

in the forgotten corners of a deindustrialized Great Lakes region and Appalachian coal fields that need new jobs and innovation.

Our bill responsibly delivers for America. In fact, we set our Nation on a path toward a better, brighter, and more resilient future to be energy, water, and nuclear secure.

Further, I am excited that our Great Lakes Authority legislation is included in this omnibus. This new Federal instrumentality will unlock our industrial heartland's full potential, and it is so much an honor to be able to be a part of the team that passes this omnibus bill today.

□ 0915

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, as the 117th Congress comes to a close, I rise today to say it has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve Michiganders across Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, Nawaygo, Oceana, Lake, Mason, and Allegan Counties in the current Second District.

West Michigan is blessed to have beautiful beaches, world-class manufacturing, and an incredible variety of top-notch agricultural produce. But what makes places like Muskegon, Grand Haven, Ludington, Pentwater, Fremont, Baldwin, and Grandville so special are the people who call these communities home.

It is embracing servant leadership. It is emphasizing the value of hard work, and it is fostering the drive to go the extra mile that makes west Michigan such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, as I say goodbye to the current Second District, I will never forget the residents who have called the Second Congressional District home over the past 10 years or the memories we have shared.

Please know that I will continue to be a champion for you and for Michigan. It has been an honor and a blessing to be your voice in Washington.

RECKLESS AND BLOATED SPENDING BILL WILL COST AMERICANS

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2617.

Democrats are railroading this \$1.7 trillion bill full of garbage without any regard for what it is costing Americans.

The truth is our constant flood of reckless, bloated spending bills has blown inflation rates right through the roof, and Americans are going to pay the price.

What are we spending Americans' hard-earned money on you ask, Mr. Speaker?

Well, I will tell you a little bit of it, Mr. Speaker. Over \$45 billion for Ukraine, when Europe should be carrying the burden of these costs. That is \$100 billion total. And don't forget the Democrats blocked any efforts we had to audit this money so we knew exactly where the money was going. That works out to about \$200 million per congressional district, Mr. Speaker. I wonder what we could have spent that on back in east Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, \$1.2 million is going for LGBT pride centers in San Diego. That is a whole heck of a lot of pride.

Mr. Speaker, \$3 million is for an LGBT museum in New York City; nearly half a million dollars is for an equity institute in Rhode Island; \$545 million is for international family planning and reproductive health—including in areas where population growth would dare to threaten biodiversity or endangered species.

Over \$400 million is for Middle Eastern countries to protect their borders, Mr. Speaker, when we don't even protect our own dadgum borders.

Mr. Speaker, we only have ourselves to blame, and I hope you have a merry Christmas.

FUNDING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to fulfill one of Congress' most basic responsibilities: to fund our government and keep it working for the people.

We are not doing that very well. It is the 23rd of December, the day before Christmas Eve. The weather is bad, Members—we will see how many—are here to fulfill their duty. This sweeping package is anything but garbage, as the previous speaker intoned.

It is, in fact, the essence of supporting our national security, our domestic security, and the welfare of our people. That is not garbage.

This sweeping package secures full-year appropriations for fiscal year 2023.

In reality, Mr. Speaker, this bill should have been passed in September of this year.

Why?

Because the fiscal year ends on September 30, and fiscal year 2023 begins on October 1 of this year.

The Senate had not passed a single appropriation bill by the end of the last fiscal year to provide for the fiscal year in which we are now operating. That ought to be unacceptable for the 535 of us who have been sent here to represent the American people in a responsible way and in a way that reflects that we are adults seized with the responsibility that the American people expect us to meet. Today, too late—but never too late to do the right thing—we will meet that responsibility.

I thank Chairwoman DELAURO, Ranking Member GRANGER, their col-

leagues and staff on the House Appropriations Committee, and the staff director, all who have worked round the clock to help us achieve an end which must be achieved every year. This does not come as a surprise to any of us that we have to fund the government of the United States of America.

