged to serve travelers.

Though Route 66 was eventually replaced by Interstate 44, portions of the original roadway remain in Rolla and across the country, preserving this historic landmark for future generations. Today, Rolla proudly celebrates its Route 66 heritage through preserved historic areas, local attractions, and community events like the annual Route 66 Summerfest. In recognition of this milestone, the Mayor of Rolla has proclaimed 2026 the "Route 66 Centennial Year," honoring the city's longstanding role along the route.

It is my privilege to recognize the enduring connection between Route 66 and the City of Rolla, and I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating this iconic piece of American history.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OLESON'S FOOD STORES

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the lasting impact of Oleson's Food Stores as they approach an extraordinary milestone, their 100th anniversary of providing fresh, high-quality food products as well as exceptional service to the communities of Northern Michigan.

• 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.

Spanning four generations of family ownership, Oleson's Food Stores has become a cornerstone of the communities they serve. Their success is not a story of luck, but one of hard work, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to customers. In 1926, Gerald and Frances Oleson opened a small grocery store in Traverse City, Michigan. Over the next century, the Oleson family transformed that modest storefront into a trusted regional business, growing to four stores across three counties while remaining true to their founding values.

Beyond their success as grocers, Oleson's Food Stores have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to giving back. Through partnerships such as Food Rescue and the company's Community Share Program, Oleson's has provided more than 1.1 million pounds of food to those in need and contributed nearly \$1.9 million to local organizations and community initiatives. They have also worked closely with Grand Traverse Area Genealogical Society to provide nearly \$2500 in contributions to support the society's mission of genealogical education. These efforts reflect an understanding that strong businesses help build strong communities.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing Oleson's Food Stores as they celebrate a century of service, the dedication of four generations of family leadership, and the hard work of the employees who have contributed to their lasting success. The Oleson family's enduring commitment to service, community, and excellence embodies the entrepreneurial spirit and hometown values that define Michigan's 1st Congressional District.

HONORING TIM MATTOS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Tim Mattos as he retires after an impressive career in law enforcement and public service and to recognize his many contributions to our community.

Chief Mattos was born in Oroville, California, and spent the first fifteen years of his life with his parents, Tony and Pat Mattos, and his three younger sisters, Corina, Julie, and Tonya, on their family's dairy farm. Chief Mattos attended Biggs High School where he earned varsity letters in football, wrestling, baseball, and track and field. He attended Butte Community College where he continued his wrestling career and earned a wrestling scholarship to the California State University, Long Beach. Chief Mattos is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Management.

Chief Tim Mattos graduated from the Butte College Police Academy in June of 1990 and began his law enforcement career with the City of Woodland on July 9th, 1990. In the Woodland Police Department, Chief Mattos was a Field Training Officer, a Detective, and a member of the Gang Task Force. Chief Mattos was promoted to the rank of Corporal in 1997, and then to the rank of Sergeant in 1998. As a Sergeant he supervised the Problem Oriented Policing Team. He later moved into the role of Administrative Sergeant where

he was responsible for recruiting and hiring, internal affairs, and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. Chief Mattos left the Woodland Police Department in August of 2006 and began working for the Marin County District Attorney's Office as a District Attorney Investigator. Chief Mattos left the District Attorney's Office in May of 2008 after accepting the position of Police Commander with the Suisun City Police Department where he oversaw both operations and support services. Chief Mattos was promoted to Chief of Police in January 2015. In July 2018, Chief Mattos became the Interim City Manager for Suisun City. In December of 2018, Chief Mattos accepted the position of Director of Public Safety with the City of Rohnert Park.

Chief Mattos's leadership tenure is credited with oversight reform, restoration of accountability, and the stabilization of Rohnert Park's public safety department. Chief Mattos implemented community-oriented policing and public outreach and engagement programs in our Rohnert Park community. Chief Mattos led safety campaigns for cyclists and pedestrians, DUI awareness education, and accountability measures. Under Chief Mattos's leadership, the Fire Division earned a strong fire protection score, and traffic safety operations and the SAFE Team secured increased funding.

Chief Mattos is a current member and past President of the Sonoma County Law Enforcement Chiefs Association, a member of the California Police Chiefs Association, and a member of the International Police Chiefs Association. He is also a member and past Vocational Service Director of the Rohnert Park/Cotati Rotary Club.

Chief Mattos is the father of two sons, Garrett and Dustin, and a daughter, Madaya. Chief Mattos is the proud grandfather of seven.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Mattos continues to encourage continued community policing to build trust and change how local law enforcement is viewed during these difficult times. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING THE NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION'S FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND KIDNEY WALK

HON. MIKE HARIDOPOLOS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the National Kidney Foundation of Florida and the participants of the 15th Annual Footprints in the Sand Kidney Walk, which will be held on May 9, 2026, in Cocoa Beach, Florida.

This treasured tradition brings together families, advocates, healthcare professionals, and community members to raise awareness about kidney disease, support those affected by it, and advance lifesaving research and treatment efforts. Across Florida, kidney disease impacts thousands of individuals and families, making the work of the National Kidney Foundation more important than ever.

This year's event also honored thirty-two donor families whose generosity and commitment have helped save lives through organ

and tissue donation. Their selflessness serves as a powerful reminder of the impression one person can have on the life of another.

I would also like to recognize and include in the RECORD the following honorees and donor families for their contributions and the lasting impact they have made on their communities:

Anand Persaud, Anaya Bayona-Davis, Andrew Kyle Dorsey, Aryia Grace Seitz, Blake Eden, Brenton Harrington, Brianna Angelica, Brooke Elizabeth Dawkins, Chadale Jordan Michael Grey, Charles Connelly, Chase Alexander Agudelo, Christopher Scott Bell, Decobe Esters, Deja Thompson, Destiney Menke, Donald Walker, Dylan Rowe, Elienisse Diaz-Rodriguez, Elijael Martinez Reyes, Geoffrey Wasden, Jacob Monroe, Joey Scuderi, Jose Collins, Kory Humphrey, Linda Marie Couch, Maximus Robinson, Melissa Gail Houser, Michael Covello, Patrick Gorman, Seth Anthony Beyrooti, Shawn Carpenter, and Solomon Proffitt.

I commend the National Kidney Foundation of Florida for its dedication to improving lives and promoting organ donation awareness throughout our communities. On behalf of Florida's 8th Congressional District, I congratulate everyone involved in the continued success of the Footprints in the Sand Kidney Walk and thank them for their service to others.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION TO COMBAT WORKPLACE SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the National Commission to Combat Workplace Sexual Harassment Act, which would establish a national commission to combat sexual harassment in the workplace. This bill is modeled on bills Congress has passed to establish commissions to address other national problems. Specifically, this bill would establish a commission to carry out a comprehensive investigation and study of sexual harassment in the workplace, including recommending changes in laws and best practices to prevent, investigate, respond to and penalize sexual harassment.

Our constituents expect Congress to address the problem of sexual harassment in the workplace. The commission would hear from a cross section of workers—from office and factory workers to retail and food service workers. A national commission could help reduce sexual harassment in the workplace.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHRI THANEDAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 207.

HONORING THE WORK OF ALLAN
MELLIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Allan Mellis. Allan passed away peacefully at 81 years-old at Illinois Masonic Hospital on Sunday, April 26, 2026. After joining the Wrightwood Neighbors Association board in 1974, he remained there for over 50 years, serving a two-year stint as president.

Allan was brought to Chicago through his work for IBM where he was responsible for, and the first employee of, IBM's desktop publishing department. Allan quickly became an integral part of the community and served Wrightwood Neighbors, Lincoln Park, and Chicago for decades. Even after suffering a stroke in 2021, Allan, a master negotiator, fiercely advocated for one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the city.

Allan spearheaded a yearslong campaign to transform Lincoln Park library, including designing plans and securing funding. Today, it's one of the busiest library branches in Chicago. He was a firm supporter of disabled rights and helped make Fullerton Station accessible to disabled riders in 2008. He helped to start the Taste of Lincoln Avenue street festival, which has been replicated in similar events around the city. He was affectionately known as "the mayor of Lincoln Park" and that is reflected by the 93 boxes of his community papers housed at DePaul university. Allan also collected over 30,000 items of ice cream memorabilia throughout his life, a portion of which has been on display at the Museum of Science and Industry for fifty years, earning him the nickname "Mr. Ice Cream."

Allan's legacy will be one of caring for the community, being a good neighbor, and consistently performing small selfless acts to create a lasting impact on those around you. Evidence of his decadeslong commitment to his community will endure for years to come throughout Lincoln Park.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in recognizing Allan's five decades of service and his commitment to, and success in, improving every community he was a part of.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the Lick Observatory.

In 1876, the United States Congress granted public land to the University of California for the purpose of establishing an observatory. California's wealthiest citizen of the time, real estate entrepreneur James Lick bestowed \$700,000 to the University of California's astronomy department. With an investment equivalent to \$1.2 billion in contemporary value, James Lick created a legacy of scientific research and advancement.

The Lick Observatory has been a bastion of groundbreaking discoveries in astronomy since its completion in 1888. The Great Refractor, the site's famous 36-inch diameter telescope, was instrumental to E.E. Barnard's discovery of Jupiter's fifth moon, Amalthea. Another instrument, the 20-inch Double Astrograph, was used to chart skies and count distant galaxies. The Lick Northern Proper Motion program measure systematic patterns in the Milky Way Galaxy.

Through the decades, the Lick Observatory has freely shared its research with international academic institutions and the surrounding Bay Area community. It serves as an experimentation site for technical instrument improvement. They organize programs like the Scientific Teaching through Astronomy Research (STARs) and Institute for Scientist and Engineer Educators (ISEE) that advance STEM education and careers. Its summer visitor's program hosts lectures and viewings for thousands of visitors to observe the universe through cutting edge technology.

In its 150-year history, the Lick Observatory has survived challenges to its instruments' longevity and the observatory's ability to offer hands-on programs. The site survived a plane crash, earthquake damage, and wildfire destruction. On Christmas morning, a rainstorm destroyed half of the Great Refractor's shutter dome. Time and time again, the Observatory has rebuilt. I want to recognize the 29 dedicated individuals who spent their holidays working on recovery efforts for the site. Their hard work represents how beloved the Lick Observatory is to the community.

I wish to congratulate the Lick Observatory for 150 years of outstanding scientific contributions and meaningful community building in the Bay Area. Spanning generations of Californians, the Lick Observatory inspires exploration in astronomy and engages the innovative curiosity of the community.

