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No. 118

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 20, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX 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.

SALUTING SERVICEMEMBERS OF THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

(Mr. SELF of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute our servicemembers of tomorrow, the service academy-bound students of the Third Congressional District of Texas.

This district of Texas is home to some of the best and brightest young men and women, and it is always an honor to appoint stellar student-athletes to our Nation's service academies.

I am confident that they are ready to join the premier service academies and ultimately serve with the best in the United States military.

This year, Texas' Third Congressional District is going to send seven cadets to the United States Military Academy; five midshipmen to the United States Naval Academy, six cadets to the United States Air Force Academy, six midshipmen to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and three candidates to the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School.

To these 24 appointees and three preparatory candidates: I say God bless you, and God bless America. I salute you.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the 27 names and respective hometowns.

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

Gavin James Blankenship, Lucas, TX
Sean Alexander Galbraith, Celina, TX
Avery Brooke Gifford, Allen, TX
Ethan Hunter Hayward, Allen, TX
Brett Andrew Hill, Allen, TX
Vincent Morgan Jones, Murphy, TX
Jayda Shrecee Johnson, Allen, TX

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

Eli Yuan Adler, Allen, TX
Collin Robert Alstrin, Prosper, TX
Elijah Rodrigo Estonilo, Allen, TX
McKenzie Kendall Quigley, McKinney, TX
Benjamin Lance Yost, Princeton, TX

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Connor James Baesel, Celina, TX
Kinsley Meredith Duncan, McKinney, TX
Joshua Lamar Johnson, Frisco, TX
Minseok Lawrence Kim, Frisco, TX
Gregory Aaron Kinneer, Frisco, TX
Hector Orozco Jr., Celina, TX

U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Brian Luke Goodrich, Murph, TX
Alysia Kight, Van Alstyne, TX
Luke Harlan Myhre, Allen, TX
Duncan Keith Ross, Allen, TX
Henry Oscar Stark, Murphy, TX
Martin George Zsoka, Dallas, TX

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Grant Allen Bauroth, Prosper, TX

Brock Warner Schlef, Plano, TX
Austin Michael Senters, Sachse, TX

HONORING LIFE OF DOUGLAS GRAHAM

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Douglas Graham, a remarkable photojournalist, storyteller, and friend to the people of our community in northern Virginia.

For nearly one decade at Loudoun Now, Doug helped our community see itself. He captured moments both ordinary and extraordinary, from parades and graduations to snowstorms and small acts of kindness.

However, Doug did more than just take photographs. He built trust. He asked good questions, and he listened.

Even after his cancer diagnosis, Doug continued to tell his story with the same honesty and courage that defined his career. Around Loudoun people often joke that if something important was happening in our community, Doug was already there to capture the moment.

Doug was always in the room, and he will still be with us. We offer our deepest condolences and gratitude to his wife, Dawn; his daughter, Lizzie; his friends, colleagues, and the entire Loudoun community.

We all thank Doug Graham for helping us see his community more clearly. May he rest in peace.

HONORING SATHGURU DHANDAPANI

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Sathguru Dhandapani.

Sathguru was a beloved husband, father, and community leader. After finishing his studies in India, his career took him to northern Virginia where he served as an engineer at Visa.

□ 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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He was a well-known and respected CEO across D.C., Virginia, and Maryland for his work with the Valluvan Tamil Academy. As the treasurer, Sathguru poured his time and efforts into promoting and preserving the Tamil language and culture.

Sathguru also had a deep love for music. He was a strong supporter of local concerts. He organized events, coordinated programs, and helped families across our region. So many kids benefited from his work as well.

His work touched so many lives in our community. He will be deeply missed, and may he rest in peace.

DATA CENTERS

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, at this point my community in northern Virginia has so many data centers that if it were a country, it would be fourth in all countries in the number of data centers. There are actually many more, actually hundreds more, potentially, on the way.

Virginians, our community, have been paying the price for years now. The price is transmission lines going through homes, schools, and historic sites. The price is worse air quality, and the price is higher utility bills.

Now people are fighting back, and we are winning. That is because last week, the people of Prince William County spoke out and pushed back about a massive, new data center complex spanning almost 750 football fields.

That project was unanimously rejected, but the fight is not over.

New transmission lines are being proposed to support the data center industry in Prince William County. Projects like the Nokesville-Bristow transmission line are threatening homes, small farms, and livelihoods.

There is a better way. One way is to underground those lines, and the data centers need to pay for it, not the community. This will protect our farmland, homes, and schools.

Also, it sets the tone that data centers and private companies cannot demand new energy infrastructure and then pass along the costs to the community, because our communities have had enough of high utility costs.

They have had enough of transmission lines next to schools and homes, and enough of the noise, pollution, and loss of green space.

If we work together, we can push companies to underground these lines and pay their fair share. In the meantime, I join my community in saying: Enough is enough.

CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN TELUGU ASSOCIATION

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the American Telugu Association on its 19th annual ATA Conference & Youth Convention.

This year's conference in Baltimore brings together leaders from across the country to celebrate Telugu heritage. The conference recognizes all of ATA's achievements in the fields of science, business, technology, literature, and

public service, as well as the arts, while showcasing live performances and Telugu culture.

I extend my congratulations to ATA, including its president, Jay Challa, and all of the organizers, and I wish everyone a successful and meaningful conference in Baltimore.

CENSORSHIP BY THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

(Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. DAVIDSON. Madam Speaker, last month, a small plane crashed into one of the tallest buildings in Beijing, China, during Friday rush hour. The pilot was killed, and 13 people were injured. This happened in the center of a city of more than 20 million people. Thousands of people nearby saw the plane strike the building. People on the street heard the impact and recorded the aftermath.

In the United States, an event like this would receive wall-to-wall coverage, and videos would be spread across social media within minutes. However, in Beijing, the government made it nearly impossible for anyone who was not there to even know that it happened.

Posts about the crash vanished from Chinese social media, and searches for the building returned only older results. Police prevented people from taking pictures and ordered witnesses to delete footage. Even though China's national broadcaster sits across the street from the crash site, state media failed to inform the Chinese public about what happened.

Because China's censorship apparatus links police surveillance with telecommunications networks, search engines, social media platforms, and state-controlled media, it allows the authorities to identify and suppress information that could embarrass the Chinese Communist Party or undermine their preferred narratives with frightening efficiency.

China has used these methods before. During the 2022 lockdown protests, videos disappeared from Huawei phones without warning, deleting picture and videos from their phones and even preventing citizens from preserving or sharing what was happening.

George Orwell warned about this sort of coercive power. Now this dystopian system is even more efficient and powerful with modern technologies, smartphones, search engines, surveillance cameras, and government controlled platforms. China has shown how effectively this machinery can erase the truth, and other governments are now creating such systems that can be used in the same way.

The European Union is building the legal and regulatory framework to control online speech not just in the European Union but across the West, trying to pressure platforms even in the United States. Through the Digital Services Act, regulators can pressure

these platforms to remove or suppress content that conflicts with their official narratives on elections, public policy, or other political issues.

Companies that resist can face penalties tied to their global revenue, giving governments enormous leverage over what people are allowed to see online. The United Kingdom has incorporated digital ID and is already jailing thousands of its citizens each year for disfavored speech.

In the United States, how could such a thing happen?

We have the Bill of Rights and the First Amendment protecting speech, but it was already well underway. When Elon Musk bought Twitter, the Biden administration was working to build a Disinformation Governance Board to coordinate their rapidly expanding censorship operations. Orwell referred to this kind of apparatus as the ministry of truth.

Unfortunately, Musk's ownership of Twitter only exposed the truth that even a change of administration has not halted the surveillance state here in America. Under the same guise of protecting kids used by the U.K., the USA just passed a digital ID bill under the guise of banning Central Bank Digital Currency. The United States effectively set a go-live date for CBDC in 2030. Under the old ruse of security and public safety, Palantir and Flock have an all-seeing-eye network expanding around the country.

These are just some of the tools used in China, and, unfortunately, some of the same companies are using these same tools here in the United States and across Europe.

As James Madison astutely noted in Federalist No. 51: "If men were angels, no government would be necessary." Well, if men were angels, then the PATRIOT Act and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act would have never been abused. The abuse was not only foreseeable, because even good men are prone to abuse power, but it happened. If it were still happening, then how would you know, Madam Speaker? These tools are very effective. The old maxim: Power corrupts, but absolute power corrupts absolutely rings true.

Around the world, technology is being turned against the citizens of each country by those in power. A comprehensive system of surveillance, coercion, and control is being built. If we cannot see it, then it may already be too late.

Freedom surrendered is rarely reclaimed, and with every vote and every dollar, it is now time for this Congress to insist that good governments defend freedom.

RECOGNIZING LARRY "THE GRINCH" STONE

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

Mr. LICCARDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of myself

and on behalf of my colleagues, Representatives ZOE LOFGREN, RO KHANNA, and JIMMY PANETTA, to recognize Larry Stone, who retired a few months ago as Santa Clara County's longest serving elected official.

Larry has been an extraordinary public servant, ethical role model, a mentor to many of us, and a friend to all.

Larry served in elected office for 46 years, 30 as Santa Clara County's assessor. He made the most of his notorious role as tax leveler, humorously egging on everyone to boo him at every civic and political event. He even wore a Grinch costume for many years in our annual Santa Run, sitting in the pace car with thousands of runners dressed up as Santas with beards on chasing him through the streets of downtown San Jose.

Larry's work was serious, however. He leaves behind an assessor's office that has become a national model for efficiency, responsiveness, and trustworthiness.

Larry's signature forthrightness made him the first phone call for local reporters looking for someone quotable. His willingness to call out malfeasance by the powerful made him a reliable advocate for good government. His prescient political sense—gathering Silicon Valley support for everyone from his successor, Neysa Fligor, to a little known southerner by the name of Bill Clinton—made him a local kingmaker.

In his retirement, Larry and his much-beloved wife, Carmen, will continue to generously support local nonprofits and the arts. Larry's example, however, continues to inspire the next generation of leaders.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of many, I thank Larry for his leadership, his mentorship, and his friendship.

□ 1215

HONORING ARTHUR HERBERT HAUSMAN

Mr. LICCARDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Arthur Herbert Hausman, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 102.

Our Nation owes Arthur a profound debt of gratitude for his lifetime of service. During World War II, Arthur served at Bletchley Park on Project ULTRA, helping decrypt enemy communications alongside Alan Turing and other legends of the era. Their work proved instrumental in securing the Allied victory in World War II.

Arthur later served as an electronic scientist with the Department of Defense and helped lay the foundation for the National Security Agency. His groundbreaking work in cryptography, secure communications, and technological innovation left an indelible mark on our national security institutions and made us all safer.

Arthur's greatest legacy lives through his family and the community that he helped build, including Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills.

His integrity, ingenuity, and patriotism will endure in the hearts of his

children, grandchildren, and a grateful nation.

Madam Speaker, may his memory be a blessing.

COMMEMORATING 82ND ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF GUAM

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 82nd anniversary of the liberation of Guam.

On July 21, 1944, American forces returned to Guam and liberated our island after nearly 3 years of Japanese occupation. For the CHamoru people and all who called Guam home, liberation marked the end of a period defined by fear and suffering.

Today, I recognize the special courage of Guam's Greatest Generation. Throughout the occupation, there was one source of strength that united the people: their faith. When families were separated, they prayed. When food was scarce, they prayed. When they faced the uncertainty that tomorrow might never come, they prayed. Prayer became the act of hope.

Many survivors have shared stories of praying the rosary together in secret, gathering quietly with family, and finding strength in Scripture. Those prayers sustained a people who refused to lose their humanity, even during one of the darkest chapters of Guam's history.

These moments served as a powerful reminder that while liberation was won through the ones who fought on the battlefield, many endured through the steadfast faith of those who never gave up hope at home.

The people of Guam continue to carry forward the legacy 82 years later. We continue to pray for lasting peace, the safety of the brave men and women who serve our Nation today, and a world where future generations will never have to endure what Guam experienced during World War II.

Madam Speaker, we commemorate this year's theme: "Para I Onra, Para I Gloria"; "For Her Honor, For Her Glory." May God continue to watch over our beloved island of Guam and grant us the lasting peace for generations to come.

DENOUNCING ENDING BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP FOR TERRITORIES

Mr. MOYLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to strongly denounce the End Birthright Citizenship for the Territories Act.

The author of this bill is quick to offer assurances that the bill explicitly carves out protection for the children born to U.S. citizens and permanent residents on Guam who will fully retain their American citizenship.

They present this as a reasonable compromise, a harmless safeguard for our local families. Madam Speaker, do not mistake a patronizing concession for respect. The clause does not ease the fundamental insult of this legislation. It merely exposes its hypocrisy.

By including the very language, this body openly acknowledges that it is attempting to do in the territories what the Supreme Court just ruled it cannot constitutionally do in the 50 States.

It exploits the fact that citizenship in Guam is governed by statute, rather than the full embrace of the 14th Amendment. It creates a dangerous and deeply insulting double standard. It signals to our community that the ground under our feet is a lesser class of American soil.

It says that while the States' borders are structurally protected from Washington legislative whims, the legal fabric of our island cannot be experimented on by Federal mandates.

Our citizenship was not handed to us by casual gift or a line item to be tinkered with. It was forged in the fires of World War II, through the brutality of an enemy occupation where our people suffered, yet never once wavered in their alliance to the United States.

We have repaid that honor by serving the United States Armed Forces where our sons and daughters serve at a rate higher than nearly any jurisdiction in the Nation.

To tell a population that bears a great weight of defending this Republic that Congress can selectively alter birthright citizenship on their soil is a profound sign of disrespect. It treats the sacred bond of our citizenship as a secondary status subject to the political whims of Washington.

We do not ask for constitutional handouts or patronizing exemptions. We ask for equality. We demand that the soil our veterans defended be treated with the exact same constitutional reverence as the 50 States.

Madam Speaker, this bill fails the test of basic respect, and I urge my colleagues reject this double standard and join me in denouncing this bill.

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 21 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:

Holy God, source of all wisdom, goodness, truth, and knowledge, we appeal to You for the direction and counsel needed to meet the challenges and to faithfully execute the tasks set before us today.

Make us wise, first in our asking. Given the purity of Your wisdom, may we humble ourselves to receive it.

Aware that what comes from You is peace-loving and gentle, may we be willing to slow our tempers and it temper our judgment in the disagreements we are sure to encounter.

What You offer requires that we be open to reason and full of mercy. May the fruit of today's labors be sensible and abounding in Your goodness.

Lord, the guidance and grace You offer us are neither uncertain nor insincere. May we, in our certitude, be sincere in our engagement, one with another. May we reflect the sincerity found in Your wisdom and confident in Your will for the living of this day.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HURD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HURD of Colorado 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.

HONORING NICHOLAS DALE

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

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nicholas Dale, who gave his life battling the Gold Mountain fire in southwestern Colorado.

On July 12, Nicholas was piloting a firefighting helicopter when his aircraft went down in Silver Jack Reservoir. He was 56 years old and had traveled from Sooke, British Columbia, to help protect a State that was not his own.

We owe an enormous debt to aerial firefighters like Nicholas. Mission after mission, they fly into smoke and over rugged terrain so ground crews can gain the upper hand and communities have a fighting chance.

Nicholas is the fourth firefighter to lose his life battling Colorado wildfires this past month. His death is a sobering reminder of the risks wildland firefighters and aviators face every time they take to the sky or fire line.

Mr. Speaker, few Coloradans will ever see their faces, but everyone benefits from their courage. We thank them sincerely.

COMMEMORATING 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima.

August 6, 81 years ago—which will happen in a couple of weeks—the first instance of a nuclear weapon being deployed against a civilian population occurred.

My cousin, Kikue Takagi, survived the bombing because she was sick and stayed home instead of being at the city center at ground zero with her middle school classmates. The vast majority of her middle school classmates perished that morning. She is a “hibakusha”; “survivor” of the atomic bombing.

The U.S. and Russia had the New START Treaty which limited the number of nuclear warheads in both of their respective arsenals. This year the Trump administration allowed it to expire, dealing a major blow to arms control efforts. We must not allow negligence or indifference to lead to a disaster in the absence of diplomatic safeguards.

Mr. Speaker, I call on Congress, the President, and all of us to return to leadership in reversing the arms control race.

RECOGNIZING STEVE AND JULIA MOORE

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

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two exceptional leaders from Indiana's Ninth District, Steve and Julia Moore, whose commitment to protecting children has earned them the honor of having their names added to the founders wall at Johns Hopkins University.

The founders wall honors individuals whose generosity and commitment have made a lasting impact on the mission at Johns Hopkins.

Through their support of the MOORE Center to prevent child sexual abuse, Steve and Julia have played a vital role in furthering groundbreaking research, education, and prevention efforts, focused on ending child sexual abuse.

For the Moores, this mission is deeply personal. After experiencing the lasting effects of child sexual abuse within their own family, Steve and Julia made a courageous decision to use their story and family name to bring awareness to an issue that has often remained hidden and to help break the cycle of abuse.

Through the MOORE Center, they have transformed a personal hardship into a mission of help, bringing a

greater awareness, supporting prevention-based solutions, and helping protect future generations from experiencing the lasting effects of child sexual abuse.

Mr. Speaker, the addition of Steve and Julia Moore's names to the founders wall at Johns Hopkins is a fitting recognition of their dedication to serving others and improving the lives of children and families. I am proud to recognize them on this well-deserved honor and thank them for their extraordinary generosity and service to protecting children and strengthening families for generations to come.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair. Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1430

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR) at 2 o'clock and 30 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.

CHOICES FOR INCREASED MOBILITY ACT OF 2026

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1703) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify payment rules for manual wheelchairs under part B of the Medicare program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1703

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 “Choices for Increased Mobility Act of 2026”.

SEC. 2. SPECIAL RULES RELATED TO TREATMENT OF CERTAIN MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

Section 1834(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(24) SPECIAL RULES RELATED TO TREATMENT OF CERTAIN MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS.—

“(A) REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE HCPCS CODES FOR CERTAIN MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS.—With respect to ultralightweight manual wheelchairs payable under this subsection

furnished on or after January 1, 2028, the Secretary shall establish two or more HCPCS codes, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, for the base of such a wheelchair depending on the construction material used in such base (with 1 or more such codes for such a base with titanium or carbon fiber construction material and 1 or more such codes for such a base without such materials).

“(B) PAYMENT AND BENEFICIARY PROTECTIONS.—

“(i) PAYMENT.—On or after January 1, 2028, in the case where an individual purchases or rents from a supplier an ultralightweight manual wheelchair that has titanium or carbon fiber construction material used in the base of such wheelchair, payment to the supplier shall be made in the frequency and amount as would otherwise be made under this subsection (as described in paragraph (1)(A)) for such wheelchair.

“(ii) BENEFICIARY CHARGES.—The supplier may charge the individual the difference between the supplier's actual charge for such wheelchair and the payment amount described in clause (i) for such wheelchair.

“(iii) BENEFICIARY PROTECTIONS.—In order to inform an individual of the individual's potential financial liability under clause (ii), the Secretary may require a supplier to issue a notice to the individual (in a form and manner determined by the Secretary) prior to the purchase or rental of such ultralightweight manual wheelchair by such individual.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and include extraneous material on H.R. 1703.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), my good friend, the sponsor of this legislation, a valuable member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and head of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 1703, the Choices for Increased Mobility Act.

This important piece of legislation clarifies the payment rules for manual wheelchairs under Medicare part B.

The bill allows Medicare patients the choice to decide whether a titanium or a carbon-fiber wheelchair is right for them, giving patients the option to pay out of pocket for wheelchair upgrades if that is their choice.

To restore this choice for Medicare patients, this bill creates two new wheelchair codes and enables upgrades within existing codes. Importantly, this will remove barriers to patients, allowing the patient to access the upgraded benefit at no additional cost to CMS.

We must remove obstacles that prevent patients from taking full advantage of their Medicare benefits and give them the freedom to choose the equipment that is right for the patient, a decision that has profound impacts on their individual lives.

This bipartisan legislation will remove the barrier that has impeded access to lightweight wheelchair options for individuals with mobility impairments since 2016.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to see this important bill come to the House floor today, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H.R. 1703, the Choices for Increased Mobility Act.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will clarify Medicare payment rules for ultra lightweight manual wheelchairs and allow Medicare beneficiaries to upgrade to wheelchairs with titanium or carbon fiber materials at their own cost.

The bill would give beneficiaries the choice to select a wide range of wheelchairs. Under the bill, seniors would have the choice to acquire a wheelchair with titanium or carbon fiber materials through the Medicare program with additional out-of-pocket costs. I am glad that the bill would require suppliers to notify beneficiaries of the additional financial liability.

Mr. Speaker, while I support this bill, I am concerned that the bill only helps higher income seniors who can afford to pay out of pocket for these additional upgrades beyond what is covered under the Medicare program. The universality of the Medicare program and the fact that all beneficiaries have access to the same benefits is an important principle in my opinion.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1703, led by my good friend who previously spoke, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE).

Medicare beneficiaries should not be limited in their ability to access the right wheelchair to help them move freely in their daily lives. Ultimately, the payment clarifications in this legislation are intended to improve access to wheelchair upgrades among Medicare beneficiaries who choose to do so.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

This is a bipartisan bill. It is something we all support, and I thank my colleagues for supporting it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1703, 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.

DESTRUCTION OF HAZARDOUS IMPORTS ACT

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2715) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to extend the destruction authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to articles that present a significant public health concern, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2715

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 “Destruction of Hazardous Imports Act”.

SEC. 2. DESTRUCTION OF CERTAIN REFUSED ARTICLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 801 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(v) DESTRUCTION OF REFUSED ARTICLES PRESENTING SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services finds that an article that has been refused admission under subsection (a) presents a significant public health concern, the Secretary may issue to the owner or consignee of the article an order to destroy the article, without the opportunity for export.

“(2) DEADLINE; COSTS.—Not later than 90 days after the issuance of an order under paragraph (1), the owner or consignee of the article shall destroy the article. The owner or consignee shall be responsible for the costs of such destruction.

“(3) DUE PROCESS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide to the owner or consignee of an article subject to an order under paragraph (1) appropriate due process prior to the destruction of the article. Such due process shall be specified in regulations and include notice and an opportunity to appear before the Secretary and introduce testimony on the destruction—

“(A) in combination with the notice and opportunity to appear and introduce testimony on the refusal of admission of the article under subsection (a); or

“(B) separately.”.

(b) PROHIBITED ACTS.—Section 301 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 331) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(jff) The unauthorized movement, or introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce, including export, of an article that is subject to an order for destruction under section 801(v).”.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall apply to articles beginning on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, promulgates final regulations under subsection (d).

(d) REGULATIONS.—

(1) PROPOSED.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall issue proposed regulations to implement the amendment made by subsection (a), allowing for notice and comment on such proposed regulations.

(2) FINAL.—Not later than 1 year after the issuance of the proposed regulations under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall promulgate final regulations to implement the amendment made by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and include extraneous material on H.R. 2715.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, it looks like we have two friends from Louisiana supporting this and who sponsored this bill today, Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. CARTER.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2715, the Destruction of Hazardous Imports Act.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2715 ensures that contaminated imports, ranging from radioactive seafood to illegal Chinese vapes, do not reach American consumers and cause harm.

Initially, this legislation began as an effort to target toxin-laced foreign seafood. However, my colleague, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER), and I quickly learned that the Department of Health and Human Services cannot destroy other articles, including food, devices, and specific drugs, even though they may pose serious health risks.

Without the authority granted within H.R. 2715, dangerous and poisonous imports can find their way to American markets. This legislation grants the Food and Drug Administration additional authority to destroy any articles that fail initial inspection, preventing foreign importers from port shopping or rebranding their products.

This legislation introduces strict penalties for the reintroduction of destroyed items into interstate commerce, ensuring that harmful imported goods are permanently barred from entering our markets. Bad actors attempting to undermine these enforcement measures will face accountability.

Strengthening this legislative framework will protect public safety and reinforce our commitment to stringent oversight of imported goods to mirror the American safety standards that American producers must live with.

In January, the FDA released its legislative proposals for fiscal year 2026. This included a request for the authority to require importers to destroy any FDA-related product that is refused entry into the United States and that presents a significant public health concern.

H.R. 2715 supports the administration and follows through by adding the FDA's existing authority to destroy imported medical devices and medications with any article that poses a health risk to the public.

As we work to improve our Nation's health and reverse the lingering effects of unfair trade policies, it is essential that the FDA has the authority to eliminate toxic foods and drugs from our country.

The Destruction of Hazardous Imports Act protects Americans' health and prioritizes our domestic industry. I urge full support and swift passage, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1440

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2715, the Destruction of Hazardous Imports Act, led by Representatives Carter and Higgins of Louisiana.

This bill would provide the Food and Drug Administration with the authority to require importers to destroy products that pose a significant public health concern, preventing them from being shipped to another port of entry.

These products have, in fact, included food contaminated with salmonella, listeria, and carcinogenic unapproved animal drugs, as well as misbranded medical devices. It also includes illegal e-cigarette products that are flooding the market from places like China.

These are dangerous products, Mr. Speaker. Providing the FDA with the authority to compel destruction and requiring the importer to pay for such destruction will provide a strong disincentive to those seeking to prioritize profits over product safety. We need to make sure Americans are not unwittingly exposed to harmful products, and this authority is going to prevent that.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 2715, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate my friends from Louisiana, both of them, for bringing this forward. This is important. Think about what we are talking about here. Contaminated seafood, illicit drugs, and all of these other things are getting stopped at a port of entry, but FDA has no authority to destroy them. As my friend from New

Jersey said, they get returned and come in through another port.

As good as our people are at our ports of entry, if you keep sending the same thing through over and over, eventually it is going to get through. It makes no sense not to allow the FDA to destroy these products.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER), a member of our committee, my colleague, and the Democratic sponsor of this bill.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2715, the Destruction of Hazardous Imports Act, which I introduced with my Louisiana colleague Representative CLAY HIGGINS.

This bill will protect American consumers and create a level playing field for American businesses by authorizing the Food and Drug Administration to order the destruction of imported products found to pose a significant public health concern.

Under current law, foreign exporters can ship contaminated or counterfeit products to the U.S. knowing they can withdraw the shipment if FDA flags it. They can then try to enter through a different port where the shipment may not be caught, a practice known as port shopping. This loophole endangers our health and undermines our food and drug safety systems.

This bill authorizes the Food and Drug Administration to require an importer to destroy an FDA-regulated product that was refused entry into the U.S. because it poses a significant public health concern with the cost of the destruction at the importer's expense. This bill also prohibits the unauthorized movement of any article designated for destruction by the FDA.

Some imported foods, especially seafood, have been found to be contaminated with carcinogenic drugs, pesticides, and other harmful impurities.

Beyond food, there has been a rise in imports of dangerous vape devices and e-liquids containing banned substances and excessive nicotine, as well as counterfeit drugs like GLP-1s.

This threat is real and documented. Exporters, especially Chinese exporters, have been caught resubmitting rejected shipments at different ports. This bill closes that loophole and creates a deterrent for bad actors.

Congressman HIGGINS and I have worked hand in hand with our domestic fishing industry on this legislation, including the Southern Shrimp Alliance. American fishermen perform back-breaking work and operate under strict U.S. food safety, labor, and environmental rules that raise their costs significantly. Meanwhile, some foreign producers cut corners and still get multiple chances to dump noncompliant and often dangerous products into the American marketplace.

Seafood imports continue to pour into the United States, increasing in

volume each year, undercutting domestic fishermen. Last year, the U.S. imported 6.4 billion pounds of foreign seafood, a 10 percent increase from 2019.

As imports have increased, American commercial seafood landings have declined. In 2024, the U.S. commercial landings totaled 7.7 billion pounds, the first time landings have been below 8 billion pounds since 1988.

Louisiana's commercial fishing industry has particularly been hit hard by this flood of foreign imports. Since 2021, Louisiana shrimpers have seen the value of their catch drop by more than 50 percent, falling from \$131 million in 2021 to just \$61 million in 2024. As you can see, this is, in fact, a real threat.

Passing this bill will deter bad actors from flooding the market with unsafe products and provide American fishermen with a fair playing field, allowing them to sustainably harvest millions of additional pounds of shrimp and other seafood each year.

This is a real issue, and I am proud to be working in a bipartisan way to address an issue that will impact not just Louisiana but our entire country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this critical legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bipartisan bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote for this bipartisan bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2715, 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.

FDA MODERNIZATION ACT 3.0

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2821) to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to publish a final rule relating to nonclinical testing methods.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2821

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 “FDA Modernization Act 3.0”.

SEC. 2. REGULATIONS ON NONCLINICAL TESTING METHODS.

(a) INTERIM FINAL RULE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to ensure implementation of the amendments to section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)) made by section 3209(a) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328; 136 Stat. 5821), not later than 1 year after the date of enact-

ment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall publish an interim final rule—

(A) to amend the sections of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, described in paragraph (2) to replace any references to “animal” tests, data, studies, models, and research with a reference to nonclinical tests, data, studies, models, and research; and

(B) to add the definition of “nonclinical test” in section 505(z) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(z)) to sections 312.3, 314.3, 315.2, and 601.31 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) CFR SECTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sections of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Section 312.22(c).

(B) Section 312.23(a)(3)(iv).

(C) Section 312.23(a)(5)(ii).

(D) Section 312.23(a)(5)(iii).

(E) Section 312.23(a)(8).

(F) Section 312.23(a)(8)(i).

(G) Section 312.23(a)(8)(ii).

(H) Section 312.23(a)(10)(i).

(I) Section 312.23(a)(10)(ii).

(J) Section 312.33(b)(6).

(K) Section 312.82(a).

(L) Section 312.88.

(M) Section 314.50(d)(2).

(N) Section 314.50(d)(2)(iv).

(O) Section 314.50(d)(5)(i).

(P) Section 314.50(d)(5)(vi)(a).

(Q) Section 314.50(d)(5)(vi)(b).

(R) Section 314.93(e)(2).

(S) Section 315.6(d).

(T) Section 330.10(a)(2).

(U) Section 601.35(d).

(V) Any other section necessary to ensure regulatory consistency with the amendments to section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)) made by section 3209(a) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328; 136 Stat. 5821).

(3) EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERIM FINAL RULE.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (B) of section 553(b) of title 5, United States Code, the interim final rule issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under paragraph (1) shall become immediately effective as an interim final rule without requiring the Secretary of Health and Human Services to demonstrate good cause therefor.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355) is amended by designating the second subsection (z) (relating to clinical trial diversity action plans), as added by section 3601(a) of the Health Extenders, Improving Access to Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP, and Strengthening Public Health Act of 2022 (division FF of Public Law 117–328), as subsection (aa).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. 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 legislation.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2821, led by my colleagues Representative CARTER of Georgia and Representative BARRAGÁN, which requires the Secretary of HHS to publish rules amending certain regulations by replacing references to “animal” tests, data, studies, models, and research with the broader term “non-clinical” tests, data, studies, models, and research.

Biomedical research typically utilizes animal models to explore biological processes, analyze diseases, and explore potential therapies. However, given the concerns and scientific limitations of animal testing, researchers have increasingly turned to new approach methodologies to evaluate drugs when scientifically justified.

The scientific community has worked diligently to balance animal welfare concerns and the value of animal tests and research. I am pleased with the progress to date and look forward to seeing continued evidence-driven advancements in this space.

I commend the administration for their work to phase out animal testing where it is scientifically appropriate and for achieving the key goals in the first year of implementing the roadmap to reducing animal testing in pre-clinical safety studies.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague from Georgia for putting this bill forward, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1450

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2821, the FDA Modernization Act 3.0, led by Representative BARRAGÁN and Representative CARTER of Georgia.

The FDA Modernization Act 3.0 would require the Food and Drug Administration to update regulations to replace references to animal tests, data, studies, models, and research in specified sections of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations with references to nonclinical tests.

This would bring FDA's regulations in line with a law passed in 2022 that allowed for alternatives to animal testing in drug development, including those that leverage recent scientific advancements, such as computer modeling and cell-based assays.

I encourage all my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 2821, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), a dear friend, a great member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and a leader in this effort with the FDA. With pharmaceuticals, just about anything that is very important to the American people, he is an absolute leader in that.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 2821, the FDA

Modernization Act 3.0, bipartisan legislation that ensures the FDA fully embraces modern science while reducing unnecessary animal testing.

Many of our families would feel incomplete without the pets and animals that bring unconditional love into our lives. Yet every year, millions of animals, including dogs, man's best friend, are still subjected to testing in the development of new medicines.

As policymakers, we have a responsibility to protect those who cannot protect themselves. That responsibility includes embracing scientific innovation that can reduce unnecessary animal suffering while continuing to deliver safe and effective treatments to patients.

In 2022, Congress took an important first step by passing the FDA Modernization Act 2.0. I was proud to help lead that effort. That law gave drug developers the ability to use modern, scientifically validated alternatives to traditional animal testing when appropriate.

Congress made its intent clear. We wanted to encourage more effective, more humane, and more innovative approaches to drug development.

Unfortunately, the previous administration failed to fully implement the law. Without clear implementation, too many researchers have lacked the certainty they need, and too many animals continue to be used in testing that modern science can increasingly replace.

H.R. 2821 ensures the FDA finally carries out the will of Congress. This bill is not lowering standards. It is about raising them.

Today's researchers have access to technologies that simply did not exist a generation ago: advanced human cell models, organ-on-a-chip technology, artificial intelligence, and computational modeling. These innovative tools have the potential to better predict how medicines will perform in humans while reducing reliance on animal testing. Our laws should reflect the science of today, not the science of decades past.

Modernizing drug development doesn't just benefit animals. It benefits patients. By providing greater clarity and encouraging the use of validated alternative methods, we can make the drug development process more efficient. That means fewer unnecessary delays and more innovation. Ultimately, that means lifesaving treatments can reach patients more quickly without compromising the FDA's rigorous standards for safety and effectiveness.

This is a commonsense, bipartisan bill. It reflects a simple principle: We can advance medical innovation while improving animal welfare. Those goals are not in conflict. In fact, they go hand in hand.

Mr. Speaker, the FDA Modernization Act 3.0 fulfills the promise Congress made when we passed the FDA Modernization Act 2.0. It ensures that mod-

ern science is fully incorporated into our regulatory process. It helps reduce unnecessary animal testing and strengthens American medical innovation. It also helps bring new therapies to patients more efficiently.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2821, the FDA Modernization Act 3.0.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2821, the FDA Modernization Act 3.0, introduced by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

I am proud to co-lead this bill with him and a bipartisan group of my colleagues: Representatives BARRAGAN, BUCHANAN, DELAURO, and HARSHBARGER.

Over 3 years ago, the FDA Modernization Act 2.0 was signed into law, allowing the agency to approve human drugs without requiring animal testing through modern, often more effective, alternatives.

Despite this progress, the FDA has still not issued updated regulations to clarify where alternatives to animal testing are, in fact, permissible.

This legislation takes action to close the gap by requiring the FDA to fully implement the reforms that Congress has already enacted and to help reduce unnecessary animal testing in drug development. By ensuring the full implementation of the FDA Modernization Act 2.0, this legislation will help modernize and transform drug development for the 21st century; accelerate safer, more effective medical breakthroughs; and advance more humane scientific research.

This is long overdue. We see the unnecessary slaughtering of animals for research when there are other alternatives that may be, in fact, more humane, more effective, and more cost effective, yet we continue to do the same thing as if.

I am proud to be a part of this bill that will go a long way toward protecting lives, advancing technological scientific finds, and creating a better, more humane system. Overall, our bill is a big win for patients, a big win for innovation, and a big win for animal welfare.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to vote "yes" on passing this critical legislation.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bipartisan bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I encourage a "yes" vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2821.

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.

REAUTHORIZING THE KAY HAGAN TICK ACT

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4348) to reauthorize the Kay Hagan Tick Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4348

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

SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS.

(a) NATIONAL STRATEGY AND REGIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE.—Section 317U of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-23) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "the Tick-Borne Disease Working Group established under section 2062 of the 21st Century Cures Act (42 U.S.C. 284s) and other individuals, as appropriate" and inserting "appropriate individuals";

(2) in subsection (c)(4), by inserting "including by increasing capacity to identify, report, prevent, and respond to such diseases" before the period at the end; and

(3) in subsection (f), by striking "2021 through 2025" and inserting "2026 through 2030".

(b) ENHANCED SUPPORT TO ASSIST HEALTH DEPARTMENTS IN ADDRESSING VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES.—Section 2822(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-32(c)) is amended by striking "2021 through 2025" and inserting "2026 through 2030".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4348.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4348, led by my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), which authorizes the national and regional centers for excellence in vector-borne disease in the CDC's cooperative agreements with health departments in high-risk areas for vector-borne diseases.

Vectors like mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas carry dangerous diseases, and vector-borne diseases can happen to anyone. They can have debilitating effects. Preventing these diseases is a bipartisan issue that I hope we all can support.

In addition to thanking the bill's sponsors for their leadership in advancing the efforts to reduce the alarming threat of vector-borne disease, I also thank the administration for their support of this bill and for their commitment to the American people by combating Lyme disease, which affects almost half a million Americans annually.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4348, the Kay Hagan Tick Act, sponsored by my colleagues CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey and LLOYD DOGGETT of Texas. I understand that Mr. KEAN from New Jersey is also a sponsor.

This bill reauthorizes the national strategy and regional centers of excellence in vector-borne diseases. Tick-borne diseases, including Lyme disease, have rapidly increased over the last decades. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that nearly a half million people may, in fact, be diagnosed and treated for Lyme disease every year in the United States. That is a dramatic increase from 30,000 annual cases just two decades ago.

□ 1500

H.R. 4348 would expand research, improve testing, and coordinate vector-borne disease efforts across the Federal Government. The bill would also reauthorize funding for Regional Centers of Excellence for surveillance, prevention, and response to vector-borne diseases and reauthorize grants to State health departments to support vector-borne disease infrastructure.

Tick and vector-borne disease have rapidly increased, Mr. Speaker, particularly in the northeastern part of our country. I encourage all of my colleagues to honor the legacy of Senator Kay Hagan, who died of complications from a tick-borne disease, by voting "yes" on H.R. 4348.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GUTHRIE for his personal and extraordinarily strong support of H.R. 4348, and his staff, director Megan Jackson, Health Subcommittee staff Jay Gulshen and Emma Schultheis. I also thank my good friend, FRANK PALLONE, our Health Subcommittee Chair MORGAN GRIFFITH, Ranking Member DIANA DEGETTE, as well as the original sponsors, LLOYD DOGGETT, PAUL TONKO, and TOM KEAN.

Mr. Speaker, at a May 29th press conference in New Hampshire, HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who has been a tremendous leader in the war on Lyme disease, announced a "sweeping plan to combat Lyme disease and to advance treatment."

Secretary Kennedy said: "Millions of Americans battling Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses have spent years searching for answers, treatment, and support. Today, the Trump administration is launching one of the most ambitious Federal efforts ever to combat Lyme disease by accelerating research, expanding innovation, and improving care for patients and families. We are going after this disease at its source, driving faster diagnostics and new prevention strategies, and delivering the urgency and action Americans deserve."

He said: "The initiative will develop and deploy practical strategies to target and eliminate ticks on wildlife before they can spread diseases to humans." That has been lacking for decades. They are going after the ticks themselves.

"Lyme disease," Mr. Speaker, he said: "remains one of the Nation's fastest growing vector-borne health threats. More than 476,000 Americans are diagnosed with Lyme disease each year, and recent data show emergency room visits for tick bites reached their highest springtime level in nearly a decade."

Secretary Kennedy also announced new actions to combat Alpha-gal syndrome, a tick-associated condition that can trigger potentially serious allergic reactions to red meat and other products. The CDC estimates nearly 500,000 Americans are living with Alpha-gal syndrome, though emerging evidence suggests the true number may be significantly higher.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, ticks not only transmit Lyme disease but other deadly and debilitating illnesses, such as Alpha-gal, babesiosis, Powassan disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and anaplasmosis. Vector-borne diseases are now endemic in regions of the country where they have not historically been present.

Disease-laden ticks are now found in all 48 contiguous States. The problem is exploding. It is not abating. It is, therefore, critical that Congress take immediate action to support and further sustain ongoing efforts to combat these insidious diseases that kill and disable.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4348, a 5-year reauthorization of the Kay Hagan Tick Act, a law that expires on September 30th. My colleagues will recall that our distinguished colleague, North Carolina Senator Kay Hagan, suffered a tick bite and died in 2019 from encephalitis caused by the Powassan virus. The current law and reauthorization is named in her honor.

The original Kay Hagan Tick Act, which I led in 2019 here in the House and SUSAN COLLINS led it in the Senate, became part of the appropriations act in 2020. The act created, among other things, a whole-of-government national strategy to combat Lyme and other tick-borne diseases with special focus on surveillance, diagnosis, treatment, education, and prevention.

I would note parenthetically that I have been working on Lyme disease since 1992, when Pat Smith—no relation—of Wall Township, who actually formed the Lyme Disease Association of America, came up to me in Wall Township and said: What are you doing about Lyme? I said: Nothing. We had lunch. I have been working on it ever since.

I introduced my first comprehensive bill—one of many, at times we had over 100 cosponsors—called the Lyme Disease Initiative Act of 1998, almost 30 years ago. We could not move it. It was blocked over and over again. There were some people in HHS and at CDC and elsewhere who were saying, just take 2 weeks of doxycycline and you are cured.

When you have chronic Lyme, it takes a very serious effort, very often with a Lyme literate doctor, in order to overcome and put that disease into remission.

In February 2024, I remind my colleagues, HHS released the National Public Health Strategy to prevent and control vector-borne diseases. It is an excellent strategy. We are acting on that now as well. It also supports the whole-of-government assault on Lyme.

It authorizes \$50 million over 5 years for Regional Centers of Excellence. It also, as we did in the original law, authorizes \$100 million over 5 years to tangibly assist States' public health departments and other local entities to support the development and implementation of evidence-based research interventions and treatment with respect to the Lyme disease epidemic.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, in February, 2024, HHS released the National Public Health Strategy to Prevent and Control Vector-borne Diseases in People with mutually reinforcing goals to:

Better understand when, where, and how people are exposed to and get sick or die from VBDs.

Develop, evaluate, and improve tools, methods, and guidance to diagnose VBDs and their pathogens.

Develop, evaluate, and improve tools, methods, and guidance to prevent and control VBDs.

Develop and assess drugs and treatment strategies for VBDs.

Disseminate and implement public health tools, programs, and collaborations to prevent, detect, diagnose, and respond to VBD threats.

H.R. 4348, supports this whole of government assault on Lyme and other vector borne diseases.

H.R. 4348 again authorizes \$50 million over five years for the regional centers of excellence, which coordinate with academia and local public health agencies to conduct research on Lyme in their areas and train public health professionals to identify and treat Lyme.

Finally, H.R. 434—again as we did in the original law—authorizes cooperative agreement funding for states and localities—\$100 million over five years—to tangibly assist state public health departments and other local entities to support the development and implementation of evidence-based research, interventions, and treatment with respect to—

educating and informing the public, based on evidence-based public health research and data, about Lyme Disease and other vector-borne diseases;

- supporting early detection and diagnosis;
- supporting prevention;
- improving treatment; and

supporting care planning and management for individuals with Lyme disease and other tick- and vector-borne diseases.

I thank the Chairman BRETT GUTHRIE for his personal and extraordinarily strong support of H.R. 4348, as well as his Staff Director Megan Jackson and Health Subcommittee staff Jay Gulshen and Emma Schulteis.

Special thanks to Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE, Health Subcommittee Chair MORGAN GRIFFITH and Ranking Member DIANA DEGETTE as well as original cosponsors LLOYD DOGGETT, PAUL TONKO, and TOM KEAN.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Kay Hagan Tick Act legislation that I am leading along with my colleagues, Representatives CHRIS SMITH, LLOYD DOGGETT, and TOM KEAN.

The Kay Hagan Tick Act would reauthorize key programs at the CDC that fund both research and support for local public health agencies to address tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease.

Tick-borne diseases are a large and growing problem in New York, with more than 18,000 cases of Lyme disease reported in New York State in 2024. Lyme can cause serious health consequences, and for some, long-term complications persist after treatment.

With a warming climate, tick populations and ranges are on the rise, leading to fears that tick-borne diseases will continue to increase in frequency in the years to come. Already, warning signs are blaring that 2026 could be the worst year for tick exposures since 2017, based on CDC tracking data.

In this backdrop, research investments and public health resources are more vital than ever. That is what the Kay Hagan Tick Act will deliver.

I am proud to have worked on this commonsense bipartisan bill, and I would urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, again, I would urge my colleagues to support this bill on a bipartisan basis, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4348.

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.

□ 1510

STEM CELL THERAPEUTIC AND RESEARCH REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5160) to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5160

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 “Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE C.W. BILL YOUNG CELL TRANSPLANTATION PROGRAM.

Section 379B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 274m) is amended—

(1) by striking “appropriated \$31,009,000” and inserting the following: “appropriated—

“(1) \$31,009,000”;

(2) in paragraph (1), as so inserted, by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) \$33,009,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

SEC. 3. CORD BLOOD INVENTORY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(a) of the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 274k note) is amended by striking “at least 150,000 new units of high-quality cord blood” and inserting “a sufficient supply, as determined by the Secretary, of high-quality cord blood units”.

(b) APPLICATION.—Section 2(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 274k note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “in perpetuity or”;

(2) by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

“(5) if the Secretary determines through an assessment, or through petition by the applicant, that a cord blood bank is no longer operational, does not meet the requirements described in subsection (d)(4), or does not meet the requirements of section 379(d)(4) of the Public Health Service Act, and as a result may not distribute the high-quality units, the Secretary may transfer the units collected pursuant to this section to another qualified cord blood bank or entity approved by the Secretary to ensure continued availability of high-quality cord blood units.”.

(c) DURATION OF CONTRACTS.—Section 2(d)(4) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 274k note) is amended to read as follows:

“(4) CONSIDERATION OF BEST SCIENCE.—The Secretary shall take into consideration current scientific and clinical information in order to maximize the availability of high-quality cord blood units meeting applicable clinical and quality standards for transplant when entering into contracts under this section, or when extending a period of funding under such a contract under paragraph (2).”.

(d) INVENTORY MANAGEMENT.—Section 2 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 274k note) is amended—

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

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) INVENTORY MANAGEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the size and composition of the National Cord Blood Inventory to maximize clinical utility, ensure genetic diversity, and promote the efficient use of resources.

“(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary may—

“(A) on the Secretary’s own initiative or upon petition by a qualified cord blood bank, make determinations regarding the continued storage of cord blood units based on the best available scientific and clinical evidence; or

“(B) prioritize the collection, retention, or disposition of cord blood units based on scientific, clinical, or operational considerations that the Secretary determines to be relevant.”.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2(g) of such Act, as redesignated by subsection (d)(1) of this section, is amended—

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

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

“(4) The term ‘high quality cord blood unit’ means a cord blood unit that meets current industry standards and any requirements of the Food and Drug Administration.”.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 2(h) of such Act, as redesignated by subsection (d)(1) of this section, is amended by striking “fiscal years 2022 through 2026” and inserting “fiscal years 2027 through 2031”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. 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. 5160.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5160, led by my colleagues Representatives SMITH and MATSUI to reauthorize the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and the National Cord Blood Inventory program. The C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program supports patients across the country with identifying matching and facilitating the distribution of bone marrow peripheral blood stem cells and cord blood donors for those who need blood stem cell transplants.

This is critically important for those patients without a related family member who is unable to donate.

For some patients, blood stem cell transplants are an opportunity for remission or even a cure when other treatments have failed. This bill ensures patients have access to these life-saving opportunities.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5160, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act. This bill reauthorizes the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and the National Cord Blood Inventory, two programs that serve as national registries to connect patients with life-saving care.

Each year, thousands of Americans are diagnosed with conditions that could require stem cell transplants, such as leukemia, lymphoma, sickle cell anemia, and other immune system disorders. Some patients have a fully matched relative who can serve as a donor, but most patients require a search for an unrelated donor. This transplantation program helps identify, match, and facilitate the distribution of stem cells and cord blood from unrelated donors.

The National Cord Blood Inventory program maintains a robust inventory of high-quality cord blood units that can be used for research or transplantation.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased we are considering this bill to extend these programs. I encourage all my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 5160, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), my good friend.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, each year over 3.6 million babies are born in the United States. In the past, virtually every placenta and umbilical cord was tossed as medical waste. Today, doctors have turned this medical waste into medical miracles.

Not only has God, in his infinite wisdom and goodness, created a placenta and an umbilical cord to nurture and protect the precious life of an unborn child, but now we know another gift awaits immediately after birth. Something very special is left behind: umbilical cord blood that is teeming with life-saving stem cells.

Mr. Speaker, today the House will vote to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, a law that I authored 21 years ago.

That law created a new nationwide umbilical cord blood stem cell program designed to collect, type, and cryogenically freeze cord blood units for transplantation into patients to mitigate and cure serious disease. The law also provided that cord blood stem cells be used for research. The new cord blood program was combined with an expanded bone marrow initiative, crafted over several years by our distinguished former colleague, Congressman Bill Young.

Mr. Speaker, umbilical cord blood stem cells obtained after the birth of a child have proven to be highly efficacious in treating over 75 diseases, including lymphoma, leukemia, sickle cell disease, and other metabolic and immune deficiencies.

I thank Dr. Joanne Kurtzberg of Duke University, an internationally renowned expert in pediatric hematology, oncology, and umbilical cord blood banking and transplantation. Dr. Kurtzberg helped draft our original law 26 years ago. It took 5 long years to enact it into law. It was blocked at many turns, but she was right there from the beginning and continues to be an extraordinary pioneer in the field.

Earlier today, I called Dr. Kurtzberg—we do talk a lot—and she

said cord blood has been used as a donor for transplant, enabling over 50,000 patients with cancer, blood disease, and other genetic conditions to have a life-saving treatment. Cord blood is also used as starting material for manufacturing immune effector cells, like CAR T cells, and others to treat patients with cancer and autoimmune diseases. She said there is exciting research now using cord blood to treat children with cerebral palsy, birth asphyxia, and autism.

Mr. Speaker, the National Cord Blood Inventory—created by the original law and continued in this reauthorization—provides funding to public cord blood banks participating in the program to allow them to expand the national inventory of cord blood units that are available for transplant. These units are then listed on the registry by the National Marrow Donor Program. The funds appropriated thus far have led to an important increase in the use of these units. The registry now has approximately 121,000 available units.

The program registry allows patients and physicians to locate matching cord blood units, as well as adult donors, for both marrow and peripheral blood stem cell transplants.

Mr. Speaker, the program registry allows patients and physicians to locate matching cord blood units, as well as adult donors, for marrow and peripheral blood stem cells. The program is the world's largest, most diverse donor registry, with more than 43 million potential marrow donors around the world. To date, NMDP, through its operation of the program, has facilitated over 150,000 transplants.

The bill before us today, Mr. Speaker, authorizes \$280 million for these programs over 5 years—\$115 million for cord blood, \$165 million for bone marrow programs—to ensure that thousands of present and future patients benefit from this extraordinary field of regenerative medicine.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply grateful to Chairman GUTHRIE for his amazing support and leadership in advancing the bill. I want to thank others, including my friend FRANK PALLONE; DORIS MATSUI, who is the prime Democrat cosponsor; Mr. BILIRAKIS, one of the originals and a great supporter; Ms. PINGREE; Ms. TENNEY; Mr. MFUME; and others. We have others, but they were the originals.

I also want to thank some of my staff, including Rebecca West, Evan Heitman, John McDonough, who worked overtime—as you know, so many details to be attended to—and, of course, the Staff Director Megan Jackson; Emma Schultheis; and Jackie Weinrich, who worked on the Democrat side in helping to get this to the floor. I thank them all so much.

Mr. Speaker, this will save lives, and I urge support for it.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), a very important member of our committee and chairman of the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee.

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

I rise today in strong support of the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act, bipartisan legislation that will save lives by ensuring continued access to stem cell, bone marrow, and cord blood transplants for patients across our Nation.

Every year, thousands of Americans battling leukemia, lymphoma, sickle cell disease, and other blood disorders rely on the C.W. Bill Young program to help find a compatible donor. For many patients, that match is their only chance at survival, Mr. Speaker.

This legislation reauthorizes the program, modernizes the National Cord Blood Inventory, and strengthens our Nation's transplant system to help ensure patients continue to have access to these lifesaving transplants.

I am grateful to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working together to advance this important piece of legislation. Mr. Speaker, Representative SMITH of New Jersey has done an outstanding job over the years. He has done a great job leading this particular bill. He works on bills, Mr. Speaker, that positively directly affect our constituents. We appreciate him and the great chairman and, of course, Ranking Member PALLONE.

I urge my colleagues to pass this good piece of legislation.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bill. It is not only bipartisan, it is very important.

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

□ 1520

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5160, 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.

ACCELERATING ACCESS TO DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S PROVIDER TRAINING ACT

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3747) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Project ECHO Grant Program, to establish grants under such program to disseminate knowledge and build capacity to address Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, and for other purposes, as amended.

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

H.R. 3747

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 “Accelerating Access to Dementia and Alzheimer’s Provider Training Act” or the “AADAPT Act”.

SEC. 2. EXPANDING CAPACITY FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 330N of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–20) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “entities” and inserting “entities, including a public or nonprofit private entity,”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting “dementia care,” after “palliative care,”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 330N(k) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–20(k)) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2022 through 2026” and inserting “fiscal years 2027 through 2031”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3747.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3747, led by my colleagues Representatives BALDERSON and BARRAGÁN, which would reauthorize the technology-enabled collaborative learning program.

The technology-enabled collaborative learning program health education model connects healthcare professionals through interactive videoconferencing, which helps meet people where they are by promoting access to specialty care for people who otherwise may not be able to access it because of where they live.

This is a valuable tool for clinicians to both continue learning and improve existing knowledge of best practices to support and care for patients in their communities. This is particularly effective for patients in rural communities, and I represent many.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this legislation. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3747, the AADAPT Act.

This bill reauthorizes Project ECHO, or the Expanding Capacity for Health Outcomes grant program at the Health Resources and Services Administra-

tion. This program uses videoconferencing technology to train, advise, and support clinicians to improve access to specialty treatment in rural and underserved areas.

By connecting primary care providers in rural areas with specialists in academic medical centers or other specialized settings, these providers receive the support they need to manage complex patient conditions, and rural patients are more likely to receive the care that they need closer to home.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 3747, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON), my good friend and very important member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3747, the AADAPT Act.

