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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Merciful God, how hard it is in these days of contest and contention not to keep score. Both outside and inside these Chambers, we are hardwired to tally wins and losses, but while this may be the nature of things, forgive us when we gloat over our enemy's loss, when we find ourselves selfishly satisfied when our opponent stumbles.

All around us there are countless situations where we find ourselves so inclined—internationally, when a hegemonic power suffers not just the loss of a certain battlefield advantage, but the devastating attrition of its young men and women sacrificed on the front line. In war, O God, there is no rejoicing. We pray for peace on both sides of the conflict in Ukraine and reconciliation for all who have suffered so terribly and unnecessarily.

So too we pray for ourselves as the battle lines have been drawn between parties, and the debate rages on all sides. Remind us once more that to disparage our opponent is no less an act of hubris than it is to celebrate when our adversary stumbles. Call us to our better selves—with hearts and minds governed by the compassion You have shown us time and again.

May Your mercy be our battle standard and Your love the weapon of our choosing.

In the peace we find only in Your 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 Ohio (Mr. CAREY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CAREY 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAREY). The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

REMEMBERING LINDA SHANER

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and memorialize community leader and advocate Linda Dale Shaner.

Linda graduated from Imperial High School in 1964 and dedicated her life to improving the lives of others.

She committed her time and energy to improving the health and well-being of those in her community, especially those in the Imperial Valley.

Despite her own diagnosis, Linda showed her passion for fighting cancer through her advocacy and volunteer work with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network for over 20 years and through her incredible contributions to working on policies at the local, State, and Federal levels.

Linda is survived by her husband Steve, daughters Stephanie and Christina, and grandchildren Steve and Avery.

A family and community mourns the loss of a loved one, an advocate, and a friend.

Today, we recognize her and thank her.

NO BUDGET, NO PAY

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, right now, we are on the path to a government shutdown caused by extremist Members who are unwilling to put politics aside, to do what is right for the country.

A government shutdown would be a disaster for North Carolina. It would leave 6,574 Federal workers in my district without a paycheck, it would jeopardize benefits for over 49,000 veterans in my district, and it would hurt our economy.

The last shutdown permanently cost our country \$3 billion. That was only a partial shutdown. We can't afford to do that again.

That is why I have introduced the No Budget, No Pay Act. This bill has a simple idea: Members of Congress shouldn't get paid if we don't do our jobs.

I am proud to say this bill now has bipartisan support in the House. I came to Congress to get things done, and I will continue to work in a bipartisan way to avoid a government shutdown and do what is right for North Carolina.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4365, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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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H4567

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 723 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4365.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4365) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with Mr. CAREY in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 4365, the fiscal year 2024 Defense Appropriations bill, which is a result of months of hearings, briefings, and engagements by all members of the subcommittee.

To provide for our strong national defense, this bill recommends \$826.45 billion for the Department of Defense and the intelligence community, which is \$27.8 billion above the fiscal year 2023 enacted level.

When I became chairman of the subcommittee, I made it clear to the Department they would not receive any blank checks. Any requests that lacked adequate justification, was early to when the funds were needed, had unjustified cost growth, or did not directly support DOD's mission would not be funded in the bill.

It is our constitutional obligation of Congress and this committee in particular to ensure the proper and appropriate use of taxpayer funds. At a time when the Department of Defense leadership is more focused on cultural issues than its warfighting mission, this obligation is more critical than ever.

I am proud to say that, due to the hard work of the members of the subcommittee, the bill funds our defense needs in a fiscally responsible manner.

Specifically, this bill cuts nearly \$20 billion from the President's misguided

request and reinvests these funds into warfighting capabilities and additional support for our servicemembers.

I also approached crafting this bill with a comprehensive strategy focused on specific lines of effort: investing in America's military superiority to deter the People's Republic of China; combating illicit fentanyl and synthetic opioids which are killing over 100,000 Americans every year; shaping a more efficient and effective workforce; creating a culture of innovation; enhancing oversight of all programs to ensure the appropriate use of taxpayer dollars; and taking care of servicemembers and their families.

To counter China, this bill doubles funding for the International Security Cooperation Programs for Taiwan, provides an additional \$200 million to accelerate the delivery of the E-7, prohibits the decommissioning of four ships to grow the fleet, adds aircraft like the F-35 and the CH-53K, continues investments in next-generation platforms, and supports recapitalization of the nuclear triad.

To enhance DOD's efforts to counter the flow of deadly drugs into the country, the bill includes a historic investment of \$1.1 billion in drug interdiction and counterdrug activities account, including increased funding for counter-narcotics support, demand reduction, the National Guard Counterdrug Program, and the National Guard Counterdrug Schools. The bill also moves Mexico into the SOUTHCOM area of responsibility, which will foster a more holistic approach to Latin-American security issues.

To drive reforms to the Department's workforce, this bill cuts over \$1 billion from the budget request for the Department's civilian workforce. This bill accomplishes this goal through attrition while exempting employees engaged in shipyard, depot, healthcare, and sexual assault and response duties.

I want to be clear. No one will be fired as a result of this language. During our analysis of the budget request, the services and agencies across DOD reported attrition rates as high as 14 percent. This bill directs DOD to adopt smart business practices to become more effective and efficient, which is desperately needed.

The bill also mandates a reassessment of DOD's manpower requirements, a plan to adopt technology to improve its business processes and provides \$751 million for the Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Office to further accelerate business modernization.

This multipronged approach is critical to create a physically sustainable and efficient workforce and is informed by previous Defense reform efforts.

Next, we are aware the Department must innovate faster to keep pace with global threats. To do this, the bill includes over \$1 billion to the Defense Innovation Unit to get needed capability into the hands of the warfighters. The bill focuses on near-term delivery of

capability and partnering with the private sector. We cannot continue to take decades to produce new systems or, even worse, invest billions into programs that must be eventually canceled due to nonperformance.

To bridge the valley of death, the bill includes \$300 million to expand the successful procurement pilot program, APFIT. Further, it creates a new portfolio to rapidly field commercial technologies for the warfighter through nontraditional entities within the Department.

To get the Department focused on its warfighting mission and away from culture wars, the bill includes a number of new general provisions to send a clear message to the Department. These include funding prohibitions on teaching critical race theory, facilitating access to abortions that attempt to ignore the long-standing Hyde amendment, overreach by the Biden administration on climate change, and promoting so-called diversity, equity, and inclusion programs.

The fact that the committee has to address these issues reflects the failure of the Department's leadership.

Finally, investments in weapons systems do not matter if we fail to invest in our most important resource, our servicemembers. With changes in this bill, junior enlisted servicemembers will receive an average pay increase of 30 percent. This will have a significant impact on recruitment, retention, and will improve the quality of life for our servicemembers and their families. I was shocked to see that the Biden administration opposed a pay increase in their Statement of Administration Policy.

As an appropriator, it is our responsibility to ensure our military has the resources necessary to deter conflict and, if we do get into a fight, that we win and they lose. This bill makes it clear to any adversary that challenging the United States military is not in their best interest.

Before I close, I will comment on the number of amendments we have received for this bill. I am supportive of this open, transparent, and inclusive process. However, we have to be mindful not to rob our readiness accounts to fund other priorities. I look forward to working with all Members on this as we move forward in the process.

Finally, I thank all the staff for the incredible work they do to vet the budget request, work with the Members, put forward recommendations, and assemble the final product.

As my ranking member and former chair, Ms. MCCOLLUM, knows, putting together this bill is not an easy task, so I thank her and her staff for their cooperation.

This is a strong bill for our servicemembers and their families.

I look forward to working with my friends on the other side of the aisle, the Senate, and the administration to enact a bill as soon as possible. Not doing so is a disservice to the men and

women of the United States Armed Forces.

I strongly urge support of this bill.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4365, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024.

As chair of the subcommittee last Congress, I understand fully the difficult process required to put this bill together. That is why I thank the minority staff here with me today, Jennifer Chartrand, Jason Gray, Farouk Ophaso, Ben Peterson, and Mike Clark in my personal office, and Johnnie Kaberle and the fabulous minority staff that gets to work with the great majority staff, who work so hard for all of us.

I wish the bill before us was more focused on our job as appropriators, on training and equipping our troops and ensuring that our servicemembers and their families have their needs met at home. That is why it is disappointing to see the majority use the appropriations process and the Defense bill to push an extreme social policy agenda.

The riders included in this bill divide. They do not unite. Here are just a few examples.

The bill prohibits the Department of Defense's policy to ensure that servicemembers and their families have access to leave and travel allowances for basic reproductive healthcare. The Department's policy is legal under Federal law. The Department of Justice has concluded that fact: "The Department of Defense may lawfully expend funds to pay for servicemembers and their dependents to travel to obtain abortions that DOD cannot itself perform due to statutory requirements."

Why is it important that the DOD itself cannot perform due to statutory requirements? Well, first, to be clear, I do not support the Hyde amendment, but let me address it and what this prohibition does even to services legal under the Hyde amendment. It prohibits the DOD from using funds or facilities to perform an abortion except in the cases of rape, incest, or when the life of the mother is in danger. That is not in keeping with the spirit of the Hyde amendment.

What does that mean to the nearly 20 percent of our force who are women? They do not get to choose where they serve. Eighty thousand of those women are stationed in States that restrict reproductive healthcare. If you serve in those States and are pregnant because of rape or are on a base that does not offer obstetrics and gynecology services, then you must travel. You must travel out of State for healthcare that you are entitled to.

This bill interprets the Hyde amendment in a way that was never intended. Many servicewomen and dependents will lose access to the exceptions of the Hyde amendment if they are not allowed to travel to seek the healthcare that they need.

This language, in fact, is a de facto national abortion ban, and I believe using our servicemembers to do that is shameful. Young women will refuse to serve. Women will exit the force because of this. Husbands and fathers will not want to serve in States where their families will be negatively impacted.

That is why I offered an amendment in the Committee on Rules to strike this provision, but the majority chose not to make it in order. I wish they had. I wish we all would have had the courage to bring this to the floor and allow a debate that our servicemembers deserve.

The majority has also cut programs for diversity, equity, and inclusion, which will discourage recruitment from all across America. The private sector is embracing programs like this to keep a happy, healthy, forceful workforce.

There is language in here that bans critical race theory, but it goes far beyond that, Mr. Chair. In fact, the bill seeks to define what can and cannot be taught in our military academies on whether or not certain topics cause discomfort. This language reads like a ban on teaching American history.

Sometimes facts are uncomfortable. As a former social studies teacher, I want you to know, Mr. Chair, I find this outrageous.

How can our military academies tell the history of the Civil War without teaching about slavery? That is uncomfortable.

How can they discuss the story and history of desegregation in the military without talking about the Jim Crow laws that our Black servicemembers had to struggle with when they returned home from war? That is uncomfortable.

We should be celebrating that the DOD is about to be led by two distinguished Black Americans for the first time in history, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs General C.Q. Brown, who is incoming to this position. Their service shows us how building a diverse workforce can take us into a proud future.

There are provisions in this bill that are offensive to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans, and that will impact who serves. The ban on gender-affirming care will drive transgender servicemembers out of the military.

Why, Mr. Chair, do we have an IRS provision on the tax treatment of individuals who hold the belief that marriage is a union between one man and one woman in this bill? It is not germane. Words matter.

Divisive riders will hurt the military, undermine readiness, and make our national security weaker. They must come out of this legislation if we are to gain bipartisan support for this to become law.

Now, turning to the numbers, the majority has funded this bill at \$826.4 billion, very close to the President's

budget, but I am concerned about cuts in two areas.

First, the majority has made a \$714 million cut to military climate programs and banned the assessment of climate impacts on the Department. We know that climate change is a national security threat, and it drives conflict. Ask our Indo-Pacific Commander. He will tell you that climate change impacts how United States forces operate.