HONORING LUCIA G. McDONALD

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable woman whose life reflects the resilience, faith, and strength that have helped shape our island of Guam for generations—Ms. Lucia G. McDonald—as she reaches the extraordinary milestone of her 100th birthday.

Born on November 29, 1926, Lucia has witnessed a century of history and has lived a life marked by perseverance, devotion, and unwavering commitment to family. Reaching one hundred years of age is an incredible accomplishment. Yet what makes this occasion truly special is not simply the number of years she has lived, but the legacy she has built throughout those years.

Ms. McDonald's story is also a story of Guam. As a young girl growing up in pre-war Hagåtña, she enjoyed a childhood filled with family, friends, and the simple joys of island life. She fondly remembered walking through the streets of Hagåtña with her friends, enjoying the close-knit community that defined Guam before World War II. Her family was preparing for a major move to California,

where her stepfather, a member of the United States Navy, had gone ahead to establish a home for them. But history had other plans.

The outbreak of World War II and the Japanese occupation forever altered the course of her life. Like many members of Guam's Greatest Generation, Lucia endured years of hardship, uncertainty, and fear. Her family was forced from their home and sought refuge with relatives in rural areas of the island. They experienced food shortages, violence, and the daily realities of living under occupation. They witnessed the devastation of war and the destruction of the community they once knew. Through it all, Lucia survived. Her experiences stand as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices and suffering endured by the people of Guam during one of the darkest chapters in our island's history.

Following the war, she helped build a new life. In 1948, Lucia married Charles Henry Mariano McDonald, and together they built a home and family in Agaña Heights. Their marriage would span nearly five decades and be blessed with twelve children. Through the years, their family continued to grow, eventually including 37 grandchildren, 58 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren. Few accomplishments speak more powerfully to a life well lived than generations of family gathered together because of the love and foundation established by a mother and grandmother.

While raising twelve children, Lucia embraced her role as a homemaker. She managed a busy household while helping care for a large farm filled with livestock, crops, and the countless responsibilities that came with supporting a growing family. Yet despite the demands of raising children and maintaining a home, she always found time for family gatherings, community events, and helping others. Friends and relatives knew her as someone who enjoyed bringing people together and celebrating life's special moments.

Faith has always been at the center of Lucia's life. She devoted countless hours to her church and parish community. Whether preparing food for church functions, participating in Christian Mothers activities, leading rosaries, or attending daily Mass, she lived her faith through service. Her family describes her as someone who would carefully prepare herself each day before heading to church, eager to participate and contribute. Even today, despite the challenges that naturally come with age, her love for prayer and worship remains strong. Her family notes that while age may have affected certain abilities, her prayers and church hymns continue to ring out clearly and proudly.

Another remarkable part of Lucia's story is her connection to one of Guam's historic family businesses. Her family traces its roots to the pre-war "Home Bakery," established through the efforts of her parents and relatives, a venture that helped serve the community and would become part of Guam's broader business history. That entrepreneurial spirit, commitment to family, and dedication to community service have continued throughout the generations that followed.

Today, as we recognize Lucia McDonald on her 100th birthday, we celebrate far more than a centennial milestone. We celebrate a World War II survivor, devoted wife, loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, whose life has touched countless people across our island.

On behalf of the people of Guam and the United States House of Representatives, I extend my deepest congratulations to Lucia on reaching this extraordinary milestone. May her story continue to inspire future generations, and may she be blessed with continued health, happiness, and the love of family and friends.

RECOGNIZING LT. COL. MATTHEW
OLDE'S RETIREMENT

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional Air Force leader for his outstanding service and upcoming retirement following more than 20 years of service to the United States. Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Olde is the F-15 Legacy and Advanced Eagle Acceptance Test Pilot and Director of Operations at Defense Contract Management Agency Fixed Wing St. Louis.

Lt. Col. Olde is an elite aviator whose role bridges the gap between manufacturer production and military combat readiness. He is responsible for rigorously testing and evaluating all newly built or upgraded F-15 aircraft before the United States Department of War officially accepts delivery and they enter active military service within the US or various international allies and foreign partners.

During his time of service, Lt. Col. Olde has accumulated over 2,300 hours in the jet to include 574 combat hours and has delivered all 46 of 46 of Boeing's F-15QA Aircraft. Additionally, he served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve with an additional year of deployment to King Khaled Air Base within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On the lighter side of his service, Lt. Col. Olde served as the director of the Wings Over Wayne Air Show at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in 2017 as well as coordinated and flew five F-15 flyovers during Military Appreciation Night at St. Louis Cardinals Stadium from 2022 through 2026.

Lt. Col. Olde reflects the highest standards of leadership and conduct and is a credit to the U.S. military. I wish Lt. Col. Olde, his wife, Sarah, and their children, Reagan, Patch, and Sybil only the best in his retirement.

HONORING AMERICA 250 AND THE
DAUGHTERS OF THE UNION VET-
ERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
BENCH DEDICATION IN WICHITA

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, on June 6, the Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, Kansas Tent No. 6, dedicated a bench at the Dole VA Center in Wichita. I'm pleased today to recognize their efforts to honor the men and women who served our country and celebrate the United States' milestone on July 4 of this year.

In less than a month, our nation will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of

the Declaration of Independence. As we near this special occasion, it's fitting to remember that throughout our country's history, men and women have answered the call to serve—to defend the very liberties that our Founding Fathers enshrined on that document 250 years ago.

When the signers of the Declaration of Independence dipped their quill pens in ink and applied their signatures to parchment, they knew that it was not the ink that would bind our nation together for years to come, but the blood of patriots who would fight to gain independence from a foreign monarchy and who would continue to fight to maintain our freedoms for generations to come.

The blessings of liberty we share today are only possible because of the men and women who donned the uniform for the past 250 years. We can celebrate our semiquincentennial because of the countless soldiers, Marines, sailors, airmen, coast guardsmen and guardians who are the reason our country still stands today.

Kansas has long been at the forefront of defending the United States in the air, on land and at sea. We are proud to be home to notable heroes such as President Dwight Eisenhower, medal of Honor recipient Lieutenant Erwin Bleckley, and Senator Bob Dole, the namesake of the medical center that will be home to this new bench.

Kansas sends our best to serve, and for their sacrifices today and over the last 250 years, we are eternally grateful.

I want to thank the Kansans who have worked to establish a bench that honors our heroes and celebrates our Nation's 250th anniversary. This will not only serve as a great reminder of our Nation's history, but also encourage us to continue advancing the values we share as Americans, and to honor the men and women who make our 250 years possible.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING
MAJOR GENERAL DANIEL R.
MCDONOUGH

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize and honor the extraordinary service of Major General Daniel R. McDonough, whose distinguished career has had a lasting impact on Peoria, Illinois, and the United States of America.

General McDonough devoted nearly four decades to the United States Air Force and the Illinois Air National Guard, building a legacy of leadership, professionalism, and commitment to mission success. Commissioned through the Academy of Military Science in 1987, he served as a Command Pilot, Instructor, and Evaluator with more than 5,600 flight hours, including nearly 700 combat and combat support hours.

Throughout his career, General McDonough served in numerous operational and command roles, flying the OA-37 Dragonfly, F-16 Fighting Falcon, and C-130 Hercules. He deployed multiple times in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and commanded the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

Illinois is especially grateful for General McDonough's many years of service in Peoria, where he commanded the 169th Airlift Squadron, the 182nd Operations Group, and the 182nd Airlift Wing. Under his leadership, the Wing maintained strong mission readiness and remained a critical part of our Nation's airlift capabilities.

In 2022, General McDonough was selected as Assistant Adjutant General-Air and Commander of the Illinois Air National Guard, leading more than 3,000 Airmen across the state. His leadership helped guide important modernization efforts, including the 182nd Airlift Wing's transition to the C-130J Super Hercules.

On behalf of the people of Illinois and a grateful Nation, I thank Major General Daniel R. McDonough for his extraordinary service and wish him, his wife Cindy, and their family continued success and happiness in retirement. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his remarkable legacy of leadership and service.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPEN-
ING OF THE ORRVILLE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the City of Orrville and Dallas County community in celebrating the grand opening of the Orrville Public Library, which took place on Saturday, June 6, 2026 in Orrville, Alabama.

Public libraries are among our Nation's most invaluable institutions. They not only serve as gathering places where children can develop a love of reading, students can pursue academic achievement, and job seekers can gain critical skills, they also provide access to information and education that is essential for building strong communities and providing pathways to success. The grand opening of the Orrville Public Library represents a significant investment in the future of Orrville and Dallas County, creating a space where residents can access educational resources, technology, and community services.

This achievement stands as a testament to the determination and collaborative spirit of local leaders, advocates, educators, and community members whose vision and dedication helped bring this long-awaited project from concept to reality.

On a personal note, the grand opening of the Orrville Public Library holds special significance to me. As a child, books were my window to the wider world. Through them, I traveled to distant places, encountered novel ideas, and considered new possibilities that helped shape who I am today. I know that I got my love of reading from my mother, Nancy Gardner Sewell, who served as a librarian for the Selma City School System for 36 years. She understood the transformative power of reading, and she taught me that libraries are more than just buildings, they are centers of learning and opportunity. For that reason, I was honored to secure \$500,000 in the Fiscal Year 2023 federal budget for the construction of this new municipal public library. I was also proud to donate a collection of curated books

obtained through the Library of Congress Surplus Books program to ensure a robust set of reading materials as the library welcomes its first patrons. It is deeply gratifying to be present to see that vision realized in the library's grand opening.

May the Orrville Public Library stand as a lasting symbol of what can be achieved when a community comes together around a shared vision. I commend everyone who contributed to making this project a reality and look forward to seeing the positive impact this institution will have on Orrville and Dallas County for future generations. Whether residents come to read their first story, complete a school project, explore a new career path, or simply find a welcoming place to learn and grow, this library will serve as a foundation for enrichment, opportunity and lifelong learning for years to come.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the grand opening of the Orrville Public Library.

HONORING TRINITY WEEKS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Trinity Weeks, an exceptional student at Humphreys County High School and a proud member of the Class of 2026, whose academic achievement, leadership, and service reflect the very best of her school and community.

Trinity has distinguished herself as a remarkable young scholar. She is graduating a full year early, demonstrating extraordinary discipline, focus, and determination. With an impressive 31 on the ACT, Trinity has shown outstanding academic ability while also balancing a full schedule of leadership and service commitments.

Her hard work has opened the door to many exciting opportunities. Trinity has been accepted to more than 30 colleges and universities and has earned approximately \$290,000 in school scholarship offers, along with \$13,500 in outside scholarships. She is currently choosing between North Carolina A&T State University, where she has earned a Teaching Fellows Scholarship, and Alabama A&M University, where she has received a full-ride scholarship.