Alzheimer’s disease is one of the most significant public health challenges facing our country today. More than 7 million Americans, including over 236,000 Ohioans, are living with this devastating disease, and those numbers continue to grow.

The sooner we can identify Alzheimer’s and other dementias, the sooner patients and families can begin treatment, plan for the future, and access the care and support they need.

For many families, especially in rural and underserved communities, a primary care provider is the first, and often only, healthcare professional they see when memory loss or cognitive decline begins.

The AADAPT Act strengthens and reauthorizes the Project ECHO program, giving those providers access to specialized training and mentoring so they can recognize the signs of a potential condition and deliver better care earlier and closer to home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which is a practical, bipartisan solution that strengthens our healthcare workforce and improves access to quality care for patients and families.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), who is the ranking member of our Environment Subcommittee.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the AADAPT Act, legislation I am proud to be co-leading along with my good friends and colleagues Representatives TROY BALDERSON, NANETTE BARRAGÁN, and DARIN LAHOOD.

Alzheimer’s is a devastating disease that impacts nearly 427,000 individuals in New York State alone. I would imagine that everyone in this room has been impacted in some form by Alzheimer’s at some point. It is, first and foremost, a human crisis, but it is also a Federal budget crisis.

That is why I have been proud to be a champion of Alzheimer’s-related

issues during my time in Congress and why I feel so strongly about advancing the AADAPT Act today.

The AADAPT Act represents an investment in our provider workforce as we enter a new era of dementia care, with emerging tools like blood-based biomarker tests making earlier, more accessible diagnosis possible and increasingly shifting diagnosis into primary care.

This legislation is designed to close the gaps in dementia training by ensuring providers are prepared to responsibly adopt and apply these innovations in everyday practice.

One proven way to address this issue is with the Project ECHO training model. In my district, in the capital regional of New York, health systems like St. Peter’s Health Partners in Albany County are already using the ECHO model and working to improve dementia care.

Mr. Speaker, I am indeed proud to have worked on the AADAPT Act and urge all of my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation that addresses advancements in this field of dementia care.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GUTHRIE and everyone involved with this piece of legislation for their leadership, and I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3747, the AADAPT Act. I am proud to co-lead alongside Representative BALDERSON, Representative BARRAGÁN, and Representative TONKO.

Alzheimer’s disease is a growing public health crisis that is sadly projected to affect nearly 14 million Americans by 2050. Yet, today, Alzheimer’s and related dementias go undetected in the primary care setting roughly half of the time.

With a rapidly aging population, we must ensure that primary care providers have the training and resources they need to recognize early signs of cognitive decline and connect patients and families with the appropriate care and support.

The AADAPT Act is about making sure expertise reaches every provider community. It helps detect, diagnose, and manage Alzheimer’s earlier and more effectively, especially in rural and underserved areas where access to dementia specialists can be very limited.

Earlier diagnoses have never be more important than now. As new diagnostic tools and treatment options continue to emerge, helping providers identify patients sooner can improve care planning and give patients greater support when early intervention is most impactful.

This legislation is a critical step toward closing the diagnosis gap and reducing care disparities in rural communities. Let’s give providers the resources they need by utilizing these

impactful virtual education programs that help reach vulnerable patients.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to co-lead this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which is bipartisan. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3747, 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.

□ 1530

ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH ACT

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2001) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a grant program for addressing dental workforce needs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2001

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 “Action for Dental Health Act”.

SEC. 2. ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH.

Section 340G(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256g(f)) is amended by striking “\$13,903,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030, to remain available until expended”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2001.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2001 led by my colleagues Representative KELLY and Representative SIMPSON, which reauthorizes a grant program that helps States develop and implement programs to address the need for dental professionals in areas facing a workforce shortage.

Oral health is foundational to a person’s overall health, as poor oral health may cause issues with daily tasks, like eating, and negatively impacts a person’s ability to take part in school or work.

This legislation is a bipartisan effort to help improve the oral health of all Americans by ensuring that communities across the Nation have access to strong oral health programs despite dental workforce shortages.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2001, the Action for Dental Health Act, led by Representative KELLY.

Access to oral healthcare is critical to ensuring a person’s health and well-being. Too often, however, oral health is overlooked. Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease in both children and adults in the United States. In fact, more than one in four adults have untreated cavities, and nearly half of American adults show signs of gum disease. We need to expand access to oral healthcare, including strengthening the oral healthcare workforce.

The Action for Dental Health Act reauthorizes State oral health workforce improvement programs. These programs seek to enhance dental workforce planning and development through the support of innovative programs that meet the individual needs of each funded State.

I hope my colleagues will join me in this effort to strengthen and expand access to oral healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 2001, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), my good friend, who is a member of the Committee on Appropriations, and also a dentist, so he knows this issue well.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2001, the Action for Dental Health Act.

This bill reauthorizes grants to State and local organizations to address dental workforce needs and improve access to care for patients.

Administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration, or HRSA, these grants play a vital role in supporting programs that provide oral healthcare to vulnerable and underserved populations, especially children, seniors, and those living in rural areas.

Since it was first implemented, the Action for Dental Health Act has delivered meaningful results. It has enhanced dental services for hardworking American families, strengthened the dental safety net, and brought disease prevention and education programs directly into communities that have been overlooked for far too long.

It has also increased awareness of the importance of oral health to overall health. This is why this reauthorization is so critical.

Congress still has a lot more work to do, especially with dental workforce shortages and the alarming number of adults and children suffering from untreated dental diseases.

According to the American Dental Association, 9 out of 10 dentists report difficulties in recruiting dental hygienists and assistants, a challenge that is particularly difficult in rural areas. As a result, many dental practices are overwhelmed by trying to see their patients in a timely manner.

As a former dentist in my hometown of Blackfoot, Idaho, I have seen firsthand the value of good oral health and the consequences of neglect. For people who don’t have access to dental care, oral health disease is almost 100 percent inevitable. In fact, it is the most common chronic disease affecting children in the United States.

The more dentists can provide patients with an early diagnosis, the better off these patients and our healthcare system will be.

As co-chair of the Congressional Oral Health Caucus, I am in a fortunate position to have the ability to impact the oral health initiatives that deserve to be prioritized.

That is why I thank my colleague from Illinois, Congresswoman KELLY, for her continued leadership on this issue. I was proud to partner with her in 2018 when the Action for Dental Health Act was first passed, and I am pleased to see the House of Representatives working again in a bipartisan fashion to consider this reauthorization.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to getting this important bill across the finish line and sent to the President’s desk, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY), a member of our committee, who has for a long time championed the healthcare concerns of low-income and underserved people.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to speak on my bipartisan bill, H.R. 2001, the Action for Dental Health Act, to reauthorize vital oral health workforce grants through 2030.

Even though it is entirely preventable, tooth decay remains the most prevalent chronic disease among children and adults in this country. Right now, millions of Americans live in communities with a severe shortage of dental health professionals.

This means that kids are forced to grow up with untreated tooth decay, impacting their ability to eat, play, and learn.

It means that adults are skipping care until a simple cavity becomes an infection and an infection becomes an emergency room visit.

It means that seniors are forced to live with toothlessness or chronic dental pain with potentially life-threatening consequences.

Dental health is often an indication of overall health, which is why we must address the barriers to these services and ensure that everyone has access to reliable care. The more we can address early diagnosis, intervention, and preventative dental treatments, the better off our patients and our healthcare system will be.

The Action for Dental Health Act reauthorizes vital funds to grow the oral health workforce, support oral health education, and establish dental homes. Passing this bill is a major step forward. By supporting local organizations and strengthening existing resources, we will expand oral healthcare in underserved communities, reducing dental disease and preventing costly emergency room visits.

I thank my colleague Congressman MIKE SIMPSON of Idaho for his work on this bill. As one of a handful of dentists in Congress, I thank him for his expertise and partnership on such an important effort. I have been proud to work with my colleagues on oral health issues since 2013. I am glad to see bipartisan support on such a critical issue.

Mr. Speaker, let's act now to ensure every American in need has access to quality dental health services.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bipartisan bill. Obviously, dental care is so important.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I agree with my friend from New Jersey. Dental care is important.

I encourage a "yes" vote on the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2001, 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.

PROGRAMS TO PREVENT, DETECT, AND TREAT TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1493) to reauthorize and make improvements to Federal programs relating to the prevention, detection, and treatment of traumatic brain injuries, and for other purposes, as amended.

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

H.R. 1493

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

SECTION 1. PROGRAMS TO PREVENT, DETECT, AND TREAT TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES.

(a) THE BILL PASCRELL, JR., NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SURVEILLANCE AND REGISTRIES.—

(1) PREVENTION OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.—Section 393B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b-1c) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting "and prevalence" after "incidence";

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting "and reduction of associated injuries and fatalities" before the semicolon;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting "and related risk factors" before the semicolon; and

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "2020" each place it appears and inserting "2030"; and

(II) in subparagraph (A)—

(aa) in clause (i), by striking "and" and inserting "of traumatic brain injury";

(bb) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iv);

(cc) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

"(i) populations at higher risk of traumatic brain injury, including populations whose increased risk is due to occupational or circumstantial factors;

"(iii) causes of, and risk factors for, traumatic brain injury; and"; and

(dd) in clause (iv), as so redesignated, by striking "arising from traumatic brain injury" and inserting ", which may include related mental health and other conditions, arising from traumatic brain injury, including"; and

(C) in subsection (c), by inserting ", and other relevant Federal departments and agencies" before the period at the end.

(2) NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SURVEILLANCE AND REGISTRIES.—Section 393C of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b-1d) is amended—

(A) by amending the section heading to read as follows: "THE BILL PASCRELL, JR., NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SURVEILLANCE AND REGISTRIES";

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting "to identify populations that may be at higher risk for traumatic brain injuries, to collect data on the causes of, and risk factors for, traumatic brain injuries," after "related disability";

(ii) in paragraph (1), by inserting ", including the occupation of the individual, when relevant to the circumstances surrounding the injury" before the semicolon; and

(iii) in paragraph (4), by inserting "short- and long-term" before "outcomes";

(C) by striking subsection (b);

(D) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(E) in subsection (b), as so redesignated, by inserting "and evidence-based practices to identify and address concussion" before the period at the end; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

"(c) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall make publicly available aggregated information on traumatic brain injury and concussion described in this section, including on the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Such website, to the extent feasible, shall include aggregated information on populations that may be at higher risk for traumatic brain injuries and strategies for preventing or reducing risk of traumatic brain injury that are tailored to such populations."

gated information on populations that may be at higher risk for traumatic brain injuries and strategies for preventing or reducing risk of traumatic brain injury that are tailored to such populations."

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 394A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b-3) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking "1994, and" and inserting "1994,"; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking "appropriated" and all that follows through "2024" and inserting "appropriated \$9,250,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030".

(b) STATE GRANT PROGRAMS.—

(1) STATE GRANTS FOR PROJECTS REGARDING TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.—Section 1252 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-52) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(2)—

(i) by inserting ", taking into consideration populations that may be at higher risk for traumatic brain injuries" after "outreach programs"; and

(ii) by inserting "Tribal," after "State,";

(B) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

"(3) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—With respect to activities for which a grant awarded under subsection (a) is to be expended, a State or American Indian consortium shall agree to maintain expenditures of non-Federal amounts for such activities at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the State or American Indian consortium for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the State or American Indian consortium receives such a grant."

"(4) WAIVER.—The Secretary may, upon the request of a State or American Indian consortium, waive not more than 50 percent of the matching fund amount under paragraph (1), if the Secretary determines that such matching fund amount would result in an inability of the State or American Indian consortium to carry out the purposes under subsection (a). A waiver provided by the Secretary under this paragraph shall apply only to the fiscal year involved."

(C) in subsection (e)(3)(B)—

(i) by striking "(such as third party payers, State agencies, community-based providers, schools, and educators)"; and

(ii) by inserting "(such as third party payers, State agencies, community-based providers, schools, and educators)" after "professionals";

(D) in subsection (h), by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

"(1) AMERICAN INDIAN CONSORTIUM; STATE.—The terms 'American Indian consortium' and 'State' have the meanings given such terms in section 1253.

"(2) TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the term 'traumatic brain injury'—

"(i) means an acquired injury to the brain;

"(ii) may include—

"(I) brain injuries caused by anoxia due to trauma; and

"(II) damage to the brain from an internal or external source that results in infection, toxicity, surgery, or vascular disorders not associated with aging; and

"(iii) does not include brain dysfunction caused by congenital or degenerative disorders, or birth trauma.

"(B) REVISIONS TO DEFINITION.—The Secretary may revise the definition of the term 'traumatic brain injury' under this paragraph, as the Secretary determines necessary, after consultation with States and other appropriate public or nonprofit private entities."; and

(E) by striking subsection (i).

(2) STATE GRANTS FOR PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SERVICES.—Section 1253 of the Public

Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-53) is amended by striking subsection (1).

(3) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Part E of title XII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-51 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1253 (42 U.S.C. 300d-53) the following:

“SEC. 1253A. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR STATE PROGRAMS RELATING TO TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out sections 1252 and 1253 \$13,118,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.”

(c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that contains—

(1) an overview of populations who may be at higher risk for traumatic brain injury, such as individuals affected by domestic violence or sexual assault and public safety officers as defined in section 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284);

(2) an outline of existing surveys and activities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on traumatic brain injuries and any steps the agency has taken to address gaps in data collection related to such higher risk populations, which may include leveraging surveys such as the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey to collect data on traumatic brain injuries;

(3) an overview of any outreach or education efforts to reach such higher risk populations; and

(4) any challenges associated with reaching such higher risk populations.

(d) **STUDY ON LONG-TERM SYMPTOMS OR CONDITIONS RELATED TO TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall conduct, either directly or through a contract with a nonprofit private entity, a study to—

(A) examine the incidence and prevalence of long-term or chronic symptoms or conditions in individuals who have experienced a traumatic brain injury;

(B) examine the evidence base of research related to the chronic effects of traumatic brain injury across the lifespan;

(C) examine any correlations between traumatic brain injury and increased risk of other conditions, such as dementia and mental health conditions;

(D) assess existing services available for individuals with such long-term or chronic symptoms or conditions; and

(E) identify any gaps in research related to such long-term or chronic symptoms or conditions of individuals who have experienced a traumatic brain injury.

(2) **PUBLIC REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report detailing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study described in paragraph (1); and

(B) in the case that such study is conducted directly by the Secretary, make the report described in subparagraph (A) publicly available on the website of the Department of Health and Human Services.

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

Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1493.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1540

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1493, led by my colleagues Representatives PALLONE and BACON, which would reauthorize HHS programs that allocate resources for traumatic brain injury prevention, improving access to TBI rehabilitation and TBI patient advocacy systems.

TBI is a significant public health burden and a major driver of death and disability. In 2021 alone, there were over 69,000 TBI-related deaths. Though we may make every effort to prevent TBI from occurring in the first place, it is critical that when a TBI occurs, we are prepared and ready to employ resources that support patients in their recovery and rehabilitation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1493, my bill to reauthorize the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 1996.

This bipartisan legislation reauthorizes through fiscal year 2030 the critical Federal programs dedicated to the prevention, detection, treatment, and surveillance of traumatic brain injuries. It also renames the national TBI surveillance program to honor the legacy of my dear friend, the late Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr., of New Jersey, who founded and led the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force for more than two decades after meeting his constituent Dennis Benigno of Clifton, New Jersey, whose son suffered a life-changing traumatic brain injury in a car crash.

The Traumatic Brain Injury Act was signed into law in 1996. At that time, our understanding of these injuries was so limited that public health experts called TBI the silent epidemic, and we did not know how many Americans were affected each year, who was most at risk, or how many people were left with a permanent, life-altering disability.

That first law authorized Federal support and programs to research TBI research and conduct surveillance, both directly and through grants to public and nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Speaker, this initial Federal investment has transformed what we

know now and identified what we still need to do. Because Congress chose to invest, we now know that traumatic brain injury sends more than 214,000 Americans to the hospital in a single year and that it takes roughly 69,000 lives annually, nearly 190 deaths every single day.

We know that more than 5.3 million Americans are living today with a life-long disability caused by a brain injury, and we know who is most at risk: older adults who fall, servicemembers and veterans, athletes on playing fields across the country, victims of domestic violence, and far, far too many children. There is also the economic toll of treating, rehabilitating, and caring for these individuals throughout their lives.

Mr. Speaker, Congress' investment gave us the tools to act on what the data revealed, from concussion guidelines to protect young athletes to targeted prevention for the older Americans who are most likely to be hospitalized. None of that existed before the Federal partnership and Representative Pascrell's leadership. All of that is at risk if we continue to allow this work to lapse.

Since the program's inception in 1996, Congress has reauthorized this act on a bipartisan basis time and again. However, despite bipartisan efforts by our committee to continue reauthorizing these programs, the Federal authorization lapsed in 2024. Without reauthorization, research slows, surveillance weakens, and the support services that patients and families depend on are put in jeopardy. We cannot afford to lose momentum on an issue that touches veterans, athletes, survivors of violence, older adults, and countless other Americans in every one of our districts.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1493 renews three proven programs. First, it reauthorizes the CDC's TBI program, which drives our national research, surveillance, and prevention efforts. Second, it reauthorizes the Administration for Community Living's State partnership grant programs, which helps States, Tribal organizations, and their partners connect survivors to rehabilitation and community-based services. Third, it reauthorizes the State Protection and Advocacy program, which safeguards the rights of Americans living with brain injury.

This is a modest Federal investment with an extraordinary reach. Since 1997, 48 States, 2 territories, and the District of Columbia have used these partnership grants to build the very systems that their residents now rely on.

This bill does not simply extend those programs but strengthens them. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a study and report to Congress on traumatic brain injury, and it directs the CDC to publish information on the populations at highest risk and on the strategies to protect them so that Congress and our

public health officials can respond to the growing needs of these communities with better data and clear priorities.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense, bipartisan bill that benefits all Americans. It advanced out of committee without a single dissenting vote. This bill supports research. It strengthens care, and it helps ensure that Americans living with traumatic brain injuries are not left behind.

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

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill on a bipartisan basis, in part because of how important it is but in part also because it honors my friend Congressman Bill Pascrell.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1493, 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.

EARLY ACT REAUTHORIZATION OF 2025

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4541) to reauthorize the Young Women’s Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4541

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

TITLE I—EARLY ACT REAUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “EARLY Act Reauthorization of 2025”.

SEC. 102. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE YOUNG WOMEN’S BREAST HEALTH EDUCATION AND AWARENESS REQUIRES LEARNING YOUNG ACT OF 2009.

Section 399NN(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280m(h)) is amended by striking “2026” and inserting “2031”.

TITLE II—SCREENS FOR CANCER ACT

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Screening for Communities to Receive Early and Equitable Needed Services for Cancer Act of 2025” or the “SCREENS for Cancer Act of 2025”.

SEC. 202. NATIONAL BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM.

(a) NATIONAL BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM.—Title XV of the

Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300k et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 1501 (42 U.S.C. 300k)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking “the provision of appropriate follow-up services and support services such as case management” and inserting “that appropriate follow-up services are provided”;

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking “programs for the detection and control” and inserting “programs for the prevention, detection, and control”;

(iii) in paragraph (4), by striking “the detection and control” and inserting “the prevention, detection, and control”;

(iv) in paragraph (5)—

(I) by striking “monitor” and inserting “ensure”; and

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

(v) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (9);

(vi) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) to enhance appropriate support activities to increase breast and cervical cancer screenings, such as navigation of health care services, implementation of evidence-based or evidence-informed strategies to increase breast and cervical cancer screening in health care settings, and facilitation of access to health care settings;

“(7) to reduce disparities in breast and cervical cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality, including in populations with higher than average rates;

“(8) to improve access to breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services and reduce related barriers, including factors that relate to negative health outcomes; and”; and

(vii) in paragraph (9), as so redesignated, by striking “through (5)” and inserting “through (8)”; and

(B) by striking subsection (d);

(2) in section 1503 (42 U.S.C. 300m)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “that, initially” and all that follows through the semicolon and inserting “that appropriate breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services are provided consistent with relevant evidence-based recommendations; and”;

(ii) by striking paragraphs (2) and (4);

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

(iv) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(B) by striking subsection (d);

(3) in section 1508(b) (42 U.S.C. 300n-4(b))—

(A) by striking “1 year after the date of the enactment of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Reauthorization of 2007, and annually thereafter,” and inserting “2 years after the date of enactment of the SCREENS for Cancer Act of 2025, and every 5 years thereafter,”;

(B) by striking “Labor and Human Resources” and inserting “Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions”; and

(C) by striking “preceding fiscal year” and inserting “preceding 2 fiscal years in the case of the first report after the date of enactment of the SCREENS for Cancer Act of 2025, and preceding 5 fiscal years for each report thereafter,”; and

(4) in section 1510(a) (42 U.S.C. 300n-5(a))—

(A) by striking “2011, and” and inserting “2011,”; and

(B) by inserting “, and \$235,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030” before the period at the end.

(b) GAO STUDY.—Not later than September 30, 2027, the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives on the work of the

National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, including—

(1) an estimate of the number of individuals eligible for services provided under such program;

(2) a summary of trends in the number of individuals served through such program; and

(3) an assessment of any factors that may be driving the trends identified under paragraph (2), including any barriers to accessing breast and cervical cancer screenings provided by such program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4541.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4541, led by my colleagues Representatives WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and MILLER-MEEKS.

This bill reauthorizes funding for the Young Women’s Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act, which supports critical education, outreach, and provider training efforts through HHS, acting through the CDC to close the gaps between screening and detection of breast cancer in women under the age of 45 and those at high risk.

Breast cancer is the second most common cancer and second leading cause of cancer death among American women, claiming the lives of roughly 42,000 women annually.

The EARLY Act has played a significant role in increasing breast cancer awareness and prevention efforts, and we must vote today to ensure future generations of women continue to benefit from these efforts.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4541, the EARLY Act Reauthorization of 2025.

Breast cancer remains the most common cancer among women, with 321,000 new cases and 42,000 projected deaths just this year alone.

While breast cancer is often thought of as affecting older women, younger women are often diagnosed too late, where treatment options are more limited and, frankly, outcomes are worse.

Approximately 16 percent of all new breast cancer cases occur in women under the age of 50. The importance of early detection simply cannot be overstated.

Women diagnosed at an early stage have survival rates exceeding 99 percent. However, that number can fall to 30 percent when breast cancer is detected at later stages. Despite these realities, younger women between the ages of 25 and 40 continue to face disproportionately high rates of aggressive breast cancers.

The EARLY Act has helped drive national progress in breast cancer awareness, education, and prevention. H.R. 4541 reauthorizes these critical efforts.

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

□ 1550

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), my good friend and a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his work in this regard.

I am proud to co-lead this critical legislation, Mr. Speaker, to reauthorize the Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young, or EARLY Act, a proven lifesaving initiative that promotes early detection and education for young and high-risk women.

Breast cancer remains the most common cancer among women, with over 300,000 new cases and 42,000 projected deaths in 2025.

I have seen the power of early detection up close, Mr. Speaker. Both my mom and my sister are breast cancer survivors. This is a very, very personal issue. It shows how early detection is the most effective tool there is to improve outcomes.

Also included in this legislation is the SCREENS for Cancer Act, which I am proud to co-lead. This legislation reauthorizes the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, expanding services to ensure more Americans, especially those who are low income or underinsured, can receive early lifesaving care.

Mr. Speaker, passing H.R. 4541 is a critical step in ensuring that more Americans have access to early detection services and education. We can prevent needless suffering and needless loss of life.

I thank my co-chair of the House Cancer Caucus, Representative DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for leading the EARLY Act, and Representative MORELLE for his work in leading the SCREENS for Cancer Act.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague. I know he talked about his mom and his sister, but as we all know, those of us who have been here a little bit of time, his brother was our colleague and had cancer as well. We miss him. May God bless his family.

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

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), a fierce advocate and long-term fighter for early breast cancer detection.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

To my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), I was proud to be elected in the same class as his late brother, Mike. He was a good and decent man, someone who always reached across the aisle. I was really fortunate to be able to serve with him and with the current Congressman FITZPATRICK. I thank him for continuing the fight against cancer with us.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in strong support of my bipartisan bill, the Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act, or the EARLY Act Reauthorization of 2025.

First, I thank Chairman GUTHRIE and Ranking Member PALLONE for their strong support of this legislation, because one in eight American women, as you have heard, will get breast cancer, and 42,000 are expected to lose their life from it this year.

The earlier it is caught, the better our chances are to survive and beat it. When breast cancer is caught in its earliest stage, survival rates shoot up to 99 percent.

Trust me. I know catching it early saved my life.

Almost 18 years ago, when I was just 41 years old, I heard those four harrowing words: "You have breast cancer." I can tell you, I remember feeling like I was being crushed by an anvil.

Like many Ashkenazi Jewish women, I found out I carry the BRCA2 gene mutation, making me far more likely to get breast cancer and ovarian cancer during my lifetime, and far more likely for recurrence.

After 15 months and many surgeries and tons of support from family and close friends, I was cancer-free. Finding it early saved my life, and now we have generational awareness of this genetic risk in my family.

Millions of young women need these same tools, so once I was cancer-free, I passed the original EARLY Act, which became law in 2010. Since it first became law, breast cancer cases have steadily risen by 1.4 percent annually for women under 50, twice the rate of older women, and by as much as 3.5 percent in women between 20 and 29.

The law created three CDC programs that helped young and high-risk women focus on breast cancer risks and address the reality of rising breast cancer rates in young women.

The Bring Your Brave campaign amplifies stories to raise awareness in young women 18 to 44 about unique risks, signs, and symptoms.

The Young Breast Cancer Survivors Program funds grants for nonprofits that provide support services and resources to boost patient survival and their quality of life.

It also ensures healthcare providers know the unique challenges that breast cancer poses to young and high-risk women. Unfortunately, too many young women and high-risk women are dismissed by healthcare providers thinking, "Oh, what you have is just a cyst," or, "Young women don't get breast cancer."

The bottom line is reauthorizing the EARLY Act saves women's lives, and I am proud to team up with Representatives MILLER-MEEKS, CASTOR, FITZPATRICK, DINGELL, and HARSHBARGER, and Senators KLOBUCHAR and CRAPO, to make sure those resources are out there for all of us.

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

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, early detection is our most powerful tool to beat cancer. It can be the difference between life and death, especially in combating breast cancer, especially for those with inherited mutations and women at higher risk, like Black women, for whom a deadlier form of breast cancer known as triple negative is more likely.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, the Senate to quickly pass it, and the President to make it law. Breast cancer diagnoses are on the rise in younger women, and we must meet this moment.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4541, 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. GUTHRIE. 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.

DEONDRA DIXON INCLUDE PROJECT ACT OF 2025

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3491) to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a program of research, training, and investigation related to Down syndrome, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3491

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 “DeOndra Dixon INCLUDE Project Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. DEONDRA DIXON INCLUDE PROJECT.

Part B of title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 409K. DOWN SYNDROME RESEARCH.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIH shall carry out a program of research, training, and investigation related to Down syndrome to be known as the ‘INvestigation of Co-occurring conditions across the Lifespan to Understand Down syndromeE Project’ or the ‘INCLUDE Project’.

“(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The program under subsection (a) shall include—

“(1) high-risk, high-reward research on the effects of trisomy 21 on human development and health;

“(2) promoting research for participants with Down syndrome across the lifespan, including cohort studies to facilitate improved understanding of Down syndrome and co-occurring conditions and development of new interventions;

“(3) expanding the number of clinical trials that are inclusive of, or expressly for, participants with Down syndrome, including novel biomedical and pharmacological interventions and other therapies designed to promote or enhance activities of daily living;

“(4) research on the biological mechanisms in individuals with Down syndrome pertaining to structural, functional, and behavioral anomalies and dysfunction as well as stunted growth;

“(5) supporting research to improve diagnosis and treatment of conditions co-occurring with Down syndrome, including the identification of biomarkers related to risk factors, diagnosis, and clinical research and therapeutics;

“(6) research on the causes of increased prevalence, and concurrent treatment, of co-occurring conditions, such as Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias and autoimmunity, in individuals with Down syndrome; and

“(7) research, training, and investigation on improving the quality of life of individuals with Down syndrome and their families.

“(c) COORDINATION; PRIORITIZING NON-DUPLICATIVE RESEARCH.—The Director of NIH shall ensure that—

“(1) the programs and activities of the institutes and centers of the National Institutes of Health relating to Down syndrome and co-occurring conditions are coordinated, including through the Office of the Director of NIH and priority-setting reviews conducted pursuant to section 402(b)(3); and

“(2) such institutes and centers, prioritize, as appropriate, Down syndrome research that does not duplicate existing research activities of the National Institutes of Health.

“(d) CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.—In carrying out activities under this section, the Director of NIH shall, as appropriate and to the maximum extent feasible, consult with relevant stakeholders, including patient advocates, to ensure that such activities take into consideration the needs of individuals with Down syndrome.

“(e) BIENNIAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIH shall submit, on a biennial basis, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, a report that catalogs

the research conducted or supported under this section.

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) identification of the institute or center involved;

“(B) a statement of whether the research is or was being carried out directly by such institute or center or by multiple institutes and centers; and

“(C) identification of any resulting real-world evidence that is or may be used for clinical research and medical care for patients with Down syndrome.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and include extraneous material on H.R. 3491.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3491, led by my colleagues Representatives DEGETTE and HUDSON.

This bill would authorize the INCLUDE Project at the National Institutes of Health, which advances research into Down syndrome to improve the health and quality of life of individuals with Down syndrome and their families.

This project investigates conditions that affect people with Down syndrome, as well as the general public, with a hope of improving our understanding of the condition and advancing the quality-of-life outcomes for individuals with Down syndrome and patients facing similar medical issues.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, my bill with Representative HUDSON, the DeOndra Dixon INCLUDE Project Act, codifies the renaissance in Down syndrome research at NIH that was kicked off when the INCLUDE Project began in 2018. This bill sustains and encourages this critical research.

After being left behind by NIH for nearly 20 years, the Down syndrome community is finally seeing research advancements that will extend and improve their lives. What we learn from this research will not only help us better understand Down syndrome but also heart disease, Alzheimer’s, cancer, and many co-occurring conditions.

I am so proud that much of this work is happening right in my home district of Denver, Colorado. The Crnic Insti-

tute for Down syndrome on the Anschutz Medical Campus leads more than 200 scientists at the largest Down syndrome research facility in the world. They see incredible breakthroughs every day.

This type of innovation puts science first and benefits not only individuals living with Down syndrome and their families but every single one of us because we are learning more and more about disease biology and just why some conditions work differently in people with Down syndrome.

It is why the bill passed the House last Congress with unanimous support. I am so happy that I was able to work for many years with my friend, the former chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, on this bill in the last Congress. I know it is a labor of love and deeply personal for her family and every family that has been touched by Down syndrome.

It has been an honor to also work with my constituent, Michelle Sie Whitten, the president of the Quincy Jones Exceptional Advocacy Award, a driving force for this bill, and a fierce advocate for her daughter and everyone with Down syndrome. It has also been an honor to work with my friend and colleague Representative HUDSON, whose dedication to the Down syndrome community has been essential to push this bill closer to the finish line. I simply could not have had a better partner on this issue.

The INCLUDE Project Act will ensure that critical Down syndrome research continues to advance. This year, it must finally be enacted into law.

I urge my colleagues to join Representative HUDSON and me to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), another great advocate for this bill.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Colorado for yielding.

I rise in strong support of the DeOndra Dixon INCLUDE Project Act and applaud my colleagues, Representative DIANA DEGETTE and RICHARD HUDSON, for championing this critical piece of legislation.

The DeOndra Dixon INCLUDE Project Act will help ensure the NIH INCLUDE Project continues advancing research that improves health outcomes, expands scientific understanding, and enhances quality of life for individuals with Down syndrome and their families.

This legislation builds upon one of our Nation’s most successful investments in Down syndrome research. Already, these investments have led to major breakthroughs in how Down syndrome interacts with other health conditions that have a high incidence in the community, such as immune system disorders, cancer, Alzheimer’s, and more.

Every one of these breakthroughs carries the hope for a brighter tomorrow for individuals living with Down syndrome.

I would also like to recognize that this progress doesn't happen without sustained advocacy. In particular, I would like to highlight the role of the Quincy Jones Exceptional Advocacy Award and its founder, Michelle Sie Whitten, for their tireless advocacy to make this happen today.

I again thank our co-leads, Representatives DEGETTE and HUDSON, for their outstanding leadership. I look forward to supporting this measure on the House floor.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I encourage a "yes" vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Deondra Dixon INCLUDE Project Act of 2025. I was incredibly proud to support this bill as it made its way through the legislative process in the Energy and Commerce Committee, and I am looking forward to it passing with bipartisan support on the House floor.

This legislation provides statutory authority to a project that the NIH has already been carrying out for nearly a decade to investigate the co-occurring conditions that impact Americans with Down Syndrome and their quality-of-life needs. For far too long, federal investment into Down Syndrome has paced behind need. Individuals with Down Syndrome are among our most precious vulnerable citizens—they deserve this nation's support.

I also want to recognize the efforts of a fellow Coloradan who was instrumental in advancing this bill: Michelle Sie Whitten. As President and CEO of the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, Michelle has been a titan of advocacy in the Down Syndrome world. As the mother of a child with Down Syndrome, she has harnessed her love for the folks in this community and channeled it into action—raising millions of dollars for research and serving as a voice for those with Down Syndrome. It is safe to say that we would not be here voting on this bill if not for her tireless work and effort. I want to personally thank Michelle for her leadership and once again reiterate my support for this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3491.

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.

NIH IMPLEMENTING A MATERNAL HEALTH AND PREGNANCY OUTCOMES VISION FOR EVERYONE ACT

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6238) to establish the IMPROVE Initiative within the National Institutes of Health, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6238

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 "NIH Implementing a Maternal health and PRegnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone Act" or the "NIH IMPROVE Act".

SEC. 2. IMPROVE INITIATIVE.

Part B of title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 409K. IMPROVE INITIATIVE.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIH shall continue to carry out a program to improve maternal health outcomes, to be known as the Implementing a Maternal health and PRegnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone Initiative or the 'IMPROVE Initiative' (referred to in this section as the 'Initiative')."

"(b) OBJECTIVES.—The Initiative shall—

"(1) advance research to—

"(A) reduce preventable causes of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity;

"(B) reduce health disparities related to maternal health outcomes, including such disparities associated with populations with disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity relative to the national rate; and

"(C) improve health for pregnant and postpartum women before, during, and after pregnancy;

"(2) use an integrated approach to understand the factors, including biological, behavioral, and other factors, that affect maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity by building an evidence base for improved outcomes in specific regions of the United States; and

"(3) target health disparities associated with maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity by—

"(A) implementing and evaluating community-based interventions for disproportionately affected women; and

"(B) identifying risk factors and the underlying biological mechanisms associated with leading causes of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity in the United States.

"(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Director of NIH may award grants or enter into contracts, cooperative agreements, or other transactions to carry out this section.

"(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$63,400,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and include extraneous material on H.R. 6238.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6238, led by my colleagues Representatives UNDERWOOD and FITZPATRICK, which authorizes the Implementing a Maternal health and PRegnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone Initiative within the National Institutes of Health.

According to CDC estimates, more than 80 percent of the pregnancy-related deaths and roughly half of the severe maternal morbidity events could be prevented.

That is why it is so essential for us to advance the IMPROVE Initiative, which supports research into identifying and reducing preventable causes of maternal death and ways to improve maternal health outcomes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, shockingly, the U.S. has the highest rate of maternal mortality among developed nations in this entire world. What is worse is that the mortality rates for women of color are exponentially higher than those of the general population. Black women die from pregnancy-related causes at rates at least three times those of White women, and that is irrespective of socioeconomic status or income.

It is appalling that this statistic has emerged from data collection by State maternal mortality review committees. Congress affirmed its support for these committees in February by reauthorizing my bill, the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act.

Thanks to this enduring bipartisan commitment, we have identified the problem, that 649 women died of maternal causes in the U.S. in 2024. Now that we have identified the problem, we need to work together to solve it.

Mr. Speaker, 80 to 84 percent of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable. The IMPROVE Initiative at NIH investigates the leading cause of these deaths, supports the development of interventions to prevent them, and importantly identifies factors that contribute to disparities in maternal health. We must not let this critical program lapse.

I thank Representatives UNDERWOOD and FITZPATRICK for their undying and wonderful leadership on this bill, as well as my friend and colleague ROBIN KELLY, who has been a leader on this issue for more than a decade.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us in passing the bill today because no pregnancy-related death is acceptable in the richest nation in the world. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), my good friend. He is a member of the Ways and Means and Intel Committees and is really passionate about these issues.

My friend from Colorado has touched on this. It is something that we absolutely have to get to the bottom of. I am very thankful for the leadership of the gentlewoman from Illinois and the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of our legislation, H.R. 6238, the NIH IMPROVE Act.

Mr. Speaker, this critical legislation will ensure consistent funding for research on maternal care and mortality. So many maternal deaths in America are preventable. Addressing that reality demands research that is stable, long term, and grounded in measurable outcomes.

The NIH IMPROVE Act locks in the dedicated funding that NIH's maternal health portfolio so desperately needs to track outcomes over time, evaluate what works in high-risk settings, and direct resources to the communities facing the greatest challenges.

This bipartisan legislation strengthens a proven NIH initiative and ensures that mothers across our Nation will benefit from research that saves lives and improves care through the entire pregnancy journey.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague Representative UNDERWOOD for her leadership on this critical piece of legislation to ensure that improvements to maternal health across our Nation continue and are strengthened.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, H.R. 6238.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD), the sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the NIH IMPROVE Act.

This bipartisan bill, co-led by Congressman FITZPATRICK, will provide consistent funding for research on maternal mortality.

The United States has the highest pregnancy-related death rate of any high-income country, and Black women are dying at the highest rate of all.

The crisis is only getting worse. Over the past two decades, maternal mortality rates have more than doubled, and disparities have worsened.

□ 1610

What is both frustrating and promising is that over 80 percent of these deaths are preventable.

That is why in 2019 I worked with NIH to start the IMPROVE initiative, which stands for Implementing a Maternal health and PRenancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone. Through IMPROVE, we are making smart investments in evidence-based solutions

that save moms' lives and advance birth equity.

Over the past 7 years, IMPROVE has invested more than \$200 million in life-saving research that will help end our Nation's maternal health crisis. These investments have already been made all across the country, from Utah to Alabama, Mississippi to Pennsylvania, and to my home State of Illinois. It is already allowing more moms to survive and thrive, and my bill will ensure that this funding keeps flowing to the communities that need it the most.

The NIH IMPROVE Act is one of the 14 bills that make up the omnibus, a comprehensive package of evidence-based, data-driven bills that address every driver of maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities in the United States.

I know all my colleagues agree that no mom should feel fear or uncertainty about her pregnancy. So, today, I urge them to pass the NIH IMPROVE Act. After that, we are going to keep it going until the entire omnibus is signed into law. Together, we can end this crisis and keep moms alive.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GUTHRIE and Mr. PALLONE for their support for this legislation.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. In closing, I urge a "yes" vote on this legislation. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favor of the NIH IMPROVE Act.

One of my core beliefs that has led to my work in Congress is that health care is our most basic human right. Yet, in our country, we see some of the worst disparities in health care access and outcomes. The maternal health crisis is no exception.

Black women are two to three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than other women. Women living in rural areas are losing access to local labor and delivery units, as more rural hospitals close their maternity wards.

This has not only delayed care but has led to worsening outcomes. Our country's maternal mortality rate is higher than any other high-income country in the world. Over 80 percent of these deaths are preventable. We can and must do better.

We have made substantial progress in understanding and addressing this crisis through the NIH IMPROVE Initiative. In early 2019, Congresswoman UNDERWOOD and I met with then-Director of the National Institutes of Health to urge the agency to do more to address the maternal health crisis.

In response, the NIH launched the IMPROVE Initiative later that year, which stands for Implementing a Maternal Health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone. The IMPROVE Initiative supports research to reduce preventable causes of maternal deaths and improve health for women before, during, and after pregnancy.

It includes a special emphasis on health disparities and populations that are disproportionately affected, such as racial and ethnic minorities, very young women and women of ad-

vanced maternal age, women living in rural areas, and people with disabilities.

THE IMPROVE Initiative has funded:

Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence—two of which are housed at HBCUs;

Research projects on social determinants of maternal health, the impact of community violence on maternal health outcomes, and structural racism and discrimination; and

The development of new home-based and point-of-care diagnostic devices for postpartum care.

Through the federal appropriations process, Congress has quintupled funding for the Initiative since it was first launched.

However, it has not yet been put into statute, which would ensure the longevity of the program and maintain consistent funding to address maternal mortality.

The bill would authorize \$53.4 million every year for seven years. With that funding, the program will continue to investigate disparities in maternal health care, and develop ways to improve care and outcomes, including in our underserved maternal care deserts.

For too long, families in our country have faced the devastating losses of mothers to pregnancy-related causes. And too often these deaths have been completely preventable.

This is personal to me. My daughter, Jeanelle, almost lost her life to this crisis. Her doctor dismissed her pain and concerns, and by the time her medical team finally responded, it was almost too late.

That dismissal and delay in care is a story I hear far too often from other mothers, especially Black mothers. Jeanelle is one of the tens of thousands of women who've experienced "near misses" with pregnancy-related complications. That experience made me think about what it means to be a mom.

Jeanelle is my daughter, a sister, and the mother of two amazing children—she's also a dedicated contributor to her community.

Mothers everywhere, like Jeanelle, are calling on Congress to do everything we can to better understand this crisis, so we can fix this crisis.

Dedicated research funding is the way to do that. This bill was reported out of the Energy and Commerce Committee with unanimous support. It is bipartisan and bicameral.

Passing the NIH IMPROVE Act today signifies Congress's united commitment to all mothers across our country that we can and will do better. We will deliver for our moms—because our moms can't wait.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6238, 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.

ACCELERATING ACCESS TO CRITICAL THERAPIES FOR ALS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2026

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 8205) to amend the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act to reauthorize the provisions of such Act through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8205

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 “Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Reauthorization Act of 2026”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF ACCELERATING ACCESS TO CRITICAL THERAPIES FOR ALS ACT.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 7 of the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act (Public Law 117–79) is amended by striking “2026” and inserting “2031”.

(b) *GRANTS FOR ALS RESEARCH.*—Section 2(f) of the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act (21 U.S.C. 360ee note) is amended by striking “2026” and inserting “2031”.

SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENTS TO PROGRAM FOR GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON THERAPIES FOR ALS.

(a) *RENEWAL OF GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON THERAPIES FOR ALS REVIEW.*—Section 2(b) of the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act (21 U.S.C. 360ee note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) *RENEWAL OF GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON THERAPIES FOR ALS REVIEW.*—In reviewing applications for renewals of a grant awarded under this section with respect to an investigational drug, the Secretary shall request from the manufacturer or sponsor, and assess, the enrollment, safety, and any available efficacy data relating to the investigational drug in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, or cure of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.”.

(b) *REPORTING SAFETY DATA.*—Section 2(c) of the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act (21 U.S.C. 360ee note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “and” at the end;

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

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) the entity seeking such grant will promptly report any new and serious adverse events and safety information that is considered to be unexpected with respect to the phase 3 trial to the grant-making institution, in addition to complying with the safety reporting requirements under section 312.32 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).”.

(c) *CLARIFYING PARTICIPATING CLINICAL TRIAL DEFINITION.*—Section 2(e) of the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act (21 U.S.C. 360ee note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) The term ‘phase 3’, with respect to a clinical trial, includes a phase 2/3 combined trial that begins enrollment within a timeframe, determined by the Secretary through the terms and conditions of the grant awarded under this section.”.

SEC. 4. FDA RARE NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE ACTION PLAN.

Section 4 of the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act (21 U.S.C. 360aa note) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “ALS AND OTHER RARE NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE ACTION PLAN” and inserting “FDA RARE NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE ACTION PLAN”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) *FDA RARE NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE ACTION PLAN.*—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Accelerating

Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Reauthorization Act of 2026, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs shall publish on the website of the Food and Drug Administration an action plan that includes a description of the actions that the Food and Drug Administration intends to take during the 5-year period following publication of the action plan with respect to the program enhancements, policy development, regulatory science initiatives, and other appropriate initiatives described in subsection (a).

“(2) *REPORT.*—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Reauthorization Act of 2026, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs shall publish on the website of the Food and Drug Administration a report that describes the actions taken by the Food and Drug Administration under the action plan published under paragraph (1) and the extent to which such action plan meets the requirements specified in paragraph (1).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and to include extraneous material on H.R. 8205.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8205 led by my colleagues, Representative QUIGLEY and Representative CALVERT.

H.R. 8205 reauthorizes the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Reauthorization Act, which has supported critical research and development for ALS therapies. The ACT for ALS program has worked to expand access to key therapies for both individuals with ALS and those with other rare neurodegenerative conditions. It is imperative that we pass this bill today to continue advancing research and therapeutic development in the fight against this disease.

To my fellow Americans living with ALS and their caregivers, Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to let them know that I recognize their resilience and their commitment to a better future for themselves and other patients with ALS. Mr. Speaker, I want them to know that I stand with them, and I ask that my colleagues do the same.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, about 5,000 Americans are diagnosed with ALS every year. It is a disease that causes the nervous system to stop working and die, leading to muscle weakness and eventually paralysis. Essentially, when someone gets the diagnosis, it is a death sentence.

I am all too familiar with this disease and its rapid progression because in 1996, I lost my father-in-law to ALS.

The original Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act passed in 2021 and unleashed incredible Federal resources to improve our understanding of this relentless disease in search of a cure. It revolutionized the way FDA uses real-world evidence to foster the development of ALS therapeutics and gave patients a chance to try investigational drugs for rare neurodegenerative diseases.

We have the opportunity today to ensure ALS patients can continue to access promising new therapies, and our preeminent biomedical research institutions can continue to work towards a cure. This reauthorization will provide the continuing statutory basis for the great work that the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act began, and it couldn't come at a better moment.

We have seen immense research progress in the 5 years since passage. Health Subcommittee members here today heard from Brian Wallach and Sandra Abrevaya in our hearing on this bill a few months ago when they told us with no uncertainty how important it is for people facing down this cruel disease that we keep this momentum going.

Brian and Sandra are an inspiration to all of us and to people everywhere who are seeking cures for these terrible diseases.

I want to tell Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY that his unwavering leadership on the original Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act and this reauthorization is saving and improving lives. I thank them for putting us on the path of finding a cure for ALS.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY), who is the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Colorado for her kind remarks.

Mr. Speaker, several years ago, a Chicagoan named Brian Wallach came to my office and shared the fact that he was just diagnosed with ALS, a devastating disease that steals a person's ability to move or speak.

The average life expectancy at the time with someone diagnosed with ALS was 2 to 5 years. When Brian came to visit us in Congress, that was the reality he was facing.

He cofounded an organization called I AM ALS with his wife, Sandra Abrevaya. Sandra's life changed overnight, too when she became an ALS caretaker. Since then, she cofounded a company to improve the care of people living with ALS.

This awe-inspiring couple came to my office with a big idea to advance ALS research and access to treatments. After meeting with Brian and Sandra, I was convinced that ALS was not incurable. The research was just underfunded. I was moved by their dedication to each other and the cause.

Like too many families across the country, my family has been touched by neurodegenerative disease. I lost my father to Parkinson's. However, since I started working on the first Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act, there hasn't been one Member of Congress whom I talked to who didn't have a personal story or know the impact of one of these diseases.

Our bipartisan work on the first Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act broke through the bitter politics that can divide this place. I believe we have the opportunity to do that again today.

In the last 5 years, ACT for ALS programs have helped people living with ALS to access promising therapies. They have created new methods for researchers to share their work and sustain critical natural history studies.

Since we passed the first bill 5 years ago, we have been able to secure over \$350 million in Federal funding for these programs. Today, we are voting on a bill to extend these programs for 5 more years.

To everyone living with ALS who has advocated for this bill, I hope today's vote shows that Congress hears you and we are here for you and that, every once in a while, we break through. At those moments, I am proud to serve here.

To Brian who is still with us fighting the disease and Sandra: Thank you for your tireless advocacy and big dreams.

Finally, I thank Representative KEN CALVERT for his work on this with me in the House, and Senators CHRIS COONS and LISA MURKOWSKI for their work in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I will mention Brian and Sandra testified before our committee. When I was first elected to Congress, the Ensor family from Bullitt County, Kentucky, came to see me, and I got to know Mitch. I went to his funeral services, unfortunately. I was touched by his family, which is why this bill is important to me.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage everybody to vote for this bill. There may be a procedural call on this bill. This bill will pass this week. I look forward to seeing it pass, being sent to the Senate, and hopefully signed into law very soon.

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the ACT for ALS Reauthorization Act, H.R. 8205, legislation that will reauthorize programs that support research and development of drugs and other therapies to address ALS.

It is hard to believe, but the original ACT for ALS Act was signed into law a little less than five years ago. As a Co-Chair of the bipartisan ALS Caucus, I saw first-hand the effort to get that landmark legislation across the finish line

was the result of the passion and determination of the ALS advocacy community.

The passage of the ACT for ALS Act authorized key programs to expand access to new investigational drugs and grants for research of this terrible disease. Working with my Appropriations Committee colleagues, the ALS Caucus, and ALS advocates, we have been successful at making historic investments into these programs.

In Fiscal Year 2022, Congress invested nearly \$30 million in ACT for ALS programs. That number increased nearly 200 percent in Fiscal Year 2025 to \$86 million—nearly matching the \$100 million authorization cap enshrined into law. Since the initial passage, the law has demonstrably sped infrastructure, access, and targeted progress.

By reauthorizing the ACT for ALS, the trajectory is hopeful due to better tools, data, and collaboration. ALS patients and families are relying on us not to lose momentum and to build upon hopeful progress and someday find a cure for this devastating illness.

I want to thank my ALS Caucus Members, including the bill's sponsor Representative QUIGLEY, for their work. I want to give my heartfelt appreciation, once again, to the ALS advocacy community and the families who have been forever changed by ALS. I urge all of my colleagues to stand with these families, give them hope, and pass the ACT for ALS Reauthorization Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8205, 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. GUTHRIE. 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.

PUTTING PATIENTS FIRST BY STRENGTHENING PROVIDER ACCOUNTABILITY IN FECA ACT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8823) to amend the Federal Employees Compensation Act to allow the Secretary of Labor to suspend payments to medical providers who have been convicted of fraud, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8823

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 "Putting Patients First by Strengthening Provider Accountability in FECA Act".

SEC. 2. FRAUD CONVICTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8103 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "These expenses" and inserting "Subject to subsection (c), these expenses";

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "The Secretary, under" and inserting "Subject to subsection (c), the Secretary, under"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(c)(1) The Secretary of Labor may suspend payments to a provider of services, appliances, or supplies furnished pursuant to subsection (a), or vouchers or certifications described in subsection (b) for the expenses incurred by the employing agency with respect to such a provider, if the provider has been convicted of fraud with respect to—

"(A) this subchapter;

"(B) any Federal health care benefit program (as defined in section 24 of title 18, United States Code); or

"(C) any State program for which payments are made to providers for services, appliances, or supplies similar to such services, appliances, or supplies provided pursuant to this subchapter.

"(2) The Secretary shall promulgate regulations to carry out this subsection."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to payments made to a provider of services, appliances, or supplies on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 8823.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8823, bipartisan legislation that protects both taxpayers and the Federal employees who rely on the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, when they are injured on the job.

Federal workers who are navigating an injury deserve timely, honest, and compassionate care, not to become the target of fraud. Programs like FECA exist to ensure these workers receive the medical treatment and support they need to recover.

Unfortunately, some bad actors have exploited that trust. Instead of following through on the responsibility to care for injured workers, certain medical providers have treated FECA like a personal ATM: submitting fraudulent claims, abusing the system, and enriching themselves at the expense of both taxpayers and the very people they were entrusted to help.

The Office of Inspector General recently testified before Congress that since 2015, it has opened more than 320 criminal investigations involving the FECA program. These investigations have resulted in the indictment and

conviction of 322 individuals and more than \$1.7 billion in recovered funds.

This is unacceptable. Every fraudulent claim weakens the program that countless injured Federal employees depend on. Every act of deception undermines confidence in a system that exists to support workers during a difficult moment in their lives.

H.R. 8823 delivers a straightforward, commonsense solution. It codifies existing Department of Labor policy to prevent medical providers who are convicted of defrauding FECA from continuing to receive taxpayer-funded payments through the program. If someone has been found guilty of exploiting injured workers and stealing public funds, they should not continue to profit from the very program they abused.

This legislation sends a clear message, Mr. Speaker: If you cheat taxpayers, exploit injured workers, and abuse the public trust, there will be consequences.

Fraud should have no place in our workers' compensation system. Ambulance-chasing schemes and dishonest providers have taken advantage of this program for far too long. Today, we have the opportunity to put an end to that abuse and reaffirm that these funds are meant to serve injured workers, not line the pockets of fraudsters.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 8823 and tell these scammers that their payday is over.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8823, Putting Patients First by Strengthening Provider Accountability in FECA Act.

Providers are the greatest source of fraud in the Federal Employees' Compensation Act program, otherwise known as FECA. For example, during this committee's oversight of the opioid crisis, we learned about corrupt compounding pharmacies that were crushing up pills and putting them into creams, even though the medicines in those pills were not absorbed through the skin. A 15-ounce tube of this useless cream got charged to the FECA program for \$15,000.

Existing rules allow the Department of Labor to strike a provider from the list of eligible providers in the FECA program when they are convicted of fraud in any public health program. Those rules do not enable the Department to stop payment on any claims that a convicted provider has already submitted prior to the conviction. That could amount to millions of dollars in claims with a high risk of fraud moving through the system.

There are, of course, due process issues that could arise, but this bill already contemplates those issues by empowering the Department of Labor to develop appropriate rules for implementing the new authority. All in all, this bill closes an important gap and protects taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to my colleagues Representatives OMAR and MACKENZIE on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MACKENZIE), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections and the author of this legislation.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8823, the Putting Patients First By Strengthening Provider Accountability in FECA Act, which I am leading alongside my colleague, Representative OMAR.

H.R. 8823 amends the FECA program, or the Federal Employees Compensation Act, to codify the Department of Labor's ability to suspend payments to medical care providers who have been convicted of fraud with respect to this program.