So I thank each and every member of the staff of the House Appropriations Committee.

Indeed, I thank Mr. LEAHY and Mr. SHELBY, the chair and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee in the United States Senate. They wanted to get this job done. They wanted to get this job done in a timely fashion. But unfortunately, the United States Senate has become enamored with doing an omnibus at the last second. That ought to be a disappointment for every Member of this body and every American.

As an appropriator myself, I know how much work the committee and the staff perform behind the scenes to keep our government operating, and I commend them all for advancing all 12 of the regular appropriation bills for fiscal year 2023 out of their committee in June of this year—in June—while our colleagues in the Senate had not passed any by September 30.

We passed six of those bills through this House, Mr. Speaker. We sent them to the Senate, and they have not been taken up.

Indeed, for the last 4 years, our House majority has passed legislation to fund almost all of the government by the end of summer. Only, Mr. Speaker, by fulfilling this most basic duty can Congress start to make progress on its other obligations to the American people.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as you know and as my colleagues know, I am stepping down as the majority leader. But I am returning to the Appropriations Committee, and I pray that I will have some ability and can make some contribution to effecting a rational appropriations process which pursues regular order, and which understands that we ought to pass every appropriation bill through this House, every one, all 12, by the end of June, which accepts the premise in the United States Senate they ought to pass their appropriation bills by the end of June.

Then we ought to spend July, August, and September in resolving the differences that exist between the Senate and the House on funding priorities. Then by September 30, we will have passed all of those bills and we will have avoided this funding by crisis and avoided this last-minute, Christmas Eve performance of our duties.

Only by fulfilling this most basic duty can Congress start to make progress. We have a responsibility to address issues that undermine the strength and prosperity of American workers and families. That is why this omnibus includes measures to lower costs for Americans by expanding nutrition assistance programs, increasing

funding for childcare, making a greater investment in reducing monthly utility bills, and enhancing retirement savings.

That, Mr. Speaker, is not garbage. That is critical action that this House has a responsibility and a duty to our country and to our constituents to perform, and we should have performed it in a timely fashion. But as I said earlier, it is never too late to do the right thing. This is simply not the right way to do it, but it must, should, and will be done today.

From hurricanes to wildfires, natural disasters and the climate crisis are a growing threat to Americans across the country. Fortunately, this bill secures \$38 billion in supplemental appropriations to help these communities rebuild after disasters and strengthen themselves against future ones.

That is not garbage. That is essential action that this House and that the Senate and the President of the United States ought to perform. We ought to perform it in a timely fashion. But let me again repeat: it is never too late to do the right thing. And we will do that today.

This omnibus also advances Congress' sacred obligation to uphold American democracy. I congratulate the Thompson-Cheney committee for the report that it has issued to protect and preserve our Constitution and our democracy and to call attention to the American public that one person—one person, albeit a President of the United States—was the reason that our democracy and our Constitution and the election of our President was put at risk. I congratulate the members of that commission for the extraordinary courage that they have shown standing up, telling the truth, and letting the American people know why January 6 occurred and letting the American people know who was responsible—one person—for that threat to our democracy, our Constitution, and the election, a peaceful regular order election of the President of the United States.

This bill that we are going to consider includes provisions that reform the Electoral Count Act which we saw on that day of January 6 were wanting, were unclear, and were used incorrectly to put at risk our democracy.

The Electoral Count Act included in this bill will clarify, once and for all, that the Vice President's role in overseeing the count of electoral votes is purely ceremonial.

Let us thank Vice President Pence who had the courage and the intellectual integrity to pursue that premise that his duties were ceremonial only. Indeed, this provision points out that no individual neither can nor ought to be able to overturn the will of the American people.

This precaution, I tell my colleagues, will ensure that we never see a repeat of the shameful and malicious attack on our democracy on January 6 last year. Our obligation, Mr. Speaker, to uphold democracy and freedom also ex-

tends beyond our borders, especially to the people of Ukraine as they fight courageously and at great cost for their democracy and, indeed, for the democracy that exists in every nation that embraces democracy on this globe.