In addition to her academic excellence, Trinity has shown a deep commitment to public service and personal growth. She is an active member of the Mayor's Youth Council and Sisters of Sophistication, organizations that reflect her dedication to community, character, and empowerment. Trinity also earned distinction as the Second Place Winner of the 2025 Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World National Oratorical Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada, a testament to her poise, confidence, and powerful voice.

Trinity is the beloved daughter of Lakisha Hinnant and Zackery Weeks, Sr., and the proud granddaughter of Pastor Kevin and Laura Hinnant of Belzoni, Mississippi; Felicia Allen of Selma, North Carolina; and the late Bronica Lane. She is also celebrated by her younger siblings, Serenity and Victory Weeks, who look up to her with admiration and pride.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Trinity Weeks for her outstanding accomplishments. Her dedication to scholarship, leadership, and service is an inspiration to Humphrey's County and beyond. I am confident that Trinity's future is bright, and I look forward to seeing the many ways she will continue to make her family, her school, and her community proud.

CELEBRATING CATHY H'ORRY

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary public service of Cathy H'orry, a devoted Bronxite whose career has spanned more than four decades in service to the people of the Bronx.

Cathy built a life defined by dedication, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to public service. After graduating from Dodge Vocational High School and attending Virginia State University, she returned home to the Bronx, where she began a remarkable career in government. From 1984 to 1987, Cathy served as Assistant Administrator to the late Bronx Borough President Stanley Simon. She then went on to serve under four consecutive Borough Presidents: Fernando Ferrer, Adolfo Carrión, Jr., Rubén Díaz, Jr., and Vanessa L. Gibson. Across more than 40 years, Cathy has been a steady and trusted presence through generations of leadership, helping advance the interests of the Bronx and its residents.

Few public servants can claim the distinction of serving five consecutive Borough Presidents. Fewer still can do so with the grace, integrity, and excellence that have defined Cathy's career.

As she retires in June 2026, we thank Cathy H'orry for her decades of faithful service and for the lasting impact she has made on the Bronx. Her legacy is one of dedication to community and commitment to public good.

I wish her a joyful and well-deserved retirement.

HONORING CAPTAIN STEPHEN C. DUBA, JR. ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Stephen C. Duba, Jr. upon his retirement from the United States Navy after 25 years of honorable service to our Nation.

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Captain Duba has lived a life shaped by service, sacrifice, and devotion to country. Raised in a Navy family, he graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering and Shipyard Management, as well as a U.S. Coast Guard Third Assistant Engineer's

License for vessels of unlimited tonnage. He later earned a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

Throughout his distinguished career, Captain Duba served around the world in sea and shore assignments involving explosive ordnance disposal, diving, mine countermeasures, weapons technical exploitation, and strategic naval operations. His service included assignments aboard USS *Sentry*, with EOD Mobile Unit SIX, at Kings Bay Submarine Base, with Carrier Strike Group ELEVEN, at the Navy Experimental Diving Unit, with Expeditionary Exploitation Unit ONE, and in command of EOD Mobile Unit EIGHT in Rota, Spain. Across the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and the Pacific, Captain Duba led sailors in complex and dangerous missions that strengthened our national security and supported our allies and partners.

From August 2023 to July 2026, Captain Duba completed his final tour as Commanding Officer of Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Division and Director for Joint EOD Technology. In that role, he led one of the Navy's most critical commands, supporting research, development, testing, evaluation, engineering, manufacturing, explosive ordnance disposal, and weapons technical exploitation for U.S. and allied forces. Under his leadership, the command advanced the Navy's Energetics Comprehensive Modernization Plan, helping strengthen the Nation's munitions industrial base.

Captain Duba is designated as an EOD Warfare Officer, Surface Warfare Officer, Diving Officer, and Naval Parachutist. These qualifications reflect not only his technical expertise, but also his courage, discipline, and commitment to leading from the front.

Mr. Speaker, military service is never carried by the service member alone. Captain Duba's wife, Kristine, and children, Charlie, Tommy, and Lilly, served alongside him through every assignment, every deployment, and every sacrifice required of a Navy family. Their love and support helped make his extraordinary career possible.

On behalf of Florida's 4th Congressional District and a grateful Nation, I congratulate Captain Stephen C. Duba, Jr. on his retirement from the United States Navy. We thank him for his faithful service, commend his outstanding career, and wish him and his family fair winds and following seas.

HONORING SIVARAMAKRISHNAN "SOMA" SOMASEGAR

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life and legacy of Sivaramakrishnan "Soma" Somasegar. Soma was an incredible technologist, entrepreneur, leader, and friend in our community.

Born and raised in southern India, Soma came to the United States to attend Louisiana State University. In 1989, he began his career at Microsoft. Soma played a critical role in Windows NT, one of the most important projects in Microsoft's history. Through his remarkable management skills, dedication, and

work ethic, he rose to senior leadership at Microsoft, ultimately serving as Senior Vice President until 2015. I had the joy of getting to know him during our time at Microsoft together. His infectious smile and warm presence brought energy to every room he entered.

After leaving Microsoft, Soma devoted himself to supporting the next generation of entrepreneurs as a managing director at Madrona Venture Group, where he guided countless startups and helped strengthen our region's innovation ecosystem.

Beyond his professional achievements, Soma was deeply committed to his community. As the proud cofounder of the Seattle Orcas, he helped bring professional cricket to the Pacific Northwest and shared his love of the sport with many in our region. He was also a passionate advocate for women's empowerment, supporting organizations at every level that worked to expand equity and opportunity.

But above all, Soma's greatest joy was his family. His wife, Akila, and two daughters were the center of his world. He spoke of them often with great admiration, gratitude, and boundless pride. Everything he accomplished was grounded in love for them. To know Soma was to know how much they shaped him, supported him, and inspired him. It is their strength, love, and example that carry forward the legacy of a man who gave so much to his community, his colleagues, and his country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and remembering Soma's remarkable legacy. His family, friends, and colleagues will cherish his kindness and wisdom for years to come.

RECOGNIZING MAY AS HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Huntington's Disease Awareness Month. As representatives in Congress, we hold the tremendous responsibility of representing our constituents bravely battling this condition.

Huntington's Disease (HD) is a fatal genetic disorder—with no treatment that slows or stops the progression—that causes the breakdown of nerve cells in the brain. For over 30 years, we as a Nation have honored this month by "going blue" in support of our loved ones with Huntington's Disease. In that time, we have identified root causes, defined metrics for early detection, and had revolutionary breakthroughs in treatment. We have come a long way, but we have much more to accomplish in this fight.

Given the genetic nature of Huntington's Disease, it often impacts families for generations. Christina, one of my constituents, has endured the loss of her grandmother and the pain of watching her father and aunt battle this disease. All too familiar with the uncertainty this disease brings, she is committed to breaking the cycle and has become an advocate for all Americans with HD.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent and amplify the fighting spirit of the Huntington's

Disease community in Congress. I call upon my colleagues to join Christina and myself in committing to greater federal support for brave Americans with Huntington's Disease.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. LLOYD FREESE

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Lloyd Freese, who celebrated his 100th birthday on May 9th. Lloyd is a lifelong resident of New Hampshire and a proud veteran of the United States Army who served our country honorably in the European Theatre during World War II.

Lloyd grew up in Manchester, New Hampshire, the son of Albert C. Freese and Gladys Freese, and graduated from Manchester Central High School in 1943, a varsity letterman in both Track and Hockey. As someone who grew up in the Great Depression, he learned early in his life the value of hard work and resilience. He carried that with him as a student, studying the Practical Arts so he could practice an essential trade.

He was only 17 years old when he joined the Army in 1943, and he served in the U.S. Infantry, Fifth Army Division during the Liberation of Italy from 1944 to 1945. After returning stateside at the end of that year, he narrowly avoided deployment to the Pacific, the war coming to end just before he was set to leave. That bit of good fortune earned him the nickname "Lucky Lloyd" and from there he built his life, family, and career over the ensuing decades.

He graduated from Hesser College in 1949 and launched a career of distinguished work and leadership, working first for Universal C.I.T. Credit Corporation, then as Vice President of Bankers Service Inc., Assistant Vice President of Indian Head Bank Inc., Vice President of Indian Head Properties, and eventually Senior Vice President of Indian Head National Bank of Nashua, New Hampshire. He also served on the Board of Directors of several organizations, including the First Federal Reserve District for Consumer Credit, New England Bank Card Associates, the New Hampshire Motor Vehicle Industry Board, and the Hundred Club of New Hampshire, for whom he also served four years as President.

Even with all his career accomplishments, those who know Lloyd best understand that his family and friends have always been most important to him. He married his wife, Alice in 1947, and together they raised two children, Gary Freese and Karen Freese Wilson. He has also been a consistently active member of his community, an avid golfer for much of his life and a dedicated skier until he was 89 years old. He is also one of the longest active members of the Manchester Country Club, where he has been a member for over 62 years.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's 1st Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Lloyd on his 100th birthday. Today, we join his loved ones in celebrating this exciting milestone and his life of service, leadership, family, and community.

His life of service is an inspiring model for all of us to follow. I wish him a very happy birthday and all the best in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. RYAN PILLOW

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a remarkable public servant whose career has been defined by courage, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to protecting others—Mr. Ryan Douglas Pillow—upon his retirement after more than 26 years of combined military and federal civilian service to the United States.

For over two decades, Ryan Pillow has served at Andersen Air Force Base on Guam as a federal firefighter with the Department of the Air Force, ultimately rising to the position of Assistant Fire Chief of Health and Safety.

Before beginning his civilian career, Mr. Pillow proudly served four years in the United States Navy, continuing a lifetime dedicated to serving and protecting our Nation.

Throughout his distinguished career, Ryan Pillow has been entrusted with some of the most challenging and high-risk responsibilities imaginable. As an Incident Commander and emergency response leader, he has overseen operations involving strategic military aircraft, critical infrastructure, and life-threatening emergencies under some of the most demanding conditions.

His operational experience includes leading emergency responses involving B-1, B-2, and B-52 strategic bombers—some of the most critical assets in our Nation's defense posture. He also led emergency operations involving fighter aircraft incidents, including assisting in the emergency egress of a fighter pilot and managing high-risk airfield emergencies involving F-18 aircraft.

But his service extended far beyond the runway. Mr. Pillow also led life-saving technical rescue operations, including over-the-cliff rescues, structural fire emergencies, and water rescue missions. During major typhoon events impacting Guam, he served as Incident Commander, helping ensure the protection of personnel, mission-essential infrastructure, and critical defense capabilities during some of the island's most dangerous conditions.