Each year, the FECA program provides benefits to hundreds of thousands of injured Federal workers. This is their system, and they deserve for it to operate efficiently, reliably, and effectively. That requires us to establish commonsense protections against bad actors who would abuse FECA and rip off the Federal workers in the process.

Throughout this year, we have heard numerous concerning reports of providers targeting Federal programs with fraudulent schemes, and FECA is no exception.

□ 1630

As chair of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, I held a hearing in which we heard from those who testified about fraud costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, money that could have gone toward providing quality care to Federal workers who were injured.

This is unacceptable. Every dollar that goes to a fraudulent provider is one less dollar going toward providing high-quality medical care to an injured Federal worker. That is why when a provider is convicted of fraud, the Department of Labor should have clear authority to shut down the flow of taxpayer dollars that was going into their pockets.

Currently, DOL has the authority to suspend payments to medical providers who are convicted of fraudulent activity. This authority has not been codified and could be rescinded at any time. When it comes to protecting taxpayers and injured workers, our laws must be clear: No dollars should go to fraudulent providers now or at any point in the future.

That is why H.R. 8823 gives DOL the permanent authority to block bad actors from hijacking the system that Federal workers rely on. H.R. 8823 does not aim to restrict access to medical care for our injured Federal employees. Instead, this bill helps ensure that care is only delivered by providers who meet clear standards of professional and ethical conduct.

It is time that we give taxpayers and Federal workers the commonsense, bipartisan protections that they deserve. That is why I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, this simple, bipartisan bill protects taxpayers. It does so without weakening the FECA program. It simply targets truly bad actors, corrupt physicians, pharmacists, and other providers who exploit injured Federal workers and rip off the FECA program.

This is an example of the kind of reform that makes sense. We are not saving money by turning our backs on the people who need these benefits. Instead, we are focusing the attention where it ought to be, on the providers who profit off workers' pain unlawfully.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, families across the Nation carefully budget every dollar they earn to provide for themselves and their loved ones. When they send their tax dollars to Washington, they deserve to know that their hard-earned money is being managed with the same discipline and responsibility.

The American people expect us to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. They work hard, pay their taxes, and deserve to know that those funds are not lining the pockets of fraudsters who exploit the system for personal gain.

Fraud is never a victimless crime. It steals taxpayer dollars and diverts funds away from those they are intended to serve. Every dollar lost to fraud is a dollar that cannot be used to provide legitimate care for injured workers or fulfill commitments we have made to them.

Congress has a responsibility to protect both the integrity of our programs and the taxpayers who fund them. That means ensuring there are real consequences for those who abuse the public's trust and preventing them from continuing to do so. It also means taking commonsense steps to strengthen accountability and safeguard the programs that millions rely upon.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8823 does exactly that. It helps ensure that providers who have been convicted of defrauding the Federal Employees' Compensation Act program cannot continue to be allowed to profit from the very program they exploited.

This is a straightforward measure that protects taxpayers, strengthens accountability, and preserves the integrity of an important program for injured Federal workers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, stand up for responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars, and vote "yes" on H.R. 8823.

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 Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8823, 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. WALBERG. 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.

VALUE OVER COST ACT OF 2026

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1118) to amend title 41, United States Code, and title 10, United States Code, to provide best value through the multiple award schedule program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1118

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 “Value Over Cost Act of 2026”.

SEC. 2. PROVIDING BEST VALUE THROUGH THE MULTIPLE AWARD SCHEDULE PROGRAM.

Section 152(3)(B) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking “lowest overall cost alternative” and inserting “best value”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURLISON. 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I support the Value Over Cost Act, H.R. 1118, which modernizes the General Services Administration's governmentwide Multiple Award Schedule program.

GSA's Multiple Award Schedule program is the Federal Government's most-used contracting procedure for commercial products and services. Federal agencies rely on the Multiple Award Schedule to purchase the best commercial products, services, and solutions at the best price.

Currently, GSA is required to evaluate the “lowest overall cost alter-

native” when determining what will be available on the Multiple Award Schedule. This requires a burdensome process that can actually lead to higher prices over time as contractors pass hidden administrative or ongoing support costs along to the Federal Government.

This bill allows GSA to consider awarding contracts based on the best value instead of the lowest overall cost alternative.

This reform mirrors a change that was made in fiscal year 2026 in the National Defense Authorization Act, putting the civilian agencies on equal footing with our defense agencies.

This bill will maximize the Federal Government's ability to get the best value when procuring modern technology.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives BYRON DONALDS and JARED MOSKOWITZ for their leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this targeted government efficiency bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1118, the Value Over Cost Act of 2026, as well.

The GSA maintains a list of goods and services that they can order from vendors called the Multiple Award Schedule. This simplified process allows the government to make orders quickly and get discounts for bulk purchases.

The Value Over Cost Act would clarify that the government can choose these contracts based on best quality, not just lowest cost. These are known as best value contracts.

This is a commonsense bill that will make sure the Federal Government spends its dollars wisely while delivering for the American people the services they need.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important governmentwide procurement reform bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1118, 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. BURLISON. 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.

□ 1640

ENSURING FEDERAL PURCHASING EFFICIENCY ACT

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7283) to amend title 41, United States Code, to amend the time period for certain acquisition-related dollar thresholds.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7283

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Ensuring Federal Purchasing Efficiency Act”.

SEC. 2. ENSURING FEDERAL PURCHASING EFFICIENCY THROUGH ADJUSTMENT OF CERTAIN ACQUISITION-RELATED DOLLAR THRESHOLDS EVERY 3 YEARS.

Section 1908(c)(2) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking “of each year evenly divisible by 5” and inserting “, 2028, and every 3 years thereafter”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURLISON. 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Ensuring Federal Purchasing Efficiency Act is a simple, commonsense reform to government procurement.

The Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council is required to adjust certain dollar thresholds, such as the simplified acquisition threshold, every 5 years. However, everyone has seen how quickly the value of money can move in just 5 years.

This bill would simply require these thresholds to be updated every 3 years instead of every 5 years.

These dollar thresholds define the applicability of different policies, procedures, and restrictions to the procurement of property or services needed by Federal agencies to achieve their missions.

Raising these dollar thresholds more frequently saves taxpayer dollars on administrative costs and increases competition to do business with the government, especially for small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important government efficiency reform legislation, 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 in support of H.R. 7283, the Ensuring Federal Purchasing Efficiency Act, as well.

Every 5 years, the Federal Government adjusts the dollar limits that they pay for certain goods and services to reflect inflation, and this bill would simply make it every 3 years. It will help ensure that the government can purchase what it needs. It will also make the government bidding process more competitive with the private sector, and it will help us get more value for our taxpayer dollars.

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

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FALLON).

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 7283, the Ensuring Federal Purchasing Efficiency Act.

This commonsense, bipartisan legislation is a government procurement reform bill that allows for far more efficient government spending and reduces the burden on small businesses by ensuring they don't have to navigate different procurement policies from year to year.

The Federal Acquisition Council is responsible for making inflation-related adjustments for title 41 purchasing thresholds. Title 41 of the U.S. Code establishes how the Federal Government acquires goods and services.

These dollar thresholds define the applicability of different policies, procedures, and restrictions to the procurement of property or services by Federal agencies.

Currently, the Federal Acquisition Council makes inflation-related adjustments to purchasing thresholds every 5 years. This bill simply amends title 41, U.S. Code, to require the Federal Acquisition Council to make these adjustments every 3 years, instead of 5, as my good friend from Missouri mentioned.

Importantly, this bill does not change the procurement threshold criteria for government agencies.

By allowing these inflation-related adjustments to occur more often, it allows Federal acquisitions to better align with purchasing power. In other words, it allows them to be more—say it with me—efficient, something everyone needs more of at this Federal level.

Adjusting for inflation on a more frequent basis will save tax dollars spent on administrative costs and will help small businesses by freeing them from navigating different procurement policies every single year.

This bill will allow for increased competition to do business with the government and allowing contracting officers to spend more time focusing on larger, more complex procurements.

This bill represents part of a suite of procurement-related legislative requests from the administration, specifically the GSA and OMB.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan legislation to promote more government efficiency.

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

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support it. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this government procurement reform bill that will lessen administrative burdens for Federal agencies and companies doing business with the government, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7283.

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. BURLISON. Madam 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.

STOP SECRET SPENDING ACT OF 2025

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2069) to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to ensure that other transaction agreements are reported to USAspending.gov, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2069

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 Secret Spending Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. OTHER TRANSACTION AGREEMENT REPORTING.

(a) OTHER TRANSACTION AGREEMENTS.—Section 2(a) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(A)—

(A) in clause (ii), by adding “and” and the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) includes other transaction agreements;” and

(2) in paragraph (7)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “(4)(A)(i)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “(2)(A)(ii)” and inserting “(4)(A)(ii)”.

(b) DATA STANDARDS.—Section 4 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Trans-

parency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) OTHER TRANSACTION AGREEMENT DATA.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Stop Secret Spending Act of 2025, the Secretary shall ensure that, with respect to the website established under section 2, or any successor website—

“(1) data relating to other transaction agreements is automatically transmitted to the website, and

“(2) a centralized view of the data described in paragraph (1) is available on the website.”.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON UNREPORTED FUNDING.—Section 2 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Stop Secret Spending Act of 2025, and annually thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall post to the website established under this section a report that includes—

“(1) the total amount of Federal spending on Federal awards for which data has not been posted to the website; and

“(2) the reason data on the Federal spending described in paragraph (1) has not been posted to the website, including whether the Federal spending was—

“(A) national security-related or classified;

“(B) a grant or contract awarded or entered into by a legislative or judicial branch agency; or

“(C) a subaward below a primary subaward.”.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(B) RELEVANT AGENCY.—The term “relevant agency” means a Federal agency (as defined in section 2(a) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note)) that has the authority to enter into an other transaction agreement, as determined by the Director.

(C) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury.

(D) USASpending.GOV.—The term “USAspending.gov” means the website established under section 2 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).

(2) INITIAL COMPILATION.—If the Secretary has not yet complied with subsection (e) of section 4 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note), as added by this section, by the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Director and the heads of relevant agencies, shall publish on USAspending.gov a report that lists and includes a detailed description of all other transaction agreements entered into by the relevant agencies for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year during which the report is published.

(3) PLAN.—If the Secretary has not yet complied with subsection (e) of section 4 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note), as added by this section, by the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director and the heads of relevant agencies, shall submit to Congress a plan that includes—

(A) the status of including data relating to other transaction agreements on USAspending.gov; and

(B) actions underway and planned to ensure that the data described in subparagraph (A) is fully incorporated into USAspending.gov by the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. OTHER AMENDMENTS.

(a) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS.—Section 6(a) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “each Federal agency” and inserting “each agency described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 901(b) of title 31, United States Code”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Federal agency” and inserting “agency”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “Federal agency” and inserting “agency”;

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) DEADLINES.—The inspector general of each agency described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 901(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report described in paragraph (1)(B)—

“(A) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Stop Secret Spending Act of 2025; and

“(B) not less than frequently than once every 2 years after the date described in subparagraph (A) until the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of the Stop Secret Spending Act of 2025 on the date of submission of the report required under section 3521(f) or 9105(a)(3) of title 31, United States Code, for the applicable fiscal year.”

(b) FULL DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(A) in subsection (1)—

(i) paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “a Federal agency or component of a Federal agency” and inserting “a Federal agency or a component of a Federal agency included on the list posted under subsection (e)(2)”;

(ii) in paragraph (2)(B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “to be posted” and inserting “to be posted by a Federal agency or a component of a Federal agency included on the list posted under subsection (e)(2)”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) QUALITY OF INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Director, in consultation with the heads of Federal agencies, shall establish requirements to ensure that the information to be posted under subsection (b) that is posted by a Federal agency or component of a Federal agency is complete and accurate.

“(2) FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY.—The head of each Federal agency or component of a Federal agency posting data under subsection (b) shall ensure that the data is complete and accurate.

“(3) AUTHORITY TO VERIFY ACCURACY.—The Secretary and the Director may verify that the data posted under subsection (b) by a Federal agency or component of a Federal agency are complete, accurate, and consistent.

“(d) DISPLAY STANDARDS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall ensure that the heads of Federal agencies that post information under subsection (b) comply with display standards established by the Secretary.

“(e) AGENCY REPORTING DETERMINATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Stop Secret Spending Act of 2025, and not less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary, in coordination with the Director, shall—

“(1) assess and make a determination with respect to which Federal agencies and components of Federal agencies are required to post information under subsection (b);

“(2) publish a list of the Federal agencies and components of Federal agencies determined under paragraph (1) on the website established under section 2(b)(1); and

“(3) provide to the head and inspector general of each Federal agency or component of a Federal agency included on the list published under paragraph (2) written notice of the inclusion of the Federal agency or component of a Federal agency on the list.”

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1)(A) shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary publishes the first list under section 3(e)(2) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note), as added by paragraph (1).

SEC. 4. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall make recommendations for any updates the Comptroller General of the United States determines advisable to clause 52.204.10 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation with respect to incorporating requirements under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURLISON. Madam 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I support this bill, H.R. 2069, the Stop Secret Spending Act of 2025, which requires Federal agencies to report complete and accurate information to USAspending.gov.

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, as later amended by the DATA Act of 2014, established USAspending.gov, a public database of all government spending.

It is critical that government spending is transparent to the American people so that they can be assured that agencies are appropriately using their hard-earned tax dollars.

Transparency is fundamental in building trust in government.

For 20 years, agencies have been required to be more transparent with how they are spending taxpayer dollars, but, unfortunately, gaps have been identified in what gets reported to USAspending.gov by Federal agencies.

Increasingly, Federal agencies have relied upon spending authorities known as other transaction agreements, or OTAs. OTAs are not subject to certain

Federal acquisition laws and requirements and, most importantly, are not required to be reported to USAspending.gov under current law.

Agencies use different methods to report the billions of dollars in spending related to OTAs, according to the Government Accountability Office. This has led to inconsistent reporting and unreliable information, resulting in a lack of full transparency over how billions of dollars are spent by Federal agencies.

To be clear, the DATA Act of 2014 intended for all Federal spending to be captured on USAspending.gov.

The Stop Secret Spending Act corrects this issue by requiring OTA spending to be reported to USAspending.gov.

The bill also requires agencies to report annually on types of funding that previously were unreported for a variety of exemptions.

Lastly, it restores the requirement for agency inspectors general to review the entirety of data submitted to USAspending.gov to ensure that it is complete and accurate.

H.R. 2069 will provide more transparency to the American people. It allows taxpayers to hold agencies accountable for how they spend your money.

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

□ 1650

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

Madam Speaker, the American people are working hard to make ends meet, and so they deserve to know how the Federal Government is spending their tax dollars. The Stop Secret Spending Act of 2025 helps. It increases transparency on how taxpayer dollars are spent by requiring Federal agencies to disclose other transaction agreements, or OTAs.

These contracts have historically been excluded from public reporting, but they account for nearly \$20 billion annually. This is a commonsense measure to increase transparency in Federal contracting.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, the American people work hard for every dollar they send to Washington, and they deserve to know how every one of those dollars is spent. That is the simple principle behind the Stop Secret Spending Act.

Federal agencies have been able to spend billions of taxpayer dollars through what are known as other transaction agreements, or OTAs, without fully reporting those expenditures on usaspending.gov.

These agreements may have legitimate uses, but the American people should not have to wonder whether Federal spending is being disclosed or not. When our national debt is approaching \$40 trillion, transparency is not optional. It is a responsibility.

This bill closes a loophole that has allowed significant amounts of Federal spending to remain outside the public reporting system. It does not ban OTAs. It does not create unnecessary red tape. It simply requires the agencies to report these agreements so taxpayers can see where their money is going.

Every family in Alabama knows where their money is spent. Farmers know where their money is spent. Small business owners know where their money is spent. The Federal Government should be held to that same standard.

Sunlight is one of the best safeguards against waste, fraud, and abuse. Transparency helps Congress do its job. It helps taxpayers hold Washington accountable, and it helps restore trust in government.

That is common sense. That is accountability. That is exactly what the American people expect from their government.

Madam Speaker, I urge our colleagues to support the Stop Secret Spending Act.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purposes of closing.

Madam Speaker, costs are skyrocketing, and people deserve to know how their money is being spent. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important governmentwide Federal spending transparency reform bill that will help the public and Congress understand exactly how Federal agencies are using the very limited tax dollars that we have, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2069.

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.

FEDERAL IMPROVEMENT IN TECHNOLOGY PROCUREMENT ACT

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4123) to improve Federal technology procurement, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4123

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 Improvement in Technology Procurement Act” or the “FIT Procurement Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.**—The term “acquisition workforce” means employees of an executive agency who are responsible for procurement, contracting, or program or project management that involves the performance of acquisition-related functions or other employees as designated by the Chief Acquisition Officer, senior procurement executive, or head of the contracting activity.

(2) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

(3) **CHIEF ACQUISITION OFFICER.**—The term “Chief Acquisition Officer” means a Chief Acquisition Officer appointed pursuant to section 1702(a) of title 41, United States Code.

(4) **CROSS-FUNCTIONAL.**—The term “cross-functional” means a structure in which individuals with different functional expertise or from different areas of an organization work together as a team.

(5) **EXECUTIVE AGENCY.**—The term “executive agency” has the meaning given that term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

(6) **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING.**—The term “experiential learning” means on-the-job experiences or simulations that serve to enhance workforce professional skills.

(7) **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.**—The term “information and communications technology”—

(A) has the meaning given that term in section 4713(k) of title 41, United States Code; and

(B) includes information and communications technologies covered by any definition contained in the Federal Acquisition Regulation, including a definition added after the date of the enactment of this Act by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council pursuant to notice and comment.

(8) **RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “relevant committees of Congress” means the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

(9) **SENIOR PROCUREMENT EXECUTIVE.**—The term “senior procurement executive” means a senior procurement executive designated pursuant to section 1702(c)(1) of title 41, United States Code.

(10) **SMALL BUSINESS.**—The term “small business” has the meaning given the term “small business concern” in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

SEC. 3. ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.

(a) **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Acquisition Institute may establish a pilot program to consider the incorporation of experiential learning into the Federal Credentials Program, the Federal Acquisition Certification for Contracting Officer’s Representatives program, the Federal Acquisition Certification for Program and Project Managers program, or any successor program.

(b) **TRAINING ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Acquisition Institute, in coordination with the Administrator, the Administrator of General Services, and the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government, and in consultation

with the heads of other executive agencies as determined to be appropriate by the Director of the Federal Acquisition Institute, may develop and implement or otherwise provide a cross-functional information and communications technology acquisition training program for members of the acquisition workforce involved in acquiring information and communications technology that shall do the following:

(A) Include learning objectives related to the following:

(i) Market research.

(ii) Communicating with and considering industry perspectives on the procurement process, including how investment decisions are impacted by Government communication and engagement.

(iii) Developing requirements, acquisition planning, best practices for developing and executing outcome-based contracts, and source selection strategy.

(iv) Evaluating proposals.

(v) Awarding and administering contracts for information and communications technology.

(B) Include learning objectives that provide a basic understanding of key technologies that executive agencies need, such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence-enabled applications, and cybersecurity solutions.

(C) Include learning objectives that encourage the use of commercial or commercially available off-the-shelf technologies to the greatest extent practicable.

(D) Include case studies of lessons learned from Federal information and communications technology procurements and contracts, and related matters as determined to be relevant by the Director of the Federal Acquisition Institute.

(E) Include experiential learning opportunities and opportunities to practice collaborative acquisition strategies involving team members with varied relevant domain expertise to complete acquisition-related tasks, including tasks with accelerated timelines.

(F) Include continuous learning recommendations and resources to keep the skills of members of the acquisition workforce current, including tools that help adopt or adapt the use of innovative acquisition practices or other flexible business practices commonly used in commercial buys.

(G) Be made available to members of the acquisition workforce designated by a Chief Acquisition Officer, senior procurement executive, or head of the contracting activity to participate in the training program.

(H) Inform executive agencies about streamlined and alternative procurement methods for the procurement of information and communications technology, including the following:

(i) Simplified procedures for certain commercial products and commercial services in accordance with subpart 13.5 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, prize competitions under the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-358), competitive programs that encourage businesses to engage in Federal research or research and development with the potential for commercialization, and joint venture partnerships.

(ii) Innovative procurement techniques designed to streamline the procurement process and lower barriers to entry, such as the use of oral presentations and product demonstrations instead of lengthy written proposals, appropriately leveraging performance and outcomes-based contracting, and other techniques discussed on the Periodic Table of Acquisition Innovations or other similar successor knowledge management portals.

(iii) Information on appropriate use, examples and templates, and any other information determined relevant by the Administrator to assist contracting officers and other members of the acquisition workforce in using the procedures and techniques described in clauses (i) and (ii).

(I) Incorporate learning objectives to identify and mitigate waste, fraud, and abuse and ensure the protection of established privacy rights, civil rights, and civil liberties in the procurement process.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Acquisition Institute shall provide to the relevant committees of Congress, the Chief Acquisition Officers Council, and the Chief Information Officers Council—

(A) a report on the progress of the Director in developing and implementing or otherwise providing the training program described in paragraph (1); and

(B) a list of any acquisition training that the Director determines to be outdated or no longer necessary.

(3) DURATION.—The training program described in paragraph (1) may be updated as appropriate (but not less frequently than once every 2 years after implementation), and offered not less than 6 years following the date of implementation of the training program.

(c) ACQUISITION WORKFORCE TRAINING FUND.—Section 1703(i)(3) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking “Five percent” and inserting “Seven and a half percent”.

(d) HARMONIZATION OF ACQUISITION WORKFORCE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 2 of the Artificial Intelligence Training for the Acquisition Workforce Act (Public Law 117–207; 41 U.S.C. 1703 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking “DIRECTOR.”—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.” and inserting “ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of General Services.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—
(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Director, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services and any other person determined relevant by the Director” and inserting “Administrator, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget”;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “Director” and inserting “Administrator”;

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking “Director” and inserting “Administrator”;

(D) in paragraph (6), by striking “Director” and inserting “Administrator”.

SEC. 4. INNOVATIVE PROCUREMENT METHODS.

(a) INCREASE IN SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.—Section 134 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$250,000” and inserting “\$500,000”.

(b) SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES FOR SMALL PURCHASES.—Section 1901(a)(2) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$5,000,000” and inserting “\$10,000,000”.

(c) INCREASE IN MICRO PURCHASE THRESHOLD.—Section 1902(a)(1) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$10,000” and inserting “\$25,000”.

(d) ADVANCES FOR COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY SUBSCRIPTIONS AND TENANCY.—Section 3324(d) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting “or commercially available content” after “publication”; and

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

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

“(3) charges for information and communications technology subscriptions, reservations, or tenancy, which means the sharing of computing resources in a private or public environment, including cloud environments, for which the ordering agency defines appropriate access and security standards.”.

SEC. 5. ADJUSTMENTS TO CERTAIN ACQUISITION THRESHOLDS.

(a) MAJOR PROGRAM.—Section 109 of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by striking “\$75,000,000 (based on fiscal year 1980 constant dollars)” and inserting “\$275,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2024 dollars)”;

(B) by striking “\$300,000,000 (based on fiscal year 1980 constant dollars)” and inserting “\$1,300,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2024 dollars)”;

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “\$750,000 (based on fiscal year 1980 constant dollars)” and inserting “\$2,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2024 dollars)”.

(b) MODIFICATIONS TO SUBMISSIONS OF COST OR PRICING DATA.—Section 3502(a) of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “2018” each place it appears and inserting “2026”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “\$2,000,000” and inserting “\$10,000,000”; and

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$750,000” and inserting “\$2,000,000”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “\$2,000,000” and inserting “\$10,000,000”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$750,000” and inserting “\$2,000,000”; and

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “\$750,000” and inserting “\$2,000,000”; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “chapter and—” and all that follows and inserting the following: “chapter and—

“(A) in the case of a prime contract entered into after June 30, 2026, the price of the subcontract is expected to exceed \$10,000,000; or

“(B) in the case of a prime contract entered into on or before June 30, 2026, the price of the subcontract is expected to exceed \$2,000,000.”.

SEC. 6. INCREASING COMPETITION IN FEDERAL CONTRACTING.

(a) USE OF PAST PERFORMANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue guidance, including examples and templates where appropriate, on the following:

(A) When a wider range of projects, including commercial, non-government, and Government projects, should be accepted as relevant past performance in order to have increased competition among eligible firms with capability to perform a requirement, such as a requirement without much precedent.

(B) A means by which an agency may validate non-government past performance references, such as by requiring an official of an entity that provides past performance references to attest to their authenticity and by providing verifiable contact information for the references.

(C) Any use of alternative evaluation methods other than past performance that may be appropriate for a requirement without much precedent, such as demonstrations and testing of technologies as part of the proposal process.

(2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—The guidance required by paragraph (1) shall supplement existing Federal and agency policy and procedures for consideration of past perform-

ance and other evaluation factors and methods.

(b) ENHANCING COMPETITION IN FEDERAL PROCUREMENT.—

(1) COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall convene the Chief Acquisition Officers Council (in this subsection referred to as the “Council”) to make recommendations to identify and eliminate specific, unnecessary procedural barriers that disproportionately affect the ability of small businesses to compete for Federal contracts, with a focus on streamlining documentation and qualification requirements unrelated to the protection of privacy rights and civil liberties.

(2) CONSULTATION.—The Council shall obtain input from the public, including from the APEX Accelerators program (formerly known as Procurement Technical Assistance Center network) and other contractor representatives, to identify Federal procurement policies and regulations that are obsolete, overly burdensome or restrictive, not adequately harmonized, or otherwise serve to create barriers to the participation of small businesses in Federal contracting or unnecessarily increase bid and proposal costs.

(3) EXAMINATION OF ACTIONS.—The Council shall consider the input obtained under paragraph (2) and any other information determined relevant by the Council to identify legislative, regulatory, and other actions to increase competition and remove barriers to the participation of small businesses in Federal contracting.

(4) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council, the Council, and other executive agencies as appropriate, shall implement the regulatory and other non-legislative actions identified under paragraph (3), as determined necessary by the Administrator, to remove barriers to entry for small businesses seeking to participate in Federal contracting.

(5) BRIEFING.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the relevant committees of Congress on the legislative actions identified under paragraph (3) and the actions implemented under paragraph (4).

(c) CONSIDERATION OF COST-EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY.—The Administrator shall advocate for and prioritize contracting policies that ensure that cost-efficiency and quality of goods and services are key determining factors in awarding Federal contracts.

SEC. 7. COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION IN FEDERAL PROCUREMENT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress and make publicly available a report that does the following:

(1) Assesses the level of participation by small businesses in Federal procurement.

(2) Identifies barriers and opportunities and the impact of policies on the ability of small businesses to compete in Federal procurement.

(3) Catalogs and evaluates the effectiveness of programs intended to support the participation of small businesses in Federal procurement.

(4) Analyzes trends in the involvement of small businesses in Federal technology projects, including data on contract awards, the diversity of sectors represented, and the geographic distribution of small business contractors.

SEC. 8. CONFLICT OF INTEREST PROCEDURES.

The Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council and the Administrator shall update the Federal Acquisition Regulation as necessary to provide additional guidance to executive agencies to address personal and organizational conflicts of interest involving members of the acquisition workforce.

SEC. 9. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING.

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 Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURLISON. Madam 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the FIT Procurement Act.

Hardworking taxpayers expect the Federal Government to be a responsible steward of their hard-earned dollars. They make tough financial decisions every day, and they rightly expect Washington to exercise the same discipline and restraint.

Too often, however, our Federal procurement system does the opposite. It rewards inefficiency, layers on unnecessary administrative burdens, and slows down agency operations, all at the expense of the taxpayer. These inefficiencies drive up costs and limit agencies in their ability to deliver timely and effective results.

My bill, the FIT Procurement Act, addresses these challenges through targeted, commonsense reforms in the Federal procurement process. The legislation focuses on reducing unnecessary administrative burdens, improving coordination across agencies, and strengthening the acquisition workforce through better training and clearer guidance.

To improve workforce capability, the bill requires the Director of Federal Acquisition Institute to develop and implement cross-functional information and communications technology training for acquisition professionals. This ensures those responsible for purchasing information and communication technology have the tools and knowledge needed to make smart, cost-effective decisions.

The FIT Procurement Act also increases efficiency by expanding the use of simplified, commercial-style purchasing. It raises the micro-purchase threshold from \$10,000 to \$25,000 and the

simplified acquisition threshold from \$250,000 to \$500,000.

Purchases under the micro-purchase threshold require no contracting officer involvement and significantly reduce the administrative overhead. Raising this threshold alone is estimated to save more than \$40 million annually while allowing contracting officers to focus on larger, higher-risk acquisitions where oversight matters the most.

Increasing the simplified acquisition threshold further reduces administrative costs and improves economic efficiency for small businesses that are competing for Federal contracts.

In addition, the FIT Procurement Act authorizes advanced payments for cloud computing services, allowing Federal agencies to access the same upfront payment discounts that are commonly available in the private sector, delivering additional savings to our taxpayers.

Taken together, these reforms streamline procurement, reduce wasteful spending, and improve accountability without expanding government or creating new bureaucracy, ultimately leading to disciplined acquisition practices and real savings for the American taxpayer.

I thank Chairman COMER for his leadership and commitment to advancing this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4123, the Federal Improvement in Technology Procurement Act of 2025. I am proud to be co-leading this legislation with the gentleman, and I thank him for his leadership. I am glad this bill is bipartisan.

Madam Speaker, one of the things we focused on in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee is improving government efficiency and modernization, and the FIT Procurement Act delivers on that goal. It raises the micro-purchasing threshold and the simplified acquisition threshold.

These thresholds have not been updated in a very long time. They don't reflect how much things cost these days, and these changes will finally allow agencies to move faster to purchase innovative technologies.

The bill also allows Federal agencies to prepay for information technology subscriptions, including cloud computing. Prepaying for IT subscriptions will make a huge difference in government access to cutting-edge tools.

The bill will also open the door for more small businesses to participate in Federal contracting, and, most importantly, it is estimated to save taxpayers millions and millions of dollars.

This is common sense, and everyone wins. I urge my colleagues to join me and Representative BURLISON in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Speaker, I couldn't have said it better than my colleague Representative

SUBRAMANYAM.

I urge my colleagues to support this long-overdue governmentwide procurement reform bill that will help the Federal Government to more efficiently obtain the systems and services that it needs to support our critical missions, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I also urge my colleagues to join me and Representative BURLISON in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4123, 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.

□ 1700

FEDERAL RELOCATION PAYMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6330) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for lump-sum relocation payments for Federal employees relocated in the interest of the Government, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6330

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 Relocation Payment Improvement Act".

SEC. 2. LUMP-SUM RELOCATION PAYMENTS FOR RELOCATED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 5739a. Authority for lump sum payment for relocation"

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, when the head of the agency concerned (or a designee) authorizes or approves, an agency, through the proper disbursing official, may pay to an employee who relocates in the interest of the Government, a one-time lump sum payment in lieu of any payment otherwise authorized or required under this subchapter.

"(b) REGULATIONS.—Under section 5738 of this title, the Administrator of General Services shall prescribe regulations necessary for the implementation and administration of this section, including—

"(1) when agencies may authorize a one-time lump sum payment under this section or the payments otherwise authorized or required under this subchapter;

"(2) how agencies will calculate the lump sum amount; and

"(3) the process for employees to dispute a relocation expenses claim with their agency,

notice of the employee's right to appeal the agency decision to the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals, and citation to the Board's procedures governing the appeals process.

“(C) REPORTING.—

“(1) AGENCY SUBMISSION.—Not later than 3 years following the date of enactment of the Federal Relocation Payment Improvement Act, the head of each agency shall submit to the Administrator of General Services the following:

“(A) Data on the number of employees authorized a one-time lump sum payment.

“(B) The number of employee challenges to agency disallowance of claims pursuant to this section.

“(C) Data on cost savings achieved by the Federal Relocation Payment Improvement Act.

“(D) A summary of recommendations to improve the Federal Relocation Payment Improvement Act.

“(2) ADMINISTRATOR SUBMISSION.—Not later than 90 days after receipt of the data submitted pursuant to paragraph (1), the Administrator of General Services 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 an analysis of the data submitted pursuant to paragraph (1).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such subchapter is amended by adding after the item relating to section 5739 the following:

“5739a. Authority for lump sum payment for relocation.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURLISON. Madam 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, relocating Federal employees who receive assignments to change official duty stations is a costly and bureaucratic process. According to the General Services Administration, which manages such relocations, in fiscal year 2024, the cost for employee relocation across agencies ranged from \$11,000 to a staggering \$143,000 per employee.

This high cost contrasts with the private sector, where relocation costs are considerably less. In fact, current law and regulations require seven categories of mandatory relocation entitlements and another six discretionary.

This complexity diverts Federal agency resources that could otherwise be available for other mission-focused priorities. It also comes at the expense of Federal employee satisfaction, as those relocating are forced to navigate

a prolonged bureaucratic maze of document filings and payment processes.

Fortunately, there is a tested alternative to the current system, as demonstrated by agencies such as the Fish and Wildlife Service and Customs and Border Protection in a recent pilot program.

Those agencies have utilized this pilot program to provide negotiated, lump-sum payments to relocating employees who are then responsible for moving themselves. The simplified lump-sum payments and processes have already been demonstrated to reduce agency costs while boosting employee satisfaction.

This bill would expand and codify the successful pilot program to allow all agencies to provide these lump-sum payments to relocating employees when such alternative is the most cost-effective option.

Furthermore, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that enacting H.R. 6330 would save the government \$306 million over 5 years.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for offering this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise regarding H.R. 6330, the Federal Relocation Payment Improvement Act. As mentioned, the bill would allow Federal agencies to pay for employee relocation costs through a simple lump-sum payment. It also directs the government to establish an appeals process for employees to dispute reimbursement decisions.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JACK).

Mr. JACK. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative BURLISON for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 6330, the Federal Relocation Payment Improvement Act.

I am grateful for the overwhelming bipartisan support this legislation received in committee, and I am grateful for the opportunity to present it before the House of Representatives for consideration today.

Madam Speaker, our Republican majority was elected on a promise to make the Federal Government more efficient, reduce bureaucracy, and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly. My bill fulfills that pledge by streamlining the Federal employee relocation process, reducing administrative burdens, lowering costs for American taxpayers, and modernizing an outdated system.

To understand why this reform is necessary, let us review how the current process operates. Each year, approximately 33,000 Federal employees relocate across the country to meet the operational needs of their agencies, at a cost of nearly \$1.5 billion to the taxpayer.

Under current law, a Federal employee who is directed to relocate pays relocation expenses out of pocket, retains documentation for each of those expenses, submits detailed reimbursement requests, and then waits sometimes more than 2 years to be fully reimbursed.

Meanwhile, the agencies tasked with administering these relocation reimbursements dedicate significant time and resources to reviewing, processing, and reconciling each claim. In some cases, a single relocation can generate more than \$140,000 in administrative costs.

The result is a process that is burdensome for employees, costly for agencies, and inefficient for taxpayers. Fortunately, Madam Speaker, there is a better way. Federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, have participated in pilot programs that provide employees with a single, upfront, lump-sum relocation payment instead of requiring reimbursement for each individual expense.

When given the option, Federal employees have overwhelmingly chosen this streamlined approach. For instance, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported nearly \$1 million in administrative savings. The GSA estimates expanding this authority across the Federal Government could save taxpayers between \$300 million and \$500 million annually.

Madam Speaker, that is the purpose of my legislation, H.R. 6330. My bill makes this successful authority permanent and available to every Federal agency. My bill preserves agency flexibility by keeping participation optional. My bill requires agencies to report to Congress on the savings achieved, ensuring continuing accountability to Congress and the American taxpayer.

For Federal employees, this means a simpler and more predictable relocation process. For Federal agencies, it means fewer administrative burdens and a more efficient use of administrative resources. For American taxpayers, it means an estimated \$300 million to \$500 million in annual savings.

I thank our chairman, Representative JAMES COMER, for his leadership in advancing commonsense government reforms. I thank my colleague Representative BURLISON, who has distinguished himself as one of the greatest defenders of liberty in Congress. I thank the members of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for their thoughtful consideration of my legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support my bill, H.R. 6330.

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

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important governmentwide reform bill that will save hundreds of millions of dollars while improving the lives of the Federal workforce.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6330, 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.

BILLION DOLLAR BOONDOGGLE ACT

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1722) to require an annual report of taxpayer-funded projects that are over budget and behind schedule, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1722

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 "Billion Dollar Boondoggle Act".

SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "covered agency" means—

(A) an Executive agency, as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) an independent regulatory agency, as defined in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code;

(2) the term "covered project" means a project funded by a covered agency—

(A) that is more than 5 years behind schedule, as measured against the original expected date for completion; or

(B) for which the amount spent on the project is not less than \$1,000,000,000 more than the original cost estimate for the project;

(3) the term "Director" means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; and

(4) the term "project" means a major acquisition, a major defense acquisition program (as defined in section 4201 of title 10, United States Code), a procurement, a construction project, a remediation or clean-up effort, or any other time-limited endeavor, that is not funded through direct spending (as defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c))).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue guidance requiring covered agencies to, on an annual basis, submit to the Director information relating to each covered project of the covered agency, which shall include—

(A) a brief description of the covered project, including—

(i) the purpose of the covered project;

(ii) each location in which the covered project is carried out;

(iii) the contract or award number of the covered project, where applicable;

(iv) the year in which the covered project was initiated;

(v) the Federal share of the total cost of the covered project; and

(vi) each primary contractor, subcontractor, grant recipient, and subgrantee recipient of the covered project;

(B) an explanation of any change to the original scope of the covered project, including by the addition or narrowing of the initial requirements of the covered project;

(C) the original expected date for completion of the covered project;

(D) the current expected date for completion of the covered project;

(E) the original cost estimate for the covered project, as adjusted to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics;

(F) the current cost estimate for the covered project, as adjusted to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics;

(G) an explanation for a delay in completion or an increase in the original cost estimate for the covered project, including, where applicable, any impact of insufficient or delayed appropriations; and

(H) the amount of and rationale for any award, incentive fee, or other type of bonus, if any, awarded for the covered project.

(2) REPORT.—The Director shall submit to Congress and post on the website of the Office of Management and Budget an annual report containing the information submitted under paragraph (1) for the relevant year.

(3) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (2) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURLISON. Madam 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 Missouri?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, Congress cannot sit on the sidelines while government projects continue to soar above cost projections and run behind schedule.

Each year, the Government Accountability Office reports on such projects, including Federal information technology programs and National Nuclear Security Administration projects. However, there are likely additional government boondoggles flying under the radar, falling years behind schedule, or running billions of dollars over budget.

The Billion Dollar Boondoggle Act will keep policymakers and the public better informed about government-funded projects that are significantly behind schedule or over budget.

We cannot fix what we do not know is broken. This bill directs agencies to report on projects that are more than 5 years behind schedule or have expenditures that are at least \$1 billion more than the original cost estimate. The

Office of Management and Budget is then required to submit an annual report to Congress summarizing these troubled Federal projects.

Congress has a duty to oversee the Federal Government for inefficiency and waste. This bill informs policymakers and allows Congress to address failing government projects before further taxpayer dollars are misused.

A similar bill passed the House in the 118th Congress as S. 1258, and the identical bill, S. 766, sponsored by Senator JONI ERNST, passed the Senate in December 2025.

I thank Representatives MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS and YASSAMIN ANSARI for their work on the House companion bill. It is time to get this bill sent to the President's desk.

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

□ 1710

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

Madam Speaker, I, too, rise in support of H.R. 1722, the Billion Dollar Boondoggle Act of 2025.

Congress has a duty to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently, transparently, and with real accountability for results, but Federal programs often fall behind schedule or go way over budget without Congress' knowledge.

This bill would require that Congress be notified of any project that is more than 5 years behind schedule or \$1 billion over budget. The report would include explanations of any changes to the project scope, cost estimate, or completion date.

This will help Congress perform critical oversight on behalf of the American people. It will also keep projects on time and on budget. This is a bipartisan fix to increase fiscal responsibility.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative BURLISON for yielding me time and for his support of this important legislation, H.R. 1722, the Billion Dollar Boondoggle Act.

I also offer special thanks to my fellow Iowan, Senator JONI ERNST, who is leading this bill in the Senate. She has been a true champion when it comes to exposing Washington's waste and protecting the hard-earned dollars of the American people.

Madam Speaker, Washington's worst-kept secret is its prolific spending problem. Families in Iowa and all across this country have to balance their checkbooks every single month. They budget. They plan, and when money is tight, they make it work or they do without.

Washington should be held to that very same standard, especially at a time when our national debt is inching toward \$400 trillion. However, instead of accountability, we get boondoggles.

Take Governor Newsom's high-speed rail in California. It was supposed to cost \$33 billion and connect Los Angeles to San Francisco by 2020. Today, it is more than \$95 billion over budget and years behind schedule.

After more than a decade and billions of taxpayer dollars, they are only now beginning to lay track, and the promised line between Los Angeles and San Francisco is nowhere in sight. What the people were promised and what they got are two very different things.

However, it is not just California. In Honolulu, a rail project is \$4.8 billion over budget, with its completion slipping from 2020 all the way to 2031. In Columbus, a corridor project is 19 years behind schedule. The Federal Reserve's renovation ballooned to nearly \$2.5 billion. Air Force One is billions over budget and years behind. The VA's electronic health records system, meant to serve our veterans, tripled from \$16 billion to nearly \$50 billion.

Madam Speaker, these are not rounding errors. These are betrayals of the people who have paid for them.

That is why I introduced the Billion Dollar Boondoggle Act. It is simple. It requires the Federal Government to publicly disclose any taxpayer-funded project that is more than \$1 billion over budget or more than 5 years behind schedule. No more hiding and no more burying the failures where no one can find them. Sunlight, as they say, is the best disinfectant.

Here is the truth: The American people have a right to know where their money goes. Every dollar Washington wastes is a dollar taken from a farmer in Iowa, a nurse working a double shift, or a young family trying to get ahead.

I did not come to Washington to protect its comfortable habit of wasting taxpayer money. I came here to defend the people who pay the bills. This bill puts them front and center where they belong.

I thank Senator ERNST once again for her partnership, and I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense legislation.

The people of Iowa are watching. The people of America are watching. Let's give them the transparency they deserve.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close. I thank the sponsor of the bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important bipartisan and bicameral government reform bill that will ensure the necessary oversight of the over-budget and behind-schedule Federal projects that take place.

Only when Congress and the public have better visibility into these mismanaged government projects will we be able to avoid such boondoggles in the future.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1722, 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. BURLISON. Madam 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.

EXPANDING WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS FOR CONTRACTORS ACT OF 2026

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5578) to ensure that whistleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5578

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 "Expanding Whistleblower Protections for Contractors Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. DEFENSE CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES: PROTECTION FROM REPRISAL FOR DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.

Section 4701 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

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

(I) by striking "An employee" and all that follows through "services contractor" and inserting "A protected individual"; and

(II) by striking "disclosing" and all that follows through "evidence of"; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) and inserting the following subparagraphs:

"(A) Refusing to obey an order that would require the protected individual to violate a law, rule, or regulation related to any contract, subcontract, grant, or subgrant.

"(B) Disclosing to a person or body described in paragraph (2) information that the protected individual reasonably believes is evidence of the following:

"(i) Gross mismanagement of any Department of Defense contract or grant, any gross waste of Department funds, any abuse of authority relating to any Department contract, subcontract, grant, or subgrant, or any violation of law, rule, or regulation re-

lated to any Department contract or subcontract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract or subcontract) or grant or subgrant.

"(ii) Gross mismanagement of any National Aeronautics and Space Administration contract or grant, any gross waste of Administration funds, any abuse of authority relating to an Administration contract, subcontract, grant, or subgrant, or any violation of law, rule, or regulation related to any Administration contract or subcontract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract or subcontract) or grant or subgrant.

"(iii) A substantial and specific danger to public health or safety."; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking "an employee" and inserting "a protected individual"; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following subparagraph:

"(B) it shall not be within the authority of an executive branch official to request that a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee engage in a reprisal prohibited by paragraph (1).";

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following subparagraph:

"(E) Propose appropriate disciplinary action against any executive branch official for any request made of a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee that subjected the complainant to a reprisal prohibited by subsection (a)."; and

(B) by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the following paragraph:

"(8) CLARIFICATION FOR SCOPE OF WAIVER RESTRICTIONS.—The rights, forum, and remedies provided for in this section may not be waived by any public or private agreement, policy, form, or condition of employment, including by any predispute arbitration agreement.";

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking "an employee" and inserting "a protected individual"; and

(B) by striking "the employee" and inserting "the protected individual"; and

(4) in subsection (g), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(8) The term 'protected individual' means—

"(A) a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee of the Department of Defense or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, including—

"(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States; and

"(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i);

"(B) an employee of a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee of the Department of Defense or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or a former employee of such contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee whose protected disclosure or engagement in any activity protected against reprisal under this section occurred prior to termination, including an employee of—

"(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States; and

“(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i); or

“(C) a person performing personal services for the Department of Defense or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration pursuant to a contractual agreement for the performance of personal services, including a personal services contract or personal services agreement, and who engages in an activity for which any reprisal is prohibited under subsection (a), including a person performing personal services pursuant such a contractual agreement for—

“(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States; and

“(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i).”.

SEC. 3. ENHANCEMENT OF NON-DEFENSE CONTRACTOR PROTECTION FROM REPRISAL FOR DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.

Section 4712 of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following paragraph:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A protected individual may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for the following:

“(A) Refusing to obey an order that would require the protected individual to violate a law, rule, or regulation related to any contract, subcontract, grant, or subgrant.

“(B) Disclosing to a person or body described in paragraph (2) information that the protected individual reasonably believes is evidence of the following:

“(i) Gross mismanagement of any Federal contract or grant, any gross waste of Federal funds, any abuse of authority relating to any Federal contract, subcontract, grant, or subgrant, or any violation of law, rule, or regulation related to any Federal contract or subcontract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract or subcontract) or grant or subgrant.

“(ii) A substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “an employee” and inserting “a protected individual”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following subparagraph:

“(B) It shall not be within the authority of an executive branch official to request that a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee engage in a reprisal prohibited by paragraph (1).”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) Propose appropriate disciplinary action against any executive branch official for any request made of a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee that subjected the complainant to a reprisal prohibited by subsection (a).”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following paragraph:

“(7) RIGHTS, FORUM, AND REMEDIES NOT WAIVABLE.—The rights, forum, and remedies provided for in this section may not be waived by any public or private agreement, policy, form, or condition of employment, including by any predispute arbitration agreement.”;

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “an employee” and inserting “a protected individual”; and

(B) by striking “the employee” and inserting “the protected individual”;

(4) in subsection (g), by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) The term ‘protected individual’ means—

“(A) a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee of the Federal Government, including—

“(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States; and

“(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i);

“(B) an employee of a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee of the Federal Government or a former employee of such contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee whose protected disclosure or engagement in any activity protected against reprisal under this section occurred prior to termination, including an employee of—

“(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States; and

“(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i); or

“(C) a person performing personal services for the Federal Government pursuant to a contractual agreement for the performance of personal services, including a personal services contract or personal services agreement, including a person performing personal services pursuant to such a contractual agreement for—

“(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States; and

“(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i).”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, every person employed by the Federal Government

should have adequate protection from retaliation for speaking out against fraud, waste, or abuse of taxpayer dollars.

However, contractors with the Federal Government have different whistleblower protections than typical government employees.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of the Inspector General found that a lack of whistleblower protections for contractors discouraged them from coming forward. This isn't surprising. It is a difficult decision for someone to come forward and risk their job and their livelihood.

The Expanding Whistleblower Protections for Contractors Act would address this by strengthening whistleblower protections for Federal contractors by prohibiting reprisals for certain actions.

Such actions could include disclosure of information the protected individual believes is evidence of mismanagement, waste, abuse, or a substantial and specific danger to public health and safety related to a contract or grant.

I thank House Oversight Committee Ranking Member GARCIA for his work on this important bill with Chairman COMER and recognize Senators GARY PETERS and CHUCK GRASSLEY for their steadfast leadership on these necessary reforms.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5578, the Expanding Whistleblower Protections for Contractors Act.

Whistleblowers are crucial to our ability to conduct congressional oversight. They are key to identifying and stopping waste, fraud, corruption, and abuse of power.

Millions of workers performing critical jobs for the U.S. Government are contractors, not Federal civil servants, but they don't have the same whistleblower protections as civil servants right now. As a result, contractors are less likely to report wrongdoing, especially since they fear retaliation or mistreatment.

This bill would strengthen protections for contractors. It protects them from retaliation for refusal to participate in illegal activity. It also ensures that contractors are legally able to disclose waste, fraud, abuse, and dangers to public health and safety.

This bill will help us do our job to uncover abuses of power. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

I thank the ranking member for his leadership on this issue. Especially at a time when a lot of folks in Federal civil service and Federal contractors are concerned about coming forward, we need to protect whistleblowers more than ever.

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

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important whistleblower reform bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5578, 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.

□ 1720

NUCLEIC ACID STANDARDS FOR BIOSECURITY ACT

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3029) to amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act to support nucleic acid screening, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3029

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 “Nucleic Acid Standards for Biosecurity Act”.

SEC. 2. SUPPORTING NUCLEIC ACID SCREENING.

Section 10221 of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18931; enacted as part of title II of division B of Public Law 117-167) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraph:

“(D) best practices, guidelines, and technical standards for risk management associated with engineering biology and biomanufacturing, including risks associated with the use of artificial intelligence; and”;

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

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

“(b) NUCLEIC ACID SYNTHESIS SCREENING TOOLS AND STANDARDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in consultation with heads of Federal agencies the Director considers appropriate, shall carry out measurement research to support the development and improvement of best practices and technical standards for biosecurity measures related to nucleic acid synthesis, including the following:

“(A) Testing to improve the accuracy, efficacy, and reliability of screening for nucleic acid synthesis.

“(B) Best practices, including security and access controls, for operational security and managing sequence-of-concern databases to support such screening.

“(C) Technical implementation guidance to ensure such screening is effective and secure.

“(D) Conformity-assessment best practices and technical standards.

“(E) Methods to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the implementation of subparagraphs (A) through (D).

“(2) CONSORTIUM.—In carrying out this subsection, the Director shall convene a consortium of stakeholders, including industry, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and customers to carry out the following:

“(A) Develop and periodically update consensus priorities and best practices, as appropriate, for synthetic nucleic acid procurement screening mechanisms.

“(B) Develop roadmaps to inform the activities carried out under paragraph (1).

“(3) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the first meeting of the consortium under paragraph (2), the Director shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report summarizing the findings of the consortium.

“(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated for the National Institute of Standards and Technology pursuant to this section for scientific and technical research and services laboratory activities, there is authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this subsection.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. SALINAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3029, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3029, the Nucleic Acid Standards for Biosecurity Act, introduced by Representative SALINAS of Oregon, along with Representative MCCORMICK of Georgia.

This bill is about protecting two things we all care about: American leadership in the life sciences and the security of the American people.

Today, an American company or university laboratory can legally order made-to-order DNA, the basic building blocks of biology, and have it delivered in a matter of days. This technology powers new medicines and vaccines, stronger crops, and advanced manufacturing. It is a real source of American strength.

However, the same technology that lets us build the biology of the future could, in the wrong hands, potentially be used to assemble the genetic material of a dangerous pathogen.

Responsible providers already guard against this. They screen incoming orders against sequences of concern and verify the identities of their customers.

However, as this field continues to advance rapidly, the lack of common technical standards and best practices for screening presents an emerging biosecurity risk.

That is exactly the kind of work the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, was built to do. NIST is our Nation's measurement and standards laboratory. It does not regulate industry. It provides industry with the tools and benchmarks and the best practices needed to get this right.

H.R. 3029 directs NIST to carry out the measurement research needed to make this screening more accurate and reliable by improving screening tools, securing databases of concerning sequences, and developing ways for providers to demonstrate that their screening systems work as intended.

It also directs NIST to convene a consortium of the people who actually do this work, including industry, universities, and nonprofit organizations, to develop consensus best practices and a roadmap for the future.

This legislation does not create a new regulatory regime for American biotechnology. It strengthens our biosecurity while safeguarding the innovation that keeps us ahead of our competitors, and it passed the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee on a bipartisan basis.

I thank Representatives SALINAS and MCCORMICK for their work on this bill, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SALINAS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, American biotech companies are leading a scientific revolution that is transforming our economy. In recent years, we have seen breakthroughs that have delivered promising new treatments for Alzheimer's, new biological alternatives to pesticides, and plastic-eating bacteria, just to name a few.

These innovations are making Americans healthier, driving a more sustainable economy, and supporting good jobs. However, while America leads the world in these emerging technologies, our competitors are close behind. If we want to ensure American industry stays on top, then American consumers must have confidence in the safety and reliability of our advancements.

One of the key ways American companies produce these breakthroughs is by producing synthetic nucleic acids, like DNA and RNA, for use in biotech research. These are an important tool though that allows scientists to study gene function, develop novel vaccines, improve diagnostic tests, and pursue countless other life-changing discoveries. Companies like Twist Bioscience in my district are pushing the envelope to accelerate and scale-up production, which, in turn, will facilitate faster discoveries.

As this field advances, particularly with the development of AI systems to design nucleic acid sequences, we need to double down on efforts to ensure the

technology is used safely and responsibly.

H.R. 3029, the Nucleic Acid Standards for Biosecurity Act, directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to carry out measurement research and lead consensus-driven standards development to ensure these tools can be harnessed in a trustworthy manner.

Businesses, small and large, in Oregon and across the country, will benefit from this partnership with NIST. These standards will drive sustainable growth while helping to keep this industry and the good jobs it supports right here in America. Through a commonsense partnership between government and industry, we will unlock responsible and trustworthy growth that benefits industry, workers, and consumers across the economy.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to extend my great gratitude to Chairman BABIN and Mr. MCCORMICK for their bipartisan work. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 3029, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, H.R. 3029 is a practical, targeted bill. It directs NIST to develop the science-based standards and best practices needed to make the screening of synthetic DNA much more reliable, helping to ensure that the very technology driving American biotechnology cannot be turned against us.

That is why this bill earned bipartisan support in the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and why it deserves the support of the full House today.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3029, 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. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3029, 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.