Our military installations also face threats from climate change right here at home. Look at the \$10 billion in damage from severe weather events on installations, like Tyndall Air Force Base, Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, and Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. This spring alone, a typhoon seriously damaged Anderson Air Force Base in Guam to the tune of \$4 billion, and that is just the Air Force cost.

When we cut climate programs, we pay for it on the back end.

I also oppose the \$1.1 billion in cuts to civilian personnel in this bill. Ten years ago, Congress directed DOD to cut civilian personnel by \$10 billion over 5 years. We achieved no substantial savings. We shifted the workforce from civilian employees to expensive contractors.

Mr. Chair, I have a long history of bipartisan cooperation, and I am proud of that. I am confident that Chair CALVERT and I can find a way to get agreement in conference so that we can move the Defense spending levels forward, but I have to say again how disappointed I am that the majority has included these extreme social policy riders. They will undermine the force of today, discourage building the force of tomorrow, and leave us weaker as a nation.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, let's be clear about what critical race theory is. It is a divisive, leftwing intellectual construct that advances the notion that racism is systematic in our country's institutions. It advocates for race-based solutions and rejects equal opportunity in favor of equal outcomes.

My friends on the other side like to deride the prohibition in our bill for funding activities that promote, in part, condoning an individual feeling discomfort, guilt, or anguish. They claim that the bill will prohibit teaching uncomfortable historical truths, but they always omit the last part of that statement, which is "on account of that individual's race or sex."

Do my friends on the other side really want to fund activities that debase individuals because of their race or sex? I don't think so. I reject it, and this bill rejects it.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the

ranking member of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, which is so important to the defense of our Nation.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I rise to oppose this bill because it is incomprehensible to me that the majority would actually spend as much time—really, any time—on culture war riders and focusing on their extremist priorities as opposed to protecting the national security interests of our Nation.

Here we are, once again, considering a bill that has no chance of becoming law as we hurdle recklessly toward a costly government shutdown that will be damaging most importantly to the morale of our troops, which this bill purports to actually want to protect, and to the defense of our Nation.

Worse, this historically bipartisan national security bill has been hijacked by radical rightwing extremists. Instead of confronting grave national security threats like climate change, this bill is riddled with bigoted attacks on Americans who bravely serve our Nation. It needlessly politicizes the military and undermines the freedoms of those who risk their lives to protect ours.

My colleagues across the aisle were tasked with crafting a Defense bill that supports all of our servicemembers, not just those who are White, straight, and conservative, and they failed miserably on that mission.

I won't stand idly by as culture warriors try to undermine the service of LGBTQ+ individuals who bravely fought and continue to fight for our country every day.

To top it off, listen to this: The report that goes along with this bill puts the word “extremism” in quotes. Republicans can't even admit that this is a real concept or threat.

I plead with my Republican colleagues to put forward a Defense bill that focuses on the real needs of the members of our military, focuses on the actual national security interests of our country, and stops feeding the extremism that is actually emanating from their own party. I beg them to stop using this critical bill, one that we literally count on to keep every American family safe, as a disruptive wedge for partisan, discriminatory policies.

Keep America strong. Don't divide it.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE), a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of this year's Defense appropriations bill, and I thank Chairwoman GRANGER and Chairman CALVERT for their hard work in crafting this important bill.

Today, our Nation faces serious threats from our adversaries—in particular, the People's Republic of China. This legislation focuses on delivering the resources needed to counter these threats and to support our servicemembers and their families.

The bill includes one of the largest pay increases for our troops in years, particularly for our junior enlisted, as well as needed investments in next-generation fighter aircraft, submarines, and modernized tactical vehicles.

I am also pleased that the bill focuses on combating the illicit flow of opioids and fentanyl into the country, which is killing countless Americans on a daily basis.

The legislation takes needed steps to ensure that the DOD is focused on its core mission of being the most lethal and effective fighting force on the planet, not on advancing a woke agenda.

Lastly, I am pleased that the bill includes important Defense priorities in the State of Oklahoma, including funding to accelerate the E-7, which will be based at Tinker Air Force Base.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS), who is on the Committee on Foreign Affairs as well as a very important member of the Committee on Armed Services.

As many military leaders have told us, diplomacy, defense, and development go together. The more we don't spend in those venues, the more bullets we have to buy.

Ms. JACOBS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in a unique position to oppose this bill, especially section 8146.

I am proud to represent San Diego, the largest military community in the country. I am also proud to serve as one of the youngest Members of this body and the youngest woman on the House Committee on Armed Services.

I am in a unique position to understand the importance of access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion and fertility care for our servicemembers and their dependents, because, as a young woman, reproductive care is my healthcare. That is the case for the 1.62 million women of reproductive age in the military health system, too, not to mention our LGBTQ+ servicemembers, who already have difficulty accessing necessary care. This care is essential to our health, well-being, freedom, economic security, and empowerment, and for our national security, too.

That is why I am thankful for DOD's policy that covers the travel and transportation costs for abortion and fertility care, a policy that is consistent with the law. This is so important now that nearly half of all servicewomen are stationed in States with abortion restrictions because our servicemembers have little say in where they are stationed. They can't freely take days off work, and many can't afford to travel thousands of miles and pay out of pocket to receive the care they need and deserve.

DOD's policy took important steps to address those barriers and make our military more accessible and inclusive. That is why I will proudly fight for our servicemembers, who have fought so

much for all of us here today. The least we can do is ensure they have their necessary healthcare.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee.

If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill. My amendment would strike section 8146.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD the text of my amendment.

Ms. Jacobs moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4365 to the Committee on Appropriations with the following amendment:

Strike section 8146.

Ms. JACOBS. Mr. Chair, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

Before I yield, I will also mention that while I am opposed to this bill in general, I am very proud of a bipartisan amendment that we were able to get into the en bloc that would set aside \$5 million in additional funding to recruit and retain direct-care staff in CDCs.

I have heard time and again that staffing shortages are the main driver of our military childcare crisis. In my community that has sacrificed and served so much for us, recently, more than 4,000 military children were waiting for childcare spots at San Diego's military childcare centers. This amendment will help military families access the care they need so they can focus on the mission instead of wondering where their kids are placed or taken care of.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MIKE GARCIA), a member of the Committee on Appropriations and a champion for our members in the military.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman CALVERT for this historic bill, and I rise today in support of this very conservative DOD appropriations package.

I remind the American people that the purpose of the military is twofold. The first is to deter a war if diplomacy fails, to augment diplomacy in that deterrence. The second is, if by the exhaustion of all means we have to go to war, to actually give the American people the tools to win the war and keep our security. That is it, to deter a war and win a war.

This bill does exactly that. It trims the fat and removes the excess programs, the woke CRT programs, within the current policies under this administration. It also critically funds our Nation's most essential programs, like the F-35, the *Columbia*-class submarine, the B-21 Raider, which I am proud is made in my beautiful district, California's 27th Congressional District.

It removes Mexico from a command that is kind of an orphan right now by itself. During this open-border policy, we are now removing Mexico and putting it back into SOUTHCOM so that the combatant commanders can treat Mexico as the threat that it is to our

southern border and the influx of immigrants.

That is very important, but with all those things as important as they are—the weapons systems, the change of Mexico to SOUTHCOM—the single biggest thing that we are taking care of, the single biggest asset within our military that we are taking care of, is our troops.

I stood at this podium about 6 months ago and said I would not support a Defense Department spending bill or an NDAA that did not adequately address the pay issues, especially that our junior enlisted have right now. About a third of junior enlisted live below the poverty line. About a third of our enlisted qualify for food stamps right now.

I am very proud that our Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Defense was able to reconcile and address this adequately. The starting pay of a junior enlisted E1 was \$22,000 a year.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. The starting salary of an E1 in the military right now is \$22,000 a year. That is the equivalent of \$11 an hour.

This bill takes that to \$31,200, gives them parity with their civilian counterparts, and addresses the record-high civilian pay gap of our junior enlisted.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of the DOD appropriations package and a "yes" vote on the bill.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, everyone is welcome to serve in an All-Volunteer Army. We need everyone to feel that they are welcome to serve in our All-Volunteer Army, and that sometimes means doing a little extra outreach.

I had to do that with my military academies to let all the students know that this was a great opportunity for them to get a great education and serve our country.

It was outreach. It was inclusion. It reached out to diversity. It has made our military academies stronger for that.

The bottom line for me is, if you are willing to take the oath of office, if you are willing to put your life on the line for our country, and you can get through boot camp and want to serve our country, you are welcome to serve.

Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE), who is a fabulous member of the Subcommittee on Defense and invaluable in helping us understand our challenges in the Indo-Pacific.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this measure, and I must say to my friend and the chair of the subcommittee and to my majority colleagues that it is deeply frustrating and deeply regretful to have to stand in opposition to a bill that, in so many ways, is a very good bill.

My colleague Mr. GARCIA reflected in his comments just now on many provi-

sions of the bill with which I can agree. This bill does great things for the Indo-Pacific. It is eyes wide open to the threat of China. It funds the Pacific Deterrence Initiative. It provides for strengthening our relationships with allies and partners. It helps our servicemembers.

There is so much good in this bill, so what is so frustrating is to see it infected with the same kind of partisan provisions and divisive issues that, for a long time, have not been a part of the Subcommittee on Defense. This has been a refuge of sorts from the culture wars, from the division that we have seen elsewhere. It now no longer is, and this is the consequence.

The consequence is division in the Department of Defense and in our relations with and review of the Department of Defense, which should not be infected by these areas for a Department that is, again, very realistic about the threats we face.

My colleagues have talked about a lot of these issues already that create fatal flaws in this bill, but I am going to focus on one, and that is climate change. Oh, no. Let's not say those words, "climate change." Somehow, we are all supposed to react to this as if it is some kind of thing that we can put up on the shelf.

The Department of Defense does not ignore climate change. The Department of Defense has had its eyes wide open for decades now on the risks of climate change.

We can go back, for example, to January 2019, which is one of its most recent reports. This is a report from the DOD, "Report on Effects of a Changing Climate to the Department of Defense." Is that a better way to say it?

I quote from the executive summary: "The effects of a changing climate are a national security issue with potential impacts to the Department of Defense missions, operational plans, and installations. Our 2018 National Defense Strategy prioritizes long-term strategic competition with great power competitors. . . . To achieve these goals, DOD must be able to adapt current and future operations to address the impacts of a variety of threats and conditions, including those from weather and natural events. To that end, DOD factors in the effects of the environment into its mission planning and execution to build resilience."

That is pretty realistic on the part of the DOD. This is followed up by very definite reports, including the "Department of Defense Climate Adaptation Plan" from September 1, 2021; the "Climate Adaptation Plan 2022 Progress Report"; and the "Climate Risk Analysis," October 2021.

DOD is not ignoring this issue however you want to label it, nor can it. Shall we ignore the rise in sea level at Pearl Harbor, where we are investing billions and billions of dollars? Shall we ignore the consequences to Guam from hurricanes? Of course, we need to do this.

Let's get away from this approach of defunding climate risk analysis in the DOD.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, to my friend, we fund resilience in this bill. What we don't fund is electrifying Bradleys and tanks, which makes no sense.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I am prepared to close as we have no further speakers.

I say again how sad I am to be disappointed to see these divisive riders in the bill. They are all to gratify the extreme right of a few people in the Republican Party.

I also don't make a habit of complimenting the Senate, but we should take note that their appropriators are operating in a bipartisan fashion. Their Defense bill was passed out of committee 27-1 because it had no divisive language, and it made cooperation possible.

Go back and watch our markup of this Defense bill, and you just have to ask yourself: Are we doing our job as appropriators? We are not discussing our increasingly broken military healthcare system, which I have heard from military family and servicemembers, both here at home and when I have traveled abroad on bases; the lack of support for mental health; the lack of access, even here in the United States, to immediate healthcare concerns for themselves and their family members.