And during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, he once again demonstrated steady leadership by helping manage initial emergency response operations aimed at protecting personnel and establishing effective containment measures during an unprecedented national crisis.

These responsibilities required not only technical expertise, but calm under pressure, decisive leadership, and complete trust from the men and women he served alongside. Throughout his career, Ryan Pillow earned that trust time and time again.

In addition to his operational leadership, he played a critical role in strengthening firefighter health and safety programs, improving emergency response readiness, and fostering mutual aid partnerships that enhanced regional emergency response capabilities throughout Guam.

His extraordinary service has been recognized through numerous distinguished honors,

including the Navy Life-Saving Award, the Exemplary Civilian Service Medal, the Air Force Achievement Award, and recognition as Fire Officer of the Year.

But beyond the awards and titles, Mr. Pillow represents something larger. He represents the thousands of military and civilian first responders who work behind the scenes every single day to protect lives, defend critical infrastructure, and ensure mission readiness in one of the most strategically important regions in the world.

The people of Guam understand deeply the importance of those who stand ready in moments of crisis. Whether responding to aircraft emergencies, natural disasters, fires, or national emergencies, professionals like Ryan Pillow provide the steady leadership and courage that keep our communities and our servicemembers safe. His career reflects the very best traditions of public service: duty before self, leadership under pressure, and a lifelong commitment to protecting others.

As he retires after more than 26 years of honorable service, we recognize not only the accomplishments of an exceptional firefighter and leader, but the legacy of a man who dedicated his career to serving something greater than himself.

On behalf of the people of Guam and a grateful Nation, I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Ryan Douglas Pillow for his extraordinary service and sacrifice. I also extend appreciation to his family, whose support undoubtedly made this long and distinguished career possible.

We wish Ryan Pillow the very best in this next chapter of life and thank him for the lasting impact he has made on Guam and our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AYANNA PRESSLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to physically record my vote on suspensions. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll Call No. 207; YES on Roll Call No. 206; NO on Roll Call No. 205; YES on Roll Call No. 204; NO on Roll Call No. 203; NO on Roll Call No. 202; and YES on Roll Call No. 201.

HONORING ELLA BAHN FOR HER OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD CAREER

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ella Bahn on her outstanding high school track and field career.

Ella, a senior at Spring Grove Area High School in York County, Pennsylvania, capped off an extraordinary high school career with her set of victories in the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles at the 2026 PIAA State Track and Field Championships on May 23, 2026.

Over the past 4 years, Ella has achieved remarkable success in numerous events, most

notably, hurdles. She finished her high school career with seven individual PIAA State Championship gold medals and ten District 3 gold medals.

Ella's specialty and favorite event is hurdles. She swept the 300-meter hurdles, winning the state championship each of her four years and won back-to-back golds in the 100-meter hurdles in 2025 and 2026. In addition to her success in hurdles, Ella won the gold medal in high jump in 2024 and helped the Spring Grove Rockets to a state title that same year.

Ella will continue her academic and athletic career at Princeton University. At Princeton, she plans to continue running hurdles and potentially use her talents for the high jump.

I commend Ella for the dedication and hard work that made these remarkable achievements possible. She serves as an example for young athletes across our community who strive to compete with excellence and advance their education.

I congratulate Ella on these amazing achievements. I wish her the best in her future academic and athletic endeavors.

HONORING 2026 SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2026 Service Academy Appointees from the 21st Congressional District of Texas.

I include in the RECORD the names of the following individuals who have accepted Academy Appointments:

Cecilia Rose Burris, Fr. Joseph T. O'Callahan School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, United States Military Academy; Zachary Allan Jaster, Smithson Valley High School, New Braunfels, Texas, United States Military Academy; Marlee Beatrice Lightsey, Canyon High School, New Braunfels, Texas, United States Military Academy; Jacob Lee Olson, Bracken Christian School, Bulverde, Texas, United States Military Academy; Mason Alexander Sutton, Geneva School of Boerne, Boerne, Texas, United States Military Academy; Wes Thomas Anderson, Dripping Springs High School, Dripping Springs, Texas, United States Naval Academy; Michael Reid Poole, Westlake High School, Austin, Texas, United States Naval Academy; Brandon Ells Tragord, Alamo Heights High School, San Antonio, Texas, United States Naval Academy; Catherine Kennedy Drummond, Westlake High School/Georgia Military College, Austin, Texas, United States Air Force Academy; Karina Deylen Mendivil, Madison High School, San Antonio, Texas, United States Air Force Academy; and Javan Warren Bammel Penniman, New Braunfels Christian Academy, New Braunfels, Texas, United States Air Force Academy.

These outstanding students have much to contribute to their chosen Academy and to our country. We appreciate their talents and their patriotism.

I hope my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating these truly heroic young men and women.

CELEBRATING AND HONORING DAVID STACY'S SERVICE TO THE LGBTQI+ COMMUNITY

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor David Stacy's service to the LGBTQI+ community as he marks the end of his current chapter as Vice President of Government Affairs at the Human Rights Campaign.

David has been instrumental in the fight for LGBTQI+ equality for decades, helping found Fair Wisconsin, Wisconsin's statewide LGBTQI+ civil rights organization, and working in this chamber for then-Representative Tammy Baldwin as a Legislative Assistant for seven years. In his role for then-Rep. Baldwin, David worked on a range of LGBTQI+ issues, including marriage equality and hate crimes.

After leaving the Hill, David joined HRC where over the course of two decades, he has played a role in every major LGBTQI+ bill to become law, including the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Don't Ask Don't Tell Repeal Act, and the Respect for Marriage Act. He also played a key role in adding sexual orientation and gender identity nondiscrimination protections to the Violence Against Women Act and has helped lead organizations in opposing dozens of anti-LGBTQI+ bills and amendments—including the Federal Marriage Amendment—over the last twenty years.

David was also instrumental in the introduction of the Equality Act of 2015 and has continued to lead the coalition of organizations advocating for its passage since then. It is my honor to now be the lead sponsor of the Equality Act, and I am grateful for David's tireless work to build support for this critical and historic legislation.

I have had the privilege of getting to know and work with David since coming to Congress in 2013. I have appreciated his knowledge, wisdom, and counsel. I know countless staff on the Hill and advocates in the LGBTQI+ movement have similarly appreciated his advice and mentorship over the years.

Most of the people who have benefited from David's advocacy will never know his name, but I have seen up close the impact he has had and how he has helped push equality forward. Our movement for equality is better off because of David's decades of service to it.

I wish David the best of luck on this next chapter.

HONORING CARROLL ESTES

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Carroll L. Estes, Professor Emerita of Sociology at the University of California, San Francisco, whose lifetime of scholarship, advocacy, and service has profoundly shaped aging policy and social welfare in the United States.

Dr. Estes founded the Institute for Health & Aging at UCSF and served as Chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the School of Nursing. A pioneering scholar in the political economy of aging and critical gerontology, she has dedicated her career to advancing the health, dignity, and economic security of older Americans, particularly older women, through rigorous research and fearless public advocacy.

The breadth of Dr. Estes' leadership in the field is extraordinary. She served as an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, President of the Gerontological Society of America, the American Society on Aging, and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. She chaired the Board of Directors of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, and she has counseled U.S. Commissioners of Social Security and Congressional committees on aging across several decades. Her counsel is grounded in both scholarly rigor and deep moral commitment to our community. Dr. Estes has never hesitated when asked to present on the importance of protecting Social Security and Medicare in Congressional Town Halls in both San Francisco and Sonoma Counties.

Inspired by the late Maggie Kuhn and the Gray Panthers movement, Dr. Estes has always understood that scholarship must be put in service of justice. Her landmark 1979 work, *The Aging Enterprise*, illuminated how economic forces and the needs of older Americans intersect to shape the policies that are meant to serve them. Her foundational insights helped establish the political economy of aging as a serious field of inquiry. Her more than two dozen books and numerous journal articles have shaped national discourse on Social Security, Medicare, long-term care, and health equity, making her one of the rare scholars whose ideas have directly influenced the laws that millions of Americans depend upon. In recognition of these extraordinary contributions, Dr. Estes has received UCSF's highest honor, the University of California Medal, along with distinguished awards from major academic and public health associations. Now, she continues to lead by example, inspiring new generations of scholar-advocates to do the same.

Dr. Estes has shared that her proudest accomplishment is raising an amazing daughter, Duskie Estes, an accomplished chef and devoted mother, and her son-in-law chef John Stewart. Together, Duskie and John have raised two extraordinary young women, Brydie and Kenzie Stewart.

Mr. Speaker, California and the Nation are fortunate to have had Carroll Estes as a champion for older Americans. Her enduring legacy in both academia and public policy reflects the very best of what American scholarship and public service can achieve. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING EUGENE "GENE" SMITH ON HIS 102ND BIRTHDAY

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Eugene "Gene" Smith of Germfask, Michigan, as he celebrates his 102nd birthday.

Born in Utica, Michigan, on June 7, 1924, Gene came to Germfask as an infant and has spent more than a century building a legacy of service, hard work, and dedication to his community. After losing both of his parents while still in elementary school, Gene was raised by his uncle, John Losey, and developed the resilience and character that would later serve him well.

In February 1943, Gene was drafted into the United States Army Air Forces, serving as a Sergeant and cook in England during D-Day and later in France. Following his service, he returned home and worked for twenty-nine years with the Schoolcraft County Road Commission before spending another twenty years as a heavy equipment operator and mechanic.

For more than five decades, Gene has been a pillar of the Manistique and Germfask communities. Since 1969, he has served as a member, Postmaster, and Chaplain of Lakeside Lodge No. 371, while holding numerous leadership positions throughout Masonic organizations across the Upper Peninsula. He is also a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), a past VFW commander, and a faithful member of the Germfask Methodist Church.

Many residents recognize Gene's familiar face in regional Independence Day parades, where he has spent decades driving his beloved "Little Indy" Shriners parade car. In recognition of his lifelong service, he was awarded a special proclamation signed by local officials and Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing Eugene "Gene" Smith on this remarkable milestone and thank him for a lifetime of service to his country, community, and fellow citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE SONGWRITERS OF JASON ALDEAN'S "TRY THAT IN A SMALL TOWN"

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the songwriters of Jason Aldean's hit song "Try That in a Small Town." Neil Thrasher, Kurt Allison, Tully Kennedy, and Kelley Lovelace created a song that deeply resonated with millions of Americans, highlighting the all-American spirit of patriotism and resilience found in small town USA.