NEXT-GENERATION GEOTHERMAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8790) to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to direct research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities in support of next-generation geothermal and closed-loop geothermal systems in various conditions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8790

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 “Next-Generation Geothermal Research and Development Act”.

SEC. 2. GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–140) is amended—

(1) in section 612 (42 U.S.C. 17191; relating to definitions)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), and (8) as paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), and (10), respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following new paragraph:

“(1) CLOSED-LOOP GEOTHERMAL SYSTEMS.—The term ‘closed-loop geothermal systems’ means a wellbore or subsurface circuit of wellbores containing a fluid heated through contact with the borehole wall.”;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (8), as so redesignated, the following new paragraph:

“(9) NEXT-GENERATION GEOTHERMAL SYSTEMS.—The term ‘next-generation geothermal systems’ means—

“(A) enhanced geothermal systems;

“(B) closed-loop geothermal systems;

“(C) in supercritical conditions—

“(i) enhanced geothermal systems; or

“(ii) closed-loop geothermal systems; and

“(D) other innovative energy technologies.”; and

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

“(11) SUPERCRITICAL GEOTHERMAL.—The term ‘supercritical geothermal’ means energy derived from a subsurface rock resource in-situ existing at or above the supercritical conditions, whether relating to temperature or pressure, of the primary fluid present.”;

(2) in section 613(b)(1) (42 U.S.C. 17192(b)(1); relating to hydrothermal research and development), by striking “advanced geologic tools to assist” and inserting “advanced tools, including machine learning algorithms, to assist”;

(3) in section 614 (42 U.S.C. 17193; relating to general geothermal systems research and development)—

(A) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “among the Office of Fossil Energy, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy,” and inserting “across the Department”; and

(B) in subsection (h)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and publicly available subsurface data, including data reported as part of fossil fuel and mining operations,” after “geothermal drilling information”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(C) UPDATES.—The repository established under paragraph (1) shall be periodically updated in order to carry out the following:

“(i) Standardize data in a uniform manner to the maximum extent practicable and enable analysis across different projects.

“(ii) Enhance the accessibility and usability of data to increase analysis of geothermal energy and next-generation geothermal systems on regional, local, and site-specific scales.

“(iii) Increase uses of data, including data viewable by map and organization by common attributes, such as region.

“(iv) Make other improvements in functionality and usability, as determined by the Secretary.

“(D) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of the Interior, and with the heads of other relevant Federal departments, for notifying, sharing, and providing opportunities for additional data collection regarding shared geothermal development

data from projects funded by the Department of the Interior and each such other relevant department, including data from mining, critical minerals, and energy projects, such as subsurface heat data, seismic data, lithology data, boundaries of State and federally protected areas, and existing transmission capacity.

“(ii) PRIORITIZATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, activities conducted pursuant to a memorandum of understanding under clause (i) shall prioritize heat, lithology, and strain profiles through deep exploration boreholes and control points for deep heat mapping and geothermal development.

“(E) REGIONAL DATA PROBES.—The Secretary of the Interior may, in consultation with the Secretary, commission the drilling of supercritical geothermal exploration boreholes in representative geological provinces in the United States to provide control points for deep heat mapping and geothermal development. The resulting data shall include an exploration of heat, lithology, and strain profiles, and shall be shared publicly on the repository established under paragraph (1).

“(F) STUDY ON SITE SELECTION CHARACTERISTICS FOR SUPERCRITICAL GEOTHERMAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall, in consultation with the Secretary, conduct a study on site selection characteristics in representative geological provinces in the United States, including the United States territories of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, for supercritical geothermal.”;

(4) in section 615 (42 U.S.C. 17194; relating to enhanced geothermal systems research and development)—

(A) in the section heading, by striking “**ENHANCED**” and inserting “**NEXT-GENERATION**”;

(B) in subsection (a), by striking “enhanced” and inserting “next-generation”;

(C) in subsection (b)—

(i) in the heading, by inserting “AND CLOSED-LOOP” after “ENHANCED”;

(ii) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “and closed-loop” after “enhanced”;

(iii) in paragraph (11), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(iv) in paragraph (12), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

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

“(13) the research topics specified in subparagraphs (1) through (12) in supercritical conditions.”;

(D) in subsection (c)—

(i) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following new paragraph:

“(7) NEXT-GENERATION GEOTHERMAL TESTING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that at least one FORGE site has the capabilities to include next-generation geothermal testing, including in supercritical conditions.”; and

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

“(e) NEXT-GENERATION GEOTHERMAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Within the Geothermal Technologies Office of the Department, the Secretary shall support a program of next-generation geothermal research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities, including in supercritical conditions.

“(2) FOCUS AREAS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The program described in paragraph (1) shall focus on the following topics:

“(i) Well completion.
 “(ii) Permeability creation and management, including proppants and packers.
 “(iii) Materials development and equipment design, including power production, specific to supercritical geothermal systems.
 “(iv) Sensor development.
 “(v) Water-rock geochemistry.
 “(vi) Rock properties.
 “(vii) Hard rock and deep drilling.
 “(viii) Any other topics the Secretary determines necessary.

“(B) **PRIORITIZATION.**—In carrying out next-generation geothermal research under the program described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prioritize projects best able to produce iterative data for deep drilling projects in unique geodynamic settings on the following topics:

“(i) Characterization and crustal stress.
 “(ii) Lab work.
 “(iii) Drilling.
 “(iv) Stimulation.
 “(v) Power production.

“(C) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Secretary may administer grants to institutions of higher education and private sector entities to carry out activities on the topics specified in subparagraph (A) and, to the maximum extent practicable, share data, results, and information publicly.

“(3) **REPORT ON WATER USE.**—Not later than five years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the following:

“(A) Water use and estimated needs of enhanced geothermal systems.

“(B) Water use and estimated needs for closed-loop, and next-generation geothermal energy production.

“(C) The ability of next-generation geothermal systems to use brackish and non-potable water.

“(D) The withdrawal and consumption of water per megawatt hour of next-generation geothermal systems, as compared to other power-generation technologies.

“(E) Technological and operational improvements that could lead to decreases in water withdrawal and consumption of next-generation geothermal systems.

“(4) **NEXT-GENERATION GEOTHERMAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.**—

“(A) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall award grants through a competitive, merit-reviewed process, to National Laboratories (as such term is defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)), multi-institutional collaborations, public-private partnerships, or institutes of higher education (or consortia thereof) for the following:

“(i) The continuation and expansion of research, development, demonstration, testing, and commercial application activities applicable to FORGE sites, including activities in supercritical conditions.

“(ii) The establishment of a next-generation geothermal systems center of excellence.

“(B) **LOCATION.**—In selecting National Laboratories, multi-institutional collaborations, public-private partnerships, or institutions of higher education (or a consortia thereof) for a center of excellence referred to in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider the following criteria:

“(i) Whether the entity hosts an existing geothermal energy research and development program.

“(ii) Whether the entity has proven technical expertise to support geothermal energy research.

“(iii) Whether the entity has access to geothermal resources.

“(C) **PURPOSE.**—The center of excellence referred to in subparagraph (A) shall coordinate among existing FORGE sites, the Department, and National Laboratories to carry out the following:

“(i) Advance research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of next-generation geothermal energy technologies, including supercritical geothermal technologies, in response to industry and commercial needs, including by partnering with other academic or research institutions, industry, non-governmental organizations, and State, local, or Tribal governments.

“(ii) Foster collaboration for education, research, and partnership initiatives in order to support the technology, deployment, and workforce needs of the United States geothermal energy industry, including a focus on next-generation geothermal systems.

“(iii) Support workforce development across the next-generation geothermal systems energy development lifecycle.

“(iv) Provide educational, technical, and analytical assistance on next-generation geothermal systems to Federal agencies, industry, and State, local, and Tribal governments.

“(v) Collect and disseminate information on best practices in all areas relating to developing and managing geothermal energy resources and energy systems, including next-generation geothermal systems.

“(5) **COMMERCIAL-READINESS INNOVATION GRANTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall award grants to accelerate the development, testing, and implementation of innovative technologies identified as areas for improving the performance of commercial geothermal energy projects using next-generation geothermal systems.

“(B) **FOCUS AREAS.**—Grants may be awarded under this paragraph for innovative technologies, including the following:

“(i) Hardrock drilling equipment, components, and systems, including bit design and vibration control.

“(ii) Reservoir characterization, well design and spacing, and completions.

“(iii) Data acquisition and analysis, including fiber optic sensing tools and methodologies.

“(C) **APPLICATIONS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—An entity seeking a grant under this paragraph shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“(ii) **PRIORITIZATION.**—In awarding grants under this paragraph, the Secretary shall give priority to the following:

“(I) Applicants, including for-profit entities and public-private partnerships, with demonstrated expertise relating to in-field development and commercial operations for geothermal energy projects.

“(II) Projects with the greatest ability to advance near-term commercial deployment of enhanced geothermal systems and closed-loop geothermal systems.

“(III) Projects that advance the commercialization of geothermal energy projects in diverse geological conditions or supercritical conditions.

“(D) **COST SHARING.**—The Federal share of the cost of a project carried out with a grant under this paragraph shall be not more than 80 percent.

“(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031. Such amounts shall be derived from amounts otherwise authorized to be ap-

propriated to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the Department.”; and

(5) in section 617 (42 U.S.C. 17196; relating to organization and administration of programs)—

(A) in subsection (e), by striking “Committee on Science and Technology” and inserting “Committee on Science, Space, and Technology”; and

(B) by amending subsection (f) to read as follows:

“(f) **PROGRESS REPORTS.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subsection and every two years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that contains the following:

“(1) A description of the maximum potential of geothermal resources in the United States, including a consideration of next-generation geothermal systems.

“(2) Information relating to the results of projects undertaken under this section.

“(3) An assessment of the barriers to commercialization of next-generation geothermal technologies.

“(4) Such other information as the Secretary considers appropriate.”.

(b) **UPDATE TO GEOTHERMAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2501 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (30 U.S.C. 1028) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “quadrennially” before “update”; and

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

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

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

“(3) to the maximum extent practicable, by assessing regions of the United States, including the United States territories of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, with significant potential for supercritical geothermal (as such term is defined in section 612 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17191)).”; and

(B) by striking subsection (d).

(2) **FIRST UPDATE.**—The first quadrennial update to the geothermal resource assessment carried out by the United States Geological Survey under subsection (c) of section 2501 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, as amended by paragraph (1), shall be completed by not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 is amended by amending the item relating to section 615 to read as follows:

“Sec. 615. Next-generation geothermal systems research and development.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise

and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 8790, the bill that is now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8790, the Next-Generation Geothermal Research and Development Act, sponsored by my colleagues, Representatives HARRIGAN and SALINAS.

This bill amends the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to include novel geothermal approaches and directs the Department of Energy to support these baseload energy-producing technologies.

Thanks to breakthroughs in drilling methods pioneered by the oil-and-gas sector, we can now drill deeper and increase rock permeability.

As a result, regions of the United States that were once unable to support baseload geothermal electricity generation are now viable for power production.

This comes at an important time as we race to connect baseload energy to the grid to ensure that we have both reliable power and the grid stability needed to support continued economic growth and technological advancement.

□ 1730

The bill directs the Department of Energy to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of the Interior to facilitate the sharing of geothermal data and to improve understanding of the subsurface.

This legislation also provides a critical update to the Department of the Interior's drilling data repository by including additional data sources, periodic updates, and standardized data to enhance its overall functionality and usability.

Curating data from public lands gives the government, academia, and industry a better understanding of the subsurface and the resources beneath our feet.

This bill also builds upon the success of the Department of Energy's Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy, or FORGE, by requiring next-generation geothermal testing at one or more additional FORGE sites, if deemed necessary by the Department of Energy.

Research conducted at FORGE has provided clear evidence that, through innovative drilling, next-generation geothermal systems can be used to generate power.

The Next-Generation Geothermal Research and Development Act authorizes the Department of Energy to foster this emerging industry by awarding grants to accelerate the development, testing, and implementation of innovative technologies that improve the performance of next-generation geothermal energy projects.

Madam Speaker, I will express my appreciation for the work of Representatives HARRIGAN and SALINAS on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, July 13, 2026.

Hon. BRIAN BABIN,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BABIN: I write concerning H.R. 8790, the "Next-Generation Geothermal Research and Development Act", which the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology ordered reported on May 20, 2026.

There are certain provisions of H.R. 8790 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly agree that the Committee on Natural Resources shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that by the forgoing consideration of H.R. 8790 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation that falls within the Committee on Natural Resources' Rule X jurisdiction. We also request that the Committee on Natural Resources' Rule X jurisdiction. We also request that the Committee on Natural Resources be appropriately consulted and involved on this or similar legislation as it moves forward. Further, this does not prejudice the Committee on Natural Resources with respect to the appointment of conferees, and should a conference on the bill be necessary, I appreciate your agreement to support my request to have the Committee represented on the conference committee.

Finally, I would ask that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Natural Resources in the bill be included in the Committee Report and Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 8790 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, July 14, 2026.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WESTERMAN: I write concerning H.R. 8790, the "Next-Generation Geothermal Research and Development Act", which the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology ordered reported on May 20, 2026.

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources and appreciate your willingness to forgo further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Natural Resources will not formally consider H.R. 8790 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill and will include such letters in the Committee report

on H.R. 8790. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology.

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

Madam Speaker, Americans are facing an affordability crisis. When I talk with Oregonians, they tell me one of the biggest challenges they face right now is the rising cost of electricity.

In addition to rising demand, aging infrastructure, rising fuel costs, and climate-change-driven disasters like winter ice storms, wildfires, and drought are also driving up the cost of electricity. We need more tools to ensure we can deliver the reliability and affordability that consumers need.

Geothermal energy already delivers clean, round-the-clock power in the Western U.S. Building on these innovations, next-gen geothermal technologies can play an important part in the transition to an affordable and reliable clean energy future across the country.

Oregon is already a leader in this space, producing the fifth most geothermal electricity in the U.S. Oregon Institute of Technology opened Oregon's first geothermal power plant at their Klamath Falls campus, and for 60 years the school has heated buildings and supplied hot water with geothermal energy.

Now, Oregon is leading the charge with next-gen geothermal technologies. Newberry Volcano in central Oregon is a hot spot—anybody laugh?—for geothermal innovation. The industry is piloting commercial-scale power plants there, and they are demonstrating new technologies that will allow geothermal systems to operate in extreme heat conditions, which greatly expands the role that these resources can play in our energy mix.

This is not just about Oregon or the Mountain West anymore. Next-gen geothermal technologies will make it feasible to deploy geothermal energy across the country and serve as a critical tool in the fight against climate change. This renewable energy will help meet America's energy needs across the Nation.

The Federal Government needs to lean in, partner with the private sector, and ensure these technologies move quickly to market so that Americans feel the benefit sooner rather than later.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 8790, the Next-Generation Geothermal Research and Development Act, will support geothermal research, development, demonstration, and commercialization efforts at the Department of Energy to overcome the remaining engineering challenges and take this technology from promise to reality.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HARRIGAN).

Mr. HARRIGAN. Madam Speaker, when Americans think about energy, they usually think about things that we can see: oil fields, natural gas pipelines, nuclear power plants, wind farms.

One of the greatest energy opportunities in our country isn't aboveground. It is beneath our feet. That is why I am proud to rise in support of my Next-Generation Geothermal Research and Development Act, legislation I am leading with Congresswoman SALINAS.

America has an extraordinary opportunity to unlock a new source of reliable, around-the-clock power. A single supercritical geothermal well has the potential to produce more than seven times the energy of a conventional geothermal well. Experts estimate next-generation geothermal could ultimately provide up to 90 gigawatts of electricity right here at home.

The problem is not that our country lacks the resources, but we lack the technology to fully unlock it.

This bill helps close that gap. It directs the Department of Energy to tackle the engineering challenges that still stand in the way of commercialization, expands real-world testing, and strengthens the partnerships between our national labs, universities, and private industry that have always driven American innovation.

This is exactly what the government should be doing, not picking winners and losers, but helping solve the kinds of technical challenges the private sector can't solve alone.

Reliable baseload power is no longer a luxury. As AI transforms our economy, manufacturing returns to America, and electricity demand continues to grow, we need to be investing in the technologies that will power the next generation.

More reliable American energy means lower costs for hardworking families, a stronger electric grid, and less dependence on foreign adversaries. This bill does exactly that.

Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SALINAS for her partnership, and I urge all of my colleagues to support the Next-Generation Geothermal Research and Development Act.

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

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague Mr. HARRIGAN for his leadership on this sensible, bipartisan bill, and I urge everyone to vote "yes" on H.R. 8790. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, the need for the United States to increase reliable baseload energy is very clear.

To help meet this demand, the House has recently passed multiple bills to accelerate the development of geothermal energy. This legislation builds on those efforts and will help geothermal play an even greater role in meeting our Nation's energy needs.

H.R. 8790 authorizes and directs the Department of Energy to support the research and development of next-generation geothermal technologies, helping ensure that American leadership in this emerging industry remains number one.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative HARRIGAN for his leadership on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this simple bipartisan measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8790, 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.

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 39 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. WEBER of Texas) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4541; and

H.R. 8823.

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.

EARLY ACT REAUTHORIZATION OF 2025

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. 4541) to reauthorize the Young Womens Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009, 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 Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 394, nays 6, not voting 31, as follows:

[Roll No. 250]

YEAS—394

Adams	Ellzey	Kean
Aderholt	Emmer	Keating
Aguilar	Escobar	Kelly (IL)
Alford	Españillat	Kelly (MS)
Allen	Estes	Kelly (PA)
Amo	Evans (CO)	Kennedy (NY)
Amodei (NV)	Evans (PA)	Kennedy (UT)
Ansari	Ezell	Khanna
Arrington	Fallon	Kiggans (VA)
Auchincloss	Fedorchak	Kiley (CA)
Babin	Feenstra	Kim
Bacon	Fields	Krishnamoorthi
Baird	Figures	Kustoff
Balderson	Fine	LaHood
Balint	Finstad	LaLota
Barr	Fischbach	Landsman
Barragán	Fitzgerald	Langworthy
Barrett	Fitzpatrick	Larsen (WA)
Baumgartner	Fleischmann	Larson (CT)
Bean (FL)	Fletcher	Latimer
Begich	Flood	Latta
Bell	Fong	Lawler
Bentz	Foster	Lee (FL)
Bera	Foushee	Lee (NV)
Bergman	Fox	Lee (PA)
Beyer	Frankel, Lois	Leger Fernandez
Bice	Franklin, Scott	Letlow
Biggs (SC)	Friedman	Levin
Bilirakis	Frost	Liccardo
Bishop	Fulcher	Lieu
Boebert	Fuller	Lofgren
Bonamici	Gallagher	Loudermilk
Bost	Garamendi	Lucas
Boyle (PA)	Garbarino	Luttrell
Bresnahan	Garcia (IL)	Lynch
Brown	Garcia (TX)	Mackenzie
Brownley	Gill (TX)	Magaziner
Budzinski	Gillen	Malliotakis
Burchett	Gimenez	Maloy
Bynum	Golden (ME)	Mann
Calvert	Goldman (TX)	Mannion
Cammack	Gomez	Mast
Carbajal	Gonzalez, V.	Matsui
Carey	Gooden	McBath
Carson	Goodlander	McBride
Carter (GA)	Gottheimer	McCaul
Carter (LA)	Gray	McClain
Carter (TX)	Green, Al (TX)	McClain Delaney
Case	Griffith	McClellan
Casten	Grijalva	McClintock
Castor (FL)	Grothman	McCormick
Castro (TX)	Guest	McDonald Rivet
Chu	Guthrie	McDowell
Cisneros	Hageman	McGarvey
Clark (MA)	Harder (CA)	McGovern
Clarke (NY)	Haridopolos	McGuire
Cleaver	Harris (MD)	McIver
Cline	Harris (NC)	Meeks
Cloud	Harshbarger	Mejia
Cohen	Hayes	Menefee
Cole	Hern (OK)	Menendez
Collins	Higgins (LA)	Meng
Comer	Hill (AR)	Messmer
Conaway	Himes	Meuser
Correa	Hinson	Mfume
Costa	Horsford	Miller (IL)
Courtney	Houchin	Miller (OH)
Craig	Houlahan	Miller (WV)
Crank	Hoyer	Miller-Meeks
Crawford	Hoyle (OR)	Mills
Crenshaw	Hudson	Min
Crockett	Huffman	Moolenaar
Crow	Huizenga	Moore (AL)
Cuellar	Hunt	Moore (NC)
Davids (KS)	Hurd (CO)	Moore (UT)
Davidson	Issa	Moore (WI)
Davis (IL)	Ivey	Moore (WV)
Davis (NC)	Jack	Moran
De La Cruz	Jackson (IL)	Morelle
Dean (PA)	Jackson (TX)	Morrison
DeGette	Jacobs	Moskowitz
DeLauro	Jayapal	Mrvan
DelBene	Jeffries	Mullin
Deluzio	Johnson (GA)	Murphy
DeSaulnier	Johnson (LA)	Nadler
DesJarlais	Johnson (SD)	Neal
Dexter	Johnson (TX)	Neguse
Diaz-Balart	Jordan	Nehls
Dingell	Joyce (OH)	Newhouse
Doggett	Joyce (PA)	Norcross
Edwards	Kamlager-Dove	Nunn (IA)
Elfreth	Kaptur	Oberholte

Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Olsewski
Onder
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Patronis
Pelosi
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Rouzer
Ruiz
Rulli
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Scalise
Scanlon

Schmidt
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shreve
Simon
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Stutzman
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)

Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Tran
Turner (OH)
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Wagner
Walberg
Walkinshaw
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—6

Brecheen
Burlison

Crane
Harrigan

Roy
Self

NOT VOTING—31

Beatty
Biggs (AZ)
Buchanan
Casar
Ciscomani
Clyburn
Clyde
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Fry

Garcia (CA)
Goldman (NY)
Gosar
Graves
Hamadeh (AZ)
James
Knott
Luna
Mace
Massie
McCollum

Moulton
Norman
Omar
Rose
Schakowsky
Scott (VA)
Trahan
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)

□ 1902

Mr. FINE changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PUTTING PATIENTS FIRST BY STRENGTHENING PROVIDER ACCOUNTABILITY IN FECA 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. 8823) to amend the Federal Employees Compensation Act to allow the Secretary of Labor to suspend payments to medical providers who have been convicted of fraud, 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 Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 396, nays 0, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 251]

YEAS—396

Adams
Aderholt
Agullar
Alford
Allen
Amo
Amodei (NV)
Ansari
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Barr
Barragán
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bell
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Bishop
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Burchett
Bynum
Calvert
Cammack
Carrabjal
Carey
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Dexter
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett

Elfreth
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Españillat
Estes
Evans (CO)
Evans (PA)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fields
Figures
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Foxy
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Friedman
Frost
Fulcher
Fuller
Gallagher
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gill (TX)
Gillen
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (TX)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Ivey
Jack
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (TX)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)

Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (NY)
Kennedy (UT)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Krishnamoorthi
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Letlow
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luttrell
Lynch
Mackenzie
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mannion
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McCauley
McClain
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McClintock
McCormick
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGarvey
McGovern
McGuire
McIver
Meeks
Mejia
Menefee
Menendez
Meng
Messmer
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Min
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)

Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Olsewski
Onder
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Patronis
Pelosi
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Rulli
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Scalise

Scanlon
Schmidt
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shreve
Simon
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Stutzman
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)

Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Tran
Turner (OH)
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Wagner
Walberg
Walkinshaw
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—35

Beatty
Biggs (AZ)
Buchanan
Burlison
Casar
Ciscomani
Clyburn
Clyde
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards

Fry
Garcia (CA)
Goldman (NY)
Gosar
Graves
Hamadeh (AZ)
James
Knott
Leger Fernandez
Luna
Mace
Massie

McCollum
Moulton
Nehls
Omar
Rose
Schakowsky
Scott (VA)
Smith (WA)
Trahan
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)

□ 1909

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 250 and YEA on Roll Call 251.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CHILD CARE CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 2062, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following individuals to the Advisory Board for the House of Representatives Child Care Center:

Ms. Sonali Jatin Desai, Arlington, Virginia

Mr. Eric Louis Delaney, Washington, D.C.

Ms. Erin M. Kolodjeski, Arlington, Virginia

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1841

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 1841.

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

RECOGNIZING DENISE MINDERLER

(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 Denise Minderler for her commitment to the Special Olympics.

Denise, a longtime resident of Potter County, Pennsylvania, has participated in the Special Olympics for 47 years. This incredible organization provides children and adults with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to train and compete in sports.

Denise's first competition was in 1978. She competed in bowling, which remains one of her favorite sports.

During my time in Congress, I have had the distinct honor of meeting Denise and hearing stories about the annual event.

Since her first competition in 1978, Denise has collected 142 medals, a remarkable achievement and reflection of her hard work and talent.

She also serves as a global messenger for Potter County. This position allows athletes to share their personal stories and highlight the positive impact the Special Olympics has on participants.

Mr. Speaker, Denise is a phenomenal representative for the Special Olympics and a mentor to athletes across Pennsylvania. I congratulate Denise on this incredible milestone.

RECOGNIZING MATT McMURRAY

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my chief of staff, Matt McMurray, for his service to my office and the Second Congressional District of Illinois.

Matt has been with me since day one. When we first met back in 2013, he was a very young man, fresh out of college, starting out as my staff assistant and deputy scheduler. Over the last 13 years, I have watched him earn every single step of his journey, working his way up to legislative assistant, legislative director, and, ultimately, a great chief of staff.

Today, he is still a young man, but he also is a devoted husband and a proud dad. He has truly grown up in this office. I always tease Matt that he was basically born in the Capitol. He knows every single nook, cranny, and historical detail of the building. One of his favorite traditions was sending our new interns on legendary Capitol scavenger hunts, ensuring that they didn't

just work here but they truly learned about the history and unique aspects of life on the Hill.

As my chief of staff, Matt has been an exceptional leader. He helped me build a wonderful, dedicated staff, kept a sharp eye on our budget, and made sure our core mission of serving the people of Illinois' Second District was always top of mind. He kept us focused, organized, and grounded.

I wish Matt nothing but the absolute best in his new endeavors. The organization he is joining is incredibly lucky to have him, but let me be clear: Just because he is moving on doesn't mean he is off the hook because once you are Team Kelly, you are always Team Kelly.

I thank Matt for everything.

HONORING OFFICERS GABRIEL VERAS, JR., AND CARIN ELMORE

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Norcross Police Officer Gabriel Veras, Jr., and Communications Officer Carin Elmore for their heroic and lifesaving teamwork.

On April 7, 2025, Officer Elmore, acting quickly after receiving emergency calls, dispatched officers to the scene of a 3-year-old child in cardiac arrest. Officer Veras arrived before paramedics and began chest compressions and rescue breaths, reviving the child.

Because of their quick and heroic action, a life was saved, and the child made a full recovery.

On September 4, the city of Norcross awarded both officers the Arthur M. Kaplan First Responder Award for their heroism.

This year, the National Association of Police Organizations honored Officer Veras with the 2026 TOP COPS honorable mention, and Governor Brian Kemp commended his lifesaving actions.

I thank Officer Veras and Officer Elmore for their efforts to serve their community to the fullest capacity. I congratulate both of them on their well-deserved recognition and thank them for their service.

SALUTING MEMBERS OF MOUNT VERNON NAACP

(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 salute the leaders and the members of the Mount Vernon, New York, branch of the NAACP as they plan their annual Community Heroes Award Luncheon this coming Saturday at the Macedonia Community Center.

The branch will be honoring 10 outstanding individuals, each of whom has made a significant contribution to the community.

They will be recognizing Mr. Al-Farid Salahuddin; Mr. Abishai Ben-Rubin; Coach Craig Ramsay; Ms. Donna Houston; Dr. Natasha Hunter-McGregor; Fire Commissioner Kevin Holt; Ms. Judith Watson, CEO of Healthcare Neighborhood Health Centers; Mr. Martello Payne, Jr., a Korean war veteran; Mr. Ralph Burts; and special recognition to Jermire Pyatt.

From the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, we salute the NAACP Mount Vernon branch.

FOLLOW THE MONEY

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

Ms. BYNUM. Shh. Mr. Speaker, it has been really quiet in this Chamber about who is profiting from the Presidency.

While Americans struggle to pay for gas and groceries, our President Trump is making billions. His media company wants Wall Street to pay \$10,000 for early access to his Truth Social posts. Now, this says to me that the President is saying: Pay me, and I will help you trade on insider information.

Wall Street eats, and we get the bill.

Now we are seeing reports of a growing market where people like rapper Lil Boosie pay those claiming that they have access to Presidential pardons.

That is not how public service should work. We cannot stay quiet while power is being treated like a product for sale.

Shh. Congress has a responsibility to follow the money, demand transparency, and remind this administration that public service is about serving the people and not their pocketbooks.

□ 1920

RECOGNIZING BLACK MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, this is Black Maternal Mental Health Week, and it is a time for action. We can save countless Black mothers from preventable death.

Michigan has one of the highest death rates among Black pregnant people because our health system fails to provide comprehensive and accessible healthcare.

Folks here may not know this, but mental health is the leading cause of maternal deaths, and Black women in our country are the most underreported and undertreated.

As the chair of the Congressional Mamas Caucus, our members and I are committing to improving mothers' mental health all year round, not just this week.

Every year, we display portraits of Black mothers who died from pregnancy-related causes because so many

of our Black mothers are held invisible in our policymaking. They are ignored and dismissed when they are the ones who need to be heard the most concerning the cause of maternal health in our country.

I will continue to amplify their voices so that all Black mamas can thrive alongside their families. It is important that our country saves Black mothers now and not wait for statistics to come every single year to tell us we are not doing our job.

HONORING JOANNE RAJOPPI

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

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Joanne Rajoppi, the longtime Union County clerk who dedicated more than five decades to public service and passed away on Thursday, July 16, at the age of 78.

Joanne made history as Springfield's first female mayor, later becoming the first and only woman to serve as chair of the Union County Board of Commissioners. She served as Union County Clerk for 30 years.

Throughout her career, Joanne worked to modernize county government by expanding access to public records, improving election information, and creating new resources for residents throughout the county.

Joanne cared about our democracy and did the work of keeping it. That work is sometimes hard and thankless, but it is also important. Joanne knew that.

A six-time recipient of the National Association of Counties Achievement Award, Joanne's leadership and innovation left a lasting impact on New Jersey.

On behalf of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District, I extend my deepest condolences to Joanne's family, friends, colleagues, all of those who loved her so much, and all those whose lives she touched throughout her extraordinary commitment to public service.

May she rest in peace.

TROOP DEATHS IN JORDAN AND IRAQ

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise with profound sorrow over the deaths of three American servicemembers killed in Jordan and Iraq, as dozens more were injured.

The hearts of the American people are filled with grief and abiding gratitude to their beloved families, colleagues, and friends.

Last February, President Trump told us his undeclared war of choice on Iran was only supposed to last 4 days. We

are now on day 143 with no end in sight, heading toward 5 months.

Curiously, in June, President Trump said: "It is a little bit unfair for [Iran] not to have some" ballistic missiles.

Their missiles claimed the lives of 25-year-old James Feehan of Hawaii, 19-year-old Isabella Gonzales of Texas, and the life of a soldier whose name we don't yet know, plus dozens of injured troops.

Billions of tax dollars are being spent and shifted by the Trump administration, ballooning our gaping Federal debt, without an approval vote by Congress.

May God bless our troops.

May the leaders of the President's party and our U.S. House and Senate answer the vital questions: What does victory in the Middle East look like? Across the region, where thus far the only troops on the ground are soldiers from the United States, where is the coalition for peace?

RECOGNIZING PETER DEMARCO

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend Peter DeMarco for his 25 years of service to the constituents of Orange County.

Most recently, Peter served in the Orange County Executive Office, where he was the county's top, principal advocate at the California Legislature and U.S. Congress.

Peter worked for Orange County residents to support funding for public safety, healthcare, housing, and veteran services.

Now, Peter begins a new chapter of public service with Mesa Water District.

On behalf of the people of California's 46th Congressional District and the people of Orange County, I congratulate Peter on his new position and wish him continued success in the future. I thank Peter.

RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LONG ISLAND ASSOCIATION

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. LaLOTA of New York was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LaLOTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LaLOTA. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I am honored to host a Special Order in

recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Long Island Association.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an institution that has helped shape Long Island's economy, strengthened its communities, and championed its future for the past century.

For 100 years, the Long Island Association has served as the leading voice of Long Island's business community, bringing together employers, entrepreneurs, nonprofit organizations, educators, labor leaders, and public officials around a shared mission: ensuring Long Island remains one of the best places in America to live, work, raise a family, and build a business.

Founded in 1926 as the Long Island Chamber of Commerce, the organization emerged during a period of tremendous growth with an ambitious mission: to promote Long Island's unique strengths and expand economic opportunity throughout the region.

That mission has endured, even as Long Island has evolved from a collection of agricultural communities and seasonal destinations into one of the Nation's most dynamic regional economies.

Today, Long Island is home to world-class manufacturers, innovative life science companies, internationally recognized research institutions, thriving small businesses, and vibrant downtowns.

Throughout that transformation, the Long Island Association has been a steadfast advocate for policies that encourage investment, innovation, and job creation.

Whether advancing critical infrastructure projects, strengthening workforce development, or helping businesses navigate extraordinary challenges—from the aftermath of September 11 to Superstorm Sandy to the COVID-19 pandemic—the LIA has consistently demonstrated thoughtful leadership and an unwavering commitment to our region.

Its work continues today as Long Island confronts many of the challenges that will define our next century, including affordability, housing, infrastructure, energy reliability, and maintaining a business climate that allows employers of every size to succeed. New York's exceptionally high tax burden only makes those challenges more difficult.

Meeting those challenges is essential, not only for today's economy but for ensuring that future generations can continue to build successful careers and rewarding lives on Long Island.

Mr. Speaker, I will also recognize the outstanding leadership of the Long Island Association, who are joining us in the gallery this evening:

Chairman Lawrence J. Waldman; Acting President and Chief Executive Officer Stacey Sikes; and members of the board of directors, including Billy Haugland, Katherine Heaviside, and Luis Vazquez.

Their leadership and the dedication of countless other board members,

staff, volunteers, and business leaders over the past century have positioned the Long Island Association for continued success in the years ahead.

□ 1930

As someone privileged to represent New York's First Congressional District, I know that Long Island's greatest asset has always been its people—the entrepreneurs, workers, educators, researchers, veterans, community leaders, and innovators whose talent and determination make our region exceptional.

For a century, the Long Island Association has brought those voices together in pursuit of a stronger regional economy and a brighter future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Long Island Association on this extraordinary centennial anniversary.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of New York's First Congressional District, I thank the association, its leadership, its members, and everyone who has contributed to this remarkable legacy. May its second century be as successful as its first.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Ms. GILLEN).

Ms. GILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Long Island Association. For a century, it has been an institution at the heart of Long Island's economy and business community.

I thank Chairman Waldman, Acting President Sikes, and the association's board members who traveled to Washington this week. It is a privilege to reaffirm our shared commitment to prosperity and opportunity for every Long Islander.

Long Island's businesses and industries contribute more than \$200 billion to our Nation's economy each year. We are an economic powerhouse, driving innovation and discoveries in national security, medicine, and next-generation technologies.

Giving Long Island's businesses a strong base with no limits on their success is how we bolster our local economy and our way of life.

Core to its mission, the Long Island Association has been a crucial bridge between businesses and local and Federal government leaders. That partnership is foundational to the success of every entrepreneur, industry, and family-owned business that built Long Island.

Our work here in Washington is first and foremost to deliver for our communities through bipartisanship and common sense. Doing so through pro-business and pro-worker policies gives our region the room to grow and stay competitive.

The Long Island Association partnership has been instrumental in helping meet the challenges that we face. We must make Long Island more affordable to keep attracting world-class talent and give companies the chance to invest in themselves.

That starts with lowering the high cost and taxes our families and businesses pay, including fully and permanently eliminating the SALT cap and undoing harmful tariffs. It means making housing more affordable and ensuring every young professional and hard-working family has a place to call home.

We must meet our energy needs with an all-of-the-above strategy and guarantee our infrastructure can support a growing economy. We must cut Federal red tape and invest in our industries to fuel greater opportunity across our region.

I am proud to have worked with the association and with my Long Island colleagues across the aisle to tackle these challenges head on. I remain committed to being a trusted voice in Washington for Long Island's businesses and workers.

As we celebrate the Long Island Association's 100 years of excellence, I look forward to our continued partnership. Congratulations on this historic milestone and the beginning of another remarkable century of service.

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI).

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I am so happy to be joining with my colleagues in the spirit of bipartisanship to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Long Island Association.

It has been a long journey, where over 100 years, a few name changes, under different leadership, and over a transition from farmland to suburbia to one of the densest, most productive regions in the Nation, the Long Island Association has brought together the best minds in business, labor, education, government, and the not-for-profit community to lay out a vision to move our community forward.

The Long Island Association has helped lead the way to make Long Island one of the most powerful regional economies in the United States of America.

Now, the Long Island Association has not done everything right. In preparing for this speech, I learned that the Long Island Association, along with none other than Robert Moses, proposed a bridge from Connecticut to Long Island. It might have been a good idea for business and traffic, but it would have ruined my beaches.

I have been in public life for over 30 years, first elected as mayor in 1993. As a result, I had the opportunity to be friendly with each leader of the Long Island Association during that time, from Jim Larocca to Matt Crosson to Kevin Law to Matt Cohen, and now the extraordinary Stacey Sikes.

I worked together with Stacey when I was Nassau County Executive. I saw firsthand her intelligence, work ethic, integrity, and her ability to bring people together. She, together with our chairman, Larry Waldman, and so many other good people on the board, we realize the Long Island Association is in very good hands.

For a century, the Long Island Association has been in the room for nearly every major conversation about our region's future. It helped advocate for the creation of Jones Beach State Park. It advocated for the Long Island Expressway and the Grand Central Parkway.

It was there for the growth of Levittown and the merger of North Shore University Hospital and the Glen Cove Hospital, which laid the foundation for what is now Northwell Health.

The Long Island Association has supported the growth of research and innovation and has brought together leaders to address the workforce development, housing, clean water, energy, and the stewardship of our natural resources like the Long Island Sound.

The association knows what businesses and workers need. It knows where Long Island commerce is pulling ahead and where it is falling behind. It understands the challenges we are facing when it comes to housing, transportation, workforce shortages, and energy reliability. It knows who needs to be in the room to ensure Long Island stays competitive in a rapidly changing economy.

We need the Long Island Association now more than ever. In our contemporary world, with the division between Democrats and Republicans and a fractured media environment, it is hard to know who to trust. We need the Long Island Association to continue to bring us together in search of a common vision to make Long Island the best place to live, work, and enjoy our lives.

The challenges we face today are different than they were 100 years ago, but the need for people to work together to cross party lines, to cross from business to labor, from elected officials to the not-for-profit community and education is the same need we have always had.

We must work together to build upon the progress that has been made to increase the SALT deduction and make life more affordable for Long Islanders.

We must work together to build more housing in downtowns so that we can expand the tax base and create an environment that is attractive and affordable to young people, and thereby expand our workforce and create cool downtowns.

We must work together to ensure that our energy is sustainable, reliable, and affordable. We must work together to improve our infrastructure, reduce traffic, and hasten our commutes.

We must work together to protect the environment and to keep our communities safe so that we can maintain one of the greatest qualities of life of any region in the Nation.

Working together, Democrats and Republicans, in league with our partners represented by the Long Island Association, we know that Long Island's best days are ahead.

Congratulations on an extraordinary first century, and here is to the next 100 years.

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues and I have described during this Special Order, Long Island's success has never happened by accident. Rather, it has always been driven by gritty, proud, hardworking people willing to invest in their communities and build a stronger future.

For the last 100 years, the Long Island Association has helped lead that effort, and I have no doubt it will continue to do so for generations to come.

I once again congratulate the Long Island Association on its centennial anniversary, thank its leadership and members for their enduring service to our region and wish them continued success ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSMER).

□ 1940

RECOGNIZING KEN EPPLER, OUTSTANDING HOOSIER

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding Hoosier whose dedication to our country did not end when he took off the uniform.

This week, I will have the honor of welcoming Evansville Army veteran Ken Eppler and his lovely wife, Cathy, to my congressional office here at the United States Capitol.

Following his service to our Nation, Ken found great happiness in his incredible talent as a painter. He graciously lent me one of his beautiful paintings, *The Enduring Spirit* to display here in the Halls of Congress in honor of America's 250th anniversary.

Ken served our Nation with honor in the United States Army, earning both Airborne and Air Assault qualifications before serving with the 101st Airborne Division during the Gulf war.

He later continued his service in the Indiana National Guard and has made us all proud as a defender of our country and a wonderful member of our community. His commitment to our Nation is reflected not only in his military service, but also in the remarkable artwork he continues to create.

The *Enduring Spirit* depicts three colonial children standing together playing the fife and drum while proudly holding an American 250 flag. To me, this patriotic painting is a powerful reminder that the ideals of freedom and love of country are passed from one generation down to the next. It is a privilege to display his incredible artwork for my colleagues and all who visit Washington, especially those Hoosiers coming to our Nation's Capital.

Ken has said that he hopes his artwork inspires students to love our country and encourages young people to learn more about our Nation's great history. I cannot think of a better message to share with the myriads of people who travel to Washington and visit our country's Capital.

Indiana's Eighth District is proud to call Ken Eppler one of our own, and I am honored to display his beautiful artwork which I think reflects the very best of Hoosier and American patriotism.

CONGRATULATING EVANSVILLE MATER DEI WILDCATS BASEBALL VICTORY

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mater Dei Wildcats for winning the 2026 Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 2-A baseball State championship.

In a thrilling 6-3 victory in the final game, the Wildcats captured their second baseball State championship in school history, the last one being back in 1991.

I also want to recognize first-year Head Coach Adam Wildeman whose leadership led the Wildcats to 15 consecutive victories, delivering another championship back to Evansville. This victory is a proud moment for Evansville, Vanderburgh County, and all of Indiana's Eighth Congressional District.

Congratulations, once again, to the Mater Dei Wildcats.

CONGRATULATING THE BARR-REEVE VIKINGS SOFTBALL VICTORY

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Barr-Reeve Vikings softball team on winning the 2026 Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 1-A State softball championship, their first State softball championship in school history.

With a dominant 6-0 victory in their final game, the Vikings had an outstanding season with 32 wins and only one loss, cementing their names in the Hoosier athletic history books.

This championship is the result of years of hard work and great perseverance. A great job was done by Head Coach Josh Huff, whose leadership inspired the discipline these athletes put forth to bring home this victory.

Congratulations to the Barr-Reeve Vikings for making all of us proud in Daviess County and throughout the Eighth District, and may they enjoy their well-deserved summer vacation.

CONGRATULATING TECUMSEH BRAVES SOFTBALL VICTORY

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tecumseh Braves softball team on bringing home the 2026 Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 2-A softball State championship.

This marks the fourth State championship title the Braves have captured in the last 5 years and the seventh in the program's history.

What an extraordinary achievement, reflecting incredible amounts of hard work, discipline, and a great commitment to their teammates and their sport.

Year after year, the Tecumseh Braves have set the standard for excellence, as their many big wins show.

Thanks to Head Coach Gordon Wood, whose outstanding leadership has helped establish Tecumseh as one of Indiana's premier softball programs.

Way to make all of us in Warrick County proud. I congratulate them all.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JASPER WILDCATS GIRLS' TENNIS VICTORY

Mr. MESSMER. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Jas-

per Wildcats girls' tennis doubles team of Adaysha Smiley and Stella Knies for winning the 2026 Indiana High School Athletic Association girls' tennis doubles State championship.

In a hard-fought straight-set victory, the doubles team captured the State title, capping off an outstanding season. Hats off to these two athletes for their prowess and sportsmanship throughout the year, which makes this big win all the more sweet for the Wildcats and the fans.

I also want to give a shout-out to Head Coach Scott Yarbrough, whose outstanding leadership has, once again, guided the Wildcats to another State championship. All of Dubois County is proud of this tennis team and these special young ladies for their impressive victory.

I congratulate, once again, the Jasper Wildcats girls' tennis team.

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

(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 have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any 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, this week's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour is in honor of the life and legacy of civil rights leader and our former colleague, Congressman John R. Lewis, as we mark the sixth anniversary of his passing last week.

Congressman Lewis led our community fearlessly through many pivotal moments in our Nation's history. From his time as a student organizer to marching in Montgomery alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., up until the end of his career in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Lewis was a beacon of light in our darkest times.

His legacy continues to inspire not only this caucus but our country, serving as a blueprint for protecting and expanding democracy, defending the right to vote, advancing the unfinished work of justice and equal representation, the unfinished work of making liberty and justice for all apply to all.

The Supreme Court's recent decision in *Louisiana v. Callais* underscores the enduring importance of safeguarding the Black vote. The Trump administration's efforts to prioritize the disenfranchisement of our communities and its efforts to roll back progress made in making equality apply to all

galvanizes the Congressional Black Caucus to double down and further his life's legacy.

Today, we commemorate the memory of Congressman John Lewis while we continue to hold the line against ongoing attacks to our right to representation.

I want to reflect on what John Lewis meant to me. Born in 1972, I am the first generation, but hopefully not the last, to benefit from him literally putting his life on the line to extend the promises of our founding documents to all of us.

I studied his history, and I was particularly inspired by how at a young age as a college student, John Lewis put his faith into action. He said in an op-ed he wrote toward the end of his life that Emmett Till was his George Floyd.

When Emmett Till was killed at age 14, John Lewis was only 15 years old.

He said: "I will never ever forget the moment when it became so clear that he could easily have been me. In those days, fear constrained us like an imaginary prison, and troubling thoughts of potential brutality committed for no understandable reason were the bars."

"Though I was surrounded by two loving parents, plenty of brothers, sisters, and cousins, their love could not protect me from the unholy oppression waiting just outside that family circle. Unchecked, unrestrained violence and government-sanctioned terror had the power to turn a simple stroll to the store for some Skittles or an innocent morning jog down a lonesome country road into a nightmare. If we are to survive as one unified nation, we must discover what so readily takes root in our hearts that could rob Mother Emanuel Church in South Carolina of her brightest and best, shoot unwitting concertgoers in Las Vegas and choke to death the hopes and dreams of a gifted violinist like Elijah McClain."

At 15 years old, John Lewis decided to do something about it. As a college student, he participated in the national sit-in, a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement, where he and his fellow students targeted segregated lunch counters in downtown Nashville where my father was from.

They were arrested, beaten, and jailed. My grandfather actually served as one of the members of the legal team to those students.

This act of peaceful protest in the face of violent reaction led to the desegregation of the city stores in Nashville.

I will never forget watching a video of Congressman Lewis sitting at the lunch counter, in an exhibit in the Smithsonian Museum of African American History, listening in the headsets to the recording of what the Greensboro Four heard at the Woolworth counter. As it triggered his own memory, he wept.

□ 1950

In May of 1961, Congressman Lewis, then a student, was severely beaten by

a White mob at a Greyhound bus terminal in Rock Hill, South Carolina, during the Freedom Rides.

Fifty years later, one of his attackers, Elwin Wilson, came to Washington to ask for his forgiveness. Together, in a very emotional meeting in his office, they listened to another recording of the mob that beat John Lewis nearly to death that day. John Lewis forgave him.

In August of 1963, he was the youngest speaker at the March on Washington, representing one of the Big Six civil rights group.

Then, in March of 1965, he led another March, in Selma, where he was again beaten, along with 600 other peaceful protesters walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, who were brutally attacked by State troopers.

Each of these actions galvanized change: the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, and more.

For me, the most memorable moment I got to witness: In 2019, he came to Richmond. He was the keynote speaker at a ceremony to rename the Boulevard after tennis great, Arthur Ashe. After his speech, I had the privilege of escorting him to an exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. In a former Confederate chapel, the exhibit included a recording of the speech that he gave in response when he opposed the impeachment of President Clinton.

I sat in a pew next to John Lewis and watched him as he listened to that speech for the first time since he gave it. What stuck out to me were the following words: "When you see something that is not right, not just, not fair, you have a moral obligation to say something, to do something. Our children and their children will ask us, What did you do? What did you say? For some, this vote may be hard, but we have a mission and a mandate to be on the right side of history."

I watched with tears in my eyes as he listened and wept. He said that was the first time he had heard it but that the words were still true.

Mr. Speaker, we take tough votes here. We take votes that sometimes are the difference between life and death. We take votes to try to stop the rollback of progress. We take votes to make "liberty and justice for all" apply to all.

For me, my North Star are the words I just read from John Lewis: When you see something that is not right, say something.

There is a lot I see that is not right. I see a President, in the name of a war on wokeness, dismantling the very civil rights protections that allowed me to be here. I see a President and his congressional enablers dismantling the right to vote, putting on the floor not once, not twice, not three times—at least four times a modern day poll tax that makes a mockery of the Voting Rights Act and the 15th Amendment that it was intended to enforce.

I see a Secretary of Defense who is systematically firing very qualified,

very distinguished, decorated generals and leaders, admirals, because they are Black or women. He thinks that, because of that, they must only be there because of DEI. I see that that is wrong, and I am saying something. I will continue to say something because that is what John Lewis would have me do.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE), the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am Representative D. YVETTE CLARKE, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus for the 119th Session of Congress, proudly representing New York's Ninth Congressional District in central and southwest Brooklyn.

I thank my dear colleague Congresswoman JENNIFER MCCLELLAN for anchoring this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour and really setting the table for a conversation that we are having this evening.

I rise tonight with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to honor the life and legacy of our dear friend and former colleague, the conscience of this Congress, Congressman John Lewis.

For more than 30 years in the United States House of Representatives and over the course of his life, Congressman John Lewis never stopped fighting for justice, equality, and the right to vote.

Today, the very ideals that Congressman Lewis spent his life fighting to protect are under sustained and unprecedented attack. As we speak, extremist Republicans at the local, State, and national levels are using every tactic in their arsenal to disenfranchise Black and minority communities.

To date, hundreds of bills to restrict voting access have been introduced in States around the country with the aim of closing polling locations, curbing early voting and mail-in ballots, and imposing stricter national voter ID requirements.

Right now Republicans in the Congress are fighting to jam through voter suppression legislation, like the so-called SAVE America Act and the Voter ID Act, ushering in a national ID program.

In the wake of the Callais decision, Black political power and representation has come under direct assault, with Republican-led legislatures and Governors moving to redraw congressional maps across the south ahead of the November election in a brazen effort to dilute Black voting strength and reverse decades of hard-fought civil rights progress secured through the Voting Rights Act.

With these unprecedented assaults on our voting rights and the slow erosion of our constitutional and Democratic norms, each of us has a moral responsibility to speak out and act out as Congressman John Lewis did. Voting

rights are and have always been the CBC's North Star.

For generations, our communities have marched, fought, and even died for the right to vote. Congressman Lewis certainly knew this.

At a time when our democracy is under constant siege by the Trump administration, we must do all that we can to protect those most fundamental and foundational rights.

It is a shame that partisan politics has brought us to a point that we cannot agree that access to the ballot box should be a right afforded to every American. Congressman John Lewis devoted every day of his life to fighting to make our country live up to its highest ideals—to promise that we are all created equal.

From the Edmund Pettus Bridge to the Halls of Congress, the boy from Troy never stopped making good trouble. As he would say: necessary trouble.

It is in that spirit that the CBC and House Democrats will always fight back against the voter suppression that plagues our country and impedes access to the ballot box, particularly in Black communities. It is in light of that spirit that we will not stop until we pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore and modernize the protections of the Voting Rights Act to prevent States from erecting new barriers to the ballot box.

Mr. Speaker, I will just say that we miss John Lewis. In this moment, it is up to all of us to pick up the mantle of his legacy and press forward, making good trouble, necessary trouble.

□ 2000

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH), from the Sixth District.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank so much, once again, our esteemed colleague Representative JENNIFER McCLELLAN from Virginia who consistently, over and over again, has always been steadfast in holding Special Order hours for the Congressional Black Caucus. She understands the relevance and the importance of our history and all that this means to communities of color that we make sure that we have our say here on the House floor and all these words are kept in the record for perpetuity.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues and the CBC for hosting tonight's CBC Special Order hour to honor what we all know is a really, really great man. I think everyone, whether you are Republican or Democrat, has always understood the importance of having John Lewis as our esteemed colleague.

It is hard to believe that it has been 6 years since the passing of our dear friend and colleague Congressman John Lewis, or as he would always say, "I am the boy from Troy."

Despite years lacking his presence, his spirit and his soul still fill this

Chamber every single day. There are so many of my colleagues that continue to use his words and his phrases and his thoughts every single day as they want to be able to emulate the work that he has done for democracy, the work that he has done for the United States of America on behalf of every community in America.

Renowned as the conscience of Congress—and I don't think there will be anyone else ever to come along in this esteemed body, for years to come, long after we are all gone, that can ever be revered as the conscience of Congress—John leaves behind a legacy that serves as a guiding light toward what is right and what is just in America.

In a world where Federal protections for communities indeed are under constant attack every single day, where the Voting Rights Act is being systematically dismantled, and where some children born today have fewer protections than their parents had, it has never been more important to let his words guide our actions.

As John would often say, and it has been quoted a million times over, we have a moral obligation, a mission, and a mandate to do what we can to make our country and our world a better place, and to help usher in a loving community where no one is left out or left behind.

John was probably one of the only politicians that I truly believe lived by those words and was absolutely unafraid to do what was necessary to realize them, no matter if he was marching for freedom in Selma or sitting in on the House floor in support of safer gun laws.

I remember that night so distinctly because at that time, I was the national spokesperson for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. While all of my now colleagues were sitting on the House floor asking for background checks for all gun sales, asking for safer communities, legislation that would keep our families safe, I was on the outside leading the rally, leading the charge for the very same thing.

John reminded each of us of the importance of getting into good, necessary trouble. You will hear that said by my colleagues again and again because the trouble is absolutely necessary.

John's story is one of faith. It is one of resilience and perpetual belief that it is our responsibility—especially those of us who serve in this body—to fight for the change that we wish to see, that our constituents and our communities are crying out for.

From the son of Alabama sharecroppers to a renowned civil rights activist to a Member of Congress, John's life was a true testament to the American Dream. He embraced a country that did not always embrace him because he believed in the promise of a better tomorrow and was willing to fight for it. He was willing to even die for it.

He fought for it on the streets of Montgomery. He fought for it while bruised and bloodied on a bridge in Selma. He fought for it for 33 years representing his community in the Halls of Congress.