As I pointed out, we are solely now facing lack of obstetrics and gynecology on our military bases right here in the United States, making necessary the travel that the Department of Defense put in for women servicemembers and women family members to get their full healthcare needs.

We could be talking about the merits of supporting Ukraine and how the democracies are coming together to show Communism and terrorism that we stand united in our goals and principles; or we could be talking about how to jump-start shipbuilding to compete with what China is already doing in the Indo-Pacific, but we spent our markup arguing about extreme social policies that have no place in this bill.

Now we are running out of time with the shutdown fast approaching. Our servicemembers and their families have made a tremendous, considerable sacrifice to serve our Nation. The least we can do is give them a government that stays open and pays them on time.

Now, I know Chairwoman GRANGER and Chairman CALVERT and I believe that we can get this job done, but the majority must show that it can govern in a bipartisan fashion and work with us to get these bills done. That is what we have done plenty of times and what I am hopeful we will do in the future. For right now, I have to ask my colleagues to oppose this bill, and let's get the appropriations process back on a bipartisan track.

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments, and I know that eventually we will work out our differences, but, yes, I admit, this bill prohibits funding for drag queen story hour for kids and drag queens in recruitment. I had to choose between building ships or those kinds of decisions. I chose the ships.

With that, this debate going forward, I want to talk about the readiness of our military operations, building the necessary equipment to make sure that our men and women win any war that we may have to involve ourselves in. Hopefully none.

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

Ms. DELAUR. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to this Defense Appropriations Bill. This bill is historically an opportunity to come together on a bipartisan basis to make investments that further American leadership around the world, protect our national security, support American workers and servicemembers, and promote global democracy. I come from a defense state. I have always been proud that this bill creates jobs in Connecticut and boosts my district's long-term economy.

I have supported this critical legislation in the past. But I cannot support this bill, which harms our military readiness by undermining morale and failing to support our servicemembers with its divisive policy riders. Neither the Army, Navy nor the Air Force have been unable to meet their recruiting goals, and this bill will do nothing to rectify this situation—it will only make it harder to recruit and retain service members.

At a time when the Department of Defense is struggling to meet readiness goals, this bill cuts \$1.1 billion in salaries for civilian positions. Research, development, acquisition, and oversight efforts will all suffer from these drastic cuts. The work still needs to get done so the Department will have to hire contractors—which are more expensive and less bang for the buck.

And nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars cut from climate-related programs and a ban on the effort to reduce carbon pollution will tie our hands in the face of the national security risk that will define this century.

House Republicans are using annual funding bills as vehicles to further their goal of making abortion illegal nationally and spreading hate and discrimination. Republicans have once again discarded the majority of the American people's views and injected their own beliefs into the deeply personal health decisions of women and families. This bill bans funding for expenses incurred for the reproductive health care needs of servicemembers and their families.

When women consider serving in our nation's military, they should not have to weigh whether or not politicians in Washington, D.C. think they should have access to reproductive care. They should not worry that an unplanned pregnancy could disrupt their ability to serve or derail the plans they are making for their family. We should trust the American people to make these decisions for themselves—and we should especially trust those who have made the decision to selflessly serve in America's armed forces.

By using this legislation to attack LGBTQ+ servicemembers, ban funding for diversity efforts, and stand between American service personnel and their doctors, the majority is exchanging America's military readiness for cheap political points in the face of escalating conflicts abroad. The bill gives broad license to discriminate and protects disseminators of misinformation while limiting the free speech of those who express ideas the majority opposes.

This bill is dangerous, and this bill leaves women and minority servicemembers behind. Diversity of background and culture is and has long been the preeminent strength of our Nation's military. And it will continue to be. I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4365—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024.

This offensive attempt at an appropriations bill is being used by Republicans to sneak partisan and damaging policies under our noses.

H.R. 4365, which should be earnestly attempting to best support the Department of Defense, however, does not reflect the input of nearly half the Members of this body and is strongly opposed by the ranking members who sit on the very committee this bill originated from.

In order to further promote a culture war, the members who oversaw this bill are going to put many Americans at risk.

First, they are targeting the many brave servicewomen currently employed by the Department of Defense by directly going against the Secretary of Defense's promises for them to have access to reproductive healthcare regardless of their station.

Women currently make up 1 in 5 members of our military.

Denying them their previously promised ability to check their reproductive health is not only dangerous, but also grossly irresponsible.

The loss of these rights also increases the risk for low retention amongst female servicemembers who need these benefits this bill would strip away.

Second, the bill targets the LGBTQ+ community, who are increasingly victimized by Republican agendas around the country.

Regardless of your beliefs, it is important to treat everyone with respect and equality, which this bill does not do.

This bill would prohibit hormone therapy or surgical treatment for gender affirming care, directly affecting those who experience gender dysphoria.

Individuals who feel they do not belong in their own body is a serious issue and has led to 1 in 5 transgender and nonbinary young people attempting suicide in the past year.

Our priority as the legislative body of this country is to protect the wellbeing of ALL citizens, regardless of personal beliefs and ideologies.

The language in this legislation would further embolden those who wish to commit harm and violence against a minority group already facing so much hardship, both socially and legally.

This is unacceptable.

The lives and wellbeing of those who live across the country should not be put at risk simply to push a regressive agenda that does not promote the diversity of our nation but rather seeks to suppress it.

This brings me to my third point, which is the underhanded way Republicans sought to eliminate "Critical Race Theory" or "CRT".

Let me be clear: Republicans have a warped understanding of what this term means, and they are using it as a means to remove any diversity in education.

Critical Race Theory is a collegiate field of study that examines the complex ways in which race fits into the structures of our society; it is not an attack on white people for their history, just as it does not victimize Black people based on ours.

Based on an incorrect definition, Republican leaders at all levels of government have worked to eliminate all diverse viewpoints providing a complete framework of the history of this country, and instead wash over the negative to present a false narrative.

At the same time, legislation aimed at elementary schools against Critical Race Theory—which again, is only offered at the collegiate level—deprives diverse students of hearing their voice reflected accurately in the history of this multicultural nation.

Another issue with this Defense Appropriations bill is the cut of \$714 million to adapt military equipment to be more climate friendly.

Climate change is a crisis that requires global attention and efforts.

The refusal to even allow for updating our military alternative source of energy is regressive and promoted under a false message.

It was not Biden who indicated that he wanted an "all electric" fleet of tanks as is commonly stated, but rather the United States Army.

This part of the bill stands directly in the way of innovation as well as keeping us from doing our part in the world to strive towards a net zero future.

In 2020 alone, the United States military was responsible for 51 million tons of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere; more than most countries.

But now, when the U.S. Army decides for themselves that they want to scale back on their emissions, certain members in Congress want to limit their choice.

One bright spot of this bill—though it is short-lived—is the Jackson Lee Amendment [No. 90/No. 233] to H.R. 4365 that was made in order by the committee.

The Jackson Lee Amendment [No. 90/No. 233] to H.R. 4365 seeks to allocate \$10 million to fund triple negative breast cancer research.

This issue is extremely important, especially for the brave men and women in the military, who are up to 20–40 percent more likely to develop breast cancer.

I must offer my appreciation to both the military and the Biden administration for making research into breast cancer a priority, but there is still work to be done.

This amendment would allow for more research so we can one day hopefully learn a way to reduce the number of military personnel affected by breast cancer.

Several initiatives I have designed in the past have aided active-duty servicemen and women along with veterans, such as enforcing accurate reporting of maternity mortality rates among the Armed Forces, addressing physical and mental health concerns, and securing authorization for Triple Negative Breast Cancer as well as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

I am very proud of the work that I and Congress have done to address the health concerns of active duty and veteran servicemen

and women, but there are still improvements to be made.

The men and women who are on the front lines or have already completed their valiant service to this country have many pressing issues and challenges they already must face; breast cancer should not be one of them.

While this amendment is important, the negatives of this defense appropriations bill vastly outweigh this positive amendment—which is why H.R. 4365 must be voted down.

Access to abortion and fertility care is essential to a person's freedom, including for service members, to make decisions about their health and well-being, and having control over their economic security.

Anti-abortion policymakers want to take away service members' ability to make personal decisions about their health and safety.

We must defend their freedom to control their own bodies, lives, and futures.

These attacks on the Department of Defense's policies make it crystal clear: anti-abortion lawmakers will take any action to ensure people cannot access abortion care.

Anti-abortion lawmakers are pushing an extreme agenda to take away service members' freedom and autonomy, all while trying to claim they support those who serve.

Our service members fight and sacrifice for our freedoms.

Now, as lawmakers, we should be working to ensure to protect their freedoms—not trying to take their rights away.

Access to reproductive health care, including abortion and fertility care, is critical to safety and well-being.

As policymakers, we must ensure that all service members can access abortion care without barriers.

We aren't truly free unless we can control our own bodies, lives, and futures.

Our laws and policies should protect our rights, not try to control and dehumanize us.

The numbers are clear in the devastating impact this measure would have on those serving America.

The Military Health System serves approximately 1.62 million women of reproductive age (15–45), including service members, retirees, and their dependents.

As of 2021, there were 116,970 U.S. Armed Forces personnel stationed in Texas, the third most of any state in the Nation.

With Texas being the home to 59 military bases, active military personnel make up 422 out of every 100,000 people among Texas residents—the 16th highest share concentration among the 50 states.

There are currently 2,369,990 Military Health System beneficiaries living in one of the 14 states where abortion is either wholly or almost fully restricted or unavailable—with the state of Texas sadly being one of those states.

The percentage of active-duty service women who have no or severely restricted access to abortion care has increased to 46 percent.

This means that roughly half of all women currently serving in America's active-duty military have restricted access to the full suite of reproductive health care.

As of 2021, there were more than 708,000 Department of Defense civilians in the continental United States, over 250,000 of whom are women.

Roughly 275,000 Department of Defense civilians live in states with a full ban or extreme

restrictions on access to abortion, and of those civilians, over 81,000 are women.

Similar to their active-duty counterparts, nearly 43 percent of civilian women employed by Department of Defense will have no access to abortion or will have their access severely curtailed in their home states.

An estimated several thousand transgender men who may require abortion care also serve on active duty in the Armed Forces and in the reserve components, in addition to nonbinary members and those who identify with a different gender.

We cannot continue to deny our service members their most basic and fundamental healthcare needs.

It must stop now, and it must stop with the voting down of this severely harmful and outrageous bill.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WEBER of Texas). All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read.

H.R. 4365

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, for military functions administered by the Department of Defense and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I MILITARY PERSONNEL MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Army on active duty (except members of reserve components provided for elsewhere), cadets, and aviation cadets; for members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97–377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$50,230,906,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Navy on active duty (except members of the Reserve provided for elsewhere), midshipmen, and aviation cadets; for members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97–377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$50,230,906,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Marine Corps on active duty (except members of the Reserve provided for elsewhere); and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97–377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$37,615,388,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Marine Corps on active duty (except members of the Reserve provided for elsewhere); and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97–377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$898,928,000.

Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$15,556,629,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Air Force on active duty (except members of reserve components provided for elsewhere), cadets, and aviation cadets; for members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97–377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$36,512,530,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, SPACE FORCE

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Space Force on active duty and cadets; for members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97–377, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$1,239,573,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, ARMY

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Army Reserve on active duty under sections 10211, 10302, and 7038 of title 10, United States Code, or while serving on active duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$5,367,436,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, NAVY

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Navy Reserve on active duty under section 10211 of title 10, United States Code, or while serving on active duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$2,486,718,000.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Marine Corps Reserve on active duty under section 10211 of title 10, United States Code, or while serving on active duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty, and for members of the Marine Corps platoon leaders class, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$898,928,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Air Force Reserve on active duty under sections 10211, 10305, and 9038 of

title 10, United States Code, or while serving on active duty under section 12301(d) of title 10, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing reserve training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$2,459,466,000.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Army National Guard while on duty under sections 10211, 10302, or 12402 of title 10 or section 708 of title 32, United States Code, or while serving on duty under section 12301(d) of title 10 or section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$9,766,369,000.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Air National Guard on duty under sections 10211, 10305, or 12402 of title 10 or section 708 of title 32, United States Code, or while serving on duty under section 12301(d) of title 10 or section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$5,234,625,000.