When "Try That in a Small Town" was released in 2023, the song made waves across the country, eventually reaching No. 1 on the all-genre Billboard Hot 100 chart and No. 1 on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart. At a moment when division and hate seemed to dominate discourse, this song sparked conversations about American patriotism when we

need it most. Thrasher, Allison, Kennedy, and Lovelace used their storytelling talents to bring people together across generations.

Beyond the success of this single song, Neil Thrasher, Kurt Allison, Tully Kennedy, and Kelley Lovelace have each built careers that have left a true mark on modern country music. Their music has climbed charts and become an integral part of the all-American way of life. More importantly, each of them brings a deep appreciation for honest storytelling that captures the voices and values of our great Nation.

Together, these four songwriters embody the heart of American patriotism. Their collaboration on "Try That in a Small Town" reflects the same integrity and passion that define this country. Their songwriting embodies what country music does best—tell the truth about who rural communities are and what we stand for.

HONORING ZACHERY WEEKS, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Zackery Weeks, Jr., an outstanding member of the Humphreys County High School Class of 2026, whose academic excellence, leadership, and dedication have distinguished him as one of the brightest young scholars in his community.

Zackery has earned the title of Humphreys County Star Student, a recognition that reflects his exceptional academic achievement and commitment to excellence. With an impressive 32 on the ACT and 1400 on the SAT, Zackery stands among the top-performing students in the region. His accomplishments in the classroom demonstrate not only intellectual ability, but also discipline, perseverance, and a strong work ethic.

Beyond academics, Zackery has shown leadership and character through his service as Chess Captain, where he has led with strategy, poise, and critical thinking. These qualities will serve him well as he continues his educational journey.

Zackery's hard work has resulted in extraordinary opportunities. He has received more than \$5.2 million in scholarship offers and more than 80 college acceptances. This fall, he will attend The University of Southern Mississippi on a full-ride scholarship, where he will continue building on his record of success while proudly representing Humphreys County.

Zackery is the beloved son of Lakisha Hinnant and Zackery Weeks, Sr., and the proud grandson of Pastor Kevin and Laura Hinnant of Belzoni, Mississippi; Felicia Allen of Selma, North Carolina; and the late Bronica Lane. He is also admired by his younger siblings, Serenity and Victory Weeks, who look up to him with pride and excitement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Zackery Weeks, Jr. for his remarkable achievements. His dedication, faith, and determination are a source of pride to his family, his school, and the entire Humphreys County community. I look forward to seeing all that he will accomplish in the years ahead.

HONORING FRANK M. MANANGAN

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable member of our Guam community, Mr. Frank M. Manangan, who recently celebrated an extraordinary milestone—his 100th birthday.

A century of life is a rare and remarkable achievement. It is a testament not only to longevity, but to a life filled with purpose, perseverance, and dedication to others. Today, we honor Mr. Manangan not simply because he has reached the age of one hundred, but because of the legacy he has built throughout those one hundred years.

Mr. Manangan was born on April 2, 1925, in San Antonio, Zambales, Philippines. Raised in humble surroundings, he learned early in life the values of hard work, discipline, and service. After graduating from high school, he joined the local police force, proudly serving his country and community with honor. Even as a young man, he demonstrated a commitment to helping others and fulfilling responsibilities larger than himself.

Like many who came before him, Mr. Manangan eventually sought new opportunities and a brighter future. He made the journey to Guam carrying with him determination, resilience, and a strong work ethic that would define the rest of his life. He arrived ready to work, ready to provide, and ready to build a future for his family.

Over the years, he contributed to Guam in many ways. He worked as a carpenter, applying his skill and craftsmanship to help build and maintain the community around him. He worked in warehouse operations and later transitioned into data entry. No matter the position, he approached every job with diligence, humility, and pride. His willingness to work hard and adapt throughout different stages of life speaks to the character that has earned him the respect of so many.

But perhaps Mr. Manangan's greatest contribution was the family he helped build.

Together with his beloved wife, he raised ten children. As the sole provider for his family, he worked tirelessly—often holding two jobs at the same time—to ensure that his children had the necessities of life and the opportunity to pursue their own dreams. The sacrifices he made were countless. Like so many parents, he placed the needs of his family above his own, day after day and year after year. Through his example, he taught his children the values of perseverance, responsibility, and unconditional love.

Those who know Mr. Manangan know that his legacy extends far beyond his work ethic. They know him as a man who brought people together.

One of his greatest passions was cooking. With ten children to feed, he learned how to create delicious meals while making the most of every dollar. His home was often filled with the aromas of traditional Filipino dishes, and over time his pancit became a favorite among family members and friends alike. It became a staple at gatherings and celebrations, where loved ones would eagerly look forward to enjoying one of his signature dishes. Through food, he expressed care, generosity, and a deep love for those around him.

It is often said that a person's true wealth is measured not by what they possess, but by the lives they touch. By that measure, Mr. Manangan's life has been extraordinarily rich. His children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives, friends, and neighbors have all benefited from the example he has set and the values he has passed down through generations.

Today, as a centenarian, Mr. Manangan stands as a living reminder of the power of hard work, sacrifice, faith, and family. His story reflects the experiences of so many who came to Guam seeking opportunity and who, through determination and perseverance, helped strengthen our island community. Yet his story is uniquely his own—a story marked by service, devotion, and an enduring commitment to those he loved most.

On behalf of the people of Guam and the United States House of Representatives, I extend my deepest congratulations to Mr. Frank M. Manangan on reaching this extraordinary milestone. We thank him for a lifetime of contributions, for the family he has raised, and for the example he continues to provide for future generations.

Happy 100th Birthday to Mr. Frank M. Manangan. May he continue to be blessed with good health, happiness, and the love of family and friends.

NEEDHAM SPECIAL TOWN MEETING RESOLUTION

HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituent, Gerry Rovner, I include in the RECORD the following resolution, which was passed during the 2026 Needham Special Town Meeting by voice vote:

Whereas, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, written by John Adams, helped shape the United States Constitution and enshrines core principles of American governance, including separation of powers, checks and balances, the rule of law, and the protection of individual rights and civil liberties; and

Whereas, James Madison warned in Federalist No. 47 that “the accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands... may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny,” affirming separation of powers as a fundamental safeguard of democracy; and

Whereas, the Town of Needham governs according to democratic principles grounded in the United States Constitution, the Massachusetts Constitution, and applicable federal and state law; and

Whereas, in the first year of his second term, President Trump has repeatedly undermined these constitutional principles by defying court orders, dismantling congressionally created agencies, withholding appropriated funds, imposing tariffs without congressional approval, and authorizing military actions abroad without congressional authorization; and

Whereas, the administration has also used intimidation tactics, including deploying troops on U.S. soil, threatening federal prosecution of perceived political enemies, and withholding federal funding for education and research, including from Massachusetts institutions, that refuse to comply with unlawful executive directives; and

Whereas, the administration has dismantled or weakened federal programs that support vulnerable populations, including programs affecting Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, prescription drug affordability, and protections under the Affordable Care Act; and

Whereas, immigration enforcement practices pursued by the administration and the Department of Homeland Security raise serious constitutional concerns, including detentions that undermine protections against unreasonable search and seizure, due process, and habeas corpus, and policies allowing agents to obscure their identities and detain individuals without judicial warrants; and

Whereas, recent Supreme Court decisions, including *Trump v. United States* (2024), have expanded presidential immunity for certain official actions, raising concerns about accountability and the balance of powers, while Congress has failed to exercise its constitutional responsibilities over war powers, appropriations, and oversight; and

Whereas, actions that undermine constitutional governance, civil liberties, and the rule of law at the federal level have direct consequences for the Town of Needham and its residents, as well as residents throughout Massachusetts, its municipalities, educational and research institutions, and vulnerable populations who rely on federal programs; and

Whereas, residents of Needham have consistently demonstrated through peaceful protest and civic engagement their expectation that democratic institutions be protected and constitutional norms upheld; and

Now therefore, be it resolved, that this Town Meeting affirms that no person, including the President of the United States, is above the law and that all public officials are bound by their oath to uphold and faithfully execute the Constitution of the United States; and

Be it further resolved, that this Town Meeting urges the President of the United States to faithfully execute the duties of the office in accordance with the Constitution and federal law, and calls upon the United States Congress to exercise its constitutional authority to conduct robust oversight of the executive branch and investigate any violations of the Constitution or abuses of executive power; and

Be it further resolved, that the Town Clerk transmit copies of this Resolution to the Massachusetts Congressional delegation and to the leadership of both Houses of Congress. The collective voice of the Town of Needham may be entered into the public record.

HONORING MAYOR NONITO “NITO” CASTRO BLAS

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a devoted public servant, proud veteran, and beloved son of Guam, former Mangilao Mayor Nonito “Nito” Castro Blas, who passed away on May 6, 2026, at the age of 89.

For nearly three decades, Mayor Nito Blas dedicated his life to serving the people of Mangilao and our island community. To many, he was not simply a mayor. He was a trusted leader, a familiar face, and someone who genuinely cared about the people he served.

Born on June 25, 1936, Nito Blas belonged to a generation shaped by sacrifice, resilience, and service. He witnessed Guam's growth and

transformation across decades and remained deeply committed to preserving the spirit of community that defines our island.

Before entering public office, Mayor Blas proudly served our Nation in the United States Navy. Like so many sons and daughters of Guam, he answered the call to serve far from home, carrying with him the values of duty, humility, and patriotism that would guide him throughout his life. Those same values became the foundation of his public service.

As Mayor of Mangilao for seven terms spanning nearly 28 years, Nito Blas earned the trust and respect of generations of families in his village. And anyone who knew him understood why.

Mayor Blas led with humility and authenticity. He was approachable, kind, and deeply connected to the people around him. He understood that leadership was not about status or recognition, but about showing up for your community day after day. Whether it was attending village events, supporting local families, helping residents through difficult times, or simply taking the time to speak with people personally, Mayor Blas made others feel heard and valued. He represented a generation of leaders who believed public service was rooted in responsibility and compassion.

For the people of Mangilao, Mayor Blas was part of the heartbeat of the village itself. He took pride in bringing people together and strengthening the close-knit community spirit that makes Guam's villages so special.

His impact extended far beyond government offices or official titles. It could be seen in the relationships he built, the trust he earned, and the respect he carried throughout the island community. And while his years in office were significant, what many people will remember most is the kind of man he was. He carried himself with warmth and sincerity. He treated people with dignity and respect. And he served not for personal gain, but because he truly loved his community and wanted to make a difference in the lives of others.

Leaders like Nito Blas leave behind more than accomplishments. They leave behind an example. An example of steady leadership, humility, and most importantly, service before self. At a time when communities everywhere are searching for leadership rooted in compassion and integrity, the life of Mayor Blas reminds us what true public service looks like.