□ 0930

On Wednesday, President Zelenskyy made the perilous journey to speak with us about his country's struggle for freedom and democracy.

Winston Churchill, as Speaker PELOSI pointed out, visited this Chamber shortly after that day of infamy in December of 1941. His Nation, like President Zelenskyy's, was under siege from the Nazis, and he came to speak to us of freedom. He came to speak to us of our critical role in helping to defend freedom.

As John Kennedy said here and around the world, we are a beacon of freedom, a beacon of light; a city on the hill, a shining city, that Ronald Reagan referred to.

We are a Nation to whom other nations look for helping them to protect their freedom, but in a much larger sense, the freedom of all freedom-embracing people of the world.

That President Zelenskyy chose to come here to this Capitol on his first visit outside Ukraine since Russia's criminal invasion, risking his own life and safety, says as much about his personal courage as it does about our role in preserving democracy around the world.

On 9/11, people who hated freedom, people who hated the symbol of freedom, flew three planes: one into the World Trade Center; one into the Pentagon; and one, Mr. Speaker, that I am convinced was designed to decapitate the dome of the Capitol, that symbol of democracy for all the world, that symbol of our democracy.

They failed because of the courage of the passengers on the airliner designed to decapitate the Capitol and took it down and gave their own lives that that mission would not be completed as that plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania.

This bill invests in freedom. It invests in democracy. It invests in a world order based upon law and not based upon threats and military might.

America has the power to provide Ukraine with the tools needed to defend its freedom. This legislation includes nearly \$45 billion in additional aid to help Ukrainians in that critical, important, world-saving effort.

In his remarks on Wednesday, President Zelenskyy said that he needed our help, that he needed our support. He needed weapons with which to respond to Russia's criminal activities.

Today's counteroffensive by those who defend democracy has already liberated the people of Kherson, Kharkiv, Lyman, and other places in the Donbas.

Reporters ask me, Mr. Speaker: How much are you willing to spend to defend Ukraine?

My response, Mr. Speaker: Whatever it takes.

Freedom, as we know, is not free. Our Founding Fathers pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor against a great power, Great Britain, to give us freedom, to establish, as Lincoln pointed out, on the face of the Earth a "government of the people, by the people, for the people," not a government of force, not a government of intimidation, not a government of military might, but of the people, for the people, and by the people.

This bill reflects the American people's will to do just that. American aid allowed the Ukrainians to hold the line and push their invaders back.

As President Zelenskyy made clear to us on Wednesday night, his country will need our continued support to bring an end to this war, which must come by way of a strategic defeat for Vladimir Putin, one of the great war criminals in the history of the world. This aid is an investment in the future of democracy and the safety of the free world.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is a critically important piece of legislation, not only to keep our government funded and to keep our people being served, but also to show that the United States of America's government works.

The vote last night, Mr. Speaker, in the United States Senate was 68–29. Over two-thirds of the United States Senate stood and said that it is time to do our duty. They did it not because each and every one of those Senators thought that this bill was perfect. It is not.

This bill should, as I said earlier, have been passed in one form or another to fund all the objects of our government spending by September 30 of this year, but we must do it today—the earlier, the better.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in voting "yes," showing the world that we will never remain idle in the face of those who believe they can terrorize civilians, devour territory, and commit war crimes with impunity.

Vote "yes" to fulfill our duty to the American people and our Nation's founding principles.

Vote "yes" to keep our government open and serving the people.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I will return to the Appropriations Committee, and I look forward to working with Ms. DELAUNO; with the new chair of the committee; with Mrs. MURRAY, who is going to chair the committee in the United States Senate, Senator MURRAY; and with all of my Republican colleagues and Democratic colleagues to do our duty in a timely, effective fashion.