TITLE II

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Army, as authorized by law, \$60,525,399,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$12,478,000 may be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended upon the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Army, and payments may be made upon the Secretary's certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Navy and the Marine Corps, as authorized by law, \$73,547,305,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$15,055,000 may be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended upon the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Navy, and payments may be made upon the Secretary's certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Marine Corps, as authorized by law, \$10,909,609,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Air Force, as authorized by law, \$63,460,822,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$7,699,000 may be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended upon the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Air Force, and payments may be made upon the Secretary's certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SPACE FORCE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Space Force, as authorized by law, \$4,890,886,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as authorized by law, \$52,453,715,000: *Provided*, That not more than \$2,981,000 may be used for the Combatant Commander Initiative Fund authorized under section 166a of title 10, United States Code: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$36,000,000 may be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended upon the approval or authority of the Secretary of Defense, and payments may be made upon the Secretary's certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, not less than \$55,000,000 shall be made available for the Procurement Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program, of which not less than \$5,000,000 shall be available for centers defined in 10 U.S.C. 2411(1)(D): *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to plan or implement the consolidation of a budget or appropriations liaison office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the office of the Secretary of a military department, or the service headquarters of one of the Armed Forces into a legislative affairs or legislative liaison office: *Provided further*, That \$25,968,000 to remain available until expended, is available only for expenses relating to certain classified activities, and may be transferred as necessary by the Secretary of Defense to operation and maintenance appropriations or research, development, test and evaluation appropriations, to be merged with and to be available for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That any ceiling on the investment item unit cost of items that may be purchased with operation and maintenance funds shall not apply to the funds described in the preceding proviso: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, \$2,304,649,000, of which \$1,343,580,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be available to provide support and assistance to foreign security forces or other groups or individuals to conduct, support or facilitate counterterrorism, crisis response, or other Department of Defense security cooperation programs: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall provide quarterly reports to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the use and status of funds made available in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

COUNTER-ISIS TRAIN AND EQUIP FUND

For the "Counter-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria Train and Equip Fund", \$397,950,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That such funds shall be available to the Secretary of Defense in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide assistance, including training; equipment; logistics support, supplies, and services; stipends; infrastructure repair and renovation; construction for facility fortification and humane treatment; and sustainment, to foreign security forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals participating, or preparing to participate in activities to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, and their af-

filiated or associated groups: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be available to provide assistance only for activities in a country designated by the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, as having a security mission to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, and following written notification to the congressional defense committees of such designation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that prior to providing assistance to elements of any forces or individuals, such elements or individuals are appropriately vetted, including at a minimum, assessing such elements for associations with terrorist groups or groups associated with the Government of Iran; and receiving commitments from such elements to promote respect for human rights and the rule of law: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not fewer than 15 days prior to obligating from this appropriation account, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such obligation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may accept and retain contributions, including assistance in-kind, from foreign governments, including the Government of Iraq and other entities, to carry out assistance authorized under this heading: *Provided further*, That contributions of funds for the purposes provided herein from any foreign government or other entity may be credited to this Fund, to remain available until expended, and used for such purposes: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall prioritize such contributions when providing any assistance for construction for facility fortification: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may waive a provision of law relating to the acquisition of items and support services or sections 40 and 40A of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780 and 2785) if the Secretary determines that such provision of law would prohibit, restrict, delay or otherwise limit the provision of such assistance and a notice of and justification for such waiver is submitted to the congressional defense committees, the Committees on Appropriations and Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives: *Provided further*, That the United States may accept equipment procured using funds provided under this heading that was transferred to security forces, irregular forces, or groups participating, or preparing to participate in activities to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and returned by such forces or groups to the United States, and such equipment may be treated as stocks of the Department of Defense upon written notification to the congressional defense committees: *Provided further*, That equipment procured using funds provided under this heading and not yet transferred to security forces, irregular forces, or groups participating, or preparing to participate in activities to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria may be treated as stocks of the Department of Defense when determined by the Secretary to no longer be required for transfer to such forces or groups and upon written notification to the congressional defense committees: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall provide quarterly reports to the congressional defense committees on the use of funds provided under this heading, including, but not limited to, the number of individuals trained, the nature and scope of support and sustainment provided to each group or individual, the area of operations for each group, and the contributions of other countries, groups, or individuals: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading for stipends for foreign security forces, irregular forces, groups,

or individuals participating, or preparing to participate in activities to counter ISIS in Syria, fifty percent shall not be available for obligation or expenditure until the Secretary of Defense reports to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that measures are in place to ensure accountability of such funds.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY RESERVE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance, including training, organization, and administration, of the Army Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; hire of passenger motor vehicles; travel and transportation; care of the dead; recruiting; procurement of services, supplies, and equipment; and communications, \$3,559,248,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY RESERVE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance, including training, organization, and administration, of the Navy Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; hire of passenger motor vehicles; travel and transportation; care of the dead; recruiting; procurement of services, supplies, and equipment; and communications, \$1,366,710,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS RESERVE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance, including training, organization, and administration, of the Marine Corps Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; hire of passenger motor vehicles; travel and transportation; care of the dead; recruiting; procurement of services, supplies, and equipment; and communications, \$323,395,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance, including training, organization, and administration, of the Air Force Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; hire of passenger motor vehicles; travel and transportation; care of the dead; recruiting; procurement of services, supplies, and equipment; and communications, \$4,056,196,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For expenses of training, organizing, and administering the Army National Guard, including medical and hospital treatment and related expenses in non-Federal hospitals; maintenance, operation, and repairs to structures and facilities; hire of passenger motor vehicles; personnel services in the National Guard Bureau; travel expenses (other than mileage), as authorized by law for Army personnel on active duty, for Army National Guard division, regimental, and battalion commanders while inspecting units in compliance with National Guard Bureau regulations when specifically authorized by the Chief, National Guard Bureau; supplying and equipping the Army National Guard as authorized by law; and expenses of repair, modification, maintenance, and issue of supplies and equipment (including aircraft), \$8,612,404,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For expenses of training, organizing, and administering the Air National Guard, including medical and hospital treatment and related expenses in non-Federal hospitals; maintenance, operation, and repairs to structures and facilities; transportation of things, hire of passenger motor vehicles; supplying and equipping the Air National Guard, as authorized by law; expenses for repair, modification, maintenance, and issue of

supplies and equipment, including those furnished from stocks under the control of agencies of the Department of Defense; travel expenses (other than mileage) on the same basis as authorized by law for Air National Guard personnel on active Federal duty, for Air National Guard commanders while inspecting units in compliance with National Guard Bureau regulations when specifically authorized by the Chief, National Guard Bureau, \$7,250,745,000.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED FORCES

For salaries and expenses necessary for the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, \$16,620,000, of which not to exceed \$10,000 may be used for official representation purposes.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, ARMY (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Department of the Army, \$198,760,000, to remain available until transferred: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Army shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of the Army, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Army, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, NAVY (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Department of the Navy, \$345,240,000, to remain available until transferred: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Navy shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris at sites formerly used by the Department of Defense, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Army, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, AIR FORCE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Department of the Air Force, \$359,744,000, to remain available until transferred: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Air Force shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of the Air Force, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Air Force, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the

appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, DEFENSE-WIDE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Department of Defense, \$8,965,000, to remain available until transferred: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of Defense, or for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of Defense, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Department of the Army, \$232,806,000, to remain available until transferred: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Army shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris at sites formerly used by the Department of Defense, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Army, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN, DISASTER, AND CIVIC AID

For expenses relating to the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid programs of the Department of Defense (consisting of the programs provided under sections 401, 402, 404, 407, 2557, and 2561 of title 10, United States Code), \$142,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION ACCOUNT

For assistance, including assistance provided by contract or by grants, under programs and activities of the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program authorized under the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Act, \$350,999,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT

For the Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Account, \$54,977,000:

Provided, That no other amounts may be otherwise credited or transferred to the Account, or deposited into the Account, in fiscal year 2024 pursuant to section 1705(d) of title 10, United States Code.

TITLE III
PROCUREMENT
AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of aircraft, equipment, including ordnance, ground handling equipment, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$3,030,767,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of missiles, equipment, including ordnance, ground handling equipment, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$3,030,767,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026.

PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS AND TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of weapons and tracked combat vehicles, equipment, including ordnance, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$3,943,584,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of ammunition, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including ammunition facilities, authorized by section 2854 of title 10, United States Code, and the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$2,971,928,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of vehicles, including

tactical, support, and non-tracked combat vehicles; the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only; communications and electronic equipment; other support equipment; spare parts, ordnance, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$8,679,516,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of aircraft, equipment, including ordnance, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, \$17,450,040,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026.

WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of missiles, torpedoes, other weapons, and related support equipment including spare parts, and accessories therefor; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, \$5,826,997,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of ammunition, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including ammunition facilities, authorized by section 2854 of title 10, United States Code, and the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$1,238,558,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026.

SHIPBUILDING AND CONVERSION, NAVY

For expenses necessary for the construction, acquisition, or conversion of vessels as authorized by law, including armor and armament thereof, plant equipment, appliances, and machine tools and installation thereof in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; procurement of critical, long lead time components and designs for vessels to be constructed or converted in the future; and expansion of public and private plants, including land necessary therefor, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title, as follows:

Columbia Class Submarine, \$2,443,598,000; Columbia Class Submarine (AP), \$3,390,734,000; Carrier Replacement Program (CVN-80), \$1,104,421,000; Carrier Replacement Program (CVN-81), \$800,492,000;

Virginia Class Submarine, \$7,129,965,000; Virginia Class Submarine (AP), \$3,215,539,000;

CVN Refueling Overhauls (AP), \$802,988,000; DDG-1000 Program, \$318,655,000;

DDG-51 Destroyer, \$4,199,179,000;

DDG-51 Destroyer (AP), \$284,035,000;

FFG-Frigate, \$2,133,861,000;

LHA Replacement, \$1,830,149,000;

AS Submarine Tender, \$1,544,595,000;

TAO Fleet Oiler, \$815,420,000;

LCU 1700, \$62,532,000;

Ship to Shore Connector, \$400,000,000;

Service Craft, \$85,115,000;

LCAC SLEP, \$15,286,000;

Auxiliary Vessels, \$142,008,000;

For outfitting, post delivery, conversions, and first destination transportation, \$539,681,000; and

Completion of Prior Year Shipbuilding Programs, \$1,648,559,000.

In all: \$32,906,812,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That additional obligations may be incurred after September 30, 2028, for engineering services, tests, evaluations, and other such budgeted work that must be performed in the final stage of ship construction: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading for the construction or conversion of any naval vessel to be constructed in shipyards in the United States shall be expended in foreign facilities for the construction of major components of such vessel: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading shall be used for the construction of any naval vessel in foreign shipyards: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act for Columbia Class Submarine (AP) may be available for the purposes authorized by subsections (f), (g), (h) or (i) of section 2218a of title 10, United States Code, only in accordance with the provisions of the applicable subsection.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For procurement, production, and modernization of support equipment and materials not otherwise provided for, Navy ordnance (except ordnance for new aircraft, new ships, and ships authorized for conversion); the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, \$13,675,677,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That such funds are also available for the maintenance, repair, and modernization of ships under a pilot program established for such purposes.

PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS

For expenses necessary for the procurement, manufacture, and modification of missiles, armament, military equipment, spare parts, and accessories therefor; plant equipment, appliances, and machine tools, and installation thereof in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; vehicles for the Marine Corps, including the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only; and expansion of public and private plants, including land necessary

therefor, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title, \$3,775,224,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For construction, procurement, and modification of aircraft and equipment, including armor and armament, specialized ground handling equipment, and training devices, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment; expansion of public and private plants, Government-owned equipment and installation thereof in such plants, erection of structures, and acquisition of land, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes including rents and transportation of things, \$20,196,409,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For construction, procurement, and modification of missiles, rockets, and related equipment, including spare parts and accessories therefor; ground handling equipment, and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, Government-owned equipment and installation thereof in such plants, erection of structures, and acquisition of land, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes including rents and transportation of things, \$4,401,753,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of ammunition, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including ammunition facilities, authorized by section 2854 of title 10, United States Code, and the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, \$642,448,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For procurement and modification of equipment (including ground guidance and electronic control equipment, and ground electronic and communication equipment), and supplies, materials, and spare parts therefor, not otherwise provided for; the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only; lease of passenger motor vehicles; and expansion of public and private plants, Government-owned equipment and installation thereof in such plants, erection of structures, and acquisition of land, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon, prior to approval of title; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, \$29,819,938,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026.

PROCUREMENT, SPACE FORCE

For construction, procurement, and modification of spacecraft, rockets, and related

equipment, including spare parts and accessories therefor; ground handling equipment, and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, Government-owned equipment and installation thereof in such plants, erection of structures, and acquisition of land, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes including rents and transportation of things, \$4,109,201,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026.

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) necessary for procurement, production, and modification of equipment, supplies, materials, and spare parts therefor, not otherwise provided for; the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only; expansion of public and private plants, equipment, and installation thereof in such plants, erection of structures, and acquisition of land for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, \$6,289,820,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT PURCHASES

For activities by the Department of Defense pursuant to sections 108, 301, 302, and 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4518, 4531, 4532, and 4533), \$618,605,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026, which shall be obligated and expended by the Secretary of Defense as if delegated the necessary authorities conferred by the Defense Production Act of 1950.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT ACCOUNT

For procurement of rotary-wing aircraft; combat, tactical and support vehicles; other weapons; and other procurement items for the reserve components of the Armed Forces, \$1,000,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That the Chiefs of National Guard and Reserve components shall, not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, individually submit to the congressional defense committees the modernization priority assessment for their respective National Guard or Reserve component: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by this paragraph may be used to procure manned fixed wing aircraft, or procure or modify missiles, munitions, or ammunition.

TITLE IV

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, ARMY

For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evaluation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, \$16,758,462,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, NAVY

For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evaluation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, \$27,690,777,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That funds appropriated in

this paragraph which are available for the V-22 may be used to meet unique operational requirements of the Special Operations Forces.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, AIR FORCE

For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evaluation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, \$46,479,858,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, SPACE FORCE

For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evaluation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, \$18,839,144,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evaluation; advanced research projects as may be designated and determined by the Secretary of Defense, pursuant to law; maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, \$36,782,566,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025.

OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the independent activities of the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, in the direction and supervision of operational test and evaluation, including initial operational test and evaluation which is conducted prior to, and in support of, production decisions; joint operational testing and evaluation; and administrative expenses in connection therewith, \$285,444,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025.

TITLE V

REVOLVING AND MANAGEMENT FUNDS

DEFENSE WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS

For the Defense Working Capital Funds, \$1,666,779,000.

NATIONAL DEFENSE STOCKPILE TRANSACTION FUND

For the National Defense Stockpile Transaction Fund, \$7,629,000, for activities pursuant to the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act (50 U.S.C. 98 et seq.).

TITLE VI

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, for medical and health care programs of the Department of Defense as authorized by law, \$39,365,472,000; of which \$36,826,743,000 shall be for operation and maintenance, of which not to exceed one percent shall remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025, and of which up to \$19,762,352,000 may be available for contracts entered into under the TRICARE program; of which \$381,881,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026, shall be for procurement; and of which \$2,156,848,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025, shall be for research, development, test and evaluation: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, of the amount made available under this heading for research, development, test and evaluation, not less than \$12,000,000 shall be available for HIV prevention educational activities undertaken in

connection with United States military training, exercises, and humanitarian assistance activities conducted primarily in African nations: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading for research, development, test and evaluation, not less than \$1,154,000,000 shall be made available to the Defense Health Agency to carry out the congressionally directed medical research programs: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees quarterly reports on the current status of the electronic health record program: *Provided further*, That the Comptroller General of the United States shall perform quarterly performance reviews of the electronic health record program.

CHEMICAL AGENTS AND MUNITIONS DESTRUCTION, DEFENSE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the destruction of the United States stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions in accordance with the provisions of section 1412 of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1986 (50 U.S.C. 1521), and for the destruction of other chemical warfare materials that are not in the chemical weapon stockpile, \$1,091,844,000, of which \$89,284,000 shall be for operation and maintenance, of which no less than \$57,875,000 shall be for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, consisting of \$23,676,000 for activities on military installations and \$34,199,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to assist State and local governments; and \$1,002,560,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be for research, development, test and evaluation, of which \$1,000,467,000 shall only be for the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program.

DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For drug interdiction and counter-drug activities of the Department of Defense, for transfer to appropriations available to the Department of Defense for military personnel of the reserve components serving under the provisions of title 10 and title 32, United States Code; for operation and maintenance; for procurement; and for research, development, test and evaluation, \$1,162,161,000, of which \$693,848,000 shall be for counter-narcotics support; \$138,313,000 shall be for the drug demand reduction program; \$300,000,000 shall be for the National Guard counter-drug program; and \$30,000,000 shall be for the National Guard counter-drug schools program: *Provided*, That the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for obligation for the same time period and for the same purpose as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority contained elsewhere in this Act: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be used to support a new start program or project only after written prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses and activities of the Office of the Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$506,629,000, of which \$502,131,000 shall be for operation and maintenance, of which not to exceed \$700,000 is

available for emergencies and extraordinary expenses to be expended upon the approval or authority of the Inspector General, and payments may be made upon the Inspector General's certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes; of which \$1,098,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026, shall be for procurement; and of which \$3,400,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be for research, development, test and evaluation.

**TITLE VII
RELATED AGENCIES**

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM FUND

For payment to the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System Fund, to maintain the proper funding level for continuing the operation of the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, \$514,000,000.

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses of the Intelligence Community Management Account, \$608,820,000.

**TITLE VIII
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SEC. 8001. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used for publicity or propaganda purposes not authorized by the Congress.

SEC. 8002. During the current fiscal year, provisions of law prohibiting the payment of compensation to, or employment of, any person not a citizen of the United States shall not apply to personnel of the Department of Defense: *Provided*, That salary increases granted to direct and indirect hire foreign national employees of the Department of Defense funded by this Act shall not be at a rate in excess of the percentage increase authorized by law for civilian employees of the Department of Defense whose pay is computed under the provisions of section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, or at a rate in excess of the percentage increase provided by the appropriate host nation to its own employees, whichever is higher: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to Department of Defense foreign service national employees serving at United States diplomatic missions whose pay is set by the Department of State under the Foreign Service Act of 1980: *Provided further*, That the limitations of this provision shall not apply to foreign national employees of the Department of Defense in the Republic of Turkey.

SEC. 8003. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 8004. No more than 20 percent of the appropriations in this Act which are limited for obligation during the current fiscal year shall be obligated during the last 2 months of the fiscal year: *Provided*, That this section shall not apply to obligations for support of active duty training of reserve components or summer camp training of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8005. Upon determination by the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Secretary may, with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget, transfer not to exceed \$6,000,000,000 of working capital funds of the Department of Defense or funds made available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military functions (except military construction) between such appropriations or funds or any subdivision thereof, to be merged with and to be available for the

same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided*, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on unforeseen military requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by the Congress: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the Congress promptly of all transfers made pursuant to this authority or any other authority in this Act: *Provided further*, That no part of the funds in this Act shall be available to prepare or present a request to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for reprogramming of funds, unless for higher priority items, based on unforeseen military requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which reprogramming is requested has been denied by the Congress: *Provided further*, That a request for multiple reprogrammings of funds using authority provided in this section shall be made prior to June 30, 2024: *Provided further*, That transfers among military personnel appropriations shall not be taken into account for purposes of the limitation on the amount of funds that may be transferred under this section.

SEC. 8006. (a) With regard to the list of specific programs, projects, and activities (and the dollar amounts and adjustments to budget activities corresponding to such programs, projects, and activities) contained in the tables titled Explanation of Project Level Adjustments in the explanatory statement regarding this Act and the tables contained in the classified annex accompanying this Act, the obligation and expenditure of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act for those programs, projects, and activities are hereby required by law to be carried out in the manner provided by such tables to the same extent as if the tables were included in the text of this Act.

(b) Amounts specified in the referenced tables described in subsection (a) shall not be treated as subdivisions of appropriations for purposes of section 8005 of this Act: *Provided*, That section 8005 shall apply when transfers of the amounts described in subsection (a) occur between appropriation accounts.

SEC. 8007. (a) Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department of Defense shall submit a report to the congressional defense committees to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for fiscal year 2024: *Provided*, That the report shall include—

(1) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the President's budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(2) a delineation in the table for each appropriation both by budget activity and program, project, and activity as detailed in the Budget Appendix; and

(3) an identification of items of special congressional interest.

(b) Notwithstanding section 8005 of this Act, none of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for reprogramming or transfer until the report identified in subsection (a) is submitted to the congressional defense committees, unless the Secretary of Defense certifies in writing to the congressional defense committees that such reprogramming or transfer is necessary as an emergency requirement: *Provided*, That this subsection shall not apply to transfers from the following appropriations accounts:

(1) "Environmental Restoration, Army";

- (2) "Environmental Restoration, Navy";
- (3) "Environmental Restoration, Air Force";
- (4) "Environmental Restoration, Defense-Wide";
- (5) "Environmental Restoration, Formerly Used Defense Sites"; and
- (6) "Drug Interdiction and Counter-drug Activities, Defense".

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8008. During the current fiscal year, cash balances in working capital funds of the Department of Defense established pursuant to section 2208 of title 10, United States Code, may be maintained in only such amounts as are necessary at any time for cash disbursements to be made from such funds: *Provided*, That transfers may be made between such funds: *Provided further*, That transfers may be made between working capital funds and the "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Defense" appropriation and the "Operation and Maintenance" appropriation accounts in such amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense, with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget, except that such transfers may not be made unless the Secretary of Defense has notified the Congress of the proposed transfer: *Provided further*, That except in amounts equal to the amounts appropriated to working capital funds in this Act, no obligations may be made against a working capital fund to procure or increase the value of war reserve material inventory, unless the Secretary of Defense has notified the Congress prior to any such obligation.

SEC. 8009. Funds appropriated by this Act may not be used to initiate a special access program without prior notification 30 calendar days in advance to the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 8010. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be available to initiate: (1) a multiyear contract that employs economic order quantity procurement in excess of \$20,000,000 in any one year of the contract or that includes an unfunded contingent liability in excess of \$20,000,000; or (2) a contract for advance procurement leading to a multiyear contract that employs economic order quantity procurement in excess of \$20,000,000 in any one year, unless the congressional defense committees have been notified at least 30 days in advance of the proposed contract award: *Provided*, That no part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to initiate a multiyear contract for which the economic order quantity advance procurement is not funded at least to the limits of the Government's liability: *Provided further*, That no part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to initiate multiyear procurement contracts for any systems or component thereof if the value of the multiyear contract would exceed \$500,000,000 unless specifically provided in this Act: *Provided further*, That no multiyear procurement contract can be terminated without 30-day prior notification to the congressional defense committees: *Provided further*, That the execution of multiyear authority shall require the use of a present value analysis to determine lowest cost compared to an annual procurement: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this Act may be used for a multiyear contract executed after the date of the enactment of this Act unless in the case of any such contract—

(1) the Secretary of Defense has submitted to Congress a budget request for full funding of units to be procured through the contract and, in the case of a contract for procurement of aircraft, that includes, for any aircraft unit to be procured through the contract for which procurement funds are re-

quested in that budget request for production beyond advance procurement activities in the fiscal year covered by the budget, full funding of procurement of such unit in that fiscal year;

(2) cancellation provisions in the contract do not include consideration of recurring manufacturing costs of the contractor associated with the production of unfunded units to be delivered under the contract;

(3) the contract provides that payments to the contractor under the contract shall not be made in advance of incurred costs on funded units; and

(4) the contract does not provide for a price adjustment based on a failure to award a follow-on contract.