Today, we mourn his passing, but we also celebrate a life that was well lived and deeply meaningful to so many people across Guam. I extend my deepest condolences to the Blas family, his loved ones, former colleagues, and the people of Mangilao during this difficult time. May we continue to honor his legacy by serving our communities with the same humility, dedication, and heart that defined his life.

May Nonito "Nito" Castro Blas rest in eternal peace, and may his memory continue to inspire future generations of leaders in Guam.

HONORING ELAINE CRUZ JONES

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and mourn the passing of a truly remarkable woman from Guam, Mrs. Elaine

Cruz Jones, who passed away on May 6, 2026, at the age of 87.

For generations of Guam families, Elaine Jones was more than a respected businesswoman or community leader. She was "Auntie Laine." A steady presence. A woman of grace, faith, generosity, and quiet strength whose life reflected the resilience and spirit of our island people.

Elaine was born into Cruz family as one of eleven children of Augusto Pangelinan and Dolores Sablan Cruz. She grew up during one of the darkest chapters in Guam's history and survived the Japanese Occupation of Guam during World War II.

That experience shaped her generation in profound ways. The people who endured occupation, hardship, fear, and uncertainty carried with them a deep understanding of sacrifice, perseverance, and gratitude. They became the builders of modern Guam. And Elaine Jones was part of that extraordinary generation.

Following the war, Guam entered a period of rebuilding and transformation. Alongside her beloved husband, Kenneth T. Jones, Jr., Elaine helped support what would become one of Guam's most important and influential local businesses, J & G Enterprises.

Together with Ken and his business partner, Segundo Leon Guerrero, they helped lay foundations for economic opportunity and local entrepreneurship at a time when Guam was still finding its footing after the devastation of war. But while many people may recognize the Jones family name because of business success, those who truly knew Auntie Laine understood that her legacy extended far beyond business.

She was, first and foremost, devoted to her family. She was a loving wife to Ken and a proud mother to her five daughters—Donna, Ramona, Veronica, Linda, and Vivian—all of whom carry forward the values she instilled: faith, humility, compassion, and service to others.

Anyone who spent time around Auntie Laine knew how deeply she loved her family and how proud she was of them. She led not through loud words, but through example. Through kindness. Through consistency. Through faith. And even after the passing of her husband, she continued to lead with dignity and strength, stepping forward as President of J & G Enterprises and continuing the family's commitment to giving back to Guam.

Her life was deeply rooted in service to the community. Whether through philanthropy, civic involvement, support for local causes, or simply helping those in need quietly and without recognition, Auntie Laine represented a generation that believed success meant lifting others up along the way.

She also remained unwavering in her devotion to her Catholic faith. Faith was not simply something she practiced on Sundays. It guided how she treated people, how she carried herself, and how she lived her life every single day. And that is perhaps what so many people will remember most about her—her warmth. Her humility. Her generosity. Her ability to make others feel welcomed and valued.

On an island like Guam, where family and community are deeply connected, people like Elaine Jones leave an imprint that reaches far beyond their own relatives. They become woven into the story of the island itself. Her passing is not only a loss for her family, but for our entire community.

Today, I extend my deepest condolences to her daughters, grandchildren, loved ones, and all who had the privilege of knowing her. As we reflect on her life, may we also reflect on the example she leaves behind: a life grounded in faith, resilience, service, and love for others.

May Auntie Laine's memory continue to inspire future generations of Guam families to lead with compassion, generosity, and strength. And may we all take comfort in knowing that her legacy will endure through the countless lives she touched throughout her 87 years.

RECOGNIZING GERRY PEREZ

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary son of Guam whose decades of leadership, service, and vision have left a lasting mark on our island community—Dr. Gerry Perez—as he retires following more than sixty years of public and private service to Guam, our island reflects with deep gratitude on a career defined by leadership, dedication, and an unwavering love for the people of Guam.

For generations, Dr. Gerry Perez has been a respected leader in tourism, economic development, public service, and regional advocacy throughout the Pacific.

Many across Guam know him as a driving force behind the growth and advancement of our visitor industry. Through his work with the Guam Visitors Bureau and decades of leadership in tourism development, he helped position Guam as a premier destination in the Asia-Pacific region while proudly showcasing the culture, hospitality, and identity of the Chamoru people.

But his impact reaches far beyond tourism alone. Dr. Perez's career reflects a lifetime devoted to building Guam's future across many sectors of island life. Over the years, he served in numerous leadership positions throughout government, business, education, and civic organizations including as Director of Land Management, Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority, Director of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research, Chairman of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, Vice Chairman of the University of Guam Board of Regents, and Chairman of the Government of Guam Retirement Fund Board of Trustees. His leadership helped shape policies and initiatives that continue to impact Guam today.

What stands out most about Dr. Gerry Perez is not simply the number of titles he has held, but the respect he has earned throughout our community over the course of a lifetime dedicated to service. He became known as someone who could bring people together, build partnerships, and advocate for Guam with professionalism and credibility both locally and internationally. In many ways, he served as one of Guam's strongest ambassadors to the world.

His work helped strengthen Guam's relationships throughout the Pacific and Asia while creating opportunities for economic growth, cultural exchange, and regional cooperation.

Even after decades of accomplishment, Dr. Perez continued to mentor others and remain actively engaged in shaping Guam's future. His commitment to service never faded.

Recently, he was honored with the Maga'Hōga Award, one of Guam's highest recognitions for public service—a fitting tribute to a man whose life's work has been dedicated to improving our island community. This recognition reflects what the people of Guam have long known: Gerry Perez represents the very best of public service, leadership, and island pride.

His legacy is found not only in the programs he helped build or the organizations he helped lead, but in the generations of leaders, professionals, and community members who benefited from his guidance and example. As Guam continues to navigate new opportunities and challenges in the IndoPacific region, leaders like Dr. Gerry Perez remind us of the importance of vision, collaboration, and service rooted in love for community.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend my deepest gratitude to Dr. Gerry Perez for his lifetime of contributions to our island. We thank him for his leadership. We thank him for representing Guam with distinction. And we thank him for helping build a stronger future for generations to come.

I congratulate Dr. Perez on his retirement and on a truly remarkable legacy of service.

RECOGNIZING FRANK RABON

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a son of Guam whose life's work has helped preserve, strengthen, and carry forward the cultural identity of the CHamoru people—Master of CHamoru Dance Frank Rabon.

Recently, Frank Rabon was named a 2026 National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Nation's highest honor in folk and traditional arts. This recognition is not only well deserved—it is deeply meaningful for Guam's people.

For more than four decades, Saina Frank Rabon has dedicated his life to preserving and revitalizing Bailan CHamoru, the traditional dance, chant, and storytelling practices of the CHamoru people. Through his work as a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and cultural leader, he has helped ensure that future generations remain connected to their language, heritage, and ancestral identity. Culture survives because people choose to carry it forward. And few have carried the responsibility of cultural preservation with the same dedication, humility, and impact as Frank Rabon.

His work has touched countless lives across Guam and throughout the CHamoru diaspora. Generations of dancers, educators, and cultural practitioners have learned from his teachings and continue to share that knowledge with pride in communities across the Mariana Islands, the continental United States, and beyond.

As founder of Guma Taotao Tano', Frank Rabon helped create a space where culture could be lived, practiced, and passed on—not as history confined to books, but as a living expression of who we are as a people.

His choreography and cultural leadership have represented Guam on international stages for decades, including the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture, where he helped showcase the strength and beauty of CHamoru traditions to the world.

What makes this honor especially powerful is that it recognizes something the people of Guam have long known: Preserving culture is essential work. It is the work of protecting our identity. It is the work of protecting language, stories, values, and traditions that connect generations together.

At a time when many Indigenous traditions around the world face the risk of being forgotten, leaders like Frank Rabon remind us that culture remains strongest when it is taught, shared, and lived openly within the community.

This recognition by the National Endowment for the Arts places Guam and the CHamoru people on a national stage and highlights the richness of our island's cultural heritage. Frank Rabon becomes only the second artist from Guam to receive this prestigious fellowship.

For the people of Guam, this moment is a source of tremendous pride. We are proud of the legacy he has built. We are proud of the generations he has inspired. And we are proud that the traditions of the CHamoru people continue to be carried forward with dignity and excellence.

I thank Master Frank Rabon for his lifelong dedication to our culture, our people, and our island. I congratulate him on this historic and well-deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Guam State Council of the Knights of Columbus as they celebrate their 25th Anniversary of faithful service, charitable outreach, and dedication to the people of Guam.

For the past twenty-five years, the Knights of Columbus on Guam have exemplified the values of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism through their unwavering commitment to serving others and strengthening our island community.

Across Guam, the Knights have supported parish communities, organized charitable initiatives, assisted families in times of hardship, and volunteered countless hours to causes that uplift and strengthen our people. Their work has touched lives throughout our island and reflects a deep commitment to faith, compassion, and community service. This milestone anniversary is not simply a celebration of years, but a celebration of the people behind the mission—the men, families, chaplains, and volunteers who have dedicated themselves to serving something greater than themselves.

Organizations like the Knights of Columbus play an important role in preserving the values that continue to define Guam: faith, family, service, and community responsibility. Through both large efforts and quiet acts of kindness that often go unseen, the Knights

have helped foster a spirit of unity and compassion throughout our island.

The Guam State Council has also served as a source of mentorship and fellowship for generations, encouraging leadership rooted in humility, integrity, and service to others. Their example reminds us that strong communities are built not only through words, but through consistent acts of generosity and care for one another. At a time when many communities face division and uncertainty, the continued work of the Knights of Columbus stands as a reminder of the importance of coming together in service and shared purpose.

Today, we recognize not only the accomplishments of the Guam State Council Knights of Columbus as an organization, but also the lasting impact they have made on countless lives across Guam over the past twenty-five years.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend my sincere congratulations and deepest gratitude to the officers, members, chaplains, volunteers, and families of the Guam State Council Knights of Columbus for their faithful dedication and service to our island community.

May God continue to bless their mission and guide their work for many years to come.

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, June 9, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 10

9 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027.