He was a mentor to me when I first came to this Chamber ready to make life better for families in Georgia. In fact, I remember the very first day I was here, after I was sworn in. The Democratic Caucus always welcomes the brand-new Members. It was John, who was the leader of our delegation, who introduced me to the entire Democratic Caucus.

That moment was so monumental for me, so monumental for me that I had the John Lewis, our civil rights icon, introduce me to the Democratic Caucus as one of his very own. It takes my breath away even to this day.

I will never forget the day that he accompanied me and other survivors of gun violence and those who have lost loved ones as we marched our way over to Senator MITCH MCCONNELL's office. We were demanding that he pay heed to our stories, that he pay attention to the hundreds of thousands of people in this country that are dying unnecessarily to gun violence every single day.

I remember dancing with John Lewis. He loved to dance. Despite everything that happened to him in his life, he believed in the good of man. He believed in the best of man. That joy came through whenever he was with organizations and people that had come to celebrate all the work that he had done. He would celebrate and give them love through dance.

I remember even before I came to Congress, I asked John, when I was national spokesperson for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America in Atlanta, I was holding a rally and asked him if he would be my keynote speaker, never imagining he would say yes. Never in a million years did I believe that John Lewis would listen to me, just an average mom who had lost her own son to gun violence, but just asking for a little bit of his time. He came and spoke at my rally.

One thing I know about John is he always showed up for people, the people. They were his cause. Democracy was his cause. Freedom was his cause.

At this moment in our Nation's history, we draw upon the wisdom of his words and look to his legacy for strength and guidance as we carry the torch that he lit for civil and human rights, for not only people of color but for everyone in America. Because even today, we painfully have to be reminded that our work is still unfinished and not everybody in this country has been set free.

Before we mourn the death of John Lewis, we grieve the loss of the Federal protections the Voting Rights Act once afforded every American in this country, rights that John nearly gave his life for long before he ever had the chance to even serve in Congress.

□ 2010

Since his passing, those protections have eroded further, and the struggle to protect voting rights continues in his name here with legislation, back home in my home State of Georgia, and in State legislatures all across this country.

Progress is rarely linear. Despite this tumultuous time in our Nation's history, John's story reminds us that the fight to make our country a better place is never-ending. It is generation after generation. There is no end.

It was one of the greatest honors of my life to be his colleague and a fellow member of Georgia's congressional delegation.

Let's not forget the impact that he had on our country because his legacy is what guides us towards the future. It was a pure legacy for everyone in this country.

John cared so deeply about what he used to say all the time was the Beloved Community. The members of the CBC that I am so blessed to be able to serve with, we are always going to carry that mantle. That is our charge: to carry that mantle, uplifting the community that he loved so much.

We will continue to speak up, and we are going to continue to speak out against bigotry, against hatred, inequity, and injustice because that is what we know best. As people of color, that is what we know best.

So we will continue to speak up against all of these forms of inequity. In all of its forms, we will continue to fight against it. This will always be our charge, as we are tasked to be the protectors and the armor-bearers of democracy.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Georgia.

As we reflect on Congressman Lewis, I often ask myself what would he say about what is going on today? I have to start with his final words to us, which I want to share now.

Shortly after his death, The New York Times published his last words to us in an op-ed entitled: "Together, You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation: Though I am gone, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe."

"While my time here has now come to an end, I want you to know that in the last days and hours of my life you inspired me. You filled me with hope about the next chapter of the great American story when you used your power to make a difference in our society. Millions of people motivated simply by human compassion laid down the burdens of division. Around the country and the world you set aside race, class, age, language, and nationality to demand respect for human dignity.

"That is why I had to visit Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, though I was admitted to the hospital the following day. I just had to see and feel it for myself that, after many

years of silent witness, the truth is still marching on.

"Emmett Till was my George Floyd. He was my Rayshard Brooks, Sandra Bland, and Breonna Taylor. He was 14 when he was killed, and I was only 15 years old at the time. I will never ever forget the moment when it became so clear that he could easily have been me. In those days, fear constrained us like an imaginary prison, and troubling thoughts of potential brutality committed for no understandable reason were the bars.

"Though I was surrounded by two loving parents, plenty of brothers, sisters, and cousins, their love could not protect me from the unholy oppression waiting just outside that family circle. Unchecked, unrestrained violence and government-sanctioned terror had the power to turn a simple stroll to the store for some Skittles or an innocent morning jog down a lonesome country road into a nightmare. If we are to survive as one unified nation, we must discover what so readily takes roots in our hearts that could rob Mother Emanuel Church in South Carolina of her brightest and best, shoot unwitting concertgoers in Las Vegas and choke to death the hopes and dreams of a gifted violinist like Elijah McClain.

"Like so many young people today, I was searching for a way out, or some might say a way in, and then I heard the voice of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on an old radio. He was talking about the philosophy and discipline of nonviolence. He said we are all complicit when we tolerate injustice. He said it is not enough to say it will get better by and by. He said each of us has a moral obligation to stand up, speak up, and speak out. When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something. Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself.

"Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble. Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it.

"You must also study and learn the lessons of history because humanity has been involved in this soul-wrenching, existential struggle for a very long time. People on every continent have stood in your shoes, through decades and centuries before you. The truth does not change, and that is why the answers worked out so long ago can help you find solutions to the challenges of our time. Continue to build union between movements stretching across the globe because we must put away our willingness to profit from the exploitation of others.

"Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest call-

ing of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe. In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love, and non-violence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring.

"When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression, and war. So I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide."

With that, John Lewis put down the torch, and we have to pick it up. We have to pick it up and run with it because the Beloved Community that he fought for is very far out of sight, farther than it was when he left us.

We still see, rather than a 14-year-old being lynched and killed because he had the temerity to be accused of hitting on a White woman and be killed, we have gone from Black Americans being afraid to walk down the street because of the violence that they may see, to immigrant communities afraid to go to the courthouse, to work, to school, anywhere where they might be detained and deported with no due process, or shot and killed, or detained in horrible conditions and not given the care that they need when they need it.

□ 2020

We now see people who fear going to the grocery store, school, a concert, a movie theater, church, or a baseball game without the fear of gun violence, which he fought so hard against.

We now see, when he encouraged us to learn from our history, an administration that wants to erase it because it is uncomfortable. But like any family tragedy, any family trauma, we cannot heal from the ugly parts of American history if we don't talk about it and learn from it.

See, we also need to understand our history and learn it because we have been here before. As John Lewis said: "The truth does not change, and . . . the answers worked out long ago can help you find solutions to the challenges of our time." But, if you are not teaching that history, if you are erasing it from our museums, our public spaces, and our classrooms, you can't learn it, and you can't learn from it.

We are, once again, involved in a war with no end in sight, and no one really understands how it started. We are seeing the weaponization of the very tools that gave us our closest moment to where we could say liberty and justice for all applied to all: The Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, the 14th Amendment, the 15th Amendment being weaponized to dismantle the progress we made of overcoming the legacy of over 300 years of slavery and Jim Crow.

We could be discouraged. I know a lot of people are. A lot of young people

who I talk to are—a lot of people who recognize that they have fewer rights than their parents did, a lot of people who realize they are fighting the same fights as their parents, their grandparents, and their great-grandparents.

They are people who are struggling to put food on the table, to keep the lights on, to get the healthcare they need when they need it without going bankrupt.

A lot of people are in despair, but John Lewis had something to say to them, too: “Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year. It is the struggle of a lifetime. Never ever be afraid to make some noise and get into good trouble, necessary trouble.”

Mr. Speaker, we are picking up the baton. I have picked up the baton. The Congressional Black Caucus has picked up the baton, and we will never ever drop it. We will fight back against attempts to roll back our voting rights. We will fight back against attempts to erase our history. We will fight back against attempts to erase the legacy that still lingers and impacts our communities—that legacy of over 300 years of slavery and Jim Crow.

We will never stop fighting for any community that is targeted and marginalized solely because of who they are. We will never stop fighting until, as Dr. King said, we can all say: “Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, I am free at last,” and until the promises of the Declaration of Independence, written 250 years ago, become true for everybody that this government recognizes that all people are created equal with the natural rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and that the purpose of government is to secure and protect those rights.

That is what John Lewis nearly gave his life for on that bus in South Carolina and on that bridge in Selma. He fought to the very end until he didn’t have the strength to fight anymore. We owe it to him to pick up that baton and never let it go until we hand it off to the next generation, who will fight to protect our democracy and our beloved community.

I thank John Lewis for dedicating his life so that generations who never met him will benefit from his work. We will carry it on.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o’clock and 25 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 21, 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-4153. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Records Preservation Program and Appendices—Record Retention Guidelines; Catastrophic Act Preparedness Guidelines (RIN: 3133-AF61) received July 17, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-4154. A letter from the Associate General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Prohibition on the Use of Reputation Risk (RIN: 3133-AF67) received July 17, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-4155. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of Community Services, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Reducing Bureaucracy and Burden for Community Services Programs (RIN: 0970-AD41) received June 9, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

EC-4156. A letter from the Secretary, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Revision of the Negative Option Rule, Withdrawal of the CARS Rule, Removal of the Non-Compete Rule To Conform These Rules to Federal Court Decisions (RIN: 3084-AB60) (RIN: 3084-AB72) (RIN: 3084-AB74) received July 14, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4157. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report titled “Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Sixth Report to Congress: Highlights of the DERA Program 2008-2025”, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 16134(a); Public Law 109-58, Sec. 794(a); (119 Stat. 843); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4158. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plan (Negative Declaration) for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Nebraska; Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units [EPA-R07-OAR-2026-4952; FRL-13457-02-R7] received July 15, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4159. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; Interim Final Determination To Stay and Defer Sanctions Related to Reasonably Available Control Technology Requirements (RACT) for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Control Technique Guidelines (CTG) Under the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) [EPA-R03-OAR-2026-3764; FRL-13384-01-R3] received July 15, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4160. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, En-

vironmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Iowa; Revisions to Iowa Air Quality Regulations [EPA-R07-OAR-2026-1156; FRL-13242-02-R7] received June 15, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4161. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval and Air Quality Designation; Ohio; Attainment Plan and Redesignation of the Canton Area to Attainment of the 2008 Lead Standard [EPA-R05-OAR-2024-0461; EPA-R05-OAR-2025-0222; FRL-13226-02-R5] received July 15, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4162. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Revisions; California; Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District; New Source Review; Stationary Source Permits [EPA-R09-OAR-2025-0056; FRL-12601-03-R9] received July 15, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4163. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — New Source Performance Standards Review for Stationary Combustion Turbines and Stationary Gas Turbines; Correction [EPA-HQ-OAR-2024-0419; FRL-11542.1-02-OAR] received July 15, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4164. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Regulatory Management Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Bacteriophage Active Against *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vesicatoria*—EcoPhage and Bacteriophage Active Against *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato*—EcoPhage; Exemptions from the Requirement of a Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0329; FRL-13363-01-OCSPP] received July 13, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4165. A letter from the Chair, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting the Commission’s June 2026 Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1396(b)(1)(C); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XIX, Sec. 1900 (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 2801(a)(1)(A)(iv)); (124 Stat. 329); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4166. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: RSAT case 26-54, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4167. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report titled, “Foreign Persons Engaged in Significant Corruption for the Purposes of Potential Imposition of Sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act”; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4168. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s Fiscal Year 2025 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat.

3241); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-4169. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting two notifications of a vacancy, designation of acting officer, nomination, and discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-4170. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Commerce Acquisition Regulation; Minor Amendments [Docket No.: 260317-0083] (RIN: 0605-AA87) received April 17, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-4171. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to enhance the Department of Energy's ability to mitigate the risk of products and vendors from nation states of concern from gaining access to the nation's critical energy infrastructure via the federally-owned portions of the bulk electric system; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4172. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Office of Civil Rights, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rescinding Portions of Department of Commerce Title VI Regulations To Conform More Closely With the Statutory Text and To Implement Executive Order 14281 [Docket No.: 260108-0024] (RIN: 0605-AA70) received June 1, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4173. A letter from the Acting Deputy General Counsel, Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rescinding Portions of DHS Title VI Regulations To Conform More Closely With the Statutory Text and To Implement Executive Order 14281 [Docket No.: DHS-2025-1009] (RIN: 1601-AB22) received June 26, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4174. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rescinding Portions of Department of State Title VI Regulations To Conform More Closely With the Statutory Text and To Implement Executive Order 14281 [Public Notice: 13049] (RIN: 1400-AG23) received July 14, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4175. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rescinding Portions of Department of the Interior Title VI Regulations To Conform More Closely With the Statutory Text and To Implement Executive Order 14281 [DOI-2026-0034; 256D0102DM; DS6CS00000; DLSN00000.000000; DX6CS25] (RIN: 1093-AA30) received June 8, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4176. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Safety, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Allowing for the Electronic Posting of Reportable Injuries and Occupational Illnesses [Docket No.: FRA-2025-0122; Notice No. 2] (RIN: 2130-AD57) received May 4, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

ant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4177. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Safety, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removing Stenciling Requirement for Freight Cars Used for Tourist, Historic, Excursion, Educational, Recreational, or Private Purposes and Not Interchanged [Docket No.: FRA-2025-0118; Notice No. 2] (RIN: 2130-AD54) received May 4, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4178. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Repealing a Track Surface Requirement [Docket No.: FRA-2025-0116; Notice No. 2] (RIN: 2130-AD49) received May 4, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4179. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulatory Relief To Allow Speeds Up to 45 MPH for Non-Traversable Curbs [Docket No.: FRA-2025-0120; Notice No. 2] (RIN: 2130-AD14) received May 4, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4180. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Safety, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to the Federal Railroad Administration's Procedures for Service of Documents in Railroad Safety Enforcement Proceedings [Docket No.: FRA-2022-0085; Notice No. 2] (RIN: 2130-AC93) received April 27, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4181. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Oversight and Management, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Expansion of VA Process for 72-Hour Notification of Emergency Treatment [Docket No.: VA-2025-VHA-0007] (RIN: 2900-AS29) received July 14, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4182. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children, Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Designated Placement Requirements Under Titles IV-E and IV-B for LGBTQI+ Children; Rescission (RIN: 0970-AD19) received July 14, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-4183. A letter from the Division Chief, Office of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Changes to National Firearms Act Tax Remittance Provisions [ATF No.: 2025R-45F] (RIN: 1140-AA83) received June 3, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-4184. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Revising Qualified Domestic Trust Regulations under Section 2056A to Update Out-

dated References and Procedures [TD: 10050] (RIN: 1545-BQ88) received July 17, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-4185. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust Listed Transaction [TD 10051] (RIN: 1545-BQ58) received July 17, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-4186. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Information Reporting and Transfer for Valuable Consideration Rules for Section 1035 Exchanges of Life Insurance and Certain Other Life Insurance Contract Transactions [TD 10052] (RIN: 1545-BQ07) received July 17, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on 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:

Ms. FOX: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1438. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8800) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8884) to amend title II of the Social Security Act to reauthorize demonstration authority for the disability insurance program; providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 113) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2027 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2028 through 2036; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7008) to amend chapter 131 of title 5 to require certain restrictions on stocks for Members of Congress and their spouses and dependents, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6955) to make improvements to the Federal banking laws, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 9770) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2027, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (Rept. 119-755). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 9773. 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 Committee on 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. LATTA (for himself and Mr. LANDSMAN):

H.R. 9774. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for expedited approval of priority nonprescription drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 9775. A bill to provide for enhanced penalties for wearing a ski mask while committing a criminal offense in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself and Mr. STANTON):

H.R. 9776. A bill to establish a rural area digital infrastructure technology grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 9777. A bill to require that new and existing data centers use off-grid power and water supplies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. RAMIREZ):

H.R. 9778. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to create a right of public access to certain records relating to the courts of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas:

H.R. 9779. A bill to designate Boca Chica Beach located in Cameron County, Texas, as "Boca Chica Beach", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. GRAVES, and Mr. MILLS):

H.R. 9780. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to meet certain requirements relating to the divestment, preservation, and inventories of A-10 aircraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on 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. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 9781. A bill to amend the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act with respect to funding and assistance under such Act; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. JACOBS:

H.R. 9782. A bill to require the development of metrics and indicators to assess the quality of governance of the security sectors of security partner countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JAMES:

H.R. 9783. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Government of Canada in response to transboundary wildfire smoke affecting the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Financial Services, Ways and Means, Oversight and Government Reform, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. RAMIREZ):

H.R. 9784. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to require justices, judges, magistrate judges, or bankruptcy judges and their spouses and dependent children to place certain assets into qualified blind trusts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 9785. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies to determine the feasibility of constructing projects to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water in certain parts of the Missouri River basin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 9786. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit officers and employees of the judiciary from engaging in official acts affecting personal financial interests; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KING-HINDS:

H.R. 9787. A bill to amend the "Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America" to provide for modifications of the labor stabilization program transition; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. MAST (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H.R. 9788. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish maximum permissible levels for contaminants in infant formulas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 9789. A bill to amend section 1839 of title 18, United States Code, to provide that an entity domiciled in a foreign adversary country is a foreign instrumentality for purposes of the prohibition on economic espionage under such section; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NORCROSS (for himself, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 9790. A bill to expand access to methadone through alternative care models using pharmacies; 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. PERRY:

H.R. 9791. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the requirements for the small business waiver from device fees related to annual establishment registration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 9792. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to permit employee stock ownership plan participants to benefit from the full amount of beneficial ownership that can be accrued in the plan while also fully realizing the benefits of saving for retirement in a defined contribution plan; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PETERSEN:

H.R. 9793. A bill to amend title 28 to include additional limitations on the intentional tort exception, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHMIDT (for himself and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 9794. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish the Senator Robert J. Dole Greatest Generation Education Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CLOUD:

H. Res. 1439. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Senate's current cloture and filibuster rules are contrary to the constitutional design of two co-equal majoritarian legislative bodies, are non-deliberative in practice, disenfranchise Members of the House of Representatives and their constituents, and disrupt the proper balance of powers between the two chambers of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART:

H. Res. 1440. A resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the city of Miami Springs, Florida; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H. Res. 1441. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 9586) to deliver priority legislation; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. SALINAS (for herself, Mr. SELF, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. FROST, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. GILLEN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. VAN EPPS, and Mr. MCDOWELL):

H. Res. 1442. A resolution supporting the designation of July 20, 2026, as "National Moon Landing Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-110. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 326, urging the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives to recommend awarding the Congressional Medal of Honor to Major Richard D. Winters of Easy Company, 101st Airborne, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion Company; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ML-111. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Arizona, relative to Senate Concurrent Memorial 1007, urging the United States Congress to enact legislation divesting the United States of the San Carlos Irrigation Project Electric System; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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. ROY:

H.R. 9773.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 9774.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: Congress shall have the power . . . "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 9775.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 9776.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

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.

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 9777.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art 1, Sec 8

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York:

H.R. 9778.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into the Execution for the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas:

H.R. 9779.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona:

H.R. 9780.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this Act pursuant to Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, which includes the powers to provide for the common defense.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 9781.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. JACOBS:

H.R. 9782.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. JAMES:

H.R. 9783.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 9784.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 1.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 9785.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:

H.R. 9786.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 7 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill.

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18). Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Ms. KING-HINDS:

H.R. 9787.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 9788.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 9789.

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. NORCROSS:

H.R. 9790.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 9791.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 9792.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. PETTERSEN:

H.R. 9793.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. SCHMIDT:

H.R. 9794.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 40: Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 116: Ms. VAN DUYN.
H.R. 211: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 404: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 539: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 569: Mr. MURPHY and Mr. PALMER.
H.R. 588: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 685: Mrs. HARSHBARGER and Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 802: Mr. MANNION.
H.R. 959: Mr. OLSZEWSKI.
H.R. 995: Ms. FRIEDMAN.
H.R. 1065: Mr. ELLZEY.
H.R. 1137: Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 1175: Ms. GOODLANDER, Ms. OMAR, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 1277: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 1307: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 1340: Mr. MOSKOWITZ and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 1464: Mrs. MCIVER.
H.R. 1502: Mr. MEUSER, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr.

WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 1522: Ms. POUL.
H.R. 1523: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 1589: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1610: Mr. EVANS of Colorado.
H.R. 1657: Mr. MENEFE and Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 1783: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 1987: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 2086: Mr. WHITESIDES and Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 2162: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 2203: Mr. FLOOD.
H.R. 2333: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 2343: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 2344: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 2442: Mr. CLINE, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. MILLS, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Ms. BOBERT.
H.R. 2485: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 2487: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 2527: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 2531: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 2533: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 2629: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 2705: Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 2707: Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 2767: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 2790: Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. WHITESIDES, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2849: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 3036: Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. SORESENSEN, and Ms. BROWN.
H.R. 3045: Mr. MENEFE and Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 3104: Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 3115: Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 3139: Ms. MCCLELLAN and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 3164: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 3184: Mr. EVANS of Colorado.
H.R. 3243: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 3261: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 3277: Mr. KILEY of California and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 3295: Mr. WALKINSHAW.
H.R. 3327: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 3415: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 3417: Mr. LATIMER and Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.
H.R. 3447: Mr. LATTI.
H.R. 3526: Mr. WHITESIDES.
H.R. 3543: Ms. FRIEDMAN and Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 3562: Mr. MOORE of Utah and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 3569: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Ms. BROWN.
H.R. 3674: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3708: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 3885: Mr. NUNN of Iowa and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 4092: Ms. HAGEMAN.
H.R. 4140: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 4206: Mr. ALFORD.
H.R. 4231: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4282: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 4382: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MACKENZIE, and Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 4582: Mr. SORESENSEN, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 4583: Mr. SORESENSEN, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 4696: Ms. SANCHEZ.
H.R. 4733: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 4771: Ms. SIMON.
H.R. 4797: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 4862: Mr. FIGURES.
H.R. 4876: Mr. WALKINSHAW and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 4987: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 5052: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 5081: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5106: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H.R. 5195: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 5217: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 5267: Mr. ROY, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mr. ELLZEY.
H.R. 5268: Mr. FEENSTRA.
H.R. 5269: Mr. WALKINSHAW and Mr. FLOOD.

H.R. 5343: Mr. DUNN of Florida and Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 5361: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 5454: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 5463: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 5544: Mr. WALKINSHAW.
H.R. 5549: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
H.R. 5563: Mr. FEENSTRA and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 5588: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 5641: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 5642: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 5867: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5874: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 6056: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 6126: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 6128: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 6130: Mrs. LUNA.
H.R. 6213: Mr. SHREVE.
H.R. 6423: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 6466: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
H.R. 6529: Mr. GRIFFITH.
H.R. 6610: Ms. ANSARI and Mr. BRESNAHAN.
H.R. 6683: Mr. KEAN.
H.R. 6685: Mr. RULLI.
H.R. 6688: Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 6731: Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 6775: Mr. MOULTON and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6776: Mr. MOULTON and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6806: Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 6849: Mr. VALADAO, Mrs. KIM, and Mr. WHITESIDES.
H.R. 6960: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 6984: Ms. MORRISON.
H.R. 6987: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.
H.R. 6998: Mr. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 7014: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 7050: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. CLOUD.
H.R. 7100: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 7230: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 7247: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 7325: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 7327: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 7340: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 7417: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 7449: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. GRIJALVA, and Mr. DELUZIO.
H.R. 7466: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 7539: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 7545: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
H.R. 7576: Mr. WALKINSHAW.
H.R. 7599: Mr. MANNION.
H.R. 7676: Mr. WHITESIDES.
H.R. 7681: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 7747: Mr. NUNN of Iowa and Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 7802: Mr. VASQUEZ and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 7815: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 7847: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 7853: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 7856: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 7867: Mrs. MCIVER.
H.R. 7905: Mrs. KIM, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 7917: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 7932: Mr. CARTER of Texas.
H.R. 7953: Mr. PATRONIS and Mr. GRAVES.
H.R. 7961: Mr. LIEU and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 8032: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 8034: Ms. BOEBERT.
H.R. 8045: Mr. FIGURES.
H.R. 8163: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina and Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 8236: Mr. HARRIGAN.
H.R. 8319: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 8375: Mr. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 8430: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 8471: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 8524: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 8540: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 8566: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 8592: Mr. WALKINSHAW, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. CASAR, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. TRAN.
H.R. 8623: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 8630: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 8664: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 8730: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. MANNION, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 8737: Mr. JAMES.
H.R. 8788: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 8793: Mr. JAMES.
H.R. 8797: Mr. FALLON.
H.R. 8806: Mr. TORRES of New York and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 8868: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 8875: Mr. FLOOD.
H.R. 8887: Mr. WITTMAN and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 8891: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 8907: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 8933: Mr. CARTER of Texas.
H.R. 8982: Mr. RILEY of New York.
H.R. 9000: Mr. WALKINSHAW.
H.R. 9048: Mrs. GRIJALVA, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. LAWLER, and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 9106: Mrs. BICE.
H.R. 9118: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 9127: Mr. KENNEDY of New York.
H.R. 9134: Ms. DELBENE and Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 9177: Mr. FIGURES.
H.R. 9187: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 9199: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.
H.R. 9211: Mr. JAMES, Ms. BROWN, Mr. KEAN, and Mr. MANNION.
H.R. 9224: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 9250: Ms. DE LA CRUZ and Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 9265: Mr. MOULTON, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 9282: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 9298: Mr. BEAN of Florida, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MILLS, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. YAKYM, and Ms. BOEBERT.
H.R. 9332: Mr. KEAN.
H.R. 9336: Mr. PANETTA and Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 9340: Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. KEAN, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. MCGUIRE.
H.R. 9351: Mr. FALLON.
H.R. 9364: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 9370: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CARSON, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 9372: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 9404: Ms. RANDALL.
H.R. 9414: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 9415: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 9421: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
H.R. 9432: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 9444: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 9458: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 9489: Mr. PFLUGER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. BACON, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 9508: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
H.R. 9538: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 9544: Ms. DEXTER.
H.R. 9550: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H.R. 9553: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 9590: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 9633: Mr. MEUSER and Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.
H.R. 9638: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 9671: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 9701: Mr. OGLES, Mr. MCDOWELL, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Ms. MACE, Mr. MCGUIRE, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.
H.R. 9722: Mr. MANN, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. GOODEN.
H.R. 9723: Mr. VAN DREW and Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 9725: Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.
H.R. 9728: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 9742: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H.R. 9745: Mrs. RAMIREZ and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 9749: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.J. Res. 63: Ms. SIMON, Mr. BERA, Mr. MENEFE, and Mr. CROW.
H.J. Res. 80: Ms. MEJIA.
H.J. Res. 122: Ms. SCHOLTEN and Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.J. Res. 155: Ms. WATERS.
H.J. Res. 189: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. HIMES.
H.J. Res. 195: Mr. MANNION.
H.J. Res. 200: Ms. FRIEDMAN and Ms. CHU.
H. Con. Res. 4: Mr. MCDOWELL.
H. Con. Res. 44: Ms. MENG, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. BONAMICI, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H. Con. Res. 80: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.
H. Con. Res. 112: Mrs. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 317: Ms. BALINT.
H. Res. 1013: Mr. SUOZZI.
H. Res. 1038: Mr. CLEAVER.
H. Res. 1188: Ms. GILLEN.
H. Res. 1248: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H. Res. 1426: Mr. MCCORMICK and Mr. SMUCKER.
H. Res. 1428: Ms. TLAIB and Ms. DEXTER.
H. Res. 1432: Ms. PETERSEN.
H. Res. 1437: Ms. ROSS.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. COLE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Appropriations in H.R. 9770, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2027, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ARRINGTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Budget in H.R. 9770, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2027, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

DELETION OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 1841: Mr. MOYLAN.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

PT-17. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, relative to Information Sheets Volume VIII, Issue 29 and 30, to better understand the real situation and true facts about Myanmar; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

PT-18. Also, a petition of the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, relative to Information Sheets, Volume VIII, Issues 50 to 55, to better understand the real situation and true facts about Myanmar; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.



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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 172

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026

No. 118

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TED BUDD, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, source of righteousness, joy, and peace, challenge us when we assume we know what is right instead of seeking Your wisdom.

Lord, guide our leaders and lawmakers to seek Your truth, follow Your direction, and make decisions with humility and discernment. Help them pursue what is best for our Nation and world, trusting in Your sovereignty, power, and love.

Remind them that nothing is impossible with You. Strengthen them with Your wisdom, fill them with Your peace, bless them with Your abundance, and prepare them for each day ahead.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 20, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TED BUDD, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BUDD thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leader time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 436, S. 4784.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 436, S. 4784, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2913

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2913) to authorize support for Ukraine, and for other purposes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, it will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 829.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Michael C. Martin, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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

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



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S4145

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 829, Michael C. Martin, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, Pete Ricketts, Thom Tillis, Rick Scott of Florida, John Cornyn, Steve Daines, Bernie Moreno, John R. Curtis, Chuck Grassley, Jim Banks, Mike Crapo, James Lankford, Kevin Cramer, Mike Rounds, Ted Budd.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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. 831.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Antonio M. Pozos, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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. 831, Antonio M. Pozos, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, Pete Ricketts, Thom Tillis, Rick Scott of Florida, John Cornyn, Steve Daines, Bernie Moreno, John R. Curtis, Chuck Grassley, Jim Banks, Mike Crapo, James Lankford, Kevin Cramer, Mike Rounds, Ted Budd.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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. 827.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Daniel Mack Traynor, of North Dakota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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. 827, Daniel Mack Traynor, of North Dakota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, Pete Ricketts, Thom Tillis, Chuck Grassley, Ted Budd, Shelley Moore Capito, Bill Hagerty, Kevin Cramer, Cynthia M. Lummis, Marsha Blackburn, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Tom Cotton, John Hoeven, Darline Graham, Ted Cruz.

DEMOCRAT PARTY PRIORITIES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, at the beginning of last year, the New York Times took a poll of the American voters, and the headline captures their results. This is what it said: "Many Americans Say the Democratic Party Does Not Share Their Priorities."

Let me repeat that, Mr. President. "Many Americans Say the Democratic Party Does Not Share Their Priorities."

That is right. A New York Times poll taken weeks after voters rejected Democrats at the ballot box suggested that one of the reasons for Democrats' loss was that Americans don't think Democrats share their priorities.

The story went on to say:

The issues that people cited as most important to them personally were the economy and inflation, health care and immigration

... But when the poll asked Americans to identify Democrats' most important priorities, Americans identified issues like abortion and climate change, among others.

Our Democrat colleagues have found themselves out of power for 18 months now. And we have given them plenty of opportunities to show some evolution—perhaps even moderation—to voters.

But as the record shows, Democrats are still in thrall to the far left of their

party. They still have the same priorities that turned voters off from Democrats in the last election.

Mr. President, for starters, radical transgender ideology remains an article of faith among Democrats.

Democrats have repeatedly opposed efforts to keep biological men out of women's sports. And when the Supreme Court ruled unanimously last month that State laws protecting women's sports are allowable under the plain language of title IX, one Democrat Senator called the ruling unjust.

"Unjust," Mr. President.

As if a young woman working hard all season, only to lose to a man with an inherent biological advantage, is somehow just.

The overwhelming majority of Americans believe that biological men should not be playing women's sports, but that doesn't seem to matter to Senate Democrats. And their commitment to transgender ideology doesn't end with supporting the presence of men in women's sports.

Democrats have also tacitly—or not so tacitly—endorsed radical gender transition procedures being performed on minors. Procedures, I might add, with no substantial medical evidence to support them and plenty of reason to believe they are extremely dangerous for children, but apparently Democrats are fine subjecting children to those risks.

And of course, Mr. President, Democrats are still proudly pro-abortion. And when I say pro-abortion, I mean pro-abortion.

How else do you describe a party that wouldn't even support legislation to provide medical care to a baby born alive during a failed abortion?

A party that can't bring itself to support a bill to ensure that a pregnant college student knows that there are resources available to help her finish her degree and have her baby.

The party that directed small business COVID relief funds to Planned Parenthood, even though they were legally ineligible.

A party that is doing everything it can to eliminate pregnancy resource centers simply because they won't recommend abortion.

As I said, Democrats are in thrall to the far left of their party, and it is not just on those issues. Far-left activists seem to be the audience for almost everything Democrats do these days. Take, for example, Democrats' two—that is right, two—record-long government shutdowns.

Last fall, Democrats shut down the entire Federal Government for a record 43 days to show the far left that they were fighting President Trump. And while TSA lines snaked outside of airports and Americans were visiting food banks because they had to work without pay, the Democrat leader was quoted as saying:

Every day gets better for us.

Better, that is, for Democrats seeking the approval of the far left.

Then earlier this year, Democrats shut down the Department of Homeland Security because they didn't want to fund law enforcement. That is right.

Defunding law enforcement—once a fringe position in their party—became the official position of the Democrat Party as they tried to completely—completely—defund Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol.

Once again, it didn't matter to Democrats whether Americans would be less safe with open borders. Their audience, far-left activists, wanted them to defund border security and immigration enforcement officers, so they did.

And Democrats weren't done. Last week, Democrats here in the U.S. Senate blocked the National Defense Authorization Act, the bill that authorizes funding for our military. That is right. Democrats voted against authorizing funding for our military.

It is a sad day when Democrats are playing politics with everything all the way up to our national security, but that is where we are. Democrats have had numerous opportunities in the last year and a half to work with us on things that matter to the American people. And, again and again, they have chosen to follow members of their far-left base, in some cases—see New York City's mayor—follow them directly into socialism.

That is right. Self-identified Democrat socialists have been winning elections across the country.

So what is next? Will the Democrat Party adopt the platform of the Democratic Socialists of America?

To quote the New York Times again, "Many Americans say the [Democrat] Party does not share their priorities."

A year and a half later, it is obvious that that is still the case: men's and women's sports, abortion up until the moment of birth, open borders, defunding law enforcement.

Instead of moving toward the middle, Democrats are just getting more extreme.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, roughly a year ago, President Trump made good on his "MASS DEPORTATION NOW!" promise—it was a campaign pledge—when he unleashed ICE into cities across the country to carry out his brutal immigration crackdown. In its wake, including in the city of Chicago, the so-called "worst of the worst"—remember? The President said he was going after those who were rap-

ists, murderers, terrorists, criminally insane, and predators. The "worst of the worst"—that is who we are going after. He said it over and over and over again. Turns out that the "worst of the worst" didn't fit in that category at all. Who were they? Some were U.S. citizens, legal residents, and people with no prior criminal history whatsoever—none.

The administration brutally carried out this political theater by deploying military-grade weapons and using overwhelming displays of force that left communities and our country on edge.

I saw it firsthand in the city of Chicago: Operation Midway Blitz. In our Hispanic neighborhoods, people were afraid to come out to go to church, afraid to send their kids to school. Were these criminals who were harboring their children from going to school? Hardly. They are people who work in common jobs every single day, who stood next to you in the line in the grocery store, and who were with you in the pew at church on Sunday. "Worst of the worst" didn't hold up at all.

At its peak, tensions boiled over with the killing of two American citizens at that time. We saw it in real time and on videotape: Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minnesota.

After the public outcry, these ICE raids were quietly scaled back by the Trump administration and Stephen Miller. But now Stephen Miller, the President's domestic adviser, and Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Mullin are quietly resuming these efforts, with immigration arrests surging this month to the highest levels in this administration. I assume they felt that America just wouldn't notice that they were back in business, but we have.

In the last 2 weeks, two fatal shootings by ICE agents in Texas and Maine have thrust this government's tactics back into the spotlight.

Earlier this month, ICE shot and killed Lorenzo Salgado Araujo during a traffic stop in Houston. Mr. Araujo had lived in the country for more than 30 years and was not the intended target of the operation. He is survived by his children, who are U.S. citizens.

Instead of investigating, the ICE agents detained the witnesses that were around the scene. The Harris County district attorney has said these witnesses are critical to the investigation, but they have been detained by the ICE agents.

Last week, Joan Sebastian Guerrero was also shot and killed while in his vehicle in Maine. He is survived by his wife and their 3-year-old daughter, who will now grow up without a father.

The ICE agent who fatally shot Mr. Guerrero was hired by the Trump administration despite the fact that he has a long history of domestic violence, abuse, and mental health issues. Yes, a man with a long history of mental health issues, abuse, and domestic violence was hired as an ICE agent and

given a gun and a mask. It is not clear whether ICE simply failed to vet him or identified these issues and ignored them.

DHS quickly rushed to claim that both shootings were justified, without any body-worn camera footage or any serious investigation.

You know, it is interesting. This Agency, which is actively trying to arrest, detain, and deport thousands of people, meeting quotas set by Stephen Miller each day, the agents involved in this are not like your hometown police. They are not like your State police either. We know that their background checks are obviously very weak, and the training is limited. We also know that when they are on the job, on the clock, they are wearing masks.

When is the last time your local police wore a mask in your hometown? How about your State troopers when they pull you over on the highway? Are they wearing masks? Of course not. But this is insisted on because these ICE agents are so notorious.

These fatalities that I have talked about could have been avoided. These people could be alive today. After the killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, we tried time and again to get our Republican colleagues to sit down and agree just on some basics. Without a search warrant or an arrest warrant, a person posing to be a policeman should not be crashing down the door of your home. That is pretty basic, isn't it? If there is a warrant or extraordinary circumstances, that is one thing, but the ICE agents crashed down the door of people they suspect might be in the United States undocumented. Many times, they are just plain wrong. Sometimes, those homeowners turn out to be U.S. citizens.

Yet when we sit down and say "That should be basic in America, shouldn't it? If somebody is going to invade my home, with my wife and my kids or grandkids in there, for goodness' sake, they ought to have at least the color of law behind them, the support of the court behind them"—not ICE agents—every instance we have tried to make these changes—simple, commonsense law enforcement changes—the Republicans said no. Instead, the administration has lurched in the opposite direction, enabling these abuses to continue.

On the heels of these back-to-back killings which I have described, ICE temporarily paused traffic stops, but President Trump quickly took to social media to personally reverse that decision. The President said:

"The men and women of ICE are doing a GREAT job!"

Despite the recent reports of killings—

... and "we CANNOT give up one of I.C.E.'s most important and effective Crime Fighting tools, THE TRAFFIC STOP!"

Being pulled over and shot in your car has to be part of the strategy of ICE, according to the President. Traffic stops have been among the deadliest

tactics during this President's mass raids, but apparently, he doesn't care.

According to the New York Times just yesterday, the FBI has informed its agents around the country that the FBI would no longer investigate alleged assaults by immigration agents. Why is that important? I will tell you. This change will sharply limit law enforcement scrutiny of ICE agents.

For years, the Department of Justice's involvement in officer-involved shootings has provided an independent set of eyes and often uncovered crucial facts, including misconduct by Federal officers—misconduct that has been evident in recent cases.

The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General has at least agreed to investigate the use of excessive force by ICE agents, but it is unacceptable that the government's top law enforcement Agency, the FBI, has reportedly chosen to ignore its mission to enforce the law and instead does the White House's bidding.

At a time when the American people are demanding more transparency and answers, the administration gives us less.

We mourn the loss of these beloved community members, and Senate Democrats will continue to call for an end to these fatal raids.

TRUMP PRIME-TIME ADDRESS TO THE NATION

Mr. President, on a separate topic, last week, the President of the United States delivered a prime-time address from the White House. These sorts of addresses are usually reserved for national crises or the marking of a major milestone. So what was the occasion last week for President Trump to make such an address? To air 6-year-old grievances and lies about the outcome of the 2020 Presidential election.

You see, despite the fact that Donald Trump lost to Joe Biden in 2020 by 7 million votes, President Trump refuses to acknowledge the truth, and he continues to complain, which was the reason for his statement last week. In a 25-minute rant, the President alleged sweeping foreign interference in voting and railed against the so-called deep state. He was actually railing against his own administration. You see, the 2020 election was during his first term as President. He was in charge. He appointed the people that were supposed to enforce the law. The press conference and the announcement last week ignored that fact.

These claims would be laughable if they weren't so dangerous.

First, the President was famous for not reading and requesting shorter and shorter versions of a brief provided by our intelligence community each day. He alleges the deep state misrepresented what actually happened to hide information from him.

Second, his then-Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe, whom President Trump now has leading the Central Intelligence Agency, made public remarks addressing all of these concerns in 2020. It is hard to hide infor-

mation you publicly discuss in press conferences.

President Trump claimed the Department of Homeland Security has identified 278,000 noncitizens registered to vote in Federal elections. Think of that. The President of the United States claimed that his Agency of government has the names of 278,000 noncitizens registered to vote in Federal elections. Well, I sure want to see that evidence. I am sure the American people do too. The President can't produce it. It doesn't exist—none, not one page of documents backing up the claims he made in his public statement. No evidence. Election experts and State officials have called out this claim as “wildly speculative.”

Here are the actual facts. You know the SAVE America Act which the President is focused on, fixed on, can't think of anything else? The idea behind it is to make sure that noncitizens don't vote in the United States.

Would you guess that it is currently against the law in the United States for noncitizens to vote? It is true.

Well, let's take a look. Took a look at the Heritage Foundation, which is a conservative group, and asked them to provide information on how many noncitizens have been caught trying to vote in the United States. When we took a look, between 1993 and 2023—that would be 30 years, 1993 to 2023—millions and millions of votes were cast. How many noncitizens have we identified tried to vote in those elections? Well, if we are going to change the laws of the United States, there must be a lot of them. Turned out there were 77. Out of the millions of people who registered and voted, 77 were actually not citizens of the United States.

The President wants to change the law. And how does he want to change the law? Well, if you want to register to vote, under the President's approach, you have to prove you are a citizen of the United States.

How can you do that?

Well, I will show my driver's license.

I am sorry, that is not enough under this law. Under this law, you would have to show your passport. Got one in your back pocket?

Half of Americans don't own a passport.

If you want to get a passport so you can vote in the next election in about 100 days, what does it take? Well, you go to the passport Agency, and you plop down \$165—that is what it costs for a basic passport in this country—and then you hope—you hope—it arrives in time. If you want to speed it up, get an accelerated process, it is \$225.

So in order to exercise your right to vote, under the SAVE America law, the President wants you to pay a poll tax, a passport fee, of up to \$225 to vote. Anything wrong with that? That is just against most of the laws we have promulgated over the years saying that poll taxes on people to vote are fundamentally unfair.

Oh, you can bring your birth certificate.

I was thinking about that when I was home over the weekend.

I asked my wife: Where is my birth certificate?

She said: I think it is in a box in the closet. We haven't seen it in a long time.

Well, according to the President's SAVE America bill, you are going to have to produce one.

Incidentally, if you are a woman with a maiden name on a birth certificate, you have to have additional documentation.

All of this to stop the scourge of noncitizens who voted. There were 77 of them over a 30-year period of time—77 in a nation of millions of people. But the President can't get it out of his head that somehow or another that foreigners have taken over our election. He lost one, and he just can't live with it.

So why would the President have hosted a prime-time address attempting to resurrect these debunked claims? I will tell you: It is exactly what he did in the months preceding the 2020 election that he sought to steal. He is trying to lay the groundwork to justify rigging the results of the next election. That is the real political theater.

President Trump and his Republican Party are struggling in the polls. They know their MAGA agenda is making life more expensive, communities less safe, and government more corrupt. And guess what. We are now again, sadly, in a never-ending war.

So now they are focused on reviving thoroughly debunked conspiracy theories to undermine future elections before a single vote is cast.

SAVE AMERICA ACT

Mr. President, as we heard in the President's address, he will use these bogus claims to push for passage of this anti-democratic and anti-voting SAVE America Act.

It is already illegal for noncitizens to vote in the United States. They face prosecution and jail time for doing it. The SAVE America Act attempts to solve a problem that does not exist. The bill would impose expensive administrative roadblocks, making it more difficult for people to vote. Is that what America is all about, difficulties and hurdles for exercising our right to vote? I don't believe it will.

We need to stop this effort immediately. We need to give the American people the last word in the election in November, not the President and his bizarre theories on who won in 2020.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Will the Senator withhold his request?

Mr. DURBIN. Oh, of course. I am sorry. I didn't see the Senator on the floor. I yield to my friend from Wyoming.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Flowers nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIPARTISANSHIP

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the basic duty we all took an oath to carry out—and whether we are living up to it.

The U.S. Senate was never designed to be easy. It was designed to be deliberate, to force people who disagree to sit in the same room and work something out anyway. That only works if everyone here still believes in the underlying premise that we were sent to govern no matter who is the President. The goal is not to defeat the other side for its own sake but to do the hard, unglamorous work of running this country together, in good faith, even when we would rather not.

Americans did not send Republicans and Democrats to Washington expecting us to agree on everything. In fact, my constituents would be very concerned if we did. They sent us here expecting us to take the job seriously. That means engaging with the substance in front of us, debating it, amending it, fighting for it on the merits, rather than reflexively blocking whatever comes to the floor simply because of who sits in the White House.

Last week, this Chamber fell short. There is a real difference between principled opposition and blind obstruction, and the American people can tell which one they are watching. Opposing a policy because you believe it is wrong for the country is exactly what this institution is built for. Opposing something simply because you dislike the President and you are trying to jam him when there is international conflict is something else entirely, and it corrodes the very system we are sworn to protect.

I was very troubled to watch every Senate Democrat vote against even beginning the debate on the National Defense Authorization Act, a bill that has, historically, enjoyed strong bipartisan backing.

Now, I am not suggesting Members can't or shouldn't oppose the NDAA when they have genuine concerns; that is a legitimate part of the process. Voting no is often the easy move around here, and I have done it myself when I thought it was warranted. But this looked less like principled opposition and more like reflexive obstruction, a decision to block the process itself rather than engage with the substance of an important bill.

I also think of the SAVE America Act when I say this because it is a case in point. Here is a bill built around a premise that 83 percent of the American people—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike—already agree on, that only citizens should decide American elections and that voters

should be able to prove who they are when they cast a ballot. This is not fringe. This is not one party's obsession. It is about as close to consensus as the American people get on anything these days.

And yet it cannot get a real hearing on the merits in this Chamber—not a real debate, just a wall. That is not principled opposition. That is the process itself being blocked on a question the country has largely answered.

Good faith is not a partisan virtue. It doesn't belong to one side of the aisle or the other. It is the minimum the American people are owed by everyone who serves here. They are watching to see whether we can still disagree honestly, argue our positions openly and persuasively, and still find a way to get the Nation's business done. When we can't, when the obstruction becomes the default setting instead of the exception, we are not defending the Constitution. We are quietly letting it fail.

We are stewards of something bigger than any one bill or any one election cycle. We are stewards of a system that only survives if the people who serve in it still believe in doing the work, in doing the right thing, in doing what the Constitution outlines is our duty to the American people. That is what Americans expect of us. It is time we start living up to it every single day, not just when it is politically convenient.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. ROUNDS assumed the chair.)

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ARMSTRONG). The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORRUPTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, well, we have Trump Steaks, Trump University, Trump Airlines, Trump Coin, and the Trump Presidency—all cons. The product changes; the con stays the same. Donald Trump has turned the Presidency of the United States into the most profitable scheme of his life, and American families are being forced—forced—to pay the price.

Today, I am launching a new effort to expose the corruption, show Americans exactly what it is costing them, and build reforms needed to stop any President from using public office for personal profit. Senate Democrats will be exposing this self-dealing, showing Americans exactly what it is costing them, and developing reforms to make sure no President can abuse the Office this way again.

For the next 3 weeks, Senate Democrats are putting Trump's corruption under a microscope. Throughout the month, we will follow the money, expose the deals, name the people cashing in, and show how Trump's corruption reaches directly into the pockets of working people.

This week, we are releasing a new report that lays out the staggering scale of the grift: how Trump has used the power of the Presidency to enrich himself, reward his family, protect his

friends, and sell access to anyone—anyone—willing to pay.

The report shows how Americans are struggling to afford groceries, healthcare, housing, and energy, while Donald Trump and his family have reportedly made more than \$4 billion from the Presidency.

We will also be hosting another tabletop exercise with the Democrats' Elections Task Force to prepare to counter Trump's efforts to rig the 2026 midterms.

Next week, we will hold a roundtable on how Trump's corruption is directly driving up everyday costs for the American people, and average folks will testify to what they are going through.

And the following week, we will release major legislation designed to rein in Trump's rampant corruption and to prevent any President from ever doing it again.

You pay; Trump profits. That is the pattern of this administration, and we will highlight it everywhere we see it.

No amount of gold leaf can conceal the rot spreading through this White House. Corruption is not a sideshow in the Trump administration; it is the whole business model.

Trump guts protections for workers and consumers. His wealthy friends cash in.

Trump cuts food assistance and healthcare. Billionaires get another tax break.

Trump hands out pardons to the rich and well-connected, accepts lavish gifts from foreign governments, and arranges sweetheart deals for his family business.

Trump uses the government. Trump gets richer. Americans foot the bill.

His corruption is not victimless. It has a price, and working families are paying it every single day. The average American family is already spending more than \$3,100 extra because of this administration's policies.

And yet Trump still expects taxpayers to finance a MAGA slush fund they never approved, a golden ballroom they never asked for, and upgrades to a foreign luxury jet the President does not need.

Donald Trump has turned the Oval Office into his personal ATM, the Federal Government into his family business, and the American taxpayer into the mark.

A few months ago, Trump said:

I don't think about Americans' financial situation.

Of course, he doesn't. He is too busy thinking about his own.

Donald Trump may believe the Presidency is simply another brand to monetize, another product to sell, another scam to run. But he is dead wrong. The Presidency belongs to the American people. It is not a license to steal, it is not a family business, and it is not Donald Trump's personal property.

So throughout this month, Senate Democrats will expose the corruption that Trump wants hidden. We will follow the money and expose the deals.

We will show who profits, who pays, and how Trump has rigged the government for himself and the people closest to him.

And we will make one thing unmistakably clear: The White House is not for sale.

Trump has spent his life betting that the con will always work. This time, the American people will see exactly how the scam works and exactly who has been handed the keys to the kingdom.

IRAN

Mr. President, on the Iran war, Donald Trump needs to reckon with the terrible cost of the disastrous war he has dared to call "a skirmish," "a little excursion." And once, he called it "a lovely stay."

There is nothing "lovely" or "little" about Trump's blunder in Iran—nothing.

On Thursday, Trump insisted to the Nation that we are "winning big in Iran, and you will see the fruits of that labor very, very shortly."

But instead and sadly, we saw three more brave American servicemembers tragically lose their lives over the weekend because of Trump's reckless war in Iran. Dozens of other U.S. troops were wounded in Iranian strikes last week, and one servicemember remains missing.

I am praying for their families in this difficult hour. I speak for the entire Senate when I say how much we appreciate their sacrifice.

This carnage is the bitter fruit of Trump's "labor" in Iran. Every second Trump prolongs this war is another second that the lives of our men and women in uniform are in danger. In the coming days, we are going to make Senate Republicans take another vote on our War Powers Resolution to end this war and get our troops out of harm's way. Trump needs to stop this catastrophe and bring our troops home, and Senate Republicans can't let him off the hook until he does.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LONG ISLAND ASSOCIATION

Mr. President, now I want to briefly take a moment to recognize some guests from New York who are in the Capitol today. I guess I am a little late, but they were here.

The Long Island Association, a storied regional business development group, is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Some of its members traveled here today to celebrate this occasion.

Their century of work fighting to make Long Island a better place to live, work, and do business has accomplished much for the region. From affordability to energy, to infrastructure, to innovation, they have lit the road forward for Long Island's future.

It has been my pleasure to work with them for several decades, and I know that under the leadership of their acting CEO and president Stacey Sikes—who once worked for me—we will continue our great tradition of delivering for Long Island together.

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. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask that the previously scheduled rollcall vote start immediately.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Benjamin M. Flowers, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

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 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. 775, Benjamin M. Flowers, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, Ashley B. Moody, James Lankford, Todd Young, Ted Budd, Pete Ricketts, Jon A. Husted, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Bernie Moreno, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, James C. Justice, 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 Benjamin M. Flowers, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, 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 Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL), the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Idaho

(Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 43, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 200 Ex.]

YEAS—43

Armstrong	Graham	Murkowski
Banks	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hawley	Rounds
Budd	Hoeben	Schmitt
Capito	Husted	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Collins	Johnson	Sheehy
Cornyn	Justice	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Wicker
Curtis	Marshall	Young
Daines	McCormick	
Ernst	Moreno	

NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Schatz
Bennet	Kaine	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Slotkin
Booker	King	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Warner
Coons	Lujan	Warnock
Duckworth	Markey	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Welch
Galleo	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Hassan	Ossoff	
Heinrich	Peters	

NOT VOTING—17

Boozman	Kennedy	Rosen
Britt	McConnell	Sanders
Cortez Masto	Moody	Shaheen
Cruz	Moran	Smith
Fetterman	Padilla	Tuberville
Fischer	Risch	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 43, the nays are 40, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Flowers nomination; further, that the Senate recess tomorrow from 12:30

until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly conference meetings and that all time during leader remarks, recess, and adjournment count postcloture on the Flowers nomination; and finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that following the remarks of my Republican colleagues, the Senate proceed to legislative session and that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

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

The Senator from Tennessee.

SAVE AMERICA ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, several of my colleagues and I are going to talk tonight about the importance of passing the SAVE America Act, and this is an issue the Senate should willingly take up.

Having voter ID is something the vast majority of Americans support. Whether they are Democrats or Republicans or Independents or Libertarians, everyone thinks you should have to show an ID when you go to vote.

It is incredible that we are on the floor having to make the case for this legislation. The bill's provisions are really common sense, and, as I said, this is something the American people have said: We want this. We want to preserve one person, one vote, and preserve the integrity of the electoral system.

Now, the legislation that is before us would really accomplish three major objectives in securing our elections.

It would require voters to present an ID to cast a ballot. Now, as I said, this is overwhelmingly popular. You have got 83 percent of all Americans.

Now, for my colleagues across the aisle, 71 percent of the Democrats support this. They want people to have to prove that they are indeed who they claim to be.

Also, our legislation would require people to be a U.S. citizen in order to vote in our elections, and it would require the States to remove noncitizens who have somehow ended up on their voter rolls.

These are all common sense, every one of them—common sense. There is nothing objectionable about these measures. It is common sense. And these are sensible, easily understood, and easily implemented ways to make certain that we are protecting our electoral system.

Many Republican States already enforce these safeguards. Tennessee, my home State, leads the Nation in election integrity. Now, if every State was

like Tennessee, there would be no need for the SAVE America Act. But for years, we have seen blue States practically invite fraud into their elections.

Fourteen States—including California, New York, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Minnesota—do not require any form of ID to vote. Many more States accept ID that is nonphoto.