Funds appropriated in title III of this Act may be used for multiyear procurement contracts for Naval Strike Missile, Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System, PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 Missile Segment Enhancement, Long Range Anti-Ship Missile, Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile, and USS Virginia Class (SSN-774).

SEC. 8011. Within the funds appropriated for the operation and maintenance of the Armed Forces, funds are hereby appropriated pursuant to section 401 of title 10, United States Code, for humanitarian and civic assistance costs under chapter 20 of title 10, United States Code: *Provided*, That such funds may also be obligated for humanitarian and civic assistance costs incidental to authorized operations and pursuant to authority granted in section 401 of title 10, United States Code, and these obligations shall be reported as required by section 401(d) of title 10, United States Code: *Provided further*, That funds available for operation and maintenance shall be available for providing humanitarian and similar assistance by using Civic Action Teams in the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands and freely associated states of Micronesia, pursuant to the Compact of Free Association as authorized by Public Law 99-239: *Provided further*, That upon a determination by the Secretary of the Army that such action is beneficial for graduate medical education programs conducted at Army medical facilities located in Hawaii, the Secretary of the Army may authorize the provision of medical services at such facilities and transportation to such facilities, on a nonreimbursable basis, for civilian patients from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and Guam.

SEC. 8012. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before the Congress.

SEC. 8013. None of the funds available in this Act to the Department of Defense, other than appropriations made for necessary or routine refurbishments, upgrades, or maintenance activities, shall be used to reduce or to prepare to reduce the number of deployed and non-deployed strategic delivery vehicles and launchers below the levels set forth in the report submitted to Congress in accordance with section 1042 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8014. (a) Funds appropriated in title III of this Act for the Department of Defense Pilot Mentor-Protégé Program may be transferred to any other appropriation contained in this Act solely for the purpose of implementing a Mentor-Protégé Program developmental assistance agreement pursuant to section 831 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101-510; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note), as amended,

under the authority of this provision or any other transfer authority contained in this Act.

(b) The Secretary of Defense shall include with the budget justification documents in support of the budget for fiscal year 2025 (as submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code) a description of each transfer under this section that occurred during the last fiscal year before the fiscal year in which such budget is submitted.

SEC. 8015. None of the funds in this Act may be available for the purchase by the Department of Defense (and its departments and agencies) of welded shipboard anchor and mooring chain unless the anchor and mooring chain are manufactured in the United States from components which are substantially manufactured in the United States: *Provided*, That for the purpose of this section, the term "manufactured" shall include cutting, heat treating, quality control, testing of chain and welding (including the forging and shot blasting process): *Provided further*, That for the purpose of this section substantially all of the components of anchor and mooring chain shall be considered to be produced or manufactured in the United States if the aggregate cost of the components produced or manufactured in the United States exceeds the aggregate cost of the components produced or manufactured outside the United States: *Provided further*, That when adequate domestic supplies are not available to meet Department of Defense requirements on a timely basis, the Secretary of the Service responsible for the procurement may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that such an acquisition must be made in order to acquire capability for national security purposes.

SEC. 8016. None of the funds appropriated by this Act shall be used for the support of any nonappropriated funds activity of the Department of Defense that procures malt beverages and wine with nonappropriated funds for resale (including such alcoholic beverages sold by the drink) on a military installation located in the United States unless such malt beverages and wine are procured within that State, or in the case of the District of Columbia, within the District of Columbia, in which the military installation is located: *Provided*, That, in a case in which the military installation is located in more than one State, purchases may be made in any State in which the installation is located: *Provided further*, That such local procurement requirements for malt beverages and wine shall apply to all alcoholic beverages only for military installations in States which are not contiguous with another State: *Provided further*, That alcoholic beverages other than wine and malt beverages, in contiguous States and the District of Columbia shall be procured from the most competitive source, price and other factors considered.

SEC. 8017. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense may be used to demilitarize or dispose of M-1 Carbines, M-1 Garand rifles, M-14 rifles, .22 caliber rifles, .30 caliber rifles, or M-1911 pistols, or to demilitarize or destroy small arms ammunition or ammunition components that are not otherwise prohibited from commercial sale under Federal law, unless the small arms ammunition or ammunition components are certified by the Secretary of the Army or designee as unserviceable or unsafe for further use.

SEC. 8018. No more than \$500,000 of the funds appropriated or made available in this Act shall be used during a single fiscal year

for any single relocation of an organization, unit, activity or function of the Department of Defense into or within the National Capital Region: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the congressional defense committees that such a relocation is required in the best interest of the Government.

SEC. 8019. In addition to the funds provided elsewhere in this Act, \$25,000,000 is appropriated only for incentive payments authorized by section 504 of the Indian Financing Act of 1974 (25 U.S.C. 1544): *Provided*, That a prime contractor or a subcontractor at any tier that makes a subcontract award to any subcontractor or supplier as defined in section 1544 of title 25, United States Code, or a small business owned and controlled by an individual or individuals defined under section 4221(9) of title 25, United States Code, shall be considered a contractor for the purposes of being allowed additional compensation under section 504 of the Indian Financing Act of 1974 (25 U.S.C. 1544) whenever the prime contract or subcontract amount is over \$500,000 and involves the expenditure of funds appropriated by an Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense with respect to any fiscal year: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 1906 of title 41, United States Code, this section shall be applicable to any Department of Defense acquisition of supplies or services, including any contract and any subcontract at any tier for acquisition of commercial items produced or manufactured, in whole or in part, by any subcontractor or supplier defined in section 1544 of title 25, United States Code, or a small business owned and controlled by an individual or individuals defined under section 4221(9) of title 25, United States Code.

SEC. 8020. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Air Force may convey at no cost to the Air Force, without consideration, to Indian tribes located in the States of Nevada, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Oregon, Minnesota, and Washington relocatable military housing units located at Grand Forks Air Force Base, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Ellsworth Air Force Base, and Minot Air Force Base that are excess to the needs of the Air Force.

(b) The Secretary of the Air Force shall convey, at no cost to the Air Force, military housing units under subsection (a) in accordance with the request for such units that are submitted to the Secretary by the Operation Walking Shield Program on behalf of Indian tribes located in the States of Nevada, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Oregon, Minnesota, and Washington. Any such conveyance shall be subject to the condition that the housing units shall be removed within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) The Operation Walking Shield Program shall resolve any conflicts among requests of Indian tribes for housing units under subsection (a) before submitting requests to the Secretary of the Air Force under subsection (b).

(d) In this section, the term "Indian tribe" means any recognized Indian tribe included on the current list published by the Secretary of the Interior under section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-454; 108 Stat. 4792; 25 U.S.C. 5131).

SEC. 8021. Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Defense under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide", not less than \$20,000,000 shall be made available only for the mitigation of environmental impacts, including training and technical assistance to tribes, related adminis-

trative support, the gathering of information, documenting of environmental damage, and developing a system for prioritization of mitigation and cost to complete estimates for mitigation, on Indian lands resulting from Department of Defense activities.

SEC. 8022. Funds appropriated by this Act for the Defense Media Activity shall not be used for any national or international political or psychological activities.

SEC. 8023. (a) Of the funds made available in this Act, not less than \$68,100,000 shall be available for the Civil Air Patrol Corporation, of which—

(1) \$55,100,000 shall be available from "Operation and Maintenance, Air Force" to support Civil Air Patrol Corporation operation and maintenance, readiness, counter-drug activities, and drug demand reduction activities involving youth programs;

(2) \$11,000,000 shall be available from "Aircraft Procurement, Air Force"; and

(3) \$2,000,000 shall be available from "Other Procurement, Air Force" for vehicle procurement.

(b) The Secretary of the Air Force should waive reimbursement for any funds used by the Civil Air Patrol for counter-drug activities in support of Federal, State, and local government agencies.

SEC. 8024. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act are available to establish a new Department of Defense (department) federally funded research and development center (FFRDC), either as a new entity, or as a separate entity administrated by an organization managing another FFRDC, or as a nonprofit membership corporation consisting of a consortium of other FFRDCs and other nonprofit entities.

(b) No member of a Board of Directors, Trustees, Overseers, Advisory Group, Special Issues Panel, Visiting Committee, or any similar entity of a defense FFRDC, and no paid consultant to any defense FFRDC, except when acting in a technical advisory capacity, may be compensated for his or her services as a member of such entity, or as a paid consultant by more than one FFRDC in a fiscal year: *Provided*, That a member of any such entity referred to previously in this subsection shall be allowed travel expenses and per diem as authorized under the Federal Joint Travel Regulations, when engaged in the performance of membership duties.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds available to the Department from any source during the current fiscal year may be used by a defense FFRDC, through a fee or other payment mechanism, for construction of new buildings not located on a military installation, for payment of cost sharing for projects funded by Government grants, for absorption of contract overruns, or for certain charitable contributions, not to include employee participation in community service and/or development.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of

law, of the funds available to the department during fiscal year 2024, not more than \$2,885,000,000 may be funded for professional technical staff-related costs of the defense FFRDCs: *Provided*, That within such funds, not more than \$456,803,000 shall be available for the defense studies and analysis FFRDCs: *Provided further*, That this subsection shall not apply to staff years funded in the National Intelligence Program and the Military Intelligence Program: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, with the submission of the department's fiscal year 2025 budget request, submit a report presenting the specific amounts of staff years of technical effort to be allocated for each defense FFRDC by program during that fiscal year and the associated budget estimates, by appropriation account and program: *Provided further*, That this subsection shall not apply

to appropriations for the National Intelligence Program and Military Intelligence Program.

SEC. 8025. For the purposes of this Act, the term "congressional defense committees" means the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives, the Armed Services Committee of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 8026. For the purposes of this Act, the term "congressional intelligence committees" means the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 8027. During the current fiscal year, the Department of Defense may acquire the modification, depot maintenance and repair of aircraft, vehicles and vessels as well as the production of components and other Defense-related articles, through competition between Department of Defense depot maintenance activities and private firms: *Provided*, That the Senior Acquisition Executive of the military department or Defense Agency concerned, with power of delegation, shall certify that successful bids include comparable estimates of all direct and indirect costs for both public and private bids: *Provided further*, That Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 shall not apply to competitions conducted under this section.

SEC. 8028. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be expended by an entity of the Department of Defense unless the entity, in expending the funds, complies with the Buy American Act. For purposes of this subsection, the term "Buy American Act" means chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code.

(b) If the Secretary of Defense determines that a person has been convicted of intentionally affixing a label bearing a "Made in America" inscription to any product sold in or shipped to the United States that is not made in America, the Secretary shall determine, in accordance with section 4658 of title 10, United States Code, whether the person should be debarred from contracting with the Department of Defense.

(c) In the case of any equipment or products purchased with appropriations provided under this Act, it is the sense of the Congress that any entity of the Department of Defense, in expending the appropriation, purchase only American-made equipment and products, provided that American-made equipment and products are cost-competitive, quality competitive, and available in a timely fashion.