SR-222

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 140, to address the forest health crisis on the National Forest System and public lands, S. 332, to require a study on Holocaust education efforts of States, local educational agencies, and public elementary and secondary schools, S. 365 and H.R. 1729, bills to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to allow for additional entities to be eligible to complete the maintenance work

on Bolts Ditch and the Bolts Ditch Headgate within the Holy Cross Wilderness, Colorado, S. 764, to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, S. 789, to require reports on critical mineral and rare earth element resources around the world and a strategy for the development of advanced mining, refining, separation, and processing technologies, S. 791, to establish the Justice Thurgood Marshall National Historic Site in the State of Maryland as an affiliated area of the National Park System, S. 888, to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas, to withdraw certain land located in Curry County and Josephine County, Oregon, from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, S. 945, to amend the Smith River National Recreation Area Act to include certain additions to the Smith River National Recreation Area, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain wild rivers in the State of Oregon, S. 1088 and H.R. 2290, bills to provide that the memorial to commemorate the sacrifice and service of the women who worked on the home front to support the efforts of the United States military during World War II may be located on the National Mall, S. 1288, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to designate as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area in the State of New York, S. 1341, to amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to add certain land to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness, S. 1349, to withdraw the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains subdistrict of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the National Wildlife Refuge System land in Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, from operation under the mineral leasing laws, S. 1413, to authorize additional funding for the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act, S. 1476, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Gila River system in the State of New Mexico as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico, S. 1547, to amend title 54, United States Code, to reauthorize the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, S. 1737, to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, S. 1870, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, S. 2437 and H.R. 3857, bills to amend the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program

Authorization Act, S. 2753, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize certain extraordinary operation and maintenance work for urban canals of concern, S. 3500 and H.R. 3657, bills to amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to annually submit to Congress a report on the status of ongoing hydropower relicensing applications, S. 3518, to amend the Federal Power Act to address certain alterations in, and the maintenance and repair of, project works, to provide for the licensing of micro hydrokinetic energy projects, S. 3526, to provide for the protection of and investment in certain Federal land in the State of California, S. 3693, to extend the authorization for a large-scale water recycling and reuse grant program, S. 3723, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System, S. 3732, to amend the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act to authorize assistance under the storage program, S. 3736, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water to the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System service area in the States of South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota, S. 3743, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a feasibility study on a selective water withdrawal system at Glen Canyon Dam, S. 3792, to provide for the establishment of a Water Project Navigators Program, S. 3878, to establish the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians and Jefferson College as affiliated areas of the National Park System, S. 4040, to amend Public Law 89-108 to modify the authorization of appropriations for State and Tribal, municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies, H.R. 249, to redesignate certain facilities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., H.R. 3872, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands to make that Act applicable to hardrock minerals, and H.R. 3937, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

SD-G50

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Colorado river basin, including post-2026 operations negotiations.

SD-366

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

SD-406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Brett Matsumoto, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, James Macy, of Wisconsin, and David M. Prouty, of Maryland, both to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.

SD-430

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations.

SH-216

JUNE 11

9 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027.

SR-222

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine AI and the American dream, focusing on promoting innovation, affordability and American dominance.

SD-538

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1133, to provide for media coverage of Federal court proceedings, S. 1146, to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings, S. 4591, to protect intellectual property rights in the voice and visual likeness of individuals, and the nominations of Benjamin M. Flowers, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Matthew A. Schwartz, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Michael J. Hendershot, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, Jeffrey T. Kuntz, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Arthur Roberts Jones, and John George Edward Marck, both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Don Richard Berthiaume, Jr., of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Justice, and Sean Costello, of Alabama, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama.

SH-216

JUNE 12

9 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027.

SR-222

JUNE 16

4:15 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

To hold hearings to examine Army force modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2653–S2670

Measures Introduced: Fifteen bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4695–4709, and S. Res. 756–760. **Page S2664**

Measures Reported:

S. 2033, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on existing programs, rules, and authorities that enable or inhibit wildfire mitigation across land ownership boundaries on Federal and non-Federal land, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S2663–64**

Measures Passed:

Congressional Gold Medal: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 645, 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, and the bill was then passed. **Page S2669**

Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act: Senate passed S. 1157, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a review to evaluate the status of research on lung cancer in women and underserved populations, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S2669–70**

National Seersucker Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 757, designating June 11, 2026, as “National Seersucker Day”, designating every subsequent Thursday through the last Thursday in August 2026 as “Seersucker Thursday”, and designating June 2026 as “Seersucker Appreciation Month”. **Page S2670**

National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 758, expressing support for the designation of the month of June 2026 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month” and June 27, 2026, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day”. **Page S2670**

Mattivi Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Anthony W. Mattivi, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas. **Pages S2653–60**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 165), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2659–60**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the post-cloture time with respect to the nomination be expired and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. **Page S2660**

Powell Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Anthony J. Powell, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas. **Page S2660**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, June 10, 2026. **Page S2660**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2660**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2660**

Dahl Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Brock Dahl, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State. **Page S2660**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Anthony J. Powell, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas. **Page S2660**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2660**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2660**

Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:

Todd Blanche, of Florida, to be Attorney General.
Pages S2663, S2670

Messages from the House: **Page S2663**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S2663**

Executive Communications: **Page S2663**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S2663–64**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2664–65**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S2665–68

Additional Statements: **Pages S2662–63**

Authorities for Committees to Meet:
Pages S2668–69

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today.
(Total—165) **Page S2660**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:28 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2670.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Glen Smith, of Iowa, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 37 public bills, H.R. 9172–9208; and 7 resolutions, H. Res. 1343–1349 were introduced. **Pages H3990–91**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3992–93**

Reports Filed: Reports filed on Friday, June 5, 2026 as follows:

H.R. 9170, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–686); and

H.R. 9171, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–687).

Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 8463, to establish governmentwide requirements for pre-payment fraud prevention actions, to provide the U.S. Treasury appropriate data resources, to facilitate participation in governmentwide anti-fraud data sharing, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–688, Part 1);

H.R. 6028, to modify the appointment and removal process for certain legislative branch officers, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–689, Part 1); and

H. Res. 1345, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8312) to establish fraud prevention and program integrity functions and data sharing authorities within the Department of Treasury and a permanent governmentwide Inspector General for Fraud, Accountability, and Recovery, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill

(H.R. 8464) to amend title 31, United States Code, to authorize pausing and segmenting payments, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1335) condemning actors seeking to defraud the United States Government, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that governmentwide fraud and improper payment prevention reforms will meaningfully improve the financial prosperity of the United States, and that Federal program eligibility should be verified before payment; and providing for consideration of the bill (S. 2) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 33 (H. Rept. 119–690).

Pages H3989–90

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Issa to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H3913

Recess: The House recessed at 12:43 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Page H3918

Recess: The House recessed at 2:05 p.m. and reconvened at 2:31 p.m.

Page H3919

Recess: The House recessed at 5:18 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Page H3974

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act: H.R. 8463, amended, to establish governmentwide requirements for pre-payment fraud prevention actions, to provide the U.S. Treasury appropriate data resources, to facilitate participation in governmentwide anti-fraud data sharing;

Pages H3919–23

Federal Program Integrity and Fraud Prevention Act: H.R. 6916, amended, to amend title 41, United States Code, to identify individuals who commit certain Federal felonies implicating Federal programs as an excluded source on the System for Award Management Exclusions list;

Pages H3923–25

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit Federal Funds from being provided to individuals convicted of certain Federal felonies, and for other purposes”;

Page H3925

Taxpayer Resources Used in Emergencies Accountability Act: H.R. 8466, amended, to require certain agencies to develop plans for internal control in the event of an emergency or crisis, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeand-nay vote of 384 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 208;

Pages H3928–30, H3974–75

Government Audit and Accountability of Federally Funded State-Administered Programs Act: H.R. 8107, amended, to require the establishment of a list identifying program areas and administrative

practices presenting the greatest risk to the integrity of Federal funds administered by States and local governments;

Pages H3933–34

Federal Fraud Prevention Workforce Training Act: H.R. 8428, amended, to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish a mandatory antifraud and improper payment training program for Federal program administrators, to provide for the availability of such training to State and local entities administering Federally funded programs, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeand-nay vote of 393 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 209;

Pages H3934–36, H3975–76

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend title 5, United States Code, to establish an antifraud and improper payment training program Federal program administrators, to provide for the availability of such training to State and local entities administering Federally funded programs, and for other purposes”;

Page H3976

Bonuses for Cost-Cutters Act: H.R. 428, amended, to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance the authority under which Federal agencies may pay cash awards to employees for making cost saving disclosures;

Pages H3936–38

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance the authority under which Federal agencies may pay cash awards to employees for making cost saving and improper payment disclosures, and for other purposes”;

Page H3938

Legislative Branch Agencies Clarification Act: H.R. 6028, amended, to modify the appointment and removal process for certain legislative branch officers;

Pages H3938–43

Block the Use of Transatlantic Technology in Iranian Made Drones Act: H.R. 2505, to require the development of strategies and options to prevent the export to Iran of certain technologies related to unmanned aircraft systems;

Pages H3943–45

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act: H.R. 1744, amended, to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2026;

Pages H3947–48

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through December 31, 2028”;

Page H3948

Protecting Europe from Antisemitic Crime and Extremism Act: H.R. 6297, amended, to require the Department of State to provide briefings on antisemitism in Europe;

Pages H3948–50

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To require the Department of State to consult with Congress on anti-semitism in Europe”; **Page H3950**

Tebran Incitement to Violence Act: H.R. 6230, amended, to designate certain individuals as specially designated global terrorists; **Pages H3954–57**

Developing Overseas Mineral Investments and New Allied Networks for Critical Energies Act: H.R. 7037, amended, to promote United States and allied energy and mineral security; **Pages H3957–65**

Allied Defense Sales Act: H.R. 8665, to require the implementation of a strategy to encourage foreign partners to participate in the foreign military sales and direct commercial sales processes on a multinational basis; **Pages H3965–67**

Countering China’s Control of the Caucasus Act: H.R. 7668, amended, to require a report on Russian and Chinese intelligence assets in Georgia; **Pages H3967–68**

Stop Illegal Fishing Act: H.R. 6338, amended, to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons and foreign vessels that engage in illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; and **Pages H3968–70**

Ensuring the alignment of economic and foreign policies, to position the Department of State to reflect that economic security is national security: H.R. 5248, amended, to ensure the alignment of economic and foreign policies, to position the Department of State to reflect that economic security is national security. **Pages H3950–54, H3970–74**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act: H.R. 8467, amended, to reform the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 to ensure executive agencies focus on fraud prevention; and **Pages H3925–28**

Taxpayer Funds Oversight and Accountability Act: H.R. 8340, amended, to modify the governmentwide financial management plan. **Pages H3931–33**

Senate Referral: S. 2 was held at the desk.