Now, think about that. In 14 States, if you live in one of those States, you do not have to prove anything in order to go vote in their elections. It is open season.

So my question would be: How does that type of system—no ID required, just come on and vote. Everybody welcome. The polls are open. It doesn't matter if you are a citizen or a noncitizen. Come cast your ballot.

So you have got these States that require no ID, and you have got other States that will have nonphoto ID that they will accept. Now, at the same time, two dozen States—and, again, they are overwhelmingly blue—that is, 24 States refuse to work with DHS to compare their voter rolls with the Federal SAVE database, which verifies the immigration status of registered voters.

Now, that is a system—that is a database—at the Department of Homeland Security, and this SAVE system has that listing of noncitizens who were in our country—people that are on student visas, people that are on work visas, people that are permanent legal residents, people that are in the country illegally.

But do you know what? Not a single one of those individuals is entitled to vote.

So, free of charge, any State can log into this system—President Trump has made it easy for the States—and then they can take their voter roll, and they can check it against the SAVE system. States that do this have found thousands of individuals. Maybe they have got a driver's license, and maybe, during that process, they registered to vote. But they are not entitled to vote. So those are the individuals that need to be removed from this system.

I will point out that there is no other—no other—developed nation that leaves their elections so vulnerable to fraud and manipulation.

So to defend themselves, Democrats claim that voter fraud is very rare. Well, President Trump's Thursday night address on election integrity showed just how much voter fraud we have.

According to a DHS review of State voter rolls, there are approximately 278,000 noncitizens registered to vote in our elections. The last three Presidential elections were decided by fewer than 270,000 votes.

The President noted that this figure is likely an undercount because Democrat States refused to share their voter files with the administration.

Democrats do not care. They are perfectly content with voter fraud.

Indeed, as we have said many times: Let's make it easier to vote and harder to cheat.

And the Democrats continue to fight us on this. Their leader CHUCK SCHUMER claimed that the legislation, the SAVE America Act, was dead on arrival here in the Senate, meaning not a single one of them—not a one of them—agrees with 71 percent of the Democrats, 83 percent of the American public. They just don't agree with them when the people are saying: We want the SAVE America Act.

So I just have to ask: What are they afraid of? What are they really fearful of? Are they afraid, if it is only citizens voting, that they are not going to win? Do they think they have to have people that are not citizens registered to vote in order to win an election?

Now, when we talk about the SAVE America Act and talk about it in total, we have said: Look, whatever it takes to get this passed—if we have to pass it one piece at a time, that is what we will do.

And our friends on the other side of the aisle need to explain to the American public why they are so opposed.

Now, Senator HUSTED's bill, for example, would enact only the voter ID provision of the SAVE America Act. That is a good thing. That is a great first step. Just prove that you are who you say you are. When you go to the poll to vote, prove that you are who you say you are when you request a mail-in or absentee ballot.

We also have the Election Security Partnership Act, which I led along with Senator Lindsey Graham, and this is something that would incentivize States to submit their voter rolls through that SAVE system at DHS.

This is basically: We are going to pay you to do the right thing. We are going to actually incentivize and give you more money on your grants if you will do the right thing and obey the law.

Now, we have many more bills that we can do to secure our elections. Every Member of Congress should support these measures, and Republicans are going to do everything possible to get them across the finish line as we are celebrating our Nation's 250th anniversary. It is imperative—imperative—that we pass these bills in order to preserve the integrity of our electoral system.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

SAVE AMERICA ACT

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, imagine your shock if, while on your way to the theater, let's say—I don't know—maybe you are going to the opera. You are planning to pick up your tickets at will call. You arrive at will call at the appointed moment and say: Yes, I am Senator PETE RICKETTS. I am here to pick up my opera tickets.

They gave them to somebody else.

If you found out that the theater was handing out tickets at will call without any form of ID, you would probably be a little disappointed—you or any

other American, any other human in that circumstance—realizing that it is important to find out whether you are who you claim to be before you are given something, something where your identity matters.

The same could be said of a whole bunch of other human transactions, ordinary human interactions involving day-to-day transactions that any of us could be expected to engage in multiple times every single week. One day, maybe it is theater or opera tickets. Maybe the next day, it is withdrawing money from a bank.

You show up, and money is gone from your account because your bank stopped requiring people to show ID. They can come along and claim to be someone they are not and take someone's money that is not theirs.

The mere fact that we have a lot of people that are allowed to vote doesn't diminish the seriousness of not requiring people to prove that they are, in fact, who they claim to be when they show up to exercise that important right.

Some people, when denying that there is any need for us to act here, will throw up things and say: Well, that is fine for the bank or for theater tickets or for the pharmacy. But this is an important constitutional right. It is a fundamental right.

My response to that is: Yes, exactly—and that is exactly why we need it.

The fact that it involves a protected, fundamental constitutional right is a reason why we need to make it easy to vote and hard to cheat. That is exactly what the SAVE America Act does. It is exactly what it would do.

When I set out, about 3 years ago, to write this bill, along with my partner in the House, Congressman CHIP ROY from Texas, that was our mantra: Let's make it easy to vote and hard to cheat.

Never, at the time, could we have predicted how much attention this would get, and never, at the time, could we have predicted the absurdity of the arguments that would be raised against this because, if you are careful—if you listen carefully—what you will find is that there is not a legitimate argument against the Senate passing the SAVE America Act—no, not even one. The arguments that you will hear against it, over and over and over again, are based entirely on contrivance, on pretext, on false statements and false assumptions.

Look, at the end of the day, the SAVE America Act is about reestablishing, restoring trust in U.S. elections. That trust needs to be restored, especially in light of the facts that we have discovered just over the last few days.

As of just Friday, the Department of Homeland Security announced that there are 278,000—that is over a quarter of a million—noncitizens registered to vote in U.S. elections in just four States alone. This doesn't count all of them. This is 278,000 noncitizen votes, just in the States of California, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Nevada

Now, that is a problem. When you add to that the other States that have refused to cooperate, that have made it very difficult for us to ascertain how many noncitizen votes they might have registered in their States—they are not cooperating. That is one of many problems that we face here.

Fortunately, this is a problem that Congress can solve. It is a problem that it can solve and, therefore, must solve.

Among those who make an argument against this, sometimes, you will hear the argument—one that I find especially galling and especially disingenuous—that, “oh, this somehow tramples on the authority of the States,” which some mistakenly refer to as States' rights.

I don't call them States' rights. States don't have rights. They have authority. A right is a privilege against the exercise of authority. It is the inverse polar opposite of a right; therefore, I don't call it States' rights. It is State authority.

This, Mr. President, emphatically does not trample on State authority. How do we know that? Well, because the Constitution delineates the relative responsibilities of the States and the Federal Government. And in one particularly poignant and relevant provision—article I, section 4—the elections clause of that provision states that Congress may, at any time, by law, make or alter what we will loosely describe as laws establishing the time, place, and manner in which Federal elections will take place, except as to places of choosing Senators.

So we have the authority to do this under the Constitution, not as to State races but as to Federal races, principally U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate races. We have that authority; article I, section 4 gives that to us.

Moreover, if those who mistakenly argue that this somehow tramples on State sovereign authority, if there were any doubt about that, which there is not because article I, section 4 puts that issue to bed quite nicely. But if there were, then the entire predicate of existing law, making the SAVE America Act necessary in the first place, would also be invalid. Every time I hear this argument made, I wish, like anything, that those same people making this argument would acknowledge that if the SAVE America Act is somehow unconstitutional, so, too, is the National Voter Registration Act.

The National Voter Registration Act enacted by Congress in 1993 created a system whereby people can vote at a DMV in their home State. Now, when somebody goes into a DMV to register to vote in that State, all they have to do is check a box saying: Yes, I am applying for a driver's license, but I would like, simultaneously, to register to vote with this application. After all, you have got some of the same features there. You have got to prove your identity. You have got to establish your residency, what your address is. And so

it made a certain amount of sense to provide this option for American voters to go and register at a DMV.

The problem is that that is all you have to do, is check a box saying: I would like to register to vote. And then at the end of it, you sign your name in a conclusory statement to the effect that I am entitled to vote; I am a U.S. citizen, and I am not prohibited, for one reason or another, from voting, and so I am allowed to do it. But that is all the verification that is allowed.

And in a move that, I believe, is incompatible with the text and original understanding of the statutory language, the Supreme Court—about 20 years after the NVRA was passed, the Supreme Court of the United States interpreted the NVRA, mistakenly but nonetheless conclusively, as prohibiting the States from doing anything to verify the citizenship of someone registering to vote at a DMV using an NVRA-supplied form.

Now, the Supreme Court was wrong. Justice Alito explained in his dissent in that case—*Inter Tribal Council v. Arizona* why that was wrong. Nonetheless, it remains the conclusive interpretation of the NVRA, and it is why the SAVE America Act is necessary because what we have got now, Mr. President, we have got an estimated 30 million-plus noncitizens residing in the United States. We have got a system of laws under the NVRA that makes it really easy to go into a DMV and fill out some forms, check a box and sign your name and say I want to register to vote. That is how we got 278,000 registered voters who are noncitizens just in those four States alone: California, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Nevada, to say nothing of the tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of others in other States who may have done the same thing.

It is phenomenally easy to cheat. It is stunningly easy to register to vote as a noncitizen, in some cases, without really realizing what you are doing, much less that you are committing a very serious felony offense by doing that.

So that is the whole reason why the SAVE America Act is necessary, is because of the NVRA and, specifically, the Supreme Court's butchered interpretation of it prohibiting the States, even where they have actual doubts, from asking someone to verify their citizenship at the time they register to vote.

So, if the SAVE America Act is unconstitutional, then so, too, is the NVRA, in which case, we don't need it—at least not nearly to the same degree as we do. But, of course, neither the NVRA nor the SAVE America Act is unconstitutional; they are both squarely within the authority provided to the U.S. Congress under article I, section 4 of the Constitution.

So, as a result of all this, it is clear that Congress can fix this problem. We have the authority to do it. So what is the holdup? Well, it certainly isn't the

American voter because the American voter, by a margin of like 3 out of 4 or 4 out of 5, depending which poll you look at, believes that it is important that people who show up to vote ought to have to prove who they are. And they ought to, at the time they register to vote, have to establish their citizenship and, thus, their eligibility to vote in the first place. We are talking about 75 to 80—some as high as 85 percent, depending on which poll that you look at. Those are Democrat voters and Republican voters alike, all agreeing that this is a problem, and it is a problem that Congress can and should fix. So what is the holdup?

Well, it is hard to say what the hold-up is? But I can summarize it this way: It is Senate Democrats. The SAVE America Act is popular literally everywhere in the United States of America, except in this Chamber and except among Democrats in this Chamber. Everywhere else it is a no-brainer. Everywhere else it is popular. It is only here that they don't want to pass it.

Why? Why don't they want to pass it? Well, one could argue that if you benefit from the status quo, you don't want any change to that status quo, especially if you benefit from it in a way that is likely to go away if you change the status quo. These are all fancy ways, Mr. President—nice ways—of saying: Perhaps some of those who are opposed to it might be afraid of what happens if they are not allowed to rely on noncitizen votes, even though Federal law flatly prohibits noncitizen voting in U.S. elections. That is not a good reason to oppose this. It may be a reason, but it is not a good reason. It is not a valid reason. It is not a legal, moral, ethical, or constitutional reason. It is just a reason, but that is about where the reason stops because every other of their arguments cannot withstand scrutiny.

For example, a number of them will say things like the following: If we pass the SAVE America Act into law, there will be anarchy, there will be lawlessness, dogs and cats living together in the streets, Book of Revelations stuff, apocalyptic nightmares unfolding everywhere. And they back this up by arguing, quite absurdly, that women and minorities will be unable to vote—oh, and also rural Americans and also young Americans and also older Americans because, at any given moment, these same people who are opposing the SAVE America Act—the 47 people in this Chamber, more or less—those are the same people who may stand to benefit if we don't pass it because the status quo benefits them. And they should not be able to benefit from this by not passing something.

The effect is that if this were to pass, this wouldn't disenfranchise anyone. Why? Well, because the kind of proof that we require—proof of citizenship and proof of identity—it is based on the same sort of document that every American has to provide routinely in the most mundane, routine encounters.

Let's break them up into two pieces. Remember, there are two pieces of the SAVE America Act. Part 1 deals with establishing citizenship. Part 2 deals with voter ID.

Let's deal first with the proof of citizenship. When you show up to register to vote, if this were to pass into law today—which it should pass today. It is that popular with the American people, and it is that lacking in any legitimate argument against it. If it were to pass into law today, then your existing voter registration would remain valid indefinitely. Nothing about that would change.

It would only be that the next time you have to register to vote—because you have moved or something like that—then you would have to show up, and you would have to provide some type of proof as to U.S. citizenship. The law would allow you to do this using the same exact documentation that every single American has to supply every single time he or she starts a new job as a new employee with a new employer. You fill out an I-9 form, as every man, woman, and child in America has to do every time they start a new job as a new employee. You have got to fill that out, and you have got to provide proof of citizenship, and you do that either by showing a U.S. passport evidencing citizenship or, alternatively, an original copy of your birth certificate, coupled with a couple of other documents, including I think a Social Security card and/or a government-issued photo ID.

Those who argue against it argue, among other things, well, this will disenfranchise women because—at least married women who have changed their name after getting married, taking on their husband's last name, this would disenfranchise them because they won't be able to vote. By that logic, that would suggest that married women who have changed their name after getting married, which, I think, the last time I checked is most women in America, would also be unable to work. They would be unable to get a job. They would be unable lawfully to start a new job as a new employee for a new employer ever if their parents didn't have the clairvoyance to be able to guess, at the time of their birth, what their husband's—their future husband's last name would be 20 or 30 years in advance. Of course, this is absurd. This doesn't exist. This is an entirely contrived concern. And moreover, in this and every other area where this kind of argument comes up, the people making the argument ignore the text accompanying lines—beginning on page 12 of the House-passed SAVE America Act, line 20 and the text that follows from it, makes clear that even if you can't find any of your own documentation, whether it is because you never had it to begin with or your dog ate it or your crazy Aunt Madge raided the stash of family documents and burned it—I don't know. For whatever reason, if you don't have,

never had, can't find your proof of citizenship, the SAVE America Act has you covered. You turn to that text accompanying line 20, starting on page 12 of the SAVE America Act as passed by the House of Representatives and it makes clear, even if you can't find any of that documentation, you can by a personal attestation write down the basic facts supporting or giving rise to your citizenship, and the burden then shifts to the State registering you to vote to confirm or refute your assertion as to citizenship: I was born on such and such a date in this American city to parents A and B. They are both citizens, so I was a citizen also. Or if you are a naturalized citizen, not a natural-born citizen, you would state the terms and conditions, the date or date range when you were naturalized, and the basis that you used to become a U.S. citizen; and the burden would then shift to the State to confirm or refute your characterization.

So those arguments reveal that people who are arguing against this, in addition to already being very wrong that this somehow tramples on State sovereign authority, that this somehow amounts to an improper or unconstitutional Federal takeover of election law, which has long been the more or less semi-exclusive domain of the States, that that doesn't hold up; neither does the “you are going to disenfranchise all married women who have taken on their husband's name,” that doesn't fly either.

There are other arguments about how it disenfranchises this or that racial group or urban Americans, rural Americans, old Americans, young Americans. They all fall for similarly self-evident reasons because at the end of the day, this law really does make it easy to vote and hard to cheat.

All right. So we have covered that step 1—step 1 of the citizenship verification part. Future voter registrations, when you show up to register newly to vote, you would have to provide proof of citizenship using the same documentation that you use every time you ever start a new job. And if you don't have that, you can do it just through a personal attestation, which you swear on a simple affidavit, outlining the facts and circumstances that make you a citizen, shifting the burden to the State.

SAVE America also gives authority to Federal officials to require the States—many of which are refusing to cooperate right now—to share their voter registration files so they can routinely help them scrub those voter registration files, to remove people who were illegally added as voters because, again, Federal law prohibits noncitizens from voting in U.S. elections.

That leads to the next line of argument frequently used by those who want to hinder the SAVE America Act's path toward victory. They make these stunning—astounding—claims that we don't need it. We don't need it. Why? Well, because it is already illegal to vote.

This has to be one of the dumbest arguments I have ever heard, and I have been here 15½ years in the U.S. Senate. I have heard some dumb arguments. This might well be the dumbest one that I have ever heard—not just against this bill but against any bill—that because X is already illegal, we don't need any law making sure that the law making action X illegal is, in fact, enforceable.

That is the dumbest argument ever. It is like saying: We don't need traffic police to enforce the law because it is already illegal to go too fast or to run a stop sign.

If you leave in place no mechanism, no means by which those laws can be enforced, then those laws quickly become dead letter. I will get more into that in a moment as to the enforceability point.

But the fact that we have got an existing law that makes it illegal is a reason to pass the SAVE America Act; it is not a reason not to pass the SAVE America Act.

Look, for a long time, Americans have been told a number of lies. Among other things, they have been told that, you know, noncitizens don't vote in U.S. elections because they can't. We know that is not true. We have got documented instances where some have voted.

We have now got documented instances where 278,000 people, who are not citizens, registered to vote in just these four States: California, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Nevada—to say nothing of the tens or hundreds of thousands of others in other States who may be similarly situated.

But for years, Americans have been told to stop asking questions about all kinds of things. Trust the system, we were told. Trust the experts. Trust the machines. Trust the machine itself.

If you expressed concern about election security, at least between the years of—I don't know—2020 through 2026, you were told that you had no credibility, and you were dismissed as a conspiracy theorist.

The reason I frame the date range as I did is that if you were saying this back in 2016 or 2017, you weren't dismissed by the mainstream news media, by the radical left news establishment in this country. You weren't dismissed as that. Why? Well, because that is what Democrats were arguing and the mainstream news media is, of course, the communication apparatus of the Democratic National Committee. So the dates matter.

If you questioned the vulnerabilities in electronic voting systems, you were told that there were none and that you were an evil person for suggesting that a voting machine could ever be abused.

If you worried about foreign interference in elections, you were accused of undermining democracy itself—ignoring, of course, the fact that we are not a democracy; we are a constitutional republic. Yes, the difference matters. I won't elaborate as to why now, but it does.

Many of the same government Agencies that have spent years insisting that there is nothing to worry about, they quietly produced intelligence at the exact same time they were denying that there was any problem. They were quietly producing intelligence saying exactly the opposite.

According to newly declassified assessments released by the White House, our own intelligence community has concluded that Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and even nonstate actors possessed the capability to compromise American election infrastructure.

These assessments specifically identified voter registration databases, electronic pollbooks, and election websites as the most vulnerable targets.

According to the White House, Communist China acquired approximately 220 million American voter registration files, including names, addresses, phone numbers, political affiliations. This, of course, is enough information for them to be able to build detailed profiles of nearly every American voter and—while building profiles—figuring out what might sway those who are swayable, who they might be able to sway and how they might be able to do it.

The intelligence reportedly says Beijing created an entire unit dedicated to exploiting that data. Now, look, if China hacked the personnel files of the Pentagon, this Chamber would be in an uproar. We would hear of little else. If China stole the banking information of 220 million Americans, Congress would cancel its recess. It would do nothing until it had solved the problem.

But, somehow, we are expected to just shrug our shoulders and do nothing when they target the American voter, when they target that which is most uniquely, sacredly given to American citizens. The exclusive right to vote, as an American citizen, is the quintessential ingredient. It is the tell-tale sign. It is the “without which, not,” the “sine qua non” of the American citizenship experience.

And we are supposed to just ignore it because they targeted the American voter? No, sir, not on my watch. We are not going to just ignore that. We cannot. Consistent with our oath to uphold, protect, and defend the Constitution—which every one of us has taken the same oath in this Chamber—we can't simply ignore it.

Now the White House has released intelligence describing how the Maduro regime in Venezuela allegedly developed methods to manipulate electronic vote totals in ways that are designed to carry out the job, while simultaneously evading detection, even after an audit.

The point is that hostile governments are actively developing ways to do precisely that. Responsible governments prepare for threats before they become catastrophes. They don't just wait until after they happen and say: Oh, shoot, sorry—especially when it is

something as important as maintaining the integrity—real and perceived—of our voting systems.

All you have to have is one truly botched election, and it could be very difficult to unscramble that egg, to put that genie back in the bottle. Sorry to throw too many metaphors in there at once, but the point is that you can't undo what happens when somebody uses their own technological sophistication to take advantage of vulnerabilities—known vulnerabilities—in our election security system. So a responsible government does not wait until after that happens.

Some of these same documents that have been released by the White House also described a photo registration investigation in Michigan. According to FBI records, canvassers admitted to signing other people's names to register to vote, to submitting registrations for people who didn't exist, to receiving gift cards based on how many applications for voter registration they produced.

Now the FBI believed crimes had occurred; yet the investigation sat. It sat and it sat and then it sat some more. And the American people deserve an answer.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, approximately 278,000 noncitizens were identified on the voter rolls in just those 4 States that I mentioned—in California, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Nevada—4 States, not 50. We don't even know how many others there are in other States because a whole bunch of States—mostly blue ones—utterly refused to share their records.

Even knowing that this is a problem—especially knowing that it is a problem—what does that say about those States and about those election officials who refused to share information with those elements within our government that are there to do one job, which is just to make sure that we don't have illegal voting occurring? What does that say about them? What does that say about the need for the SAVE America Act?

Now, given what we have learned from President Trump and from the Department of Homeland Security—just in the last few days—we must pass the SAVE America Act. If you were on the fence on it before, that is one thing. I don't know how anybody could even be on the fence about it after learning that information shared by President Trump and by the Department of Homeland Security late last week.

Meanwhile, opponents to this legislation are doubling down, and they keep repeating the same lie: Noncitizen voting is illegal, so we don't need this.

Exactly. Now robbery is illegal. We still lock the bank, and we still hire a night watchman. Identity theft is already illegal. Yeah, well, we still verify identities. Fraud is illegal. We still investigate fraud. And we have all kinds of laws and all kinds of law enforcement personnel assigned to do things

to make it more difficult for people to defraud their fellow citizens.

No serious person believes that declaring something illegal in and of itself eliminates the need to enforce the law—especially whereas here the law itself is written, it has been interpreted by the courts conclusively in a way that makes it impossible to enforce.

The SAVE America Act closes that gap. It makes it possible to enforce the law. It requires proof of citizenship to register to vote in Federal elections.

The reason this bears mention is because States do have the power—I don't know why any State would want to do this. States do have it within their discretion to allow noncitizens to vote. There are a small handful of local jurisdictions that have done that.

I cannot for the life of me fathom why that would be a good idea any more than any corporation would see fit to have nonshareholders vote in shareholder elections, nondirectors vote on a matter considered for a vote in a board of directors. You don't do that.

Citizenship has to mean something, and citizenship means, first and foremost, that you have got the right to participate in this body politic in our system of government in the United States, and you can't have that stripped away from you.

Well, there are many ways that it could be stripped away from you. One of the most common, pedestrian, and overlooked ways in which you can have that stripped is by having your vote offset, by having it nullified, neutralized.

In other words, if you vote and if at the same time somebody down the street from you is voting, who is not supposed to vote, that person has diluted your vote. That person has cheapened what it means to you to be a citizen. And they may have completely offset, neutralized, and nullified your vote. That is not acceptable. It requires proof of citizenship to register to vote in Federal elections.

And then we get to step 2 of it. Step 2 of the SAVE America Act is just about the voter ID. After you verified citizenship with a new voter registration, after you have had the coordination process occurring between Federal officials—the Department of Homeland Security who run the SAVE database and the States—then you get to the step 2 of the SAVE America Act where you just require people, the day they vote, to show up and provide a valid photo ID in order to prove that they are who they say they are.

This is nothing radical. This is nothing extraordinary. This is nothing that millions of Americans don't already do every single day to board an airplane, to cash a check, enter a Federal building, pick up a prescription, go to the doctor, pick up tickets at will call, or do any of a whole host of other things.

Many of us were at airports across America today. I boarded a plane this

morning in Salt Lake City. When I boarded that plane, there were hundreds—thousands, in fact—of people wanting to get on an airplane. Every one of them had to prove who they were. They had to prove their identity. Not one of them, while doing so, was saying: Gosh, I am being disenfranchised—while doing it.

They understand that this is part of what we have to do, that there are times in life when you have got—where who you are matters and whether you are who you claim to be really matters. This is one of those moments.

And, again, the American people overwhelmingly agreed because it is just common sense. Mr. President, 83 percent, according to one poll, support voter ID. That is among all registered voters. Among just Republicans, that number jumps as high as 95 percent. I don't know who those remaining 5 percent were among Republicans who said they don't think you ought to have to have that.

My guess is that a significant percentage of them meant to answer the question the other way. And another significant percentage of those 5 percent are probably actually Democrats who just wrongly identified as Republicans for one reason or another. But this is still a minimum of 71 percent of Democrat voters who believe this is a good idea.

The only people who find this controversial in any significant numbers are right here, Democrats in the U.S. Senate.

So here is the question before the Senate: If hostile foreign governments are targeting our election systems, and they are; if China possesses hundreds of millions of American voter files, and it does; if the overwhelming majority of Americans support voter ID, and they do, then what exactly are we waiting for? What is it that is so critical, that is so essential, that is so timely, that is so time-sensitive that we are not debating this right now? Why don't we pull this bill up right now and debate it and announce that we are going to debate it until it passes?

If we were to do that, it would pass. It might take us a few days, it might take us a few weeks, but it would pass because the same animating desire, the smell of jet fumes, would eventually work its will, work its magic, and put our Members into a state of intoxication or sanity, regardless of how you might perceive it, where they would eventually negotiate this thing to the point that they could accept it because they know that with every passing day, when they filibuster this, this bill gets more popular and they get less popular. If you add to that the fact that they shouldn't be able to go home until we are finished with this—none of us should. If we were truly doing our job here, then the 60-vote cloture standard wouldn't be perceived as the insuperable obstacle that it has been described wrongly as being here today.

For a very long time, this Chamber operated without so much as a cloture

rule—even after the cloture rule was adopted in 1917 for the first time. Still, breaking a filibuster usually didn't involve a cloture vote. Most of the time, it just meant the Senate would come in and say: OK. We are debating this bill until it passes. If you want to filibuster it, you are going to have to speak. If you stop speaking and nobody else shows up to speak against it, then we will call the question, and we will do so in a simple majority vote.

It is only in the modern Senate that we have gotten our entire bearings wrong on what the filibuster is. Its whole purpose is to facilitate and prolong robust, meaningful debate—the modern filibuster, in which we look at it as a simple vote-counting exercise. Unless you can count to 60 on day one of a bill's consideration, you consider it failed. It is not just that it doesn't amplify it; it doesn't further the purpose of the filibuster. It undermines its very purpose. Rather than protecting robust debate, that renders debate obsolete.

Shame on us if we can't see that. Shame on us if we don't take the steps necessary to extricate ourselves from the sharp, clinging talons of the so-called zombie filibuster—the name I have assigned for the use of the 60-vote cloture standard as a de facto 60-vote passage standard, which it is not, which it was never meant to be, which, if it were, it would arguably run afoul of the Constitution because the Constitution makes clear—when you are setting a supermajority threshold as the minimum standard, it makes clear where that is.

There are several instances—including when you are proposing a constitutional amendment, you are ratifying a treaty, trying to overcome a Presidential veto, for example—where a two-thirds supermajority is required. Otherwise, it is a simple majority. And that continues to be the case under the Senate rules today. It is just that we think of the 60-vote cloture standard as synonymous with the threshold needed to pass. It is not.

The reason we talk about this, the reason I contrast what I call the real filibuster, the talking filibuster, against the zombie filibuster is that in the case of the zombie filibuster, nobody even has to work for it.

The way it always worked before and after they first adopted the cloture standard for the first time in 1917—although it was set at a three-fourths supermajority back then—they would just continue to debate it. That is what we should do here.

If you want to filibuster, you can. You may do so. But you should have to stand here and speak. And when nobody else shows up to speak against it, that is over, and you call the question on the bill, and you call it not at 60 votes, you call it at 51. That is what we ought to be doing. We should put this bill on the floor, and we should debate it until such time as it passes.

Now, are there other options? Heck yeah, there are, and I support pretty

much all of them. One option would be to attach it to a continuing resolution or a spending vehicle. Another would be to attach it, as the House of Representatives has done, to the National Defense Authorization Act.

When we received the National Defense Authorization Act that was passed by the House of Representatives last week, the Senate refused to bring it up. They refused to bring up even the Senate committee-processed version. They refused to give what we call front-end cloture or cloture on the motion to proceed.

See, this illustrates the problem I am pointing to. We are now into, what, our third, fourth instance of prominent pieces of legislation this year that have been unable to pass. Remember how the Department of Homeland Security was at least partially defunded for many months out of this fiscal year? The same thing happened there—we couldn't get the 60 votes, so we kept punting it.

What we should do every time that happens, just as it happened yesterday—or last week when we tried to get on the Defense Authorization Act—Democrats didn't vote for it, so we couldn't get the 60 votes on it. We should have continued trying to debate it and announced that we would stay on it until we could get the 60.

But regardless, even if you don't do that with a large bill like the National Defense Authorization Act, you should do it with a small, simple, overwhelmingly popular bill like the SAVE America Act. It would work. It would work. But we have to do the hard work to do it.

All right. So we have talked about attaching it to a spending bill or a defense authorization bill or some other must-pass vehicle. Another option under consideration involves budget reconciliation. Budget reconciliation has the obvious advantage in that there is no cloture in the context of budget reconciliation, but it has to be budgetary, meaning it has to bring about changes to mandatory outlays or to revenues.

Well, the SAVE America Act itself as a whole is properly perceived as a policy bill, not a budgetary one. There are features, there are elements of the SAVE America Act that are themselves arguably budgetary or at least could be made such in a budget reconciliation vehicle, and I look forward to working on that as well.

One way or another, we have to get this done. The American people are asking us to act. The President has asked us to act. The only thing standing in the way of this bill passing is the Senate and specifically our slavish devotion to the zombie filibuster. But, really, our slavish devotion to the zombie filibuster is not about the zombie filibuster or any kind of filibuster at all; it is slavish devotion to the truncated, predictable, light-duty legislative workweek. It is that coupled with the cloture standard that has created

the modern zombie filibuster mess in which our Democrat colleagues were able to keep the Department of Homeland Security at least partially defunded for months and months out of the year.

Now they want to use the same trick to make sure that our elections are not secure. Shame on them. Shame on all of them. Shame on anyone who is trying to do that.

For that matter, now that it has become abundantly clear that we have identified 278,000 noncitizen voter registrations just in those four States alone—California, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York—I challenge those who are not yet on board with the SAVE America Act to come up with something else that will fix the problem because it is no longer an excuse—it is no longer acceptable to simply ignore it. We know too much now. We can't ignore this problem. If you don't like the way we have written this, tell us what your alternative is, but doing nothing is not an option.

So, look, we have been told meanwhile that there simply isn't enough time to debate SAVE America Act until it passes. Sorry. We would love to, but we can't.

I am sorry, this falls on deaf ears. This is absurd. To whatever degree we do not have time, it is because we are choosing not to give it the time that it needs, that it deserves, that it requires. And shame on all of us for betraying our oath to the Constitution and our own commitment to our own voters. We are expected to look out for them, to defend them, to respect them enough.

We have to give a crap—just enough of a crap in order to tell our voters, to say: We are not going to allow your vote to be offset by someone who is voting illegally.

That is the least we can do.

After this week, under the current schedule, the House and the Senate won't both simultaneously be back into session in the Capitol until—wait for it—September 14. Mid-September. This is the last week, absent some change in the respective Chambers' meeting schedules, the last legislative week until mid-September, which will take us to just—what is that?—6 weeks before the November election? That is unacceptable.

We don't have a lack of time; we have a lack of spine. Don't ever confuse lack of time with lack of spine because they are two very different things. If we truly lack time, that would be one thing. We have time. We are just choosing not to use it. We are choosing to use it differently and, I would add, very poorly if we don't take this up. Take it up now and stay on the bill until it darn well passes.

The Senate should stay here tomorrow, this weekend, next week, through weekends and long-scheduled recesses—as long as it takes. If opponents want to block it, let them do it in public. If Democrats want to fili-

buster this bill, let them stand and speak like actual Senators actually filibustering because that is what filibustering is. If they don't show up to do that, then we call the question, we call the vote, and we do so with a simple majority because that is what our rules allow us to do with votes when they don't filibuster. But you can't have the benefit of filibustering if you are not willing to filibuster.

Let them, as they are filibustering, explain why they are insisting that proving citizenship is somehow unreasonable in elections that are reserved for U.S. citizens. Let them explain why showing voter ID is simply too much to ask even though Americans show that they are comfortable showing ID in countless everyday interactions.

The American people are watching, and they should be. They know that this is not about Republicans. It is not about Democrats. This isn't about the last election or the one before that. No, this one is about the next election and every election that comes after that. It is about the future. It is about whether the American people can stand and look at our election systems and have the confidence they need when they lawfully cast their ballots. They need to be able to stand with a degree of confidence that their ballot, their vote won't be canceled by fraud, diluted by ineligible voting, or jeopardized by a system that Washington spent years insisting was beyond reasonable debate when, in fact, it was not.

American elections belong to American citizens. The SAVE America Act would make it easy to vote and hard to cheat.

We must pass the SAVE America Act. If we fail to do so, neither history nor today's voters will smile upon us.

I am now happy to turn the time over to my friend and colleague, the distinguished Senator from Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I have greatly valued the opportunity to join my colleagues tonight in discussing the SAVE America Act and many aspects to the bill, but I want to focus on the election integrity aspect of the bill.

The people of Ohio have twice trusted me as their chief elections officer, having served two terms as Ohio secretary of state. In that time, I oversaw the Presidential elections in 2012 and 2016 and also the midterm elections in 2014 and 2018, so many primaries, local elections, and special elections.

I tell you all that because I know how to administer elections. I have done it. When Ohio was a very purple State, we were the focus of the Nation. I administered those elections, and I made my mission clear: Make Ohio a State where it is easy to vote and hard to cheat. That is the balance we are all trying to achieve. We want voters to cast ballots. We also want them to do it in a manner that is not a burden to them. I am going to explain why photo ID is not a burden to voters and why,

actually, in the end, it is an enhancement.

In Ohio, we implemented the photo ID requirement at the polls, and with the photo ID requirement intact, there was no evidence of voter suppression. In fact, with all of those election integrity measures in place in the 2024 Presidential election, we produced the second highest turnout in the last four Presidential elections.

So the bottom line is, the evidence suggests that the inclusion of photo ID, actually, is no impediment. Frankly, it could be argued that it makes the system easy to understand and enhances turnout.

Photo ID doesn't just protect election integrity, though. It does more. It makes our elections work better.

I want to make this case to my colleagues tonight that, if you don't want photo ID because you don't believe it is important for election integrity and you don't think that election integrity is enough of a reason to do it, well, I am going to point to the fact that photo ID also provides an ease for election administration. It makes it run better. It makes it run better, and I am going to give you a prime example of this.

Look at what happened in California's recent elections. We all remember what happened there. Some of the State's most important races took more than a week to determine the outcomes, and officials spent weeks finishing the count. During that time, the reported leaders in each election—in those very close races—changed several times. You would hear reports: Well, this candidate is up. Now this candidate is up. This candidate is in the lead.

And then, all of a sudden, they lose.

Every additional day in that debate that went on for over a week, about who actually won those elections, undermines the confidence in those elections. That speculation—justified or not—creates and undermines election confidence when voters have to wait for more than a week to get an answer about who won an election.

And I asked a California official why. Why did it take so long to count votes in California? The answer I, frankly, found to be pretty astonishing. This individual said the answer was simple: Every mail-in ballot has to go through a manual signature comparison with the signature on file.

So let me explain what that means. Instead of asking a voter to present a secure photo ID, which would clear it up right at the very beginning, California asks thousands of election workers to spend days trying to determine whether two signatures match or not.

That is their system for determining whether or not the individual voting is actually the right person?

California turns election workers into handwriting experts when the rest of America has settled on a far, far simpler way to verify identity, and that is photo ID. We don't need to

make the election workers handwriting experts. We can simply show a photo ID and say: Hey, we know who the person is who is casting the ballot. They are a valid voter. Let's give them a ballot.

It has been said many times. But please, we ask for a photo ID when we get on a plane. We ask for a photo ID when we open a bank account or a credit card, to check into a hotel, to buy alcohol, or to get prescription medications. This is not a burden on the American people.

But when it comes to protecting the most fundamental right in our democracy, some States are still comparing signatures by hand. That defies common sense.

A secure photo ID is faster. It is simpler. It is more objective. It helps election officials do their jobs more efficiently. It delivers results more quickly. And it gives Americans greater confidence that the eligible voter casting the ballot can legally cast that ballot and have it counted.

Election laws should make it easy to vote and hard to cheat. Requiring a photo ID does both. It is pretty simple. It protects the integrity of our elections, it improves the efficiency of our election system, and it strengthens public confidence in the outcome.

And I tell you. I have heard many Democrats say that they don't support the SAVE America Act. However, I did listen to the minority leader CHUCK SCHUMER say that their objection as Democrats is not to photo ID. Again, I listened carefully to my colleagues—I tried to pay attention—to get clues from them about what they might support. So, when the minority leader said that they didn't oppose photo ID, I thought that would be a great opportunity to take a simple slice of the SAVE America Act—photo ID—put that together in a bill and present it. Clearly, based on his comments, I thought we would get bipartisan support. But that wasn't true, apparently, because, even after we proposed that legislation, he objected to it.

I have and will continue to give my colleagues on both sides of the aisle the option to put their words into action. I have and will continue to put forward a clean, simple, straightforward bill to require photo ID in American elections—nothing more. It works in 36 States, and I promise you that, in States like California, where they have no photo ID law and it takes weeks to count ballots, their elections not only will have greater integrity, but their elections will be administered much more efficiently.

Believe me, there is no more unifying issue for Americans on election integrity than photo ID. The vast majority of the American people supports requiring a photo ID. You see it in poll after poll after poll. The vast majority of Americans thinks it is just common sense because they do it every single day as they live their lives and conduct business.

Americans deserve confidence in elections, supported by election integrity measures like photo ID. We can make it easy to vote and hard to cheat. Passing photo ID requirements are common sense. It is the right thing to do for election integrity and the right thing to do for voter confidence.

I will close with this: This is a rare bipartisan issue for Americans. It is rare that you have Americans, in this polarized world that we live in, who can all say—Democrats, Republicans, Independents—that we support the idea of photo ID for election integrity. They have united around it, and I think all of our constituents are wondering why we can't pass this simple legislation.

I hear it all the time as I travel across Ohio. Voters say: Hey, pass photo ID. Pass the SAVE America Act. You can do this. We should do this.

I agree. I think I have voted for it six times already, and I look forward to voting for it for seven, eight, nine. However many times it takes to get it done, we will get it done. If a few of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle would join us in supporting the will of the American people, we could get it done sooner. We can give the American people election integrity, the efficient administration of elections, and boost public confidence in elections. Ultimately, more trust in our elections gives us more trust in the government and in the people that we are electing.

Let's get this done. It is long past time to get the photo ID portion of SAVE America passed. Let's do it. The time is now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The other, more handsome, Senator from Ohio.

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, that may be a rule XIX violation.

(Laughter.)

We have heard a lot of arguments tonight, and I feel badly for the people at home, honestly, because they are only hearing one side of the argument, and I think most Americans want to hear both sides of an argument. I think that is what makes the U.S. Senate—at least theoretically—interesting, because this is billed as being the most deliberative body on Earth.

Yet, 2 hours ago, there were 40 Democrat Senators who came to this Chamber—who walked into this Chamber—and voted. Yet there isn't a single, solitary Democrat Senator sitting here today, this evening, listening to any of this conversation. You can't really persuade people if they are not even willing to listen to the conversation or, quite frankly, to even debate the issues.

So I thought what we would do tonight is, maybe, debate it for them.

So, if you could summon your inner Democrat Senator—I would ask my colleague from Utah and my other colleague from Ohio to summon their inner Democrat Senator and start with No. 1.

The objection that I have heard of this conversation—we heard it at committee the other day—is how this bill absolutely rips apart States' rights.

You talked about that, Senator LEE, in your conversation. I am not going to repeat what you said because you said it much better than I could ever say it, but I will point out that, back in 2023, the Democrats wanted to pass a bill called H.R. 1. H.R. 1 means it was the No. 1 bill proposed by the House of Representatives at the time. There was a Senate version called S. 1, meaning it was the first priority of the Senate's.

As the Presiding Officer knows, I think we are up to S. 7000 right now. There have been lots of bills introduced. But this was the first one—meaning top priority. What was that bill called, you ask? It was called the For the People Act.

Personally, I don't know how anybody could be against a bill that is called "For the People" because you would have to be against being for the people. It is pretty good. I know, in the car business, they accuse us of bait and switch and false advertising. I think the FTC would take that one up in a heartbeat as false advertising.

What did the For the People Act do? What did H.R. 1 do? It nationalized our elections. It literally took all of the power away from States and concentrated it here in Washington, DC.

You think: Was this done to improve voter integrity?

Oh, no, no. You would be grossly mistaken. This was about eliminating States' rights to enforce voter ID, proof of citizenship, controls on mail-in balloting, controls on how people register to vote.

So imagine, just a few years ago, Democrats wanted to nationalize elections to strip away voter integrity, and now they are saying it is an affront to States' rights to insist on simple voter ID and proof of citizenship.

Would you consider that hypocrisy, Senator LEE?

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in colloquy.

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

Mr. LEE. Whether you call it hypocrisy and inconsistency or something else, it can't be reconciled with what they themselves have done.

Now, I have got a copy right here of a significant portion of that bill, the bill offered up by the Senate Democrats in 2021 during the 117th Congress—the so-called For the People Act. I mean, what is not to like if you are for the people? And if you are against that, apparently, you are against the people. Maybe we should have thought of that when we named the SAVE America Act. But, regardless, that horse is out of the barn.

This is a part of that bill, and it is the specific part of the bill in subtitle 1, section 1709 that requires voter ID.

You see, the Democrats themselves had their own voter ID act, their own voter ID legislation. This is not State

legislation; this is right here in this Chamber. They wanted to pass their own voter ID law.

Now, theirs is a little different than ours. Theirs is a little bit more permissive. They allow all sorts of other things, like—depending on how you read it, you could argue that a library card without your picture on it would even suffice under this. I wouldn't draw it quite like that, but the point is they were going to do something to require voter ID.

Even though we might draw the boundaries a little bit differently than they do—and we, in fact, do in ours—they were doing the very same thing that they are now condemning us for doing because, if the SAVE America Act is commandeering a State issue on the part of the Federal Government, then so, too, was the For the People Act. If it is wrong to have—and if it is disenfranchisement to require—voter ID, then theirs does that, too. It is just that ours is well written. Theirs was a little bit sloppy. But, you know, it was a step, maybe, in the right direction.

The point is, they have no leg to stand on when claiming that the Federal Government has no business doing this. Why? Well, because, first of all, it flatly contradicts article I, section 4 of the Constitution, which plainly does give us that authority to operate within the space as it relates to Federal elections. And, secondly, this is something they themselves have already done.

Mr. MORENO. So I think we should let the Democrats respond to that point. It is a good one.

Mr. LEE. Yes.

Mr. MORENO. You know, in debate, they taught me, if there is nobody who objects to your point, that that point is made. So I think the Democrats have ceded that point.

Mr. LEE. I think that is right.

There is a part of me that is now tempted to seek to pass by unanimous consent at least that portion of the SAVE America Act that consists of a voter ID law because they themselves have said, over and over again, that they have got no problems with voter ID laws until, of course, they do have a problem with them.

Mr. MORENO. The response?

Hearing none.

All right. We are going to move on to objection No. 2; that is, it is already illegal. It is interesting because that is a good point. I look and that and go: Wow, they just made a really good point. This is already illegal. What problem are we trying to solve?

Now, of course, we know it is already illegal. What we are asking is to have the integrity of it. So what they are trying to do is say: Speeding is illegal, but you can't check to see if anybody is speeding, which makes it legal. Because if you are not enforcing laws, aren't you, in effect, eliminating those laws?

So if they are saying: Well, it is already illegal. You don't need to prove

you are a citizen because it is already illegal to vote as a noncitizen, but if you are not allowing inspections of voter rolls, making certain that people are purged properly, wouldn't that be basically ignoring the law completely?

Mr. LEE. Yes. As Cicero once said on the floor of the Roman Senate: If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice—actually, that wasn't Cicero; it was Rush in the song "Freewill."

But the point was made: When you are aware of something and you do nothing about it, that, by itself, is a decision.

They have identified that this is an issue. And by suggesting that we move forward while doing nothing about it, that—there is an inexorable, inescapable conclusion that one derives from that, which is: They are just fine with this form of cheating. They are just fine with the very real possibility that up to 278,000 noncitizens, in those 4 States alone that we mentioned—to say nothing of the hundreds of thousands in other States that might be registered to vote illegally—that those guys are going to vote. They are just fine with that. Let that sink in.

Mr. MORENO. Democrat response?

Hearing none.

The other objection that we get is our elections are already secure. Our elections are very secure.

But doesn't it kind of override common sense to say: If you are not having to prove you are a citizen to vote, if you are not having to show your ID, if we just automatically mail out ballots without really knowing that that person is there and that person didn't request it, aren't we opening the door to having that lack of integrity of our elections?

I will tell you a quick anecdotal story. I was asked to be an election monitor by the Governor of Colombia in a recent Presidential election. I knew as much about the Colombian election as any American, meaning nothing. So I went down there, and they require all the things I just talked about. They require everybody to be a citizen of Colombia to vote in Colombian elections. They require that ID to be shown. They actually have facial recognition scanners and fingerprint readers in case there is a question whether that picture matches you. You know, like, if you are the Realtor that has the picture of you 40 years ago, sometimes it is like: Is that really you? So they have the facial recognition, the fingerprint, paper ballots.

So I was huddling with the registrar afterwards. And, of course, we are in Colombia; so we are speaking Spanish. And I said to him: Well, what happens if somebody doesn't show up with a voter ID, like, his ID? What do you do?

And we were having a pretty good conversation until I asked that question. And he turned to his assistant and in Spanish says: I think the Senator has lost his Spanish because I don't understand what he is asking me.

And his assistant repeated it.

And he completely looked at me like I was a knucklehead and said: Why would you possibly let somebody vote that doesn't have an ID to prove who they are?

In other words, the question was so ridiculous that he thought it had to be a language barrier.

Is there any way to justify the other position, since our colleagues—who were just here. They all ran off. During your speech, the majority leader ran through—is there any justification for not having to do this?

Mr. LEE. There is a justification. The justification goes something like this: Those people who might be purged from this because they are noncitizens and therefore not legally registered to vote are our voters, meaning Democrat voters.

Mr. MORENO. But they wouldn't make that case to the American public.

Mr. LEE. They wouldn't make that case if they were committed to the rule of law, and yet they have made the case. We have heard them do it.

Some of them, on the floor of the U.S. Senate, have said: These are our voters.

I don't know whether that was a Freudian slip, but I have heard it made several times where they say: These are our voters who would be at stake here—and then they go on about disenfranchisement.

This disenfranchises no one unless it is a noncitizen who is illegally voting based on a fraudulent voter registration.

Mr. MORENO. Do you think it is possible that in a country like Colombia that has incredible amounts of ethnic diversity and Hispanics—like myself, I was born there—that when you are Hispanic and you are in Colombia, you are able to find your ID, but that when you cross the border, you lose that ability? And I am thinking to myself: Is that true?

And then I went to find my driver's license here. I actually do not currently possess my ID on me. So maybe there is something to this idea that Hispanics who enter America cannot find their ID.

Do you think that is possible?

Mr. LEE. It certainly is possible. And I wonder—I mean, we will have a separate conversation off the floor. I am trying to wonder which words in Spanish they uttered. I am trying to imagine them saying something like: Has this guy lost his mind? After he moved to the United States when he was 8 years old, he has now adopted the ways of North America and he has lost it.

Perhaps there is something about the tropical climate of Colombia that causes them to make more sense there, but perhaps you have lost your sense now that you have moved to Ohio? Perhaps the rationale?

Mr. MORENO. Well, obviously, we are being sarcastic, and the reason we are being sarcastic is this is really ridiculous. It actually is just blatantly

ridiculous that we are sitting here on the floor of the U.S. Senate, not debating—at all, by the way, clearly—not talking about the problems that everyday Americans are facing, but trying to get some 80–20, 90–10 issues across the finish line, and Democrats won't even engage in the conversation. Because it is so ridiculous that we have the Olive Garden require ID for the all-you-can eat pasta bowl, but we allow people to vote without showing who they are. That is just truly, patently absurd.

What is even more absurd is that my colleague from Ohio put forward a very simple voter ID. Just said: Hey, look—by the way, photo ID means the ID has to have a photo. That is in the word. So you have to have something that has your photo, your name, and your signature in order to vote. He put that bill forward because he is a good guy. He wants to get things done. He is somebody who genuinely in his heart of hearts is drawn to service. That is who Senator HUSTED is.

They had said they would vote for voter ID. He put it on the floor three times. That bill has been on the floor of the Senate three times. And all three times Democrats have voted against simple voter ID.

That makes no sense.

I have also—next objection—I have heard Democrats talk about: Well, States already have voter ID. In fact, one of our Democrat colleagues was on ABC yesterday talking about how there is already voter ID, except not in his State. And it was the moderator who had to point that out to him.

That was embarrassing because you really should know the voter laws in your own State.

But clearly not all States require voter ID. So all we are saying is: Let's just have all 50 States require voter ID, and let's have all 50 States require proof of citizenship.

Final one I hear quite a bit—in fact, I hear it most from the minority leader—is that this is Jim Crow 2.0.

For those of you who are under the age of 60 who may not know what that means, it basically means this is racist—which is, of course, the ultimate laziest way to attack somebody because they just label you a racist: This is Jim Crow 2.0.

And those are dark, dark, dark times in American history. And I think using those kinds of references is just grossly inappropriate.

Mr. LEE. Senator MORENO, which party was the party of Jim Crow?

Mr. MORENO. That would be the Democrat Party.

And what is even more interesting about that is that phrase, Jim Crow 2.0—you know how sometimes you are like: Haven't I heard that before? And we have heard that before. When Georgia reformed its elections laws, I think 2021—I don't know the exact date—the Democrats called it Jim Crow 2.0. In fact, the Major League Baseball moved the All-Star Game from Atlanta be-

cause they said they couldn't support these kinds of racist actions in Georgia. Companies boycotted Georgia because of this. Georgia was persona non grata as a State.

But they went forward with their elections reforms. And what was the result? Record voter turnout. Zero issue with anybody having voter ID.

In fact, the Senators from Georgia—one of them is running right now under the very laws that he called Jim Crow 2.0, and he hasn't given one speech in which he says that Georgia's voter laws are anything other than common sense.

Now, you remember even celebrities went out and did videos bemoaning Georgia. If that is not hypocrisy, what is?

But here is how I will end for my colleagues: I think the American people deserve a debate.

By the way, not just on this issue. I have been here for 18 months. Mr. President, you have been here for exactly the same period of time. This is exactly the number of debates I have seen in this Chamber: zero—zero debates. I think most Americans—I think you and I are probably shocked by that. Because when you and I were running for office, we are like: We are going to get ready. We are going in to debate.

We don't do debates. We do things like this: empty floor, not a single Democrat hearing the argument.

I am bringing up: Hey, how about this? There is nobody to respond. Let's have a debate.

When 80-plus percent of the American people support a piece of legislation, it boggles the imagination of how the U.S. Senate can't, at a minimum, debate the issue.

So to my colleagues, my Democrat side, we don't need to get rid of the filibuster—just like you wanted to, by the way. The Democrats wanted to get rid of the filibuster to pass the For the People Act, by the way. Thanks to Manchin and Sinema, that didn't happen.

But we don't have to do that. Let's have a debate. Come out here point by point and explain to the American people why you feel the way you do.

I don't want to speak for anybody else, but I can tell you the Republicans are ready for that debate. We look forward to that debate. The American people deserve that debate. Let's do it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, just a brief comment as we wrap up our conversation for this evening. Moments ago, we heard my friend and colleague, the Senator from Ohio, talk about identifying—the need for people to identify themselves. He talked about the fact that he, on one recent occasion, started looking for his photo ID and couldn't find it.

And yet he has one. Even as he stands here today, he has got a pin on his lapel. That pin signifies that he is

a U.S. Senator. So that, by itself, identifies who he is.

Long before he got here, he had to prove that he was a U.S. citizen and that he was otherwise eligible to run for the U.S. Senate. When he ran for the Senate in the State of Ohio, he had to provide that documentation to the elections personnel there. He had to show up the day he voted and prove who he was.

He has had to prove who he was even since he has been elected. He had to produce an election certificate from his State's chief elections authority before he could come here.

Then when he started here, he had to produce an ID, as every employee has to provide to the new employer, whatever, starting a new job.

And he had to prove to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Senate that he is, in fact, the same BERNIE MORENO who was elected to the U.S. Senate from the State of Ohio.

You have to go through all those steps before you get to wear one of these pins. And without being able to wear one of these pins and be sworn in, you can't vote here.

And the people who vote for you in most States represented by most Senators—including most Democrat Senators—have also had to show who they are.

It is not too late for us to get this done, nor is it too much for us to ask the American people to do that which they have to do every single day—sometimes many times in the same day—to show that they are who they claim to be.

Our right to vote, our most sacred incident of U.S. citizenship, requires nothing less.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO TOM LEE

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. President, it is an honor to pay tribute today to Judge Tom Lee, who has recently assumed inactive status after more than 40 years on the Federal bench. Judge Lee was appointed by President Ronald Reagan in 1984 to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District Court of Mississippi. He would go on to serve as chief judge from 1996 to 2003 and as chief judge he oversaw the implementation of the Case Management and Electronic Case Filing System, a system still used by the Federal Courts today. Early in Judge Lee's career prior to this appointment, he was a legal stalwart in his native Scott County serving as county prosecutor, youth court judge, and city of Forest municipal court judge—well, maybe referring to his hometown of Forest as a city is

a bit of a stretch. Preceding Judge Lee's legal career beginnings in his hometown, he graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1965 and served in the U.S. Army Reserve as a captain in the JAG Corps from 1965–1973.