SEC. 8029. None of the funds appropriated or made available in this Act shall be used to procure carbon, alloy, or armor steel plate for use in any Government-owned facility or property under the control of the Department of Defense which were not melted and rolled in the United States or Canada: *Provided*, That these procurement restrictions shall apply to any and all Federal Supply Class 9515, American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) or American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) specifications of carbon, alloy or armor steel plate: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the military department responsible for the procurement may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that adequate domestic supplies are not available to meet

Department of Defense requirements on a timely basis and that such an acquisition must be made in order to acquire capability for national security purposes: *Provided further*, That these restrictions shall not apply to contracts which are in being as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8030. (a)(1) If the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the United States Trade Representative, determines that a foreign country which is party to an agreement described in paragraph (2) has violated the terms of the agreement by discriminating against certain types of products produced in the United States that are covered by the agreement, the Secretary of Defense shall rescind the Secretary's blanket waiver of the Buy American Act with respect to such types of products produced in that foreign country.

(2) An agreement referred to in paragraph (1) is any reciprocal defense procurement memorandum of understanding, between the United States and a foreign country pursuant to which the Secretary of Defense has prospectively waived the Buy American Act for certain products in that country.

(b) The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Congress a report on the amount of Department of Defense purchases from foreign entities in fiscal year 2024. Such report shall separately indicate the dollar value of items for which the Buy American Act was waived pursuant to any agreement described in subsection (a)(2), the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), or any international agreement to which the United States is a party.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term "Buy American Act" means chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code.

SEC. 8031. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used for the procurement of ball and roller bearings other than those produced by a domestic source and of domestic origin: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the military department responsible for such procurement may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, that adequate domestic supplies are not available to meet Department of Defense requirements on a timely basis and that such an acquisition must be made in order to acquire capability for national security purposes: *Provided further*, That this restriction shall not apply to the purchase of "commercial products", as defined by section 103 of title 41, United States Code, except that the restriction shall apply to ball or roller bearings purchased as end items.

SEC. 8032. None of the funds in this Act may be used to purchase any supercomputer which is not manufactured in the United States, unless the Secretary of Defense certifies to the congressional defense committees that such an acquisition must be made in order to acquire capability for national security purposes that is not available from United States manufacturers.

SEC. 8033. (a) The Secretary of Defense may, on a case-by-case basis, waive with respect to a foreign country each limitation on the procurement of defense items from foreign sources provided in law if the Secretary determines that the application of the limitation with respect to that country would invalidate cooperative programs entered into between the Department of Defense and the foreign country, or would invalidate reciprocal trade agreements for the procurement of defense items entered into under section 4851 of title 10, United States Code, and the country does not discriminate against the same or similar defense items produced in the United States for that country.

(b) Subsection (a) applies with respect to—

(1) contracts and subcontracts entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) options for the procurement of items that are exercised after such date under contracts that are entered into before such date if the option prices are adjusted for any reason other than the application of a waiver granted under subsection (a).

(c) Subsection (a) does not apply to a limitation regarding construction of public vessels, ball and roller bearings, food, and clothing or textile materials as defined by section XI (chapters 50–65) of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States and products classified under headings 4010, 4202, 4203, 6401 through 6406, 6505, 7019, 7218 through 7229, 7304.41 through 7304.49, 7306.40, 7502 through 7508, 8105, 8108, 8109, 8211, 8215, and 9404.

SEC. 8034. None of the funds made available in this Act, or any subsequent Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense, may be used for the purchase or manufacture of a flag of the United States unless such flags are treated as covered items under section 4862(b) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 8035. During the current fiscal year, amounts contained in the Department of Defense Overseas Military Facility Investment Recovery Account shall be available until expended for the payments specified by section 2687a(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 8036. During the current fiscal year, appropriations which are available to the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance may be used to purchase items having an investment item unit cost of not more than \$350,000: *Provided*, That upon determination by the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary to meet the operational requirements of a Commander of a Combatant Command engaged in a named contingency operation overseas, such funds may be used to purchase items having an investment item unit cost of not more than \$500,000.

SEC. 8037. Up to \$11,000,000 of the funds appropriated under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Navy" may be made available for the Asia Pacific Regional Initiative Program for the purpose of enabling the United States Indo-Pacific Command to execute Theater Security Cooperation activities such as humanitarian assistance, and payment of incremental and personnel costs of training and exercising with foreign security forces: *Provided*, That funds made available for this purpose may be used, notwithstanding any other funding authorities for humanitarian assistance, security assistance or combined exercise expenses: *Provided further*, That funds may not be obligated to provide assistance to any foreign country that is otherwise prohibited from receiving such type of assistance under any other provision of law.

SEC. 8038. The Secretary of Defense shall issue regulations to prohibit the sale of any tobacco or tobacco-related products in military resale outlets in the United States, its territories and possessions at a price below the most competitive price in the local community: *Provided*, That such regulations shall direct that the prices of tobacco or tobacco-related products in overseas military retail outlets shall be within the range of prices established for military retail system stores located in the United States.

SEC. 8039. (a) During the current fiscal year, none of the appropriations or funds available to the Department of Defense Working Capital Funds shall be used for the purchase of an investment item for the purpose of acquiring a new inventory item for sale or anticipated sale during the current fiscal year or a subsequent fiscal year to customers of the Department of Defense Working Capital Funds if such an item would not

have been chargeable to the Department of Defense Business Operations Fund during fiscal year 1994 and if the purchase of such an investment item would be chargeable during the current fiscal year to appropriations made to the Department of Defense for procurement.

(b) The fiscal year 2025 budget request for the Department of Defense as well as all justification material and other documentation supporting the fiscal year 2025 Department of Defense budget shall be prepared and submitted to the Congress on the basis that any equipment which was classified as an end item and funded in a procurement appropriation contained in this Act shall be budgeted for in a proposed fiscal year 2025 procurement appropriation and not in the supply management business area or any other area or category of the Department of Defense Working Capital Funds.

SEC. 8040. None of the funds appropriated by this Act for programs of the Central Intelligence Agency shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, except for funds appropriated for the Reserve for Contingencies, which shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That funds appropriated, transferred, or otherwise credited to the Central Intelligence Agency Central Services Working Capital Fund during this or any prior or subsequent fiscal year shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That any funds appropriated or transferred to the Central Intelligence Agency for advanced research and development acquisition, for agent operations, and for covert action programs authorized by the President under section 503 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3093) shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That any funds appropriated or transferred to the Central Intelligence Agency for the construction, improvement, or alteration of facilities, including leased facilities, to be used primarily by personnel of the intelligence community, shall remain available until September 30, 2026.

SEC. 8041. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), none of the funds made available by this Act may be used—

(1) to establish a field operating agency; or
(2) to pay the basic pay of a member of the Armed Forces or civilian employee of the department who is transferred or reassigned from a headquarters activity if the member or employee's place of duty remains at the location of that headquarters.

(b) The Secretary of Defense or Secretary of a military department may waive the limitations in subsection (a), on a case-by-case basis, if the Secretary determines, and certifies to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the granting of the waiver will reduce the personnel requirements or the financial requirements of the department.

(c) This section does not apply to—

(1) field operating agencies funded within the National Intelligence Program;

(2) an Army field operating agency established to eliminate, mitigate, or counter the effects of improvised explosive devices, and, as determined by the Secretary of the Army, other similar threats;

(3) an Army field operating agency established to improve the effectiveness and efficiencies of biometric activities and to integrate common biometric technologies throughout the Department of Defense; or

(4) an Air Force field operating agency established to administer the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Program and Mortuary Operations for the Department of Defense and authorized Federal entities.

SEC. 8042. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act shall be available to convert to contractor performance an activity

or function of the Department of Defense that, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, is performed by Department of Defense civilian employees unless—

(1) the conversion is based on the result of a public-private competition that includes a most efficient and cost effective organization plan developed by such activity or function;

(2) the Competitive Sourcing Official determines that, over all performance periods stated in the solicitation of offers for performance of the activity or function, the cost of performance of the activity or function by a contractor would be less costly to the Department of Defense by an amount that equals or exceeds the lesser of—

(A) 10 percent of the most efficient organization's personnel-related costs for performance of that activity or function by Federal employees; or

(B) \$10,000,000; and

(3) the contractor does not receive an advantage for a proposal that would reduce costs for the Department of Defense by—

(A) not making an employer-sponsored health insurance plan available to the workers who are to be employed in the performance of that activity or function under the contract; or

(B) offering to such workers an employer-sponsored health benefits plan that requires the employer to contribute less towards the premium or subscription share than the amount that is paid by the Department of Defense for health benefits for civilian employees under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code.

(b)(1) The Department of Defense, without regard to subsection (a) of this section or subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 2461 of title 10, United States Code, and notwithstanding any administrative regulation, requirement, or policy to the contrary shall have full authority to enter into a contract for the performance of any commercial or industrial type function of the Department of Defense that—

(A) is included on the procurement list established pursuant to section 2 of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (section 8503 of title 41, United States Code);

(B) is planned to be converted to performance by a qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or by a qualified nonprofit agency for other severely handicapped individuals in accordance with that Act; or

(C) is planned to be converted to performance by a qualified firm under at least 51 percent ownership by an Indian tribe, as defined in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)), or a Native Hawaiian Organization, as defined in section 8(a)(15) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(15)).

(2) This section shall not apply to depot contracts or contracts for depot maintenance as provided in sections 2469 and 2474 of title 10, United States Code.

(c) The conversion of any activity or function of the Department of Defense under the authority provided by this section shall be credited toward any competitive or outsourcing goal, target, or measurement that may be established by statute, regulation, or policy and is deemed to be awarded under the authority of, and in compliance with, subsection (h) of section 2304 of title 10, United States Code, for the competition or outsourcing of commercial activities.

(RESCISSESS)

SEC. 8043. Of the funds appropriated in Department of Defense Appropriations Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts

that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985:

“Missile Procurement, Army”, 2022/2024, \$9,093,000;

“Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army”, 2022/2024, \$1,900,000; “Other Procurement, Army”, 2022/2024, \$44,681,000;

“Aircraft Procurement, Navy”, 2022/2024, \$1,428,000;

“Weapons Procurement, Navy”, 2022/2024, \$13,058,000;

“Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps”, 2022/2024, \$1,012,000; “Other Procurement, Navy”, 2022/2024, \$2,975,000;

“Cooperative Threat Reduction Account”, 2022/2024, \$75,000,000;

“Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide”, 2023/2024, \$75,000,000;

“Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund”, 2023/2024, \$50,000,000;

“Other Procurement, Army”, 2023/2025, \$4,066,000;

“Aircraft Procurement, Navy”, 2023/2025, \$10,033,000;

“Weapons Procurement, Navy”, 2023/2025, \$53,139,000;

“Other Procurement, Navy”, 2023/2025, \$1,550,000;

“Procurement, Marine Corps”, 2023/2025, \$155,304,000;

“Other Procurement, Air Force”, 2023/2025, \$45,000,000;

“Procurement, Defense-Wide”, 2023/2025, \$32,148,000;

“Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force”, 2023/2024, \$29,300,000;

“Army Working Capital Fund”, XXXX/XXXX, \$100,000,000; and

“Navy Working Capital Fund”, XXXX/XXXX, \$100,000,000.

SEC. 8044. None of the funds available in this Act may be used to reduce the authorized positions for military technicians (dual status) of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve and Air Force Reserve for the purpose of applying any administratively imposed civilian personnel ceiling, freeze, or reduction on military technicians (dual status), unless such reductions are a direct result of a reduction in military force structure.

