

I support the intent of the crewing requirement language and am eager to support the development of our domestic shipbuilding and crewing capacity, but I cannot support the Coast Guard reauthorization with this language included.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member LARSEN for his commitment to working to resolve this issue, but I urge my colleagues to oppose this language in any legislative vehicle.

REINSTATING SERVICEMEMBERS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, we know from the Bible, under John 15:13, the phrase, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends," which is very applicable to our military willing to enlist and serve in that way to defend our country.

So, what is the reward? When the COVID farce hit, they were told initially by the President that we are not going to require injections, but that turned to: If you don't take this injection for COVID-19, you are going to be removed from the military.

That is what, indeed, happened to many servicemembers who said: I don't really wish, in this free country, to take an untested injection.

So, provisions we are making in the NDAA having to do with the COVID-19 vaccine so-called discharges continue the prohibition on adverse action for any servicemember that refused to take it but also gives them a path back to service.

We want to invite them to come back to serve. Recruitments are actually down during the summer season, but usually there is an uptick in people coming into the military. We need to do everything we can to provide an incentive and a welcoming atmosphere to come back to our military.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BERGMAN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LAMALFA. We need to treat time away from service for anybody that had to be kicked out and then reinstated as just a career intermission so it does not impact their future promotions negatively.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. LAMALFA. It prohibits the DOD from requiring cadets to repay tuition if they had to miss a period of time.

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

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HONORING GICELA ALEMAN

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

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, on May 6, our north Texas community was left scarred by the shooting at the Allen Premium Outlets. Nine people were killed, and seven others were injured.

Today, I rise to talk about the bravery and service of Gicela Aleman, a nurse and unsung hero, who that day was shopping at the outlet mall with her daughter.

After the gunman opened fire, he severely wounded Preeti Patel, a woman who was visiting family in north Texas and, like so many others, was just trying to do some shopping.

Amidst the chaos and violence, Gicela sprang into action. Using her training as a nurse, she grabbed Preeti and tried to slow her bleeding. After seeing that ambulances were struggling to get through security, she called the hospital and drove Preeti in her car with her daughter to the hospital in time to save her life.

Preeti is alive today because of Gicela, an amazing story that deserves a hero's praise. She and her daughter should not have had to be heroes that day, but they were and are. We thank them for representing the best of north Texas.

BIDENFLATION COSTS FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the irresponsible decisions of Biden and the liberal Democrats have caused inflation to reach a 40-year high, leaving American families in financial distress and jobs lost.

Bidenflation has increased the cost of everyday goods and services, reducing the annual purchasing power of families.

Worse, Biden unintentionally revealed the reality of these policies. Recently, describing his economic policies, Biden said: I don't know what Bidenomics is, but it's working.

The facts are inflation has caused costs to increase over the year. Lunch meats are up 6.2 percent. Margarine is up 23 percent. Flour is up 17 percent. Cereal and bakery products are up over 11 percent.

The Republican House majority is working to correct this by having recently passed the Fiscal Responsibility Act to rein in government overreach and limit inflationary spending, creating jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the global war on terrorism continues, moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with open Biden borders.

HIGHLIGHTING PRECISION GRAPHICS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight Precision Graphics, a family-owned electronics manufacturing and fulfillment facility in Snow Hill, North Carolina, my hometown.

It fills me with tremendous pride to witness our local business' growth and positive impact.

Precision Graphics, located just a block from my grandmother's home where I was raised, holds the resilience and strength of our community. While they have encountered supply chain challenges, the outlook is improving.

It is of utmost importance that we continue to support businesses like Precision Graphics and our STEM programs. We must restore hope and help young people across eastern North Carolina, rural America, and our country to live the American Dream.

Let's come together and work toward empowering our local businesses, fostering job creation, and contributing to the prosperity of our Nation.

SHORTAGE OF ELECTRIC UTILITY TRANSFORMERS

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, electric utility transformers provide a service that plays a pivotal role in the lives of Americans. Right now, there is a critical shortage of those transformers that enable America's electric grid. This shortage is keeping homes from being completed and hindering grid reliability as power utilities, co-ops, and energy producers try to keep up with demand.

Why is the Department of Energy hurting American consumers more by making a transformer shortage worse?