The respect Judge Lee earned during more than four decades of judicial service has no limit. A defining characteristic of Judge Lee's remarkable career is his deep commitment to applying the law fairly and impartially. However, not only has Judge Lee earned a strong reputation for applying the law fairly, but he is also known to have done so with humility, courtesy, and integrity. Highly regarded for his strong intellectual ability too, these qualities have earned Judge Lee the deep admiration of so many legal professionals who have witnessed his service on the bench. Throughout Judge Lee's career, lawyers, litigants, law clerks, court reporters, court employees, and fellow judges have all praised his outstanding character in how he handled matters before his court.

During his time on the bench, Judge Lee has presided over a number of high-profile cases. His most recent high-profile case was the “Goon Squad Case” in March of 2024. It was one of the most challenging and closely watched criminal cases in Mississippi's recent history. Consistent with Judge Lee's career, he approached that responsibility with fairness, careful deliberation, and an unwavering commitment to the rule of law. Judge Lee's work on that case serves as an example of the strong integrity and judicial temperament that has defined his career.

So many members of Mississippi's legal community have been influenced by Judge Lee. I am certain their careers have been enhanced by Judge Lee's legacy and follow the example he set as it applies to their own professional circumstances. Judge Lee's legacy will undoubtedly continue long after his years of active judicial have concluded. The State of Mississippi is blessed that Judge Tom Lee is one of our own as is our Nation's judicial system as a whole.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. KRISTINA SAWETZ-GLASENER

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, along with my colleague Senator MIKE CRAPO, we join in honoring Dr. Kristina Sawetz-Glasener, Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor and Licensed Clinical Social Worker, for her devotion in serving children and families across the Washington, DC, area. We thank her for facilitating a hands-on interactive session with the Senate Moms group.

Dr. Kristina Sawetz-Glasener is the owner of her own private practice, the Creative Counseling Center of Northern

Virginia, LLC. She simultaneously serves the community by working on grant-funded initiatives in preschools and nonprofits. Dr. Kristina is the NOVA Regional co-chair for the Virginia Association for Play Therapy and was awarded the 2026 Play Therapist of the Year by the Virginia Association for Play Therapy.

With over 15 years of experience, Dr. Kristina has continually dedicated herself to the community by providing invaluable mental health services to children and families. She earned her doctorate from Lesley University in expressive therapies, and her doctoral research utilized sandtray and creative arts to aid siblings of children with cancer in communicating their lived experience. Dr. Kristina is a mother of two and understands the demands impressed upon working mothers.

Our staff lead the Senate Moms group, a bipartisan group of more than 200 moms employed by the U.S. Senate. The group's regular meetings and internal resources in the Senate help working moms feel united and supported in navigating the Senate workplace and raising children in the Washington, DC, area.

Thank you, Dr. Kristina, for your inspiring work to ground and connect them to what truly matters by exploring their experiences as working mothers. You have set an excellent example for the many moms who help keep the U.S. Senate functioning day-to-day. We wish you the best in all the future offerings you.●

RECOGNIZING GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION FIREFIGHTERS

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the service and bravery of the hundreds of Georgia Forestry Commission personnel, volunteers, and paid firefighters who worked to suppress wildfires that ravaged over 50,000 acres in south Georgia this year.

Since April, these fires forced hundreds of families from their homes across south Georgia. Combined, the Highway 82 Fire and Pineland Road Fire have destroyed over a hundred homes.

State officials have said both fires are now fully contained, thanks in large part to the tireless efforts of the Georgia Forestry Commission. Hundreds of volunteer and paid firefighters have been working around the clock to stop these devastating fires to protect our communities.

Since 1921, the Georgia Forestry Commission has provided leadership, service, and education to protect and conserve Georgia's forest resources, including defending our State from over 2,300 wildfires annually. These firefighters have now added another chapter to this proud legacy, defeating these unprecedented fires with professionalism and dedication under the leadership of GFC director Johnny Sabo.

With gratitude for their service, as Georgia's U.S. Senator, I recognize and

commend these Georgia Forestry Commission personnel, volunteers, and paid firefighters for answering the call once more on behalf of the State of Georgia.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2913. An act to authorize support for Ukraine, 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-4084. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Diflufenican; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 12795-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4085. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chlormequat Chloride; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 13187-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4086. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Epyrifenacil; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 13187-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4087. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluoxapirolin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 13253-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4088. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management

Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bifenthrin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 13412-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4089. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cinnamaldehyde in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption from the Requirement for a Tolerance" (FRL No. 13411-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4090. A communication from the Acting Chief, United States Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to designation of an acting officer and a nomination for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Director, United States Office of Government Ethics, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4091. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2025 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4092. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-342, "Fair Housing Practices Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4093. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-343, "Langston Slater Surplus Declaration and Disposition Approval Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4094. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-345, "Nonprofit Services Preservation Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4095. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-346, "Support, Opportunity, Unity, Legal Relationships (SOUL) Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4096. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-347, "Background Check Adjustments Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4097. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-348, "Powering Local Utility Guidance in Housing Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4098. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-358, "Motor Vehicle Insurance

Modernization Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4099. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-349, "Certified Business Enterprise Program Compliance and Enforcement Support Temporary Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4100. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-350, "Volunteer Services Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4101. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-351, "Strengthening Probate Administration Temporary Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4102. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-353, "Reservoir District Tax Exemption Temporary Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4103. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-344, "Enhancing Consumer Protection Procedures Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4104. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-352, "DC Water and Sewer Authority Billing and Disconnection Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2026"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 5032. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to require justices, judges, magistrate judges, or bankruptcy judges and their spouses and dependent children to place certain assets into qualified blind trusts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 5033. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to create a right of public access to certain records relating to the courts of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 5034. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase data transparency for supplemental benefits under Medicare Advantage; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 5035. A bill to amend the National Security Act of 1947 to require the Federal Government to produce a national resilience strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 5036. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit officers and employees of the judiciary from engaging in official acts affecting personal financial interests; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 177

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 177, a bill to prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

S. 179

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 179, a bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prevent harm and disruption to the United States agriculture industry by protecting against foreign influence over agriculture production and supply chains, and for other purposes.

S. 726

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 726, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1414

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1414, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide that clinical studies required for licensure of biological products as biosimilar shall not be required to include the assessment of immunogenicity, pharmacodynamics, or comparative clinical efficacy.

S. 1537

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1537, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to approve interstate commerce carrier apprenticeship programs for purposes of veterans educational assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1690

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1690, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase funding for Social Security and Medicare.

S. 1716

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1716, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to improve health care coverage under vision plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2006

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2006, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination in the Armed Forces on the basis of gender identity, and for other purposes.

S. 2042

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2042, a bill to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System.

S. 2195

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2195, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the brave women who served in World War II as members of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

S. 3378

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3378, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish name, image, and likeness investment accounts for student-athletes, and for other purposes.

S. 3524

At the request of Mr. MCCORMICK, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3524, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to modify certain cost-sharing requirements for grant programs under the American Battlefield Protection Program, and for other purposes.

S. 3589

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3589, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide students with disabilities and their families with access to critical information needed to select the right college and succeed once enrolled.

S. 3691

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3691, a bill to establish the Commission on Equity and Reconciliation in the Uniformed Services.

S. 3778

At the request of Mr. SHEEHY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3778, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the carbon oxide sequestration credit to include solid or liquid carbon capture facilities.

S. 4395

At the request of Mr. MCCORMICK, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 4395, a bill to reau-

thorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 4429

At the request of Mr. MORENO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4429, a bill to prohibit the importation, manufacture, sale, resale, or introduction into interstate commerce in the United States of connected vehicles and related software and hardware associated with foreign adversaries.

S. 4632

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. ARMSTRONG) were added as cosponsors of S. 4632, a bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, to establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations, and for other purposes.

S. 4824

At the request of Mr. SHEEHY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4824, a bill to amend section 5545 of title 5, United States Code, to provide hazard pay for carrying out prescribed burns, and for other purposes.

S. 4952

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 4952, a bill to combat fraud in Federal programs, and for other purposes.

S. 4974

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4974, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to food safety.

S. 5023

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5023, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for

the inadmissibility of certain aliens seeking citizenship for children by giving birth in the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5898

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5898 intended to be proposed to S. 4784, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5905

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5905 intended to be proposed to S. 4784, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5906

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5906 intended to be proposed to S. 4784, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 6703. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 6703. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1049A. NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE WITH RESPECT TO CYBER AND PHYSICAL THREATS TO THE ELECTRIC GRID.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The electric grid of the United States—the commercial electric power generation, transmission, and distribution system comprising power lines and other infrastructure—delivers the electricity that is essential for modern life. As a result, the reliability of the electric grid, ability to meet the electricity demand of consumers at all times, is not a luxury. Such reliability is fundamental to the health and safety of the people of the United States and the continued strength of the economy of the United States, making the reliability of the electric grid a paramount issue of national interest.

(2) The annual report on worldwide threats issued by the Director of National Intelligence pursuant to section 108B of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3043b) (commonly known as the “Annual Threat Assessment”) has consistently found that state and non-state cyber actors pose the most significant threats to the critical infrastructure of the United States.

(3) The 2025 Annual Threat Assessment found that foreign adversaries are intent on attacking “critical infrastructure, disrupting utility company business networks or manipulating poorly secured control systems”.

(4) The 2026 Annual Threat Assessment states that “cyber actors from China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and ransomware groups will continue to pose critical threats to U.S. networks and critical infrastructure”.

(5) According to the annual report issued by U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, foreign adversaries, like the Chinese state-backed cyber actor Volt Typhoon, have infiltrated the power system of the United States to collect operational insights into the electric grid, identify chokepoints with outsized control over grid operations, and pre-position cyber assets for operational disruptions.

(6) Components of the power system produced by the People's Republic of China, particularly internet-connected devices and advanced wireless communications equipment, and commercial satellite communications terminals create vulnerabilities for the electric grid.

(7) Grid distribution systems increasingly use operational technology and industrial control systems that allow remote access via public and private advanced wireless networks for easier maintenance and more detailed data collection.

(8) The fragmented nature of regulatory authority over the electric grid of the United States poses challenges to creating and implementing effective, uniform cybersecurity regulations.

(9) The Government Accountability Office has warned that the electric grid of the United States is heavily reliant on space-based infrastructure, particularly Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS), such as the Global Positioning System (GPS), for the precise timing and synchronization of power flows. The disruption, degradation, or spoofing of such signals by foreign adversaries and the compromise of commercial satellite communications used for remote grid management, present critical vulnerabilities to the stability of the electric grid.

(10) A study issued by the Comptroller General of the United States found that although the Department of Energy has developed plans and an assessment to implement a Federal strategy for addressing security

risks to the electric grid, such efforts have fallen short because the Federal Government has not conducted a complete assessment of all the cybersecurity risks to the grid.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, acting through the National Intelligence Council, shall produce and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a national intelligence estimate addressing the risks and national security implications of foreign adversaries targeting the electric grid of the United States with cyber and physical attacks.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The national intelligence estimate required by subsection (b) shall include the following:

(1) A comprehensive risk assessment of known cyber and physical security threats and vulnerabilities to the electric grid of the United States, including the risk posed by state-backed actors in the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and foreign non-state actors, such as ransomware groups.

(2) An assessment of how varying lengths of electricity blackouts caused by cyber and physical attacks would impact—

(A) national security, including with respect to the loss of access to commercial internet and advanced wireless telecommunications;

(B) satellite communications infrastructure used in security operations; and

(C) the total economic activity, health, and other critical activities of the United States.

(3) An assessment of the efficacy of policies to strengthen supply chain risk management requirements for the electric grid, including—

(A) identifying foreign-origin components within high- and medium-impact bulk electric system and protected cyber assets, including semiconductors, advanced wireless network equipment, satellite receiver systems, precision timing hardware, and other technology components; and

(B) developing requirements to prohibit the installation of or mitigate the foreign cyber risk posed by such components.

(4) An assessment of the efficacy of policies to support the adoption of nationwide cyber and physical security standards and tools to protect the electric grid from foreign state-backed cyber actors.

(5) An assessment of the efficacy of policies to support the expansion of the electric grid in a safe and secure manner.

(d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—

(1) FORM.—The national intelligence estimate shall be submitted in classified form

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Consistent with the protection of intelligence sources and methods, at the same time as the Director submits to the appropriate committees of Congress the national intelligence estimate under subsection (b), the Director shall make publicly available on an internet website of the intelligence community an unclassified version of the key findings of such national intelligence estimate.

(e) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committee of Congress” means—

(1) the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(2) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:59 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

RICHARD SCHROYER, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE SARAH R. SALDANA.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. KEVIN D. ADMIRAL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS CHAPLAINS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

PEDRO J. ACOSTA ZAPATA
CHRISTOPHER C. ANEST
KYLE L. ARCHIBALD
DAREN W. ARMSTRONG
AARON T. ARNOLD
BRANDON E. ARNY
DANIEL U. ASUE
ROBERT R. BAILEY
ANDREW A. BAIRD
JOSHUA J. BARNEY
MICHAEL J. BEATTY
ISMAEL BERLANGA
CALVIN K. BODIFORD
CHAD M. BOOTH
AUSTIN J. BOWLER
JACOB L. BROOKS
GARRETT A. CARDINET
ASNAGE CASTELLY
HAN SIK CHEUNG
EUY S. CHO
HYANG S. CHOI
TODD R. COLE
JUAN COMASRIVERA
DAVID CRAIG
TIMOTHY A. DAVIS
KARA M. DREFLAK UTLEY
JONATHAN J. DUKES
SETH J. DUNN
JAFFET A. DUQUELA
WILLIAM C. DYKES
NICHOLAS E. EARL
CHRISTOPHER M. ERICKSON
STEPHEN V. FINOCCHIARO
TIMOTHY H. GODDING
SEAN R. GOLDEN
DAVID W. GOODING
GEOFFREY D. GRONEWOLD
TANIA J. GUZMAN
MICHAEL L. HALLAS
MICHAEL F. HARARI
DOYLE G. HARRIS
JOSEPH R. HATCHER
ADAM L. HEDGE
JAY A. HENDERSON
GABRIEL L. HESS
JOSHUA C. HORNBAKER
JONATHAN D. HOWARD
MELBORN G. HOWERTON
PAUL S. JACKMAN
AMY K. JUSTICE
BYEONG K. KIM
KI T. KIM
STEPHEN KIM
DANIEL S. KWON
JAMES L. LAIR
ERIK R. LANKFORD
JOSEPH P. LEA

DOOSOO LEE
MICHAEL J. LESKOWAT
BENJAMIN T. LETRAN
PATRICK M. LIME
MARCUS A. MARROQUIN
JESUS MARTINEZ
WILLIAM J. MCCALL
JONATHAN A. MCCLURE
LUCAS F. MCCONNELL
DREW S. MCGINLEY, JR.
AARON R. MEANS
PHILIBERT D. MEYOR
ADAM MUDA
JASON D. NELSON
JOSEPH A. NEWBY
JIN H. PARK
GRADY J. PENNELL III
PAUL L. PETERSON
DANIEL W. POTTER
DANIEL S. POWERS
JOSHUA L. REDMOND
JOSEPH J. ROBINSON
PETER R. ROSE
HARRY C. ROSS
RYAN S. ROWDEN
STEVEN H. RUFF
JONATHAN B. SADLER
KIRK W. SANDSTROM
PARKER J. SCHNETZ
CALEB R. SCHUMACHER
JOSHUA T. SHEVEL
MICHAEL R. SHIPMA
CHRISTOPHER D. SMITH
WILLIAM I. SMITH
LOY B. SWEETZ, JR.
JOEL D. TAYLOR
STEPHEN F. TOWNSEND
CHRISTOPHER R. UNDERHILL
JEREMIAH M. VERDIN
PHILLIP G. WALLER
JASON A. WEST
NATHANIEL S. WHITESIDE
BARTLEY R. WILT
RICHARD A. WOLFE, JR.
HOLLIS D. YOUNG
1376794160
1522199520

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

DONNIAL K. HINDS
JOSHUA L. PORTER
BENJAMIN L. RUFFNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 605 AND 7064:

To be colonel

MATTHEW B. FIRING

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

DANIEL T. ASHLAND
GARY S. HEATHERLY
DAVY A. LEE
THOMAS M. RILEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

STEVEN FUENTES
STEPHEN E. SLABY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

LUKE M. HAFNER
LISVETTE ORELLANA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

LAURA J. ANDERSON
RONNIE S. HOLUBY

TIMOTHY R. STRICKLAND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

MICHAEL J. JACQUES
KATHERINE E. PATRY
YOUNGSEOK SEO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

KENNETH M. ALEA
AILLEEN CANGIANOHEATH
DIEGO A. COVARRUBIAS
CONOR B. GARRY
VERNON W. HUANG
MICHAEL L. JACKSON
KEVIN D. KEITH
JOSHUA J. KUHN
YOU W. LIN
JOSEPH D. RAFFETTO
MICHAEL J. SANTIAGO
ERIC P. SCHNEIDER
BRIAN P. SHAPIRO
RANDY K. SULAVER
INYENE E. UMOREN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

PHILIP E. ANGELI
CHAD E. BAYSE
CHRISTOPHER C. DOPKE
JENNIFER H. FRASER
DAVID J. HAMMOND
LAUREN F. HANZEL
PAUL D. JENKINS
ELIZABETH A. S. LEE
JONATHAN M. RICHES
JESSE A. SCHAEFER
BENJAMIN J. VOCEGARDNER
ROBERT C. WHITAKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

VICTOR CANCHOLA
DIANA L. CORLEY
RHODORA R. CRUZ
DAVID M. DAWSON
MONICA V. GRAHAM
JENNIFER D. HARRIS
POLLY A. HASKINS
JESSICA R. KASER
SUSAN LOPEZ
KRISTA T. PENN
SENGPHETH PHENGVATH
ANDREA L. SHAFER
JASON W. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

KALINA N. BITTER
COLIN M. HARTIGAN
CARY W. HAWKINS
KERRY J. MCCAULEY
DENNIS J. MOORE
RAYMOND A. PIECHOWICZ
RICHARD M. RODRIGUEZ
REBECCA A. SCOTT

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination under the authority of the order of the Senate of 01/07/2009 and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

DON RICHARD BERTHIAUME, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF MINNESOTA STATE REPRESENTATIVE KAREN CLARK

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary public servant, pioneering legislator, and tireless champion for equality, former Minnesota State Representative Karen Clark. Karen passed away on June 30, 2026, at the age of 80, following a brief illness. She is survived by her wife, Jacquelyn Zita, and by countless friends, former colleagues, and Minnesotans whose lives were changed by her decades of service and advocacy.

First elected to the Minnesota Legislature in 1980, Representative Clark went on to represent south Minneapolis for 19 terms. At the time of her election, she became the first openly lesbian state legislator in the United States, helping to pave the way for generations of LGBTQ+ leaders to follow. Even before entering public office, Karen had dedicated her life to serving others as a public health nurse and OB/GYN nurse practitioner with the Hennepin County Health Department. She earned her nursing degree from the College of St. Teresa in Winona and later earned a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Throughout her career, Karen believed that public service was about expanding opportunity, protecting dignity, and ensuring that every Minnesotan had the chance to thrive. Karen worked tirelessly to strengthen protections and opportunities for LGBTQ+ Minnesotans, but her sense of justice was expansive. She championed environmental justice, affordable housing, economic opportunity, public health, and strived to lift marginalized voices from all walks of life. Her trailblazing leadership earned national recognition in 2013, when President Barack Obama honored her as a Harvey Milk Champion of Change in recognition of her decades of advocacy and public service.

It was an honor to call Karen Clark a friend, a colleague, and a mentor. When I was first elected to the Minnesota House, our offices were next door to each other, and we shared a fantastic Legislative Assistant. Together, we worked to pass landmark amendments adding sexual orientation protections to Minnesota's Human Rights Act, and in 2013 she authored the legislation that made Minnesota the 12th state to legalize marriage equality.

Karen was a constant, vocal champion for social justice, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and human rights—and she carried that fight with openness, kindness, and courage for nearly four decades in office, always working hardest for the people who needed it most.

Karen has been an inspiration to me, and her legacy lives on in every Minnesotan whose life she made freer and safer.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable life, dedicated service, and enduring legacy of former Minnesota legislator Karen Clark.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF MAJOR BRAD "SLATE" HOVEY

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major Brad "Slate" Hovey of Adel, Iowa, who was killed on June 15, 2026, when his B-52 crashed on takeoff during a test flight at Edwards Air Force Base in California. Seven fellow airmen were lost with him. Brad was 35 years old. His family says his life was woven with threads of bravery, integrity, and service—inspiring all who knew and loved him.

Brad was born on March 5, 1991, in Algona, Iowa, and came to Adel in 2001. At Adel Desoto Minburn High School, he did it all—football, track, choir, band, mock trial, drama—and with Adel Troop 152, he earned Scouting's highest rank of Eagle, fixing with him a love of the outdoors he never lost. Adel is also where Brad met his wife, Megan, in the ninth-grade band. They married in 2012.

Brad's love of airplanes led him to Iowa State University, where he studied aerospace engineering and served in the Air Force ROTC with Detachment 250. After graduating in 2014, he was commissioned by his own father-in-law—a fitting start for a man who never drew a line between family and service.

He earned his wings in 2015. Through 12 years of service, Brad served as a B-52 and B-1 bomber pilot, completing three combat deployments and flying over 200 combat hours across 20 combat sorties.

In 2022, Brad and Megan moved their family to Edwards, where he was selected for the United States Air Force Test Pilot School with Class 23A—one of the most demanding schools in American aviation. With the 419th Flight Test Squadron, Brad flew B-52 and B-1 test missions to ensure the next crew in the cockpit had safe, lethal and combat-ready equipment ready to fly in defense of our Nation. Over the course of his career, Brad logged more than 1,890 total flight hours and over 350 sorties across 29 distinct airframes.

Mr. Speaker, as a 20-year Air Force Veteran, I know I speak for my fellow airmen when I say that the flight test is some of the hardest and least recognized work we do. On the morning of June 15, 2026, Brad took a sixty-year-old bomber into the sky with a new radar on it so the crews who fly it next would know it worked. He did that without fanfare and with mission first.

He is survived by his wife, Megan, and their two children; his parents, Kent and Sondra; and his brothers, Lane and Kyle, who will remember him for his love of the stars and the

sky, his devoted service to his Nation, and, most of all, the way he loved them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Major Brad "Slate" Hovey—a devoted husband, a loving father, a distinguished Airman, and a proud Iowan—and in keeping his family and the families of all eight Americans lost that day in our prayers. Iowa will remember their sacrifice.

COMMENDING AND HONORING DR. EDWARD J. BRAYNON, JR.

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to commend and honor Dr. Edward J. Braynon, Jr., a dedicated community-servant, civil rights activist, role model, and mentor, and I include in the RECORD the following proclamation in his honor:

Whereas, Dr. Braynon has been a loyal and faithful member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for sixty-eight years and has served as Basileus of Sigma Alpha Chapter, Florida's State Representative, First Vice Seventh Representative (Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi), Seventh District Representative, First Vice Grand Basileus, and Grand Basileus;

Whereas, Dr. Braynon's leadership, vision and integrity have played a vital role in building, binding and strengthening Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and Sigma Alpha Chapter. He is credited with remaining steadfast to enhancing and promoting the organization's principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift;

Whereas, Dr. Braynon as Grand Basileus of Sigma Alpha Chapter played a key role in a massive "Get Out The Vote," initiative where Omega chapters around the country were actively involved and helped win Jimmy Carter the presidency with the largest black vote in history and landed Dr. Braynon an invitation along with several other Black leaders to a "White House Luncheon";

Whereas, Dr. Braynon touched and impacted the lives of countless young men as a mentor with the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project and won the admiration and respect of our community for his activism and community service;

Whereas, Dr. Braynon used his dental skills to meet the needs of our community, served as a member of the Dental Society providing leadership and guidance to new generations of dental professionals, and was a member of numerous civic and community organizations dedicated to the betterment of the quality of life for South Floridians; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida am proud to recognize and honor Dr. Edward J. Braynon, Jr. for his unwavering commitment to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., community service, our youth, and his profession.

• 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.

CONDEMNING THE VIOLENT REPRESSION OF MUSICIANS

HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the violent repression of musicians. As Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Musicians' Caucus, I express my profound concern regarding reports that Iranian singer Parastoo Ahmadi has been sentenced by that nation to public flogging for appearing in a musical performance without adhering to government-imposed dress requirements. Reports indicate that her offense was not violence, incitement, but rather the act of artistic expression itself.

The Congressional Musicians' Caucus was established to recognize the vital role that music and musicians play in enriching societies, strengthening cultures, and advancing mutual understanding. While members of Congress may hold differing views on many international issues, we can stand together in support of the principle that creators should never face physical punishment, imprisonment, or violence for creating and sharing their artistic works.

History offers far too many examples of governments seeking to silence musicians, songwriters, composers, and poets whose voices resonate with the public. Authoritarian regimes have often viewed artists as threats precisely because music and creative expression have the unique power to inspire, unite, and give voice to the aspirations of ordinary people. Efforts to intimidate artists through violence are not merely attacks on individuals; they are attacks on cultural expression itself.

From the persecution of Chilean songwriter Victor Jara during the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, to the denunciation and censorship of Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich under the Soviet regime, to the repeated imprisonment and violent targeting of Nigerian musician Fela Kuti for criticizing military rule, history demonstrates that the suppression of artistic voices is often an early warning sign of broader assaults on fundamental freedoms. The international community should never become indifferent to such actions.

I recognize and appreciate the efforts of organizations such as the National Music Council of the United States, the Songwriters Guild of America, the Society of Composers & Lyricists, and others that continue to draw attention to cases in which musicians and music creators face persecution because of their artistic work. Bringing these incidents into public view helps ensure that such abuses do not occur unnoticed.

I affirm my support for the freedom of artistic expression and my opposition to the use of violence, intimidation, or physical punishment against musicians, composers, songwriters, poets, and other creators. Regardless of nationality, ideology, religion, or political viewpoint, artists should be free to create and perform without fear of physical retaliation from their governments.

I stand in solidarity with artists everywhere whose non-violent, creative voices are threatened by repression and in the hope that cultural expression may continue to serve as a bridge between peoples rather than a basis for punishment.

RECOGNIZING PAUL LAU'S RE- TIREMENT FROM SMUD FOL- LOWING A 44-YEAR LONG CA- REER OF SERVICE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Lau on his retirement as Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), capping an extraordinary 44 years of service to our region.

Paul's remarkable journey at SMUD began in 1982 as an electrical engineering student at California State University, Sacramento. After graduating in 1984, he returned as an assistant electrical engineer and steadily rose through the organization. He joined SMUD's executive leadership team in 2008, served as chief grid strategy and operations officer, and was appointed CEO and General Manager in October 2020. Paul never saw SMUD as simply a utility. He saw the way it could improve people's lives. He approached every challenge with curiosity, humility, and a profound commitment to the community.

Under Paul's leadership, SMUD became a national model for innovation, reliability, affordability, and community partnership. Its rates remain among the lowest in California, saving customers more than \$1.9 billion each year. Paul also led SMUD to become the first publicly owned utility in California to join the Western Energy Imbalance Market, an initiative saving customers more than \$350 million. Long before many utilities were seriously confronting the challenges of decarbonization, grid resilience, and electrification, Paul demonstrated how those goals could be achieved without losing sight of reliability or affordability. Through initiatives like the Neighborhood Electrification Program, he also worked to ensure that underserved communities could share fully in the benefits of our clean energy future.

Paul's service extended far beyond SMUD. He helped strengthen the Sacramento region through his work with the Greater Sacramento Economic Council, Valley Vision, and the Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce. He also shaped the national energy conversation through his service with the Smart Electric Power Alliance, the American Public Power Association, and the Large Public Power Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Paul Lau for his 44 years of dedicated service to SMUD, his visionary leadership in advancing clean energy and economic opportunity across the Sacramento region, and his lifelong commitment to the 1.5 million people SMUD proudly serves.

HONORING AND PAYING TRIBUTE TO THALES CARLTON ROBBINS

HON. MATT VAN EPPS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a remarkable hero from Houston County, Tennessee, who an-

swered the call of duty during a critical chapter in our Nation's history. As the years pass, the profound debt we owe to our Korean War veterans only grows.

Of the 6.8 million Americans who served during the Korean War era, fewer than 300,000 remain with us today. This generation, now largely in their nineties, represents a rapidly dwindling connection to a pivotal struggle for global freedom. It is our sacred obligation to ensure their stories are told and their sacrifices are never forgotten.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary service, sacrifice, and lifelong dedication of Thales Carlton Robbins. He represents the very best of Tennessee's Volunteer Spirit and the enduring resilience of the American servicemember.

Born and raised in Houston County, Mr. Thales Carlton Robbins, known warmly throughout his community as "Carlton," graduated from Erin High School in 1948 before answering the call to serve. He enlisted in the United States Navy on December 27, 1950, and honorably served until October 20, 1954, as a U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman (HM-8404-77).

During the Korean War, Mr. Robbins served with the 7th Marine Regiment in 1952 and the 1st Marine Division in 1953. Navy Corpsmen assigned to Marine combat units earned a legendary reputation for courage, repeatedly risking their own lives to render lifesaving medical care to wounded Marines under direct enemy fire. Mr. Robbins upheld that proud tradition through his service in some of the most demanding combat conditions of the Korean War.

For his faithful and courageous service, Mr. Robbins received the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with two bronze service stars, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Fleet Marine Force Insignia. His distinguished service brought great credit upon himself, the United States Navy, and the people of Houston County. Mr. Robbins currently resides in the Clarksville-Montgomery County area.

Please join me in offering our deepest gratitude for his faithful service and proudly preserve their legacies in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Caribbean-Americans to South Florida and the Nation through the arts and humanities, business, science and engineering, activism, and military leadership as we celebrate the 8th anniversary of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation in honor of National Caribbean Heritage Month:

Whereas, the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, has issued the annual proclamation in 2013 recognizing June as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month;

Whereas, National Caribbean-American Heritage Month recognizes the significance

of Caribbean people in U.S. history, and the influence of Caribbean people and their descendants on American culture;

Whereas, South Florida is home to many Caribbean-Americans who make up a large percent of the population;

Whereas, Caribbean-Americans have played a major and notable role in the growth and development of South Florida, from holding public office, prominent positions in education and religion, to owning successful businesses and being vocal community activists; and now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, and who also has Caribbean roots, am proud to recognize the contributions of Caribbean-Americans to South Florida and to our country. I encourage all residents to celebrate the rich culture of the Caribbean during National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

CHANGING OF COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL CRAIG A. BONHAM, II, USA

HON. ANALILIA MEJIA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. MEJIA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Craig A. Bonham, II. Lieutenant Colonel Bonham has served as Garrison Commander of Picatinny Arsenal since June 2024. Today, he ends his service with Picatinny as he transfers leadership to Lieutenant Colonel John A. Meier. I am proud to honor a dedicated Army officer whose service has strengthened New Jersey's 11th Congressional District, the State of New Jersey, and the United States as a whole.

As Garrison Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Bonham led with excellence as he and his team supported the installation's more than 6,000 Soldiers, civilians, and contractors. The Picatinny community benefited from his responsibly executed commitment to their mission and to their morale, welfare, and professional development. Under his supervision of Garrison operations, Picatinny Arsenal continued to serve as a cornerstone of defense innovation and an engine of economic strength for the region.

A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, Lieutenant Colonel Bonham's first assignments were as an Assistant Battalion Logistics Officer and Launcher Platoon Leader for the 4th Battalion, 5th Air and Missile Defense Regiment at Fort Hood. He was selected for the Civil Affairs Corps in 2009. His career includes numerous roles in Civil Affairs Leadership in and support of U.S. Special Operations Command Europe and Africa, including two deployments to Africa. He has acted in key leadership roles, including as a Military Planner for NATO Allied Land Command and most recently as Chief of Staff for the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart.

Lieutenant Colonel Bonham's many awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal and Army Achievement Medal. These awards reflect a career of excellence and selfless service to his country. Above all, he is supported by his wife Tutku and their two daughters, whose sacrifice

and commitment have been essential to his success.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Lieutenant Colonel Bonham and his family for their service to our country. I wish him best of luck and continued success in his next role for our military.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JEAN PULSCHER

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Laura Jean Pulscher, of Dell Rapids, South Dakota, a devoted wife, mother, accomplished musician, educator, woman of faith, and courageous advocate whose extraordinary life touched countless people across her community and beyond. My thoughts are with her family as they recognize the first anniversary of her passing.

Laura passed away on July 10, 2025, after a nine-year battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a devastating and fatal neurodegenerative disease.

Laura met every challenge in her life with determination, grace, and unwavering faith. A gifted musician, writer, and leader, she dedicated her talents to serving others through ministry, education, and community engagement. Whether leading worship, mentoring young people, homeschooling her children, or encouraging others facing adversity, Laura consistently put the needs of others before her own.

Even as ALS progressively stole her ability to speak and move, it never diminished her determination to serve others. Laura continued to organize family activities, support her children's education, write and publish a book about her faith journey, maintain connections with friends and family, and offer encouragement to others facing hardship. Her resilience stands as a powerful testament to the strength of the human spirit and the profound difference one person can make in the lives of others.

Laura's life is a powerful reminder of both the extraordinary courage of people living with ALS and the urgent need to advance research and care for those affected by this devastating disease.

We extend our deepest condolences to her husband, Toby; her children, Malcolm, Oliver, and Mercedes; her parents, Jay and Sharon Brosius; and all her family and friends who mourn her loss while celebrating a life exceptionally well lived.

May Laura Jean Pulscher's legacy of faith, service, courage, and love continue to inspire all who have the privilege of hearing her story, and may her memory forever be a blessing.

COMMENDING MR. CLARANCE "PAT" PATTERSON

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida,

I rise today to recognize and honor the late Mr. Clarence "Pat" Patterson, a devoted public servant, union representative, husband, father, and friend, and I include in the RECORD the following proclamation in his honor:

Whereas, Mr. Patterson's career as a Waste Management expert, City Manager and Union Representative spanned sixty years;

Whereas, Mr. Patterson held the position of Superintendent of the Department of Solid Waste for Metropolitan Dade County, was appointed the first Black director for the City of Miami's Solid Waste Department and held the position of Assistant Manager for the city of Miami;

Whereas, Mr. Patterson also served as City Manager for the cities of North Miami and Opa locka; Assistant City Manager of Miami Springs, Director of Solid Waste and Public Works; and Director of Solid Waste and Public Works for the city of South Miami;

Whereas, Mr. Patterson was an advocate for city, county and state employees and served as an international staff representative for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFL-CIO) for seven years;

Whereas, Mr. Patterson was a faithful and active member of the King of Hearts and the Kiwanis Club, Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church and Universal Truth Center; and now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend the late Mr. Clarence "Pat" Patterson for his unwavering commitment and dedication to his family, his church, and our community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. AL ADREVENO

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Al Adreveno, who passed away on May 18, 2026, in Half Moon Bay, California, at the age of 102. A lifelong farmer, a World War II veteran, and a civic leader on the Coastside for more than three decades, Adreveno shaped the Coastside into a better community for all.

Born on July 17, 1923, in San Francisco's North Beach neighborhood, Adreveno grew up in Colma, California, where his Italian family worked on a produce ranch.

In 1943, Adreveno joined the United States Army Corps of Engineers and served on an elite team in the Pacific Theater that participated in the liberation of Okinawa. After the Japanese surrender, he served in Korea until coming home to San Francisco in 1946.

He returned to his job at the flower nursery where he had worked before the war. There, he met Eda, and the couple married in 1947. A few years later, they purchased a ranch in Half Moon Bay, founding Daylight Nursery in 1954, where they grew field flowers, including irises, daffodils, and daisies. Nestled among the hills of the Coastside, the property provided the home and livelihood for their wider family for more than fifty years.

In addition to his agricultural work, Adreveno dedicated more than three decades to public service across the Coastside.

On the Half Moon Bay School Board, he helped lead a successful bond campaign to

build a new high school, and he worked to unify three school districts into one. He later served eight years on the City Planning Commission, followed by twelve years on the City Council (including four years as Mayor), and sixteen years on the Coastsides County Water District Board.

Beyond his public accomplishments, Adreveno embraced life with enthusiasm and curiosity. He enjoyed golfing, tending his vegetable garden, and traveling with Eda, his wife of 71 years. The couple played a pivotal role in establishing the Parish Council at Our Lady of the Pillar Church. His family and friends remember the twinkle in his eye, his warm smile, and his upbeat nature.

The couple took immense pride in their family who survives them: their daughter and son-in-law, Eda and John Muller; their granddaughters, Heidi Bianchi and Trudy Muller; grandson-in-law, Aldo Bianchi; and their great-grandchildren, Delfina and Lorenzo Bianchi; and many nieces and nephews.

Al Adreveno sowed a legacy of military service, agricultural entrepreneurship, and community leadership that will benefit Coastsiders for generations.

HONORING AND PAYING TRIBUTE
TO JOE L. THOMAS, SR.

HON. MATT VAN EPPS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a remarkable hero from Houston County, Tennessee, who answered the call of duty during a critical period in our Nation's history. As the years pass, the profound debt we owe to our Korean War veterans only grows.

Of the 6.8 million Americans who served during the Korean War era, fewer than 300,000 remain with us today. This generation, now largely in their nineties, represents a rapidly dwindling connection to a pivotal struggle for global freedom. It is our sacred obligation to ensure their stories are told and their sacrifices are never forgotten.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary service, sacrifice, and lifelong dedication of Joe L. Thomas, Sr. He represents the very best of Tennessee's Volunteer Spirit and the enduring resilience of the American servicemember.

Mr. Joe L. Thomas, Sr., served honorably in the United States Air Force from October 29, 1954, through September 10, 1957. During his military service, he was assigned to the 3914th Air Base Squadron. Local historical accounts and newspaper records from 1954 and 1955 proudly document his service during the pivotal final years of the Korean War era.

Like so many members of his generation, Mr. Thomas quietly went wherever his country needed him, performing his duties with professionalism, skill, and quiet resolve. His willingness to serve during a critical period in our Nation's history helped preserve the peace secured through the sacrifices of those who fought in Korea. We honor his service today, remembering that the freedoms we enjoy were secured by men like Mr. Thomas who answered their country's call without hesitation.

Please join me in offering our deepest gratitude for his faithful service and proudly pre-

serve their legacies in the United States Congress.

HONORING LIEUTENANT GENERAL
CHRIS MOHAN

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant General Chris Mohan as he concludes an extraordinary 40-year career of service to our Nation and retires as the 22nd Commanding General of the United States Army Materiel Command.

Lieutenant General Mohan has dedicated four decades to strengthening our Nation's military readiness and supporting the men and women who serve. Throughout his distinguished career, he has led soldiers and civilians at every level, including multiple command assignments across the United States and overseas. His leadership has been instrumental in sustaining our Armed Forces during Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

As Commanding General of Army Materiel Command, Lieutenant General Mohan has overseen one of the Army's largest organizations, ensuring our servicemembers have the equipment, resources, and support they need to accomplish their missions around the world. His previous leadership at the Army Sustainment Command at the Rock Island Arsenal further strengthened our region's proud tradition of supporting America's military.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant General Mohan's career reflects the highest ideals of service, leadership, and commitment to our country. I join his family, colleagues, and grateful Nation in congratulating him on his well-earned retirement and thanking him for his decades of selfless service to the United States.

COMMENDING MRS. AGENORIA
LUCILLE SPEARMAN PASCHAL

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor retired educator, Mrs. Agenoria Lucille Spearman Paschal, a legendary pioneer in education in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, a visionary way ahead of her time, a dedicated community servant, and an advocate for students, teachers, parents and our schools, and I include in the RECORD the following proclamation in her honor:

Whereas, Mrs. Paschal served Miami-Dade County Public Schools and her community for over 40 years, inspiring thousands of students and developing programs that resulted in groundbreaking changes and improvements within the Miami-Dade County Public School System, for which she was honored with numerous awards and national recognition;

Whereas, Mrs. Paschal held the positions of teacher, assistant principal, principal, and director, and implemented programs including the Mobile Reading Clinic, Non-Graded

Grouping, Magic Circle Awareness and extended Public Library Services;

Whereas, Mrs. Paschal was instrumental in the writing of an educational proposal that led to the opening of the first segregated elementary school in the Miami-Dade County Public School System, initially called Primary School C and later named Thena Crowder Elementary School;

Whereas, Mrs. Paschal opened Olinda Elementary School in Liberty City, served as its first principal and successfully ran its Triple-T Program, a collaboration between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the University of Miami that provided training and further education for teachers and paraprofessionals, many of whom went on to become assistant principals, principals and directors who also made outstanding contributions to education; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend Mrs. Agenoria Lucille Spearman Paschal, for her leadership and outstanding contributions to education in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and for her selfless, unwavering commitment and dedication to our community.

HONORING WILLIAM F. MCQUADE

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. William F. McQuade for his distinguished career in the Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVAC&R) industry.

After graduating from high school, William earned his Bachelors (1991) and Masters (1992) degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Penn State University. Under the mentorship of Dr. Ralph Webb, a pioneer in enhanced heat transfer, he conducted research that helped the HVAC industry transition to safer more environmentally responsible refrigerants. Despite his young age, he was ready and able to contribute to global environmental research.

After college, William began his career at York International Corporation, where he rose from heat exchanger design engineer to Director of Innovation and Technology for Applied Products. While working full time, he earned his MBA from Penn State. In 2012, he was named a Fellow for the American Society for Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), the leading global society for the HVAC&R industry, recognizing his contributions to chiller design and his work on the United Nations "Montreal Protocol."

As his career progressed William's influence expanded internationally. Transitioning to Johnson Controls, he played key roles in crafting global energy efficiency standards for HVAC equipment and various international energy agreements, including the Paris Climate Accord. He has advised the U.S., EU, and Chinese governments on ozone and climate policy, and the U.S. Department of State and EPA appointed him to the Indo-U.S. Taskforce on hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). He later served on the Department of Energy HVAC Roadmap Collaboration Team. In 2019, William joined the Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) as Vice President of Sector Services, where he oversaw

standards and certification programs, and led an industry-wide effort to apply lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic to future equipment design. Since 2023, he has served as Global Vice President for Government Affairs and Sustainability at Baltimore Aircoil Company.

Last year, after decades of work, William achieved his dream of serving as the international President of ASHRAE. In his role, he spent more than 250 days traveling the world to champion his theme, "Healthy Buildings: Designing for Life," in which he elevated water quality as an important pillar of indoor building quality, established the Presidential Ad Hoc Committee that led to the creation of the Center of Excellence for Indoor Environmental Quality, and advocated for standardized methods to measure embodied carbon in mechanical systems.

William has received numerous honors throughout his career, including the: ASHRAE Distinguished Service Award (2012); AHRI Richard C. Schulze Distinguished Service Award (2014); ASHRAE Exceptional Service Award (2023); and ASHRAE Distinguished Public Service Award (2023). On top of his honors, he earned 22 U.S. and international patents. Most importantly, William has been an actively engaged father and mentor despite his demanding career. As a mentor, he has guided students, young engineers, and colleagues with patience, encouragement, and genuine care for their wellbeing. As a father, he guided his two sons as Boy Scouts, serving as Den Leader, Assistant Scoutmaster, and eventually Council President for the New Birth of Freedom Council.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to recognize Mr. William F. McQuade on his distinguished and decorated career in the HVAC&R industry and congratulate him on being installed as President of ASHRAE for the 2025 to 2026 session. His service to our local communities and Nation, and his commitment to making the world a better place, set the standard by which all should be judged.

CONGRATULATING CHRIS
LEPPLER, LANCASTER COUNTY
SHERIFF ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Chris Leppler on his retirement as Lancaster County Sheriff after three decades of service with the department.

Chris Leppler, a lifelong resident of Lancaster County and graduate of Elizabethtown Area High School, joined the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office in November 1994. Starting with the department as a Deputy Sheriff, Chris Leppler ascended through the ranks and became Sergeant in 2005. He was elected Sheriff by the voters of Lancaster County in 2017 and has served in that position since.

Notable during Sheriff Leppler's tenure was his collaboration with law enforcement agencies at the local, state, and federal levels. His office worked with the Lancaster County District Attorney to form the Human Trafficking Task Force in 2022 and collaborated with local partners on the County Special Emergency

Task Force and Joining Forces, an initiative to combat the opioid epidemic. The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office also coordinated with federal law enforcement agencies including the U.S. Marshals Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and United States Secret Service.

Sheriff Chris Leppler retires with nearly 32 years of service to the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, including almost 9 years as Sheriff. I thank Sheriff Leppler for his three decades of service to the residents of Lancaster County and for helping to keep Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District safe. I wish him well in his hard-earned retirement.

COMMENDING MRS. MARIA H.
ARENAS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor the late Mrs. Maria H. Arenas, beloved educator, wife and mother who passed away on June 21, 2013. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation in her honor:

Whereas, Mrs. Arenas was an enthusiastic educator and administrator in the Miami-Dade County Public School system for over thirty years until her retirement in summer of 2006;

Whereas, Mrs. Arenas was a lifelong devotee to the pursuit of knowledge, earning her high school degree from Miami Northwestern High School in 1965, a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech and Theater Arts from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, a Master of Science degree in Educational Curriculum, and had, at the time of her passing, completed all of the required coursework toward earning a Doctoral degree in Education;

Whereas, Mrs. Arenas travelled extensively around the world and allowed others to share her experiences through social media websites;

Whereas, Mrs. Arenas was a vibrant member of the Red Hatters and numerous other civic and social organizations; and now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend Mrs. Maria H. Arenas for her years of service and dedication to Miami-Dade County Public Schools her community, and to her family.

HONORING AND PAYING TRIBUTE
TO HAROLD DUANE SMITH

HON. MATT VAN EPPS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a remarkable hero from Houston County, Tennessee, who answered the call of duty during a critical chapter in our Nation's history. As the years pass, the profound debt we owe to our Korean War veterans only grows.

Of the 6.8 million Americans who served during the Korean War era, fewer than

300,000 remain with us today. This generation, now largely in their nineties, represents a rapidly dwindling connection to a pivotal struggle for global freedom. It is our sacred obligation to ensure their stories are told and their sacrifices are never forgotten.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary service, sacrifice, and lifelong dedication of Harold Duane Smith. He represents the very best of Tennessee's Volunteer Spirit and the enduring resilience of the American servicemember.

Mr. Harold Duane Smith was born in Flint, Michigan, on May 14, 1935. He began his distinguished military career when he enlisted in the United States Navy on January 21, 1955. For more than two decades, he served his country with honor and distinction before retiring from active duty on February 1, 1976.

A testament to the daily perils of naval service, Mr. Smith recalls an incident during the Vietnam War while serving aboard the USS *Kitty Hawk* (CVA-63) in 1966 or 1967. A weapon-loading crew accidentally dropped a Mark 82 (Mk 82) 500-pound general-purpose bomb onto the flight deck, crushing its nose fuse. Displaying extraordinary composure under immense pressure, Mr. Smith successfully disarmed the damaged weapon, preventing what could have been a catastrophic explosion that threatened the ship and her crew.

Mr. Smith's commitment to national security did not end with his retirement from the Navy. On the very day he retired from active duty, he began civilian service with the Nuclear Weapons Laboratory, working in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Tonopah, Nevada. For the next twenty years, until January 31, 1996, he served as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician, testing weapons systems and ensuring the safety and readiness of our Nation's strategic deterrent. His more than forty years of combined military and civilian service stand as a remarkable testament to his patriotism. Mr. Smith currently resides in Cumberland City, Tennessee.

Please join me in offering our deepest gratitude for his faithful service and proudly preserve their legacies in the United States Congress.

HONORING UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS VETERAN CAPTAIN
MARISOL CANTU ZAMMIT AS
JULY 2026 VETERAN OF THE
MONTH

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Marisol Cantu Zammit for her honorable service in the United States Marine Corps and her continued dedication to her family and community. It is my privilege to honor her as our July 2026 Veteran of the Month.

Captain Zammit was born at Camp Pendleton, California, and later moved to Texas following her father's retirement from the United States Marine Corps. In 1999, Captain Zammit was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps after successfully completing the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program at Rice University. She attended The Basic School in

Quantico, Virginia, before completing her training as a Public Affairs Officer at the Defense Information School in Fort Meade, Maryland.

Captain Zammit began her military career as a Public Affairs Officer with the 2nd Marine Division. During her service, she deployed to Camp Fuji, Japan, where she covered Marine Corps training exercises throughout the region. In 2003, she deployed with the 2nd Service Support Group to Camp Fox, Kuwait, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The following year, she deployed to Cartagena, Colombia, in support of the Commandant's Conference of the Americas.

Throughout her military service, Captain Zammit demonstrated professionalism, leadership, and dedication to the mission. Her service was recognized with the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, and a Letter of Appreciation.

Captain Zammit concluded her active-duty military service in 2005 and transitioned her spirit of service from the Marine Corps to her family and community. Using her Post-9/11 GI Bill, she earned a Master of Arts in Management while dedicating herself to raising her four children alongside her husband. As her children grew, Captain Zammit became a constant presence in their schools, volunteering with elementary, middle, and high school cross-country and track teams. She also serves as a lector at Our Lady on the River Catholic Church. Whether cheering on student-athletes, supporting school activities, or serving her parish, she has continued to demonstrate the same dedication to others that defined her military service.

Today, Captain Zammit and her family live in China Township, where they enjoy kayaking, hiking, running, volunteering, exploring the outdoors, and hosting local cross-country and track teams in their home. Her unwavering commitment to family, faith, and service continues to exemplify the values she upheld throughout her military career.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Zammit's commitment to service has remained steadfast long after her military career. Through her dedication to her Nation, family, faith, and community, she continues to exemplify the values of leadership, selflessness, and service. It is my great honor to recognize her service and accomplishments by naming her our July 2026 Veteran of the Month.

NATIONAL SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2027

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Chair, today I will vote for the bipartisan Amendment No. 8 offered by Representative MASSIE to prevent the United States from sending an additional \$3.3 billion in foreign military financing to Israel. I support Israel's sovereignty. I support funding for defensive systems such as the Iron Dome. I support a two-state-solution with a sovereign

Palestinian state. However, I cannot send \$3.3 billion more to Benjamin Netanyahu's government. It is worth noting that Netanyahu himself has indicated that Israel has sufficient resources so that his country no longer needs to rely on the United States for financial aid.

COMMENDING OFFICER WILLIAM J. CALHOUN

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor the late Mr. William J. Calhoun one of the first African-American police dispatchers for the City of Miami Police Department, and dedicated community activist. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation in his honor:

Whereas, Officer William J. Calhoun dutifully served and protected the citizens of the City of Miami and was one of the police department's first African-American dispatchers;

Whereas, Officer Calhoun bravely served his country as a member of the United States Navy and the United States Army;

Whereas, Officer Calhoun's valiant efforts lead to the restoration and preservation of the Black Police Precinct and Courthouse and its designation as a historical site in the City of Miami;

Whereas, Officer Calhoun selflessly gave back to his community by serving as a board member for many Liberty City organizations such as the Martin Luther King Economic Development Corporation, the Belafonte Talcolcy Center, and the City of Miami Department of Code Enforcement;

Whereas, Officer Calhoun was a devoted member of the New Way Fellowship Praise and Worship Center where he assisted in the security and the retirees' ministries; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend the late Officer William J. Calhoun for his service to our country and our community, for his activism, and for his dedication to his family and friends.

HONORING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT NATALIE A. BRIGGS

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Chief Master Sergeant Natalie A. Briggs on the auspicious occasion of her retirement upon 26 years of selfless service to our Nation.

Chief Master Sergeant Natalie Briggs has more than 25 years of human resources, personnel management, and military leadership experience in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. She currently serves as Senior Enlisted Leader for the 193d Special Operations Wing Force Support Squadron, where she serves as a principal advisor to commanders on enlisted morale, welfare, training, readiness, and mission execution, while being the

vital bridge between enlisted personnel and senior leadership. In this role, she helps reinforce the Air Force core values, professional military standards, and culture of readiness while advocating for policies and decisions that support Airmen and their families.

Throughout her career, Chief Master Sergeant Briggs has held key leadership roles across force sustainment, human resources, recruiting and retention, personnel readiness, casualty assistance, contingency operations, and crisis action support. She has led teams, managed programs affecting thousands of Airmen, guided commanders and supervisors through complex personnel matters, and supported major deployment, conversion, and readiness initiatives. Known for her sound judgment, regulatory expertise, professionalism, and compassionate leadership, Chief Master Sergeant Briggs consistently strengthened programs, improved processes, and developed Airmen at every level.

Having earned a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management from Eastern University, and an associate's degree in human resources from the Community College of the Air Force, Chief Master Sergeant Briggs' professional development includes Distinguished Graduate honors from the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, and Airman Leadership School. Her career reflects a strong commitment to service, mentorship, mission readiness, and trusted leadership within the military community.

Chief Master Sergeant Briggs has earned numerous awards, including the: Meritorious Service Medal (w/2 OLC); Air and Space Commendation Medal (w/2 OLC); Meritorious Unit Award (w/1 OLC); Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award (w/5 OLC); and the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal (w/7 OLC). She has deployed to Andrews Air Force Base as the A1 Representative in support of Operation Jump Start in 2006, and to RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus, with the 1st Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2009. In Cyprus, during emergency aircraft diversion, Chief Master Sergeant Briggs employed self-plans untouched for 10 years and deployed 20 personnel to recover the aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to recognize, commend, and congratulate Chief Master Sergeant Natalie A. Briggs upon the auspicious occasion of her retirement after more than 26 years of outstanding and selfless service to our Nation. Her dedication, professionalism, and tireless devotion are a great credit to herself, our Commonwealth, the U.S. Air Force and the United States of America and set the standard by which all should be judged.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOHN P. HEALY

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable Airman and leader, Lieutenant General John P. Healy, on the occasion of his retirement as the Chief of Air

Force Reserve and Commander, Air Force Reserve Command, after more than three decades of distinguished service.

A native son of Connecticut, General Healy graduated from Windsor High School in 1985 and attended the University of Connecticut (UConn), earning his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1989. General Healy then embarked on a career that would see him become a command pilot with more than 5,000 flight hours, including 402 combat hours operating in hostile airspace over Iraq and Afghanistan. An "Air Mobility Warrior," his journey took him from the C-141 Starlifter at then-McGuire Air Force Base, to the initial cadre of the C-17 Globemaster III program at then-Charleston Air Force Base, and ultimately to the C-5 Galaxy at Westover Air Reserve Base. A true Citizen Airman, General Healy also served as a Captain with U.S. Airways from 1999 to 2002, commanding the Boeing 737, and continues to serve as an Airbus A320 Captain with JetBlue.