I urge all of my colleagues, as you listen, as you sit in this Chamber, as you reflect upon your service in the Congress of the United States and to our constituents, that you make a pledge to yourself, to your people, and to your country that this coming year, we will do our work in a timely and responsible fashion. Vote for this critically essential piece of legislation.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1082. An act to prohibit the unauthorized sale of ride-hailing signage and study the incidence of fatal and non-fatal assaults in TNC and for-hire vehicles in order to enhance safety and save lives.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2524. An act to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives or descendants of Alaska Natives from being used to determine eligibility for certain programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2708. An act to provide for greater consultation between the Federal Government and the governing bodies and community users of land grant-mercedes in New Mexico, to provide for a process for recognition of the historic-traditional uses of land grant-mercedes, and for other purposes.

S. 3046. An act to codify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain landscape-scale forest restoration projects, and for other purposes.

S. 3428. An act to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a Nuclear Fuel Security Program, expand the American Assured Fuel Supply Program, and submit a report on a civil nuclear credit program, and for other purposes.

S. 3873. An act to designate the outdoor amphitheater at the Blue Ridge Music Center in Galax, Virginia, as the "Rick Boucher Amphitheater".

S. 4105. An act to treat certain liquidations of new motor vehicle inventory as qualified liquidations of LIFO inventory for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 4321. An act to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation, to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 5357. An act to provide compensation for United States victims of Libyan state-sponsored terrorism, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 110-315, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, announces the re-appointment of the following member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity:

Michael Poliakoff of Virginia.

CONGRATULATING TYSON BAGENT AND THE SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY RAMS

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

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share some historic news out of the Second Congressional District of West Virginia.

Born and raised in the eastern panhandle, Tyson Bagent is the quarterback for the Shepherd University football team.

Last month, the Rams blew out host Indiana, 48-13, in the national quarterfinals. Bagent completed 19 of 28 passes for 231 yards and had four touchdowns.

Impressively, Tyson took the all-time lead for passing touchdowns in all NCAA college divisions with 158 in the game.

This remarkable achievement is just one of many for Tyson. He had a decorated career at Martinsburg High School, where he led the Bulldogs to consecutive Class AAA championships in 2016 and 2017.

Congratulations to Tyson, and I wish him and the Rams continued success.

SUPPORT THE OMNIBUS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise again to thank Leader HOYER for his masterful control and work on the floor of the House and thank him for his magic 1 minute.

I rise as well, as I hope to continue the debate, to encourage and say that there is no option but to support the omnibus that will come before us.

Mr. Speaker, 40 million children will have permanent healthcare through the CHIP program. \$24 billion will help to improve veterans' healthcare. What is needed by Americans is that mental health will now be a high priority in assisting the stabilization of our families.

I rise also to indicate my determination to reintroduce H.R. 7566, which it was this year, the No Trafficking Zones Act.

This legislation would have established a sentencing enhancement of up to 5 years for any person who commits an offense of child sex trafficking or coercion and enticement of a minor within 1,000 feet of a school zone.

Let me apprise this body, in 2020, 11,193 instances of potential human trafficking were reported by the United States, national human trafficking, and 25 percent of all that is in Texas, and these are children.

Mr. Speaker, it is crucial that we fight for children, and we get this bill—no sex trafficking in our school zones, no sex trafficking, no human trafficking. We are going to get it passed.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 42 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1037

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HIMES) at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2617, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023; RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4373, FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2023; RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1082, SAMI'S LAW; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MCGOVERN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 117-664) on the resolution (H. Res. 1531) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2617) to amend section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, to amend the description of how performance goals are achieved, and for other purposes; relating to consideration of the bill (H.R. 4373) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; relating to consideration of the bill (H.R. 1082) to prohibit the unauthorized sale of ride-hailing signage and study the incidence of fatal and non-fatal assaults in TNC and for-hire vehicles in order to enhance safety and save lives; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2617, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023; RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4373, FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2023; RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1082, SAMI'S LAW; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1531 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1531

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2617) to amend section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, to amend the description of how performance goals are achieved, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee that the House