Page H3919

Senate Message: Message from the Senate received by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H3989.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3974–75 and H3975–76.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: On Friday, June 5, 2026, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a markup on the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2027. The Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2027, was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: On Friday, June 5, 2026, Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a markup on the Subcommittee on Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, FY 2027. The Subcommittee on Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, FY 2027, was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

SECURE AMERICA ACT; FRAUD PREVENTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT; STOPPING FRAUDULENT PAYMENTS ACT; CONDEMNING ACTORS SEEKING TO DEFRAUD THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE THAT GOVERNMENTWIDE FRAUD AND IMPROPER PAYMENT PREVENTION REFORMS WILL MEANINGFULLY IMPROVE THE FINANCIAL PROSPERITY OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT FEDERAL PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SHOULD BE VERIFIED BEFORE PAYMENT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on S. 2, the “Secure America Act”; H.R. 8312, the “Fraud Prevention and Accountability Act”; H.R. 8464, the “Stopping Fraudulent Payments Act”; and H. Res. 1335, condemning actors seeking to defraud the United States Government, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that governmentwide fraud and improper payment prevention reforms will meaningfully improve the financial prosperity of the United States, and that Federal program eligibility should be verified before payment. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 7–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 8312, the “Fraud Prevention and Accountability Act”, H.R. 8464, the “Stopping Fraudulent Payments Act”, H. Res. 1335, Condemning actors seeking to defraud the United States Government, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that governmentwide fraud and improper payment prevention reforms will meaningfully improve the financial

prosperity of the United States, and that Federal program eligibility should be verified before payment, and S. 2, the Secure America Act. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 8312, the “Fraud Prevention and Accountability Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 8464, the “Stopping Fraudulent Payments Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H. Res. 1335, Condemning actors seeking to defraud the United States Government, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that governmentwide fraud and improper payment prevention reforms will meaningfully improve the financial prosperity of the United States, and that Federal program eligibility should be verified before payment, under a closed rule. The rule provides that upon adoption of the resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider H. Res. 1335. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform or their respective designees. The rule further provides for consideration of S. 2, the “Secure America Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate

equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget or their respective designees. Finally, the rule provides one motion to commit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Arrington, Chairman Jordan, Chairman Comer, and Representatives Escobar, Garbarino, Walkinshaw, Raskin, Randall, Tlaib, Correa, Garcia of Texas, Jayapal, Stansbury, Krishnamoorthi, Ansari, Hoyle of Oregon, Ramirez, Landsman, McGarvey, Clark of Massachusetts, Jeffries, and Aguilar.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of the Air Force, 10:30 a.m., SD-192.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, closed business meeting to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027, 9:15 a.m., SR-232A.

Subcommittee on Personnel, business meeting to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Subcommittee on Airland, closed business meeting to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027, 10 a.m., SR-232A.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, closed business meeting to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027, 11 a.m., SR-232A.

Full Committee, closed business meeting to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027, 2:30 p.m., SR-222.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Freight, Pipelines, and Safety, to hold hearings to examine how technological advances are driving transportation innovation, 10 a.m., SR-253.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Full Committee, begin markup on the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2027; and the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, FY 2027, 11 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled “On Call for America: Strengthening Access Through Locum Tenens Providers”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Nuclear Permitting Reform: Legislation to Advance Efficient Licensing”, 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Converging Criminal Enterprises: Chinese Money Laundering Networks and Cartel Financing in the U.S. Financial System”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 9086, to amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to modify and improve that Act; H.R. 9062, to increase the capacity and effectiveness of the Department in supporting American businesses operating overseas and protecting American industries from adversaries, and for other purposes; H.R. 1939, to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to conflict in Sudan, and for other purposes; and H.R. 9087, to direct the Secretary of State to take actions with respect to certain foreign affairs matters, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Southern Poverty Law Center: Manufacturing Hate, Part II”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing on H.R. 6917, to take certain land into trust for the benefit of the Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians; H.R. 8473, the “Veterinary Services to Improve Public Health in Rural Communities Act”; and H.R. 8954, the “Tribal Regulatory Reform Implementation Act of 2026”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Task Force on Defending Constitutional Rights and Exposing Institutional Abuses, hearing entitled “Amnesty and Chaos: Abuse of U.S. Immigration Policy”, 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Legislation Relating to the Taxation of Digital Assets”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

posed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of the Air Force, 10:30 a.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: June 9, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, closed business meeting to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027, 9:15 a.m., SR–232A.

June 9, Subcommittee on Personnel, business meeting to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

June 9, Subcommittee on Airland, closed business meeting to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027, 10 a.m., SR–232A.

June 9, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, closed business meeting to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027, 11 a.m., SR–232A.

June 9, Full Committee, closed business meeting to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

June 10, Full Committee, closed business meeting to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027, 9 a.m., SR–222.

June 11, Full Committee, closed business meeting to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027, 9 a.m., SR–222.

June 12, Full Committee, closed business meeting to markup the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2027, 9 a.m., SR–222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: June 11, to hold hearings to examine AI and the American dream, focusing on promoting innovation, affordability and American dominance, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: June 9, Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Freight, Pipelines, and Safety, to hold hearings to examine how technological advances are driving transportation innovation, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: June 10, business meeting to consider S. 140, to address the forest health crisis on the National Forest System and public lands, S. 332, to require a study on Holocaust education efforts of States, local educational agencies, and public elementary and secondary schools, S. 365 and H.R. 1729, bills to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to allow for additional entities to be eligible to complete the maintenance work on Bolts Ditch and the Bolts Ditch Headgate within the Holy Cross Wilderness, Colorado, S. 764, to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, S. 789, to require reports on critical mineral and rare earth element resources around the world and a strategy for the development of advanced mining, refining, separation, and processing technologies, S. 791, to establish the Justice Thurgood Marshall National Historic Site in the State of Maryland as an affiliated area of the National Park System, S. 888, to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas, to withdraw certain land located in Curry County and Josephine County, Oregon, from all

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of June 9 through June 12, 2026

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will be in a period of morning business. At 2:15 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Anthony W. Mattivi, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

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 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: June 10, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Appropriations: June 9, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine pro-

forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, S. 945, to amend the Smith River National Recreation Area Act to include certain additions to the Smith River National Recreation Area, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain wild rivers in the State of Oregon, S. 1088 and H.R. 2290, bills to provide that the memorial to commemorate the sacrifice and service of the women who worked on the home front to support the efforts of the United States military during World War II may be located on the National Mall, S. 1288, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to designate as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area in the State of New York, S. 1341, to amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to add certain land to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness, S. 1349, to withdraw the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains subdistrict of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the National Wildlife Refuge System land in Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, from operation under the mineral leasing laws, S. 1413, to authorize additional funding for the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act, S. 1476, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Gila River system in the State of New Mexico as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico, S. 1547, to amend title 54, United States Code, to reauthorize the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, S. 1737, to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, S. 1870, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, S. 2437 and H.R. 3857, bills to amend the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Authorization Act, S. 2753, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize certain extraordinary operation and maintenance work for urban canals of concern, S. 3500 and H.R. 3657, bills to amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to annually submit to Congress a report on the status of ongoing hydropower relicensing applications, S. 3518, to amend the Federal Power Act to address certain alterations in, and the maintenance and repair of, project works, to provide for the licensing of micro hydrokinetic energy projects, S. 3526, to provide for the protection of and investment in certain Federal land in the State of California, S. 3693, to extend the authorization for a large-scale water recycling and reuse grant program, S. 3723, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System, S. 3732, to amend the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the

Nation Act to authorize assistance under the storage program, S. 3736, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water to the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System service area in the States of South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota, S. 3743, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a feasibility study on a selective water withdrawal system at Glen Canyon Dam, S. 3792, to provide for the establishment of a Water Project Navigators Program, S. 3878, to establish the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians and Jefferson College as affiliated areas of the National Park System, S. 4040, to amend Public Law 89–108 to modify the authorization of appropriations for State and Tribal, municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies, H.R. 249, to redesignate certain facilities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., H.R. 3872, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands to make that Act applicable to hardrock minerals, and H.R. 3937, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

June 10, Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Colorado river basin, including post-2026 operations negotiations, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: June 10, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: June 10, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Brett Matsumoto, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, James Macy, of Wisconsin, and David M. Prouty, of Maryland, both to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on the Judiciary: June 10, to hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations, 10:15 a.m., SH–216.

June 11, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1133, to provide for media coverage of Federal court proceedings, S. 1146, to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings, S. 4591, to protect intellectual property rights in the voice and visual likeness of individuals, and the nominations of Benjamin M. Flowers, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Matthew A. Schwartz, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Michael J. Hendershot, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, Jeffrey T. Kuntz, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Arthur Roberts Jones, and John George Edward Marck, both to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Don Richard Berthiaume, Jr., of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Justice, and Sean Costello, of Alabama, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, 10:15 a.m., SH–216.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, June 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Agricultural Perspectives on the Future of the USMCA”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, June 10, Full Committee, continue markup on the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2027; and the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, FY 2027, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

June 11, Subcommittee on Defense, markup on the Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations Bill, FY 2027, 9 a.m., H-140 Capitol. This markup is closed.

Committee on Education and Workforce, June 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Breaking Trust: Attacks on Parental Rights, Inappropriate Content, and Legal Abuses in America’s Schools”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, June 10, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Lowering Health Care Costs for All Americans: Examining Policies to Increase Health Care Transparency”, 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, June 10, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled “Examining Local Needs in Disaster Recovery”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on House Administration, June 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Preventing Fraudulent Donations: Transparency, Verification, and Accountability”, 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, June 10, Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust, hearing entitled “Examining the Sports Broadcasting Act”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, June 10, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3276, the “Local Communities and Bird Habitat Stewardship Act of 2025”; H.R. 3925, the “Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Land Exchange Act”; H.R. 7882, to provide for the leasing of certain deposits of minerals located within the City of Carlsbad, New Mexico; and H.R. 8686, to amend the Military Land Withdrawals Act of 2013 to withdraw and reserve certain public land in the vicinity of Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, June 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled “An Overview of the Department of Energy’s Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, June 10, Subcommittee on Social Security; and Subcommittee on Work and Welfare, joint hearing entitled “Hearing with the Commissioner of Social Security, Frank J. Bisignano”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, June 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will be in a period of morning business. At 2:15 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Anthony W. Mattivi, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, June 9

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H. Res. 1345—Providing for consideration of H.R. 8312, Fraud Prevention and Accountability Act, H.R. 8464, Stopping Fraudulent Payments Act, H. Res. 1335, Condemning actors seeking to defraud the United States Government, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that governmentwide fraud and improper payment prevention reforms will meaningfully improve the financial prosperity of the United States, and that Federal program eligibility should be verified before payment, and S. 2, Secure America Act.

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