Mr. Speaker, that is why I rise as a proud supporter of the Protecting America's Distribution Transformer Supply Chain Act, which will delay the Department of Energy from imposing unnecessary mandates.

Our power sector, builders, and contractors need a ready supply of electric transformers. We must stop the administration from turning the lights out on American families, including my constituents in Idaho.

RECOGNIZING THE BALD EAGLE AREA HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

(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 with immense pride to recognize the extraordinary achievement of the Bald Eagle Area High School baseball team.

On June 17 at Penn State's Medlar Field at Lubrano Park, this team ascended to the PIAA AA throne after defeating Mount Union 11-0. BEA completed a 3-game sweep of Mount Union

this season, finishing with a 22–4 record.

Senior Tyler Serb threw a 2-hit shut-out and went 3-for-3, while the Eagles pounded out 10 hits in 4 at-bats.

Mr. Speaker, as an alum of Bald Eagle, I congratulate my alma mater team and the coaching staff on their hard work and impressive season. The team showed true grit and determination throughout the season as they worked their way to the State championship.

Congratulations again on this very impressive victory. Go Eagles.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2670, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 582 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 582

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2670) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and 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. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. 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 118-10, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived.

SEC. 2. (a) No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution.

(b) Each further amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules 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, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against the further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section 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, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 4. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment pursuant to this resolution, the Committee of the Whole shall rise without motion. No further consideration of the bill shall be in order except pursuant to a subsequent order of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my very good friend and the ranking member of the Committee on Rules, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 582.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Rules Committee met and reported out a rule, House Resolution 582, providing for consideration of H.R. 2670, the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA as we commonly know it, for fiscal year 2024, under a structured rule. It provides for 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services. It provides the Committee on Armed Services with en bloc authority so that the House can expeditiously consider hundreds of Member priorities.

I rise today in support of the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the NDAA is one of the most critical pieces of legislation the House considers each year. Congress has a constitutional obligation to provide for the common defense, and this is an obligation I know the House takes very seriously. Each year, the NDAA enables Congress to set appropriate defense policies, to provide guidance and direction to the armed forces, and above all, to set authorization levels for defense funding. Collectively, these efforts provide our warfighters

with the training, equipment, and strategy necessary to meet any challenge around the globe.

Congress has enacted the NDAA every year for the last 62 years. While we have a long road ahead of us, I am confident that we will do so again this year, and I am gratified that the House is moving forward with consideration of this measure on the floor.

Last month, the House Armed Services Committee reported out H.R. 2670 with an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 58–1. From a review of the bill, it is easy to see why.

□ 1230

H.R. 2670 authorizes \$886 billion for defense programs, an increase of \$28 billion. This funding level will ensure our men and women in uniform are equipped for all threats and are prepared and ready to defend freedom all around the globe.

In proposing this funding level, the Armed Services Committee stayed within the parameters of the funding levels set in the Fiscal Responsibility Act. Additionally, they identified nearly \$40 billion that was repurposed to respond to our current national security needs. This ensures that the tax dollars of hardworking Americans are being used in the most efficient and appropriate way possible.

H.R. 2670 includes a 5.2 percent pay increase for our servicemembers, the largest pay increase in over 20 years. It includes critical policies that will counter aggression from the Chinese Communist Party, advance investments in tools to counter emerging threats, and bolster the reliability of our supply chains. What is more, it includes critical oversight measures designed to ensure that defense dollars are wisely spent.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't stop there. H.R. 2670 also ensures that the Biden administration cannot continue to put policies ahead of national security. It rejects the Biden administration's efforts to indoctrinate our troops with progressive ideology like critical race theory training, and instead, ensures that the Pentagon's focus is where it should be, on military readiness and preparedness so that our warfighters can defeat aggression and defend freedom anywhere in the world.

In drafting H.R. 2670, the Armed Services Committee followed a robust bipartisan process. They considered 760 amendments during the markup and adopted 731 of them.

In preparing today's rule, the Rules Committee sought to continue this robust, collaborative process. We reviewed over 1,500 amendments, a record number. In keeping with our longstanding tradition at the Rules Committee, we welcomed any Member who wished to come testify about their amendments. Dozens of Members from both parties took part and educated the committee on their proposals for this bill, and, indeed, we would have welcomed dozens more.