Throughout his career, General Healy has commanded at all echelons, demonstrating exceptional leadership and a deep commitment to the Airmen under his command. Joining him on this journey and making it all possible is his wife of 34 years and fellow UConn Husky, Cathy. The Healy's have two daughters, Shannon and Paige, born in 1996 in Charleston, South Carolina, and in 1998 in Altus, Oklahoma, respectively. It was while they were in South Carolina and Oklahoma that General Healy was actively training future generations of C-17 pilots as an Instructor Pilot and the Chief of Standardization and Evaluation. General Healy then progressed from critical squadron and wing assignments to key command and joint assignments, including the Director of Exercises and Assessments for U.S. European Command and then the Commander of the Twenty-Second Air Force, culminating in his current position where he is a steadfast advocate for more than 67,000 Reserve Citizen Airmen worldwide.

General Healy's tenure as Chief of Air Force Reserve has been marked by his clear vision of a force that is "Ready Now and Transforming for the Future." He has championed the modernization of the Air Force Reserve, ensuring that it remains an efficient, experienced, accessible, and lethal force prepared to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Having personally experienced the challenges of balancing civilian-sector expertise with military excellence, General Healy is a tireless promoter for the well-being of Reserve Citizen Airmen and their families, recognizing that they are the foundation of the Reserve Advantage and the key to the Air Force's continued success.

General Healy's leadership has been instrumental in shaping the Air Force Reserve into the formidable force it is today. His dedication to our Nation, his commitment to the men and women of the Air Force, and his visionary leadership have left an indelible mark on the service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I extend my deepest thanks to Lieutenant General John P. Healy for his extraordinary service to his family, his airmen, and this country. I wish him, his wife Cathy, and their daughters, Shannon and Paige, all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING MR. GEORGE B. MELICK

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. George B. Melick of Tewksbury, New Jersey, for his 90th birthday. Mr. Melick was born to George B. Melick, Sr. and Florence Rinehart Melick on August 16, 1936 at Somerville Hospital becoming the ninth generation of Melick farmers in Tewksbury.

George grew up on the family farm where he still resides to this day. He learned from the strong example set by his parents about hard work, serving their faith, family, community and flag. George's father died in July 1954 when George, at 17 years old, making him head of the family and farm operation. That life-altering event resulted in George's hard work and resilience in the family business; he has worked tirelessly to find efficiencies to expand the farm. His efforts created the farm as it is today. Melick's farm cultivates over 700 acres of crops including the 120 acres of apple and peach trees that make Melick's Town Farm the largest apple grower in the state.

George's upbringing led him to a lifetime of public service beginning with the Oldwick Fire Company in 1957 and as a volunteer on the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment in Tewksbury Township in 1960. In 1964 he went on to be successfully elected and later re-elected to the Township Committee for six consecutive terms over 18 years. In 1978 he was elected to the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders, serving 12 consecutive terms over 36 years before retiring in 2013 as the longest continuous serving Freeholder in the State of New Jersey at that time.

Since his very first campaign in 1963, George Melick's message and credibility as a local public servant has never waned. He firmly believes that government should be efficient, accountable, constrained and that leaders must not be afraid to say "no."

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate George Melick's enduring impact and legacy; I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring him for his lifelong contributions to agriculture and public service.

HONORING AND PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLES BROWN POTTER

HON. MATT VAN EPPS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a remarkable hero from Houston County, Tennessee, who answered the call of duty during a critical chapter in our Nation's history. As the years pass, the profound debt we owe to our Korean War veterans only grows.

Of the 6.8 million Americans who served during the Korean War era, fewer than 300,000 remain with us today. This generation, now largely in their nineties, represents a rapidly dwindling connection to a pivotal struggle for global freedom. It is our sacred obligation to ensure their stories are told and their sacrifices are never forgotten.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary service, sacrifice, and lifelong dedication of Charles Brown Potter. He represents the very best of Tennessee's Volunteer Spirit and the enduring resilience of the American servicemember.

Mr. Charles Brown Potter is a distinguished United States Air Force veteran who dedicated his military service to our Nation during the Korean War era. Following his honorable service, Mr. Potter established roots in Tennessee, where his presence as a resident of Houston County has strengthened the local network of military families and contributed to the proud tradition of veteran leadership and historic preservation within the community.

His exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity during active duty earned him the Good Conduct Medal. His specialized training and unique operational capabilities are further reflected in his receipt of the Special Forces Badge. Mr. Potter's life of service and continued civic dedication stand as a testament to the enduring legacy of America's veterans, and Houston County remains deeply enriched by his leadership.

Please join me in offering our deepest gratitude for his faithful service and proudly preserve their legacies in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE LATE PASTOR, DR. ANNETTE ANDERSON

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor the late Pastor Dr. Annette Anderson, a true servant of God, a beloved and respected spiritual leader, and a dedicated social activist in Miami Gardens, Florida.

Pastor Annette Anderson devoted her life to serving God and spreading His Word. She lived her life based on the teachings and lessons in the Bible, which also served as a guide to raising her family and working to improve our community and quality of life.

Pastor Anderson never met a stranger, nor tired of helping those in need. Her unwavering faith in God, love for all people and words of wisdom are credited with bringing comfort to the suffering at their darkest hour and restoring their faith.

As pastor and teacher of Light of Life Ministries, a weekly prayer and Bible study ministry, and assistant pastor of Breakthrough Deliverance and Healing Prayer Ministries, Incorporated, Pastor Anderson touched the lives of countless people. She did not believe in dwelling on the past and past circumstances but using life's struggles as steppingstones to strengthen one's faith in Jesus.

Pastor Anderson earned a bachelor's degree from Jacksonville Theological Seminary; a Master of Theology Degree and Posthumous Doctoral Degree in Theology from Practical Christianity Institute of Evangelism (PCIE), School of Bible Theology.

Please join me in honoring the late Pastor Dr. Annette Anderson, for her commitment, dedication and service to God, her congregation, her family and friends and our community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KATIE BLOUNT TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the public service of Katie Blount, who dedicated more than thirty years to the State of Mississippi at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), serving as the seventh director of the agency since 2015. As only the second woman to lead the department since its founding in 1902, Katie had a steadfast commitment to “honest storytelling” and understanding the complexities of Mississippi’s storied history.

Under Katie’s leadership, the department has broadened access to its collections, expanded the stories it tells, and strengthened its commitment to preserving and interpreting the full and complex history of the state, ensuring that all Mississippians are represented.

Katie was instrumental in the creation and opening of the Two Mississippi Museums, which has welcomed more than 800,000 visitors and established Mississippi as a national leader in public history. She also guided the department in providing support to the Commission to Redesign the Mississippi State Flag, helping ensure the Commission carried out its work with transparency and effectiveness.

She has positioned the department for continued success in developing new sites that tell Mississippi’s stories, including the Vicksburg Civil War Visitor Center, the Natchez Tribal History Center, and Margaret Ann Crigler Park, while also strengthening the protection of historic places across our state.

I am thankful for Katie’s dedication and many years of service to Mississippi. Her work will live on through future generations and continue to inspire other historians to keep Mississippi’s unique story alive. I am thankful for the opportunity to recognize Katie’s service and commitment to the people of Mississippi and to our state’s history.

HONORING THE LONG ISLAND ASSOCIATION’S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Long Island Association as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

For the past century, the Long Island Association has been a driving force for economic growth across Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

They have brought together community leaders across all sectors to advocate for the investments and policies that help Long Island succeed.

Whether it is improving infrastructure, supporting small businesses, strengthening our Workforce, expanding housing opportunities, or bolstering our healthcare and education systems, the Long Island Association has been a trusted partner in building a stronger future for our region.

Reaching 100 years is an extraordinary achievement, and it speaks to the organization’s lasting commitment to the people and businesses that call Long Island home.

I congratulate the Long Island Association, and I look forward to seeing all they accomplish in the years ahead.

HONORING MRS. FANNETT CLARK LYONS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations, and birthday wishes to Mrs. Fannett Clark Lyons, an outstanding citizen, wife, mother and friend who celebrated her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Clark Lyons has lived an exemplary life of service to her family, her church and her community.

Mrs. Clark Lyons was born in the Miami’s Overtown neighborhood, on September 14, 1913. She was the oldest of six children, and after losing her father at a young age, she helped raise her siblings. Mrs. Clark Lyons is the mother of four: Leonard, Rosemary, Franklin, and Marvin (deceased). She has sixteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Ms. Clark Lyons has been an active member of Mt. Hermon A.M.E. Church for over fifty years. She enjoys cheering for the Miami Dolphins and the Miami Heat; her favorite sports teams. She also enjoys cooking Bahamian food, and her specialty is pigeon peas and rice.

Please join me in honoring Mrs. Fannett Clark Lyons on this remarkable milestone, her 100th birthday.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF REPRESENTATIVE TIM MURPHY

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of the Honorable TIM MURPHY, who passed away on July 18, 2026, at the age of 73. Congressman MURPHY dedicated his life to serving our Nation and commonwealth as a child psychologist, State Senator, U.S. Representative, and Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserves. His leadership and compassion left a lasting impact not only on me, but on our region and our country.

Before his service in government, Congressman MURPHY earned his Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh, Master of Arts from Cleveland State University, and Bachelor of Arts from Wheeling Jesuit University. He also served on the staff of Pittsburgh Children’s and Mercy Hospitals and founded his own private practice.

Congressman MURPHY represented the people of Pennsylvania for over twenty years, first representing Allegheny and Washington Counties in the Pennsylvania State Senate. In 2002, he was elected to represent Pennsylvania’s 18th Congressional District, which included Allegheny, Greene, Washington, and

Westmoreland Counties. In addition to serving his constituents in Pennsylvania, he volunteered for service in the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps, where he rose to the rank of Commander.

He was a tireless advocate for his constituents, dedicating his career to fighting for veterans and seniors while working to fix our Nation’s broken mental health care system. Congressman MURPHY led the effort to save the local 911th Airlift Wing, preserving hundreds of jobs and a critical asset to our national defense. Through his strong commitment to constituent services, tens of thousands of individuals were able to secure Social Security, veterans, and other federal benefits.

A renowned child psychologist, Congressman MURPHY also authored the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016, expanding access to care for families and individuals facing mental health challenges. This legislation was ultimately enacted as part of the 21st Century Cures Act. He further advanced the conversation around mental health through his writing, including *The Christ Cure: Ten Biblical Ways to Heal from Trauma, Tragedy, and PTSD*; *The Angry Child: Regaining Control When Your Child is Out of Control*; and *Overcoming Passive Aggression: How to Stop Hidden Anger from Spoiling Your Relationships, Career, and Happiness*.

Mr. Speaker, the Honorable TIM MURPHY was a trusted mentor and friend to me for many years, and I hope that he rests peacefully. His dedication to advocating for those in need was unending. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Nan, his daughter, Bevin, his grandchildren, and all his family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time.

CONGRATULATING GROWMARK’S CHUCK SPENCER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Chuck Spencer on the occasion of his retirement following more than 40 years of distinguished service to Illinois agriculture through the Illinois Farm Bureau and the GROWMARK Cooperative System.

During his tenure with the Illinois Farm Bureau, Chuck served as Associate Director of State Legislation, where he contributed to the successful passage of the Illinois Livestock Management Facilities Act. He later served as Director of National Legislation and Policy Development, where he led negotiations supporting passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard.

At GROWMARK, Chuck continued his tireless advocacy on behalf of agricultural cooperatives and farmer-owners. He worked with a team that successfully made Section 199A of the federal tax code permanent, protecting the ability of cooperatives to return patronage benefits to farmer-owners without facing an unfair tax increase.

Chuck also served on the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives Government Affairs Committee, including as its chairman. Additionally, he contributed to legislative committees for the American Seed Trade Association,

CropLife America, the Agricultural Retailers Association, The Fertilizer Institute, Fertilizer Canada, and the Ontario Agri Business Association.

Chuck's leadership, policy expertise, and commitment to agriculture have made a lasting impact on farmers, cooperatives, and rural communities throughout Illinois and across the country. I congratulate Chuck on his well-earned retirement and wish him and his family all the best in the years ahead.

HONORING AND PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILLY ELLINGSON

HON. MATT VAN EPPS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a remarkable hero from Houston County, Tennessee, who answered the call of duty during a critical chapter in our Nation's history. As the years pass, the profound debt we owe to our Korean War veterans only grows.

Of the 6.8 million Americans who served during the Korean War era, fewer than 300,000 remain with us today. This generation, now largely in their nineties, represents a rapidly dwindling connection to a pivotal struggle for global freedom. It is our sacred obligation to ensure their stories are told and their sacrifices are never forgotten.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary service, sacrifice, and lifelong dedication of Billy Ellingson. He represents the very best of Tennessee's Volunteer Spirit and the enduring resilience of the American servicemember.

Mr. Billy Ellingson served with pride in the United States Navy from 1954 to 1962, including four years of dedicated active duty during the Korean War era. Beyond his years in uniform, Mr. Ellingson has spent a lifetime giving back to his fellow veterans and his local community. For more than twenty years, he faithfully served as a member of the American Legion Honor Guard, ensuring that fallen comrades received the final, dignified honors they so richly deserved. As he approaches his 90th birthday this July, Mr. Ellingson continues to support and uplift the Houston County community, embodying a lifetime of selfless service.

Please join me in offering our deepest gratitude for his faithful service and proudly preserve their legacies in the United States Congress.

COMMENDING THE HAITIAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize the grand reopening of the Haitian Historical Museum and Archives in North Miami, Florida and include in the RECORD a proclamation on commending the efforts of Haitian American Historical Society (HAHS):

Whereas, the Haitian Historical Museum and Archives—through artifact, paintings, photography and performances—tells the story of Haiti's history and rich culture;

Whereas, the Haitian Historical Museum and Archives documents and showcases the contributions of Haitians and Haitian descendants to South Florida, the United States and other parts of the world;

Whereas, the Haitian Historical Museum and Archives serve to educate future generations of Haitian Americans about their heritage and build a connection to Haiti;

Whereas, the Haitian Historical Museum and Archives serve to foster understanding, tolerance and cooperation between South Florida's diverse communities; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 25th Congressional District of Florida, commend the Haitian American Historical Society for preserving Haitian history and fostering a resurgence of interest in Haitian culture among South Floridians.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christian Brothers High School as it celebrates 150 years of distinguished service and education in the Sacramento region.

Since its founding in 1876, Christian Brothers High School has served as one of Sacramento's most respected institutions, dedicated to the Lasallian tradition of faith, community, and service. For a century and a half, Christian Brothers has remained committed to providing a rigorous academic foundation while fostering integrity, leadership, and compassion in its students. From its original home downtown to its current campus in Oak Park, the school has continually adapted to the needs of its neighbors while preserving its core mission: "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve."

Over the course of its 150-year history, Christian Brothers has expanded its academic programs, strengthened its commitment to inclusive education, and earned numerous national honors. The school's faculty has consistently upheld the values of St. John Baptist De La Salle, encouraging students to pursue curiosity, service, and personal growth. Its celebrated arts programs, competitive athletics, and wide variety of student-led clubs and initiatives reflect a campus culture rich in leadership and fellowship.

This milestone is a testament to the thousands of lives affected by Lasallian education, the wisdom and insight of its educators, and the core principles instilled across generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Christian Brothers High School's 150 years of education and service to the Sacramento community.

HONORING CAPTAIN THERESA BOWIE

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Captain Theresa Bowie on the auspicious occasion of her retirement after nearly 25 years of service to our Nation in the U.S. Air Force and Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

Captain Bowie first enlisted in the USAF in 2002; after completing Basic Training and Technical School, she was assigned to Beale Air Force Base, where she became an electrical/environmental specialist working on the U2-S "Dragon Lady" reconnaissance plane. During her six years of active component service, she completed deployments in 2005 and 2007, supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

In 2008, Captain Bowie left active the active Air Force and joined the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 193rd Special Operations Wing, where she served as an EC-130 Aircraft Electrician, and deployed two more times in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Freedom Sentinel.

Captain Bowie transferred to the 201st RED HORSE Squadron in 2018, wherein she completed the requirements to commission as an Engineering Officer. Her knowledge and expertise were vital during two more deployments during the Global War on Terror, as well as during a humanitarian mission in Hawaii.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to recognize Captain Theresa Bowie on her retirement upon nearly 25 years of outstanding and selfless service to our Nation. Her tireless service and dedication to her fellow Airmen, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States of America set the standard by which all should be judged.

HONORING COLONEL EUGENE K. "GENE" CONTI AND COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR FRANK ROSSI

HON. MATT VAN EPPS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor two distinguished veterans and residents of Houston County, Tennessee, whose combined lifetimes of service embody the very best of our Nation's Armed Forces: Colonel Eugene K. "Gene" Conti, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired, and Command Sergeant Major Frank Rossi, U.S. Army, Retired.

Colonel Eugene K. "Gene" Conti began a distinguished 26-year career in the United States Marine Corps after earning his commission through the Platoon Leaders Class in 1977. After receiving his wings as a Naval Aviator in September 1979, he flew CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters with the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. He served on numerous operational deployments, including multiple Mediterranean tours and a critical NATO support mission. Colonel Conti later trained the next generation of Marine aviators as an instructor with Marine

Helicopter Training Squadron 204 before managing complex aviation logistics as an Assistant Program Manager at the Naval Air Systems Command. He went on to command Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264, leading Marines during operations in Liberia and deployments with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit. After earning master's degrees from both the University of Southern California and the National Defense University, he concluded his active-duty career as Executive Officer of the Naval Aviation Depot at Cherry Point. He retired in 2003 after earning the Meritorious Service Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal.

Command Sergeant Major Frank Rossi matched that standard of excellence through 33 years of distinguished service in the United States Army from 1985 to 2018. He rose to the rank of Command Sergeant Major, where his leadership strengthened major military installations around the world. He served in Germany during the final years of the Cold War and later trained soldiers at Fort Jackson, Fort Moore, and Fort Liberty. During Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, he deployed to liberate Kuwait. He later completed two combat deployments to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Throughout his career, he strengthened joint-force operations and earned some of our military's highest honors, including the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Mr. Speaker, these men did not end their commitment to service when they retired from active duty. Today, both call Houston County, Tennessee, home, where they continue to strengthen their community. Colonel Conti serves as the dedicated Quartermaster for VFW Post 9689, while Command Sergeant Major Rossi continues to mentor fellow veterans and community members and preserves our Nation's military heritage. It is an honor to represent Tennessee's 7th Congressional District, where heroes like Colonel Conti and Command Sergeant Major Rossi continue to serve. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude for their combined 59 years of unwavering service in defense of American freedom.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TEQUILA JANAE TEKEYSHA FORSHEE

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor the late Tequila Janae Tekeysha Forshee. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation in her honor:

Whereas, Tequila was a vibrant, fun loving and beautiful 12-year-old girl who loved to help others and dreamed of one day becoming a chef and a detective;

Whereas, Tequila enjoyed mathematics and excelled in her studies at Brentwood Elementary School and looked forward to attending Miami Carol City Middle School;

Whereas, Tequila's hard work as a student earned her a place on the Assistant Principal's Honor Roll and numerous awards such as the Language Arts Achievement

Award, and the Mathematics Achievement Award;

Whereas, Tequila was a member of the dance praise team at Gospel of Tabernacle and a water girl at Brentwood Park; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, recognize and pay tribute to Tequila Janae Tekeysha Forshee, a precious angel with a big heart and who was deeply loved by her family, friends and classmates.

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, July 21, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 22

9 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Juan Segura, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation, and Brendan Hanrahan, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary (European and Eurasian Affairs), Kari Lake, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to Jamaica, Rudolph Bauer, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to Belize, Barbera Thornhill, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of Ambassador at Large, John Hurley, of California, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, Keith Noreika, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania, Joseph Burkhalter, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, Stanley Brown, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, and Katherine Bowles, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary (Legislative Affairs), all of the Department of State.

S-116

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Regulatory Commission.

SD-366

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Hal Duncan, of Texas, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Brian Cavanaugh, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Management, and Cameron Hamilton, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, both of the Department of Homeland Security, Charles Baldis, of Virginia, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, Bradford Pentony Wilson, of New Jersey, to be Archivist of the United States, Jeffrey Brodsky, and William Gallo, of Florida, both to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, James Woodruff, of Florida, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, Charlton Allen, of North Carolina, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, James Andrew Crowell IV, and Stuart Gordon Nash, both to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and Christopher Michael De Bono, Michael Christopher DiLorenzo, Sharon E. Goodie, Craig Edward Leen, Christine Michelle Macey, and John Barlow Timmer, each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's 2026 trade policy agenda.

SD-215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 2355, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for hospital and insurer price transparency, S. 4189, to reduce the price of insulin and provide for patient protections with respect to the cost of insulin, S. 4974, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to food safety, S. 5026, to require warning labels on sugar-sweetened foods and beverages, foods and beverages containing high-intensity sweeteners, ultra-processed foods, and foods high in nutrients of concern, such as added sugar, saturated fat, or sodium, to restrict junk food advertising to children, S. 1414, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide that clinical studies required for licensure of biological products as biosimilar shall not be required to include the assessment of immunogenicity, pharmacodynamics, or comparative clinical efficacy, S. 3788, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require drug labeling to include original manufacturer and supply chain information, S. 3794, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to further regulate compounding pharmacies and outsourcing facilities, S. 494, to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, S. 4110, to revise and extend health workforce programs under title VII of the Public Health Service Act, S. 1874, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain nursing workforce development programs, S. 380, to improve obstetric emergency care, and S. 3097, to provide additional protections with respect to health information.

SD-430

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to markup S. 1759, to allow for the operation of civil supersonic flight in the national airspace system under certain conditions, S. 3258, to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to publish the list of medications that the Administrator has compiled for purposes of the medical certification of airmen and air traffic control specialists, S. 3885, to provide for updates to the Federal Aviation Administration type certification process to support development of new and novel technologies, S. 4429, to prohibit the importation, manufacture, sale, resale, or introduction into interstate commerce in the United States of connected vehicles and related software and hardware associated with foreign adversaries, S. 4448, to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to create tools for tracking the progress of grant recipients under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, to require the Assistant Secretary to help executive agencies improve compliance with the statutory deadline for processing communications use applications, S. 4691, to support improved awareness and coordination of Federal communications resources during disasters and emergencies, S. 4802, to provide for the acquisition by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of aircraft for air, atmosphere, and weather reconnaissance and research missions, and the nominations of Thomas B. Chapman, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, Edward Eppler, of Connecticut, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation, Karen Jean Hedlund, of New York, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, Brien Lorenze, of Virginia, and Karen Sessions, of Texas,

each to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and David Cummins, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

SR-253

2 p.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Kevin Lilly, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Department of the Interior.

S-216

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Mark Cruz, of Oregon, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 4276, to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996.

SD-628

3 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

4 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine advancing the mission, focusing on evaluating the future of VA research.

SR-418

JULY 23

9:47 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Sean Kaufman, of Georgia, to be Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Erica Schwartz, of Florida, to be Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, both of the Department of Health and Human Services, and Keith Sonderling, of Florida, to be Secretary of Labor.

SD-430

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Christopher Phelan, of Minnesota, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, John Crews, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board, and Jeffrey Ledbetter, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development; to be immediately followed by an opening hearing to examine the nominations of Brian Johnson, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, Abby Warren, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, and Irving Dennis, of Ohio, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SD-538

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Todd Blanche, of Florida, to be Attorney General, and Christopher Nassar, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma, both of the Department of Justice, Daniel Desmond Domenico, of Colorado, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, and Matthew R. Byrne, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

SH-216

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Finance

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Francis Brooke, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary, Erin Browne, of New York, to be an Under Secretary, Sriprakash Kothari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary, and George McMaster, of South Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of the Treasury.

SD-215

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4145–64

Measures Introduced: Five bills were introduced, as follows: S. 5032–5036. **Pages S4161–62**

Measures Considered:

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 4784, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. **Page S4145**

Martin Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Michael C. Martin, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. **Pages S4145–46**

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, July 22, 2026. **Pages S4145–46**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4145**

Pozos Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Antonio M. Pozos, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. **Page S4146**

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 Michael C. Martin, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. **Page S4146**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4146**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4146**

Traynor Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Daniel Mack Traynor, of North Dakota, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit. **Pages S4146–50**

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 Antonio M. Pozos, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. **Page S4146**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4146**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4146**

Flowers Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Benjamin M. Flowers, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit. **Page S4150**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 43 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 200), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4150**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, July 21, 2026; and that all time during Leader remarks, recess, and adjournment count post-cloture on the nomination. **Pages S4150–51**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Richard Schroyer, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Army and Navy. **Page S4164**

Nomination Discharged: The following nomination was discharged from further committee consideration and placed on the Executive Calendar:

Don Richard Berthiaume, Jr., of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Justice., which was sent to the Senate on April 21, 2026, from the

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. **Page S4164**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S4145, S4161**

Executive Communications: **Page S4161**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4162–63**

Additional Statements: **Pages S4160–61**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S4163**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—200) **Page S4150**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:59 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4150–51.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 22 public bills, H.R. 9773–9794; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 1439–1442 were introduced. **Pages H4680–81**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H4682–83**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 1438, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8800) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8884) to amend title II of the Social Security Act to reauthorize demonstration authority for the disability insurance program; providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 113) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2027 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2028 through 2036; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7008) to amend chapter 131 of title 5 to require certain restrictions on stocks for Members of Congress and their spouses and dependents, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6955) to make improvements to the Federal banking laws, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 9770) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2027, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–755).

Page H4680

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Foxx to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4633**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:21 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H4635**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:08 p.m. and reconvened at 2:30 p.m. **Page H4636**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:39 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H4670**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Choices for Increased Mobility Act: H.R. 1703, amended, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify payment rules for manual wheelchairs under part B of the Medicare program;

Pages H4636–37

Destruction of Hazardous Imports Act: H.R. 2715, amended, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to extend the destruction authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to articles that present a significant public health concern;

Pages H4637–39

FDA Modernization Act 3.0: H.R. 2821, to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to publish a final rule relating to nonclinical testing methods;

Pages H4639–40

Reauthorizing the Kay Hagan Tick Act: H.R. 4348, to reauthorize the Kay Hagan Tick Act;

Pages H4640–42

Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act: H.R. 5160, amended, to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005;

Pages H4642–43

Accelerating Access to Dementia and Alzheimer's Provider Training Act: H.R. 3747, amended, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize

the Project ECHO Grant Program, to establish grants under such program to disseminate knowledge and build capacity to address Alzheimer's disease and other dementias; **Pages H4643–45**

Action for Dental Health Act: H.R. 2001, amended, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a grant program for addressing dental workforce needs; **Pages H4645–46**

Reauthorizing and make improvements to Federal programs relating to the prevention, detection, and treatment of traumatic brain injuries: H.R. 1493, amended, to reauthorize and make improvements to Federal programs relating to the prevention, detection, and treatment of traumatic brain injuries; **Pages H4646–48**

EARLY Act Reauthorization: H.R. 4541, amended, to reauthorize the Young Women's Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nay vote of 394 yeas to 6 nays, Roll No. 250; **Pages H4648–49, H4670–71**

DeOndra Dixon INCLUDE Project Act: H.R. 3491, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a program of research, training, and investigation related to Down syndrome; **Pages H4649–51**

NIH Implementing a Maternal health and PRenancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone Act: H.R. 6238, amended, to establish the IMPROVE Initiative within the National Institutes of Health; **Pages H4651–52**

Putting Patients First by Strengthening Provider Accountability in FECA Act: H.R. 8823, amended, to amend the Federal Employees' Compensation Act to allow the Secretary of Labor to suspend payments to medical providers who have been convicted of fraud, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nay vote of 396 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 251; **Pages H4654–56, H4671**

Stop Secret Spending Act: H.R. 2069, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to ensure that other transaction agreements are reported to USAspending.gov; **Pages H4657–59**

Federal Improvement in Technology Procurement Act: H.R. 4123, amended, to improve Federal technology procurement; **Pages H4659–61**

Federal Relocation Payment Improvement Act: H.R. 6330, amended, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for lump-sum relocation payments for Federal employees relocated in the interest of the Government; **Pages H4661–63**

Expanding Whistleblower Protections for Contractors Act: H.R. 5578, amended, to ensure that whistleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal; **Pages H4664–66**

Nucleic Acid Standards for Biosecurity Act: H.R. 3029, amended, to amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act to support nucleic acid screening; and **Pages H4666–67**

Next-Generation Geothermal Research and Development Act: H.R. 8790, amended, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to direct research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities in support of next-generation geothermal and closed-loop geothermal systems in various conditions. **Pages H4667–70**

Advisory Board for the House of Representatives Child Care Center—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following individuals to the Advisory Board for the House of Representatives Child Care Center: Ms. Sonali Jatin Desai of Arlington, Virginia; Mr. Eric Louis Delaney of Washington, D.C.; and Ms. Erin M. Kolodjeski of Arlington, Virginia. **Page H4671**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Reauthorization Act: H.R. 8205, amended, to amend the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act to reauthorize the provisions of such Act through fiscal year 2031; **Pages H4652–54**

Value Over Cost Act: H.R. 1118, amended, to amend title 41, United States Code, and title 10, United States Code, to provide best value through the multiple award schedule program; **Page H4656**

Ensuring Federal Purchasing Efficiency Act: H.R. 7283, to amend title 41, United States Code, to amend the time period for certain acquisition-related dollar thresholds; and **Pages H4656–57**

Billion Dollar Boondoggle Act: H.R. 1722, amended, to require an annual report of taxpayer-funded projects that are over budget and behind schedule. **Pages H4663–64**

Discharge Petition: Representative Garcia presented to the clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1414) entitled, a resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1589) to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens (Discharge Petition No. 25).

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4670–71 and H4671.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 6529, the “Protecting Families from AI Data Center Energy Costs Act”; H.R. 6633, the “High-Capacity Grid Act”; H.R. 9332, the “Load Forecasting Enhancement Act”; H.R. 9335, the “Advanced Transmission Technology to Reduce Rates Act”; H.R. 9339, the “Affordable Innovation for the Grid Act”; H.R. 9340, the “Ratepayer Protection Act”; H.R. 9616, the “Environmental Monitoring and Remediation Technology Assessment Imitative (EMRTAI) Act of 2026”; H.R. 9617, the “Coordinating and Harnessing America’s Recovery of Minerals (CHARM) Act”; H.R. 1266, the “Combating Illicit Xylazine Act”; H.R. 1561, the “ALERT Communities Act”; H.R. 2004, the “Tyler’s Law”; H.R. 3514, the “Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act of 2025”; H.R. 5243, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase data transparency for supplemental benefits under Medicare Advantage; H.R. 5526, the “Bio-similar Red Tape Elimination Act”; H.R. 5880, the “Fight Illicit Pill Presses Act”; H.R. 7184, the “PRESS Act”; H.R. 7970, the “STOP Nitazenes Act”; H.R. 7994, the “HERO Act”; H.R. 8005, the “Stop Pills That Kill Act”; H.R. 8201, the “Expanding Community Access to Health Services Act”; H.R. 8908, the “STOP GAMES Act of 2026”; H.R. 9389, the “Nutrition Education and Chronic Disease Prevention in Community Health Centers Act of 2026”; H.R. 9390, the “Prices on the Wall Act of 2026”; H.R. 9392, the “Medicare Advantage Cost Transparency Act”; H.R. 9393, the “Lower Costs, More Transparency Act of 2026”; H.R. 9396, the “Prior Authorization Accountability Act”; H.R. 9397, the “Premium Transparency Act”; H.R. 9661, the “Expedited Access to Biosimilars Act”; and H.R. 9338, the “Pipeline Safety Authorization Act of 2026”.

ESTABLISHING THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 AND SETTING FORTH THE APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2028 THROUGH 2036; CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2027; STOP INSIDER TRADING ACT; MAIN STREET CAPITAL ACCESS ACT; NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027; REMOVING BARRIERS TO WORK FOR DISABLED AMERICANS ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H. Con. Res. 113, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2027 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2028 through 2036; H.R. 9770, the “Continuing Appropriations Act, 2027”; H.R. 7008, the “Stop Insider Trading Act”; H.R. 6955, the “Main Street Capital Access Act”; H.R. 8800, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027”; and H.R. 8884, the “Removing Barriers to Work for Disabled Americans Act”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 8–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 8800, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027”, H.R. 8884, the “Removing Barriers to Work for Disabled Americans Act”, H. Con. Res. 113, Establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2027 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2028 through 2036, H.R. 7008, the “Stop Insider Trading Act”, H.R. 6955, the “Main Street Capital Access Act”, and H.R. 9770, the “Continuing Appropriations Act, 2027”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 8800, the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of 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 Armed Services or their respective designees. The rule provides that in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Armed Services now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–33 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 makes in order only those amendments printed in part A of the Rules Committee report, amendments en bloc described in section 3 and pro forma amendments described in section 4. Each amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may

be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of the rule, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part A of the Rules Committee report or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of the rule. The rule provides that the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee may offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part A of the Rules Committee report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of the rule, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule provides that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 8884, the "Removing Barriers to Work for Disabled Americans Act", under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119-34 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 Ways and Means or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H. Con. Res. 113, Establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2027 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2028 through 2036, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution. 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. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting

of the text of Rules Committee Print 119-37 shall be considered as adopted, and the concurrent resolution, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule permits the chair of the Committee on the Budget to offer amendments in the House pursuant to section 305(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to achieve mathematical consistency. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 7008, the "Stop Insider Trading Act", under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on House Administration now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119-38, modified by the amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 6955, the "Main Street Capital Access Act", under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119-35 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 Financial Services or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 9770, the "Continuing Appropriations Act, 2027", 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 Appropriations or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. Finally, the rule provides that in the engrossment of H.R. 8800, the Clerk shall do the following: add the text of S. 1383, as passed by the

House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 8800; assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; conform cross-references and provisions for short titles within the engrossment; and be authorized to make technical corrections, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, page and line numbering, section numbering, and insertion of appropriate headings. Testimony was heard from Chairman Arrington, Chairman Cole, Chairman Steil, Chairman Hill of Arkansas, and Representatives McGarvey, DeLauro, Morelle, Waters, Spartz, Magaziner, Fedorchak, and Davidson.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 9624, the "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027". H.R. 9624 was ordered reported, as amended. This markup was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: to hold hearings to examine a review of the President's supplemental funding request of June 24, 2026, 2:30 p.m., SD-106.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Science, Manufacturing, and Competitiveness, to hold hearings to examine measuring what matters, focusing on science, standards, and strategic competition, 10:30 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine S. 1674, to modify the boundary of the Mammoth Cave National Park in the State of Kentucky, S. 2498, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to extend certain leases within units of the National Park System without opening the lease to bidding, S. 2767 and H.R. 5254, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the Gateway Arch Park Foundation to host private events in Gateway Arch National Park buildings, S. 2801, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the Canterbury Shaker Village National Heritage Area, S. 2887, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, S. 2933, to redesignate a playground in the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve in the State of West Virginia as the "Hearts of Gold Playground: In Honor of West Virginia Children and Families Impacted by Childhood Cancer", S. 2969, to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide that State law shall apply to the use of

motor vehicles on roads within a System unit, S. 3131, to provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall of the names of the lost crew members of the USS Frank E. Evans killed on June 3, 1969, S. 3194, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land in California as the Monterey Bay National Heritage Area, S. 3313 and H.R. 6365, bills to require the Secretary of the Interior to issue a right-of-way for an emergency exit on certain National Park Service land in the State of Virginia, S. 3371, to designate the Museum of the Blind People's Movement in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "National Museum of the Blind People's Movement", S. 3456 and H.R. 183, bills to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a free annual National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for law enforcement officers and firefighters, S. 3501, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to designate as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Calumet National Heritage Area in the States of Indiana and Illinois, S. 3524, to amend title 54, United States Code, to modify certain cost-sharing requirements for grant programs under the American Battlefield Protection Program, S. 3542, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Upper Raritan River Watershed in the State of New Jersey for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 3720, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Bay Area Ridge as a national scenic trail, S. 3785, to authorize direct emergency acquisition flexibilities for the National Park Service and Forest Service for the purpose of retaining, vetting, approving, and expediting contractor approval for the clearing, rebuilding, maintenance, and improvement of areas of the Grand Canyon National Park and Kaibab National Forest damaged by certain wildfires, S. 3925, to establish the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, S. 4238, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to designate as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Endless Mountains National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, S. 4399, to provide for certain conveyances under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 4538, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating Washington's Trail-1753 as a national historic trail, S. 4595, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Mullica River watershed in New Jersey for study for potential designation as a wild and scenic river, S. 4767, to extend the authorization of the African American Civil Rights Network, H.R. 2306, to reauthorize the Adams Memorial Commission, H.R. 5729, to authorize direct emergency acquisition flexibilities for the National Park Service for the purpose of retaining, vetting, approving, and expediting contractor approval for the clearing, rebuilding, maintenance, and improvement of the Grand Canyon grounds that have been impacted by the Dragon Bravo Fire, and H.R. 7618, to amend title 54, United States Code, to modify certain

cost-sharing requirements for grant programs under the American Battlefield Protection Program, 4:30 p.m., SD-366.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development, hearing entitled “Examining Customer Protections and Market Integrity in Sports Event Prediction Markets”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 8781, the “Title IX Clarification Act of 2026”; H.R. 4986, the “Parents Opt-in Protection Act”; H.R. 8747, the “K–12 AI Literacy and Readiness Act of 2026”; H.R. 8183, the “Modernizing Access to Talents, Credentials, and Hiring (MATCH) Act of 2026”; H.R. 9723, the “Fit Future Act”; H.R. 8660, the “Valuing Employee Stock Today Act”; H.R. 8347, the “Reinforcing Underserved, Rural, and Local (RURAL) Healthcare Act”; H.R. 6213, the “Heat Workforce Standards Act of 2025”; H.R. 8775, the “Ending Predator Access to Union Power Act”; and H.R. 5267, the “American Franchise Act”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 6529, the “Protecting Families from AI Data Center Energy Costs Act”; H.R. 6633, the “High-Capacity Grid Act”; H.R. 9332, the “Load Forecasting Enhancement Act”; H.R. 9335, the “Advanced Transmission Technology to Reduce Rates Act”; H.R. 9339, the “Affordable Innovation for the Grid Act”; H.R. 9340, the “Ratepayer Protection Act”; H.R. 9616, the “Environmental Monitoring and Remediation Technology Assessment Imitative (EMRTAI) Act of 2026”; H.R. 9617, the “Coordinating and Harnessing America’s Recovery of Minerals (CHARM) Act”; H.R. 1266, the “Combating Illicit Xylazine Act”; H.R. 1561, the “ALERT Communities Act”; H.R. 2004, the “Tyler’s Law”; H.R. 3514, the “Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act of 2025”; H.R. 5243, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase data transparency for supplemental benefits under Medicare Advantage; H.R. 5526, the “Biosimilar Red Tape Elimination Act”; H.R. 5880, the “Fight Illicit Pill Presses Act”; H.R. 7184, the “PRESS Act”; H.R. 7970, the “STOP Nitazenes Act”; H.R. 7994, the “HERO Act”; H.R. 8005, the “Stop Pills That Kill Act”; H.R. 8201, the “Expanding Community Access to Health Services Act”; H.R. 8908, the “STOP GAMES Act of 2026”; H.R. 9389, the “Nutrition Education and Chronic Disease Prevention in Community Health Centers Act of 2026”; H.R. 9390, the “Prices on the Wall Act of 2026”; H.R. 9392, the “Medicare Advantage Cost Transparency Act”; H.R. 9393, the “Lower Costs, More Transparency Act of 2026”; H.R. 9396, the “Prior Authorization Accountability Act”; H.R. 9397, the “Premium Transparency Act”; H.R. 9661, the “Expedited Access to Biosimilars

Act”; and H.R. 9338, the “Pipeline Safety Authorization Act of 2026”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Federal Home Loan Bank System”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Confronting Haiti’s Terrorist Gangs: The Gang Suppression Force and the Path Ahead”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on House Administration, Subcommittee on Modernization and Innovation, hearing entitled “Modernizing Public Access to Legislative Data and Information”, 2 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 9773, the “Permanent Trump Secure Border Act”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on H.R. 8003, the “Expanding the Fast Track Act of 2026”; H.R. 9640, the “Earth MRI Reauthorization Act of 2026”; and H.R. 9646, the “Quantum-Enhanced Critical Minerals Mapping Act of 2026”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 7332, the “Whale CHARTS Act of 2026”; H.R. 7466, the “SAFE CATTLE Act”; H.R. 8876, the “Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Prevention Act of 2026”; and H.R. 9621, the “Northwest Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act of 2026”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency, hearing entitled “Rewriting American History: Examining the Smithsonian’s Efforts to Reshape the Past”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3168, the “National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2025”; H.R. 8437, the “Geo POWER Act”; H.R. 9326, the “USA Act”; and H.R. 8981, the “SCALE Biology Act”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing entitled “25 Years After 9/11: Confronting the Next Generation of Threats”, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of July 21 through July 24, 2026

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Benjamin M. Flowers, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, post-cloture. Roll call votes are expected during Tuesday’s session of the Senate.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: July 21, to hold hearings to examine a review of the President's supplemental funding request of June 24, 2026, 2:30 p.m., SD-106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: July 23, business meeting to consider the nominations of Christopher Phelan, of Minnesota, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, John Crews, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board, and Jeffrey Ledbetter, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development; to be immediately followed by an opening hearing to examine the nominations of Brian Johnson, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, Abby Warren, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, and Irving Dennis, of Ohio, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: July 21, Subcommittee on Science, Manufacturing, and Competitiveness, to hold hearings to examine measuring what matters, focusing on science, standards, and strategic competition, 10:30 a.m., SR-253.

July 22, Full Committee, business meeting to markup S. 1759, to allow for the operation of civil supersonic flight in the national airspace system under certain conditions, S. 3258, to require the Administrator of the federal Aviation Administration to publish the list of medications that the Administrator has compiled for purposes of the medical certification of airmen and air traffic control specialists, S. 3885, to provide for updates to the Federal Aviation Administration type certification process to support development of new and novel technologies, S. 4429, to prohibit the importation, manufacture, sale, resale, or introduction into interstate commerce in the United States of connected vehicles and related software and hardware associated with foreign adversaries, S. 4448, to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to create tools for tracking the progress of grant recipients under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, to require the Assistant Secretary to help executive agencies improve compliance with the statutory deadline for processing communications use applications, S. 4691, to support improved awareness and coordination of Federal communications resources during disasters and emergencies, S. 4802, to provide for the acquisition by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of aircraft for air, atmosphere, and weather reconnaissance and research missions, and the nominations of Thomas B. Chapman, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, Edward Eppler, of Connecticut, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation, Karen Jean Hedlund, of New York, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, Brien Lorenze, of Virginia, and Karen Sessions, of Texas, each to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and David

Cummins, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, 10:30 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: July 21, Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine S. 1674, to modify the boundary of the Mammoth Cave National Park in the State of Kentucky, S. 2498, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to extend certain leases within units of the National Park System without opening the lease to bidding, S. 2767 and H.R. 5254, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the Gateway Arch Park Foundation to host private events in Gateway Arch National Park buildings, S. 2801, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the Canterbury Shaker Village National Heritage Area, S. 2887, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, S. 2933, to redesignate a playground in the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve in the State of West Virginia as the "Hearts of Gold Playground: In Honor of West Virginia Children and Families Impacted by Childhood Cancer", S. 2969, to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide that State law shall apply to the use of motor vehicles on roads within a System unit, S. 3131, to provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall of the names of the lost crew members of the USS Frank E. Evans killed on June 3, 1969, S. 3194, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land in California as the Monterey Bay National Heritage Area, S. 3313 and H.R. 6365, bills to require the Secretary of the Interior to issue a right-of-way for an emergency exit on certain National Park Service land in the State of Virginia, S. 3371, to designate the Museum of the Blind People's Movement in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "National Museum of the Blind People's Movement", S. 3456 and H.R. 183, bills to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a free annual National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for law enforcement officers and firefighters, S. 3501, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to designate as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Calumet National Heritage Area in the States of Indiana and Illinois, S. 3524, to amend title 54, United States Code, to modify certain cost-sharing requirements for grant programs under the American Battlefield Protection Program, S. 3542, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Upper Raritan River Watershed in the State of New Jersey for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 3720, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Bay Area Ridge as a national scenic trail, S. 3785, to authorize direct emergency acquisition flexibilities for the National Park Service and Forest Service for the purpose of retaining, vetting, approving, and expediting contractor approval for the clearing, rebuilding, maintenance, and improvement of areas of the Grand Canyon National Park and Kaibab National Forest damaged by certain wildfires, S. 3925, to establish

the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, S. 4238, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to designate as a component of the National Heritage Area System the Endless Mountains National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, S. 4399, to provide for certain conveyances under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 4538, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating Washington's Trail-1753 as a national historic trail, S. 4595, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Mullica River watershed in New Jersey for study for potential designation as a wild and scenic river, S. 4767, to extend the authorization of the African American Civil Rights Network, H.R. 2306, to reauthorize the Adams Memorial Commission, H.R. 5729, to authorize direct emergency acquisition flexibilities for the National Park Service for the purpose of retaining, vetting, approving, and expediting contractor approval for the clearing, rebuilding, maintenance, and improvement of the Grand Canyon grounds that have been impacted by the Dragon Bravo Fire, and H.R. 7618, to amend title 54, United States Code, to modify certain cost-sharing requirements for grant programs under the American Battlefield Protection Program, 4:30 p.m., SD-366.

July 22, Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Regulatory Commission, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: July 22, business meeting to consider the nomination of Kevin Lilly, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, 2 p.m., S-216, Capitol.

Committee on Finance: July 22, to hold hearings to examine the President's 2026 trade policy agenda, 10 a.m., SD-215.

July 23, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Francis Brooke, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary, Erin Browne, of New York, to be an Under Secretary, Sriprakash Kothari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary, and George McMaster, of South Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of the Treasury, 10:30 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: July 22, business meeting to consider the nominations of Juan Segura, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation, and Brendan Hanrahan, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary (European and Eurasian Affairs), Kari Lake, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to Jamaica, Rudolph Bauer, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to Belize, Barbera Thornhill, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of Ambassador at Large, John Hurlley, of California, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, Keith Noreika, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania, Joseph Burkhalter, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, Stanley Brown, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic

of Equatorial Guinea, and Katherine Bowles, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary (Legislative Affairs), all of the Department of State, 9 a.m., S-116, Capitol.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: July 22, business meeting to consider S. 2355, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for hospital and insurer price transparency, S. 4189, to reduce the price of insulin and provide for patient protections with respect to the cost of insulin, S. 4974, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to food safety, S. 5026, to require warning labels on sugar-sweetened foods and beverages, foods and beverages containing high-intensity sweeteners, ultra-processed foods, and foods high in nutrients of concern, such as added sugar, saturated fat, or sodium, to restrict junk food advertising to children, S. 1414, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide that clinical studies required for licensure of biological products as biosimilar shall not be required to include the assessment of immunogenicity, pharmacodynamics, or comparative clinical efficacy, S. 3788, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require drug labeling to include original manufacturer and supply chain information, S. 3794, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to further regulate compounding pharmacies and outsourcing facilities, S. 494, to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, S. 4110, to revise and extend health workforce programs under title VII of the Public Health Service Act, S. 1874, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain nursing workforce development programs, S. 380, to improve obstetric emergency care, and S. 3097, to provide additional protections with respect to health information, 10 a.m., SD-430.

July 23, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Sean Kaufman, of Georgia, to be Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Erica Schwartz, of Florida, to be Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, both of the Department of Health and Human Services, and Keith Sonderling, of Florida, to be Secretary of Labor, 9:47 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: July 22, business meeting to consider the nominations of Hal Duncan, of Texas, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Brian Cavanaugh, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Management, and Cameron Hamilton, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, both of the Department of Homeland Security, Charles Baldis, of Virginia, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, Bradford Pentony Wilson, of New Jersey, to be Archivist of the United States, Jeffrey Brodsky, and William Gallo, of Florida, both to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, James Woodruff, of Florida, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, Charlton Allen, of North Carolina, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, James Andrew Crowell IV, and Stuart Gordon Nash, both to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and Christopher Michael De Bono, Michael Christopher DiLorenzo, Sharon E. Goodie, Craig Edward Leen, Christine Michelle Macey, and John Barlow Timmer, each to

be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: July 22, business meeting to consider the nominations of Mark Cruz, of Oregon, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 4276, to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, 2 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: July 23, business meeting to consider the nominations of Todd Blanche, of Florida, to be Attorney General, and Christopher Nassar, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma, both of the Department of Justice, Daniel Desmond Domenico, of Colorado, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, and Matthew R. Byrne, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, 10:15 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: July 22, to hold hearings to examine advancing the mission, focusing on evaluating the future of VA research, 4 p.m., SR-418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: July 21, closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

July 21, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

July 22, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, July 22, Subcommittee on Forestry and Horticulture, hearing entitled "For the Purpose of Receiving Testimony from Chief Tom Schultz, U.S. Forest Service", 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, July 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Funding Lapses: Analyzing Shutdown Reform", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, July 22, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled "Broken Trust: How the Biden-Harris DOL Leaked Confidential Information", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, July 22, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled "Legislative Proposals to Strengthen Consumer Protection in a Changing Marketplace", 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

July 22, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled "Legislative Hearing on Protecting Communications Networks and Improving Connectivity", 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, July 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled "United Nations Accountability and Reform: Advancing an America First Foreign Policy Through Strategic Diplomacy and Burden Sharing", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

July 22, Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, hearing entitled "Building a New Regional Security Architecture: The Next Phase of the Abraham Accords", 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

July 22, East Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee, hearing entitled "Charting a New Course: Countering China's

Dominance in Global Shipbuilding", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

July 22, Full Committee, continue 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, 5 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on House Administration, July 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Oversight of the Smithsonian: Radical Revisionism at the National Museum of American History", 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, July 22, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled "False Narratives Surrounding Conditions at the Delaney Hall ICE Detention Center", 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, July 22, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 309, the "National Law Enforcement Officers Remembrance, Support and Community Outreach Act"; H.R. 1693, to redesignate the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming, as the "Barbara L. Cubin National Historic Trails Interpretive Center"; H.R. 4219, the "National Wildlife Refuge System Invasive Species Strike Team Act of 2025"; H.R. 4931, the "National Park System Long-Term Lease Investment Act"; H.R. 5063, the "Safe Beaches, Safe Swimmers Act"; H.R. 6021, the "Archie Cavanaugh Migratory Bird Treaty Amendment Act"; H.R. 8121, to designate the Christiansted Bandstand at the Christiansted National Historic Site, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, as the "Peter G. Thurland, Sr., Bandstand"; and H.R. 8454, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, July 22, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6610, the "Pharmacists Fight 5 Back in Federal Employee Health Benefit Plans Act"; H.R. 9720, the "D.C. Taxing Authority Review Act"; H.R. 9725, the "Restoring Integrity and Efficiency to Inspector General Oversight Act of 2025"; H.R. 9643, the "Comment Integrity and Management Act"; H.R. 9741, to name the DC Tuition Assistance Grant program the "Eleanor Holmes Norton District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant Program"; H.R. 4283, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1157 West Mission Avenue in Escondido, California, as the "Captain E. Royce Williams Post Office Building"; H.R. 6006, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 North Elm Street in Tuskegee, Alabama, as the "Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Post Office"; H.R. 7365, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1225 Kempsville Road in Virginia Beach, Virginia, as the "Colonel Edward Shames Post Office Building"; H.R. 8326, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Drive in Willingboro,

New Jersey, as the “James A. Cotten Post Office”; H.R. 8359, to change the address of the postal facility designated in honor of Specialist Jeffrey L. White, Jr.; H.R. 8419, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3255 Northwest 94th Avenue in Coral Springs, Florida, as the “Nancy Metayer Post Office Building”; H.R. 8945, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 86–014 Farrington Highway in Wai’anae, Hawai’i, as the “U.S. Representative Colleen Hanabusa Post Office Building”; H.R. 8999, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 324 Washington Avenue, Suite 1 in Grand Haven, Michigan, as the “Ell Thomas Simantz Post Office Building”; and H.R. 9026, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 Atlantic Avenue in Oceanside, New York, as the “Detective Luis G. Alvarez Post Office”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

July 22, Task Force on Defending Constitutional Rights and Exposing Institutional Abuses, hearing enti-

tled “The Future of DEI in Law School Accreditation and the Legal Profession”, 3 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, July 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Unleashing the Golden Age of Science: Examining the Priorities of the FY2027 Research and Technology Enterprise”, 10:15 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, July 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of SBA’s Office of Entrepreneurial Development”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, July 22, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 9772, the “Foreign Funding Transparency Act”; H.R. 9771, the “Stopping Foreign Influence in Elections Act of 2026”; H.R. 9721, the “Fiscal Sponsorship Transparency Act of 2026”; and H.R. 9722, the “Fair Treatment of Religious Organizations Act of 2026”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, July 21

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Benjamin M. Flowers, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, post-cloture. Roll call votes are expected during Tuesday's session of the Senate.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, July 21

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H. Res. 1438—Providing for consideration of H.R. 8800, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027, H.R. 8884, Removing Barriers to Work for Disabled Americans Act, H. Con. Res. 113, Establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2027 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2028 through 2036, H.R. 7008, Stop Insider Trading Act, H.R. 6955, Main Street Capital Access Act, and H.R. 9770, Continuing Appropriations Act, 2027.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Doggett, Lloyd, Tex., E704
Garbarino, Andrew R., N.Y., E710
Guest, Michael, Miss., E710
Johnson, Dusty, S.D., E705
Kean, Thomas H., Jr., N.J., E709
LaHood, Darin, Ill., E710
Liccardo, Sam T., Calif., E705

Lofgren, Zoe, Calif., E708
Matsui, Doris O., Calif., E704, E711
McClain, Lisa C., Mich., E707
McCollum, Betty, Minn., E703
Mejia, Analilia, N.J., E705
Nunn, Zachary, Iowa, E703
Perry, Scott, Pa., E706, E708, E711
Pfluger, August, Tex., E708

Reschenthaler, Guy, Pa., E710
Smucker, Lloyd, Pa., E707
Sorensen, Eric, Ill., E706
Van Epps, Matt, Tenn., E704, E706, E707, E709, E711, E711
Wilson, Frederica S., Fla., E703, E704, E705, E706, E707, E708, E709, E710, E711, E712



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