SEC. 8045. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be obligated or expended for assistance to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea unless specifically appropriated for that purpose: *Provided*, That this restriction shall not apply to any activities incidental to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency mission to recover and identify the remains of United States Armed Forces personnel from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

SEC. 8046. Funds appropriated in this Act for operation and maintenance of the Military Departments, Combatant Commands and Defense Agencies shall be available for reimbursement of pay, allowances and other expenses which would otherwise be incurred against appropriations for the National Guard and Reserve when members of the National Guard and Reserve provide intelligence or counterintelligence support to Combatant Commands, Defense Agencies and Joint Intelligence Activities, including the activities and programs included within the National Intelligence Program and the Military Intelligence Program: *Provided*, That nothing in this section authorizes deviation from established Reserve and National Guard personnel and training procedures.

SEC. 8047. (a) None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for any fiscal year for drug interdiction or counter-drug

activities may be transferred to any other department or agency of the United States except as specifically provided in an appropriations law.

(b) None of the funds available to the Central Intelligence Agency for any fiscal year for drug interdiction or counter-drug activities may be transferred to any other department or agency of the United States except as specifically provided in an appropriations law.

SEC. 8048. In addition to the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available elsewhere in this Act, \$49,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Defense: *Provided*, That upon the determination of the Secretary of Defense that it shall serve the national interest, the Secretary shall make grants in the amounts specified as follows: \$24,000,000 to the United Service Organizations and \$25,000,000 to the Red Cross: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this section may be used to encourage, guide, or otherwise assist in migration towards the United States southwest border.

SEC. 8049. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Act, the Small Business Innovation Research program and the Small Business Technology Transfer program set-asides shall be taken proportionally from all programs, projects, or activities to the extent they contribute to the extramural budget. The Secretary of each military department, the Director of each Defense Agency, and the head of each other relevant component of the Department of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees, concurrent with submission of the budget justification documents to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a report with a detailed accounting of the Small Business Innovation Research program and the Small Business Technology Transfer program set-asides taken from programs, projects, or activities within such department, agency, or component during the most recently completed fiscal year.

SEC. 8050. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense under this Act shall be obligated or expended to pay a contractor under a contract with the Department of Defense for costs of any amount paid by the contractor to an employee when—

(1) such costs are for a bonus or otherwise in excess of the normal salary paid by the contractor to the employee; and

(2) such bonus is part of restructuring costs associated with a business combination.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8051. During the current fiscal year, no more than \$30,000,000 of appropriations made in this Act under the heading “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide” may be transferred to appropriations available for the pay of military personnel, to be merged with, and to be available for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred, to be used in support of such personnel in connection with support and services for eligible organizations and activities outside the Department of Defense pursuant to section 2012 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 8052. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau may permit the use of equipment of the National Guard Distance Learning Project by any person or entity on a space-available, reimbursable basis. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall establish the amount of reimbursement for such use on a case-by-case basis.

(b) Amounts collected under subsection (a) shall be credited to funds available for the National Guard Distance Learning Project

and be available to defray the costs associated with the use of equipment of the project under that subsection. Such funds shall be available for such purposes without fiscal year limitation.

SEC. 8053. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or prior Acts may be obligated or expended to retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage or on backup aircraft inventory status any C-40 aircraft.

(b) The limitation under subsection (a) shall not apply to an individual C-40 aircraft that the Secretary of the Air Force determines, on a case-by-case basis, to be no longer mission capable due to a Class A mishap.

(c) If the Secretary determines under subsection (b) that an aircraft is no longer mission capable, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a certification in writing that the status of such aircraft is due to a Class A mishap and not due to lack of maintenance, repairs, or other reasons.

(d) Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the necessary steps taken by the Department of Defense to meet the travel requirements for official or representational duties of members of Congress and the Cabinet in fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

SEC. 8054. (a) None of the funds appropriated in title IV of this Act may be used to procure end-items for delivery to military forces for operational training, operational use, or inventory requirements: *Provided*, That this restriction does not apply to end-items used in development, prototyping in accordance with an approved test strategy, and test activities preceding and leading to acceptance for operational use.

(b) If the number of end-items budgeted with funds appropriated in title IV of this Act exceeds the number required in an approved test strategy, the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering) and the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), in coordination with the responsible Service Acquisition Executive, shall certify in writing to the congressional defense committees that there is a bona fide need for the additional end-items at the time of submittal to Congress of the budget of the President for fiscal year 2025 pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided*, That this restriction does not apply to programs funded within the National Intelligence Program.

(c) The Secretary of Defense shall, at the time of the submittal to Congress of the budget of the President for fiscal year 2025 pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, submit to the congressional defense committees a report detailing the use of funds requested in research, development, test and evaluation accounts for end-items used in development, prototyping and test activities preceding and leading to acceptance for operational use: *Provided*, That the report shall set forth, for each end item covered by the preceding proviso, a detailed list of the statutory authorities under which amounts in the accounts described in that proviso were used for such item: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, at the time of the submittal to Congress of the budget of the President for fiscal year 2025 pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, submit to the congressional defense committees a certification that funds requested for fiscal year 2025 in research, development, test and evaluation accounts are in compliance with this section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis

by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that it is in the national security interest to do so.

SEC. 8055. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or other Department of Defense Appropriations Acts may be obligated or expended for the purpose of performing repairs or maintenance to military family housing units of the Department of Defense, including areas in such military family housing units that may be used for the purpose of conducting official Department of Defense business.

SEC. 8056. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated in this Act under the heading "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide" for any new start defense innovation acceleration or rapid prototyping program demonstration project with a value of more than \$5,000,000 may only be obligated 15 days after a report, including a description of the project, the planned acquisition and transition strategy and its estimated annual and total cost, has been provided in writing to the congressional defense committees: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying to the congressional defense committees that it is in the national interest to do so.

SEC. 8057. The Secretary of Defense shall continue to provide a classified quarterly report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, Subcommittees on Defense on certain matters as directed in the classified annex accompanying this Act.

SEC. 8058. Notwithstanding section 12310(b) of title 10, United States Code, a service-member who is a member of the National Guard serving on full-time National Guard duty under section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, may perform duties in support of the ground-based elements of the National Ballistic Missile Defense System.

SEC. 8059. None of the funds provided in this Act may be used to transfer to any non-governmental entity ammunition held by the Department of Defense that has a center-fire cartridge and a United States military nomenclature designation of "armor penetrator", "armor piercing (AP)", "armor piercing incendiary (API)", or "armor-piercing incendiary tracer (API-T)", except to an entity performing demilitarization services for the Department of Defense under a contract that requires the entity to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department of Defense that armor piercing projectiles are either: (1) rendered incapable of reuse by the demilitarization process; or (2) used to manufacture ammunition pursuant to a contract with the Department of Defense or the manufacture of ammunition for export pursuant to a License for Permanent Export of Unclassified Military Articles issued by the Department of State.

SEC. 8060. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, or their designee, may waive payment of all or part of the consideration that otherwise would be required under section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, in the case of a lease of personal property for a period not in excess of 1 year to any organization specified in section 508(d) of title 32, United States Code, or any other youth, social, or fraternal nonprofit organization as may be approved by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, or their designee, on a case-by-case basis.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8061. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Army", \$175,943,968 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*,

That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Defense is authorized to transfer such funds to other activities of the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense is authorized to enter into and carry out contracts for the acquisition of real property, construction, personal services, and operations related to projects carrying out the purposes of this section: *Provided further*, That contracts entered into under the authority of this section may provide for such indemnification as the Secretary determines to be necessary: *Provided further*, That projects authorized by this section shall comply with applicable Federal, State, and local law to the maximum extent consistent with the national security, as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 8062. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this or any other Act may be used to take any action to modify—

(1) the appropriations account structure for the National Intelligence Program budget, including through the creation of a new appropriation or new appropriation account;

(2) how the National Intelligence Program budget request is presented in the unclassified P-1, R-1, and O-1 documents supporting the Department of Defense budget request;

(3) the process by which the National Intelligence Program appropriations are apportioned to the executing agencies; or

(4) the process by which the National Intelligence Program appropriations are allotted, obligated and disbursed.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to prohibit the merger of programs or changes to the National Intelligence Program budget at or below the Expenditure Center level, provided such change is otherwise in accordance with paragraphs (1)–(3) of subsection (a).

(c) The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense may jointly, only for the purposes of achieving auditable financial statements and improving fiscal reporting, study and develop detailed proposals for alternative financial management processes. Such study shall include a comprehensive counterintelligence risk assessment to ensure that none of the alternative processes will adversely affect counterintelligence.

(d) Upon development of the detailed proposals defined under subsection (c), the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) provide the proposed alternatives to all affected agencies;

(2) receive certification from all affected agencies attesting that the proposed alternatives will help achieve auditability, improve fiscal reporting, and will not adversely affect counterintelligence; and

(3) not later than 30 days after receiving all necessary certifications under paragraph (2), present the proposed alternatives and certifications to the congressional defense and intelligence committees.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8063. During the current fiscal year, not to exceed \$11,000,000 from each of the appropriations made in title II of this Act for "Operation and Maintenance, Army", "Operation and Maintenance, Navy", and "Operation and Maintenance, Air Force" may be transferred by the military department concerned to its central fund established for Fisher Houses and Suites pursuant to section 2493(d) of title 10, United States Code.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8064. In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, \$5,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Defense, to remain available for obligation until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, that upon the determination of the Secretary of Defense that it

shall serve the national interest, these funds shall be available only for a grant to the Fisher House Foundation, Inc., only for the construction and furnishing of additional Fisher Houses to meet the needs of military family members when confronted with the illness or hospitalization of an eligible military beneficiary.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8065. Of the amounts appropriated for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, up to \$1,000,000 shall be available for transfer to the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Development Trust Fund established under section 116 of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Act (2 U.S.C. 1105).

SEC. 8066. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense may be obligated to modify command and control relationships to give Fleet Forces Command operational and administrative control of United States Navy forces assigned to the Pacific fleet: *Provided*, That the command and control relationships which existed on October 1, 2004, shall remain in force until a written modification has been proposed to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided further*, That the proposed modification may be implemented 30 days after the notification unless an objection is received from either the House or Senate Appropriations Committees: *Provided further*, That any proposed modification shall not preclude the ability of the commander of United States Indo-Pacific Command to meet operational requirements.

SEC. 8067. Any notice that is required to be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate under section 3601 of title 10, United States Code, as added by section 804(a) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, after the date of the enactment of this Act shall be submitted pursuant to that requirement concurrently to the Subcommittees on Defense of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8068. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the headings “Procurement, Defense-Wide” and “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide”, \$500,000,000 shall be for the Israeli Cooperative Programs: *Provided*, That of this amount, \$80,000,000 shall be for the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Government of Israel for the procurement of the Iron Dome defense system to counter short-range rocket threats, subject to the U.S.-Israel Iron Dome Procurement Agreement, as amended; \$127,000,000 shall be for the Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense (SRBMD) program, including cruise missile defense research and development under the SRBMD program; \$40,000,000 shall be for co-production activities of SRBMD systems in the United States and in Israel to meet Israel’s defense requirements consistent with each nation’s laws, regulations, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israeli co-production agreement for SRBMD, as amended; \$80,000,000 shall be for an upper-tier component to the Israeli Missile Defense Architecture, of which \$80,000,000 shall be for co-production activities of Arrow 3 Upper Tier systems in the United States and in Israel to meet Israel’s defense requirements consistent with each nation’s laws, regulations, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israeli co-production agreement for Arrow 3 Upper Tier, as amended; and \$173,000,000 shall be for the Arrow System Improvement Program including development of a long range, ground and air-borne, detection suite: *Provided further*, That

the transfer authority provided under this provision is in addition to any other transfer authority contained in this Act.

SEC. 8069. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, \$1,648,559,000 shall be available until September 30, 2024, to fund prior year shipbuilding cost increases for the following programs:

(1) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2013/2024: Carrier Replacement Program, \$624,600,000;

(2) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2015/2024: Virginia Class Submarine Program, \$43,419,000;

(3) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2016/2024: Virginia Class Submarine Program, \$100,115,000;

(4) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2016/2024: DDG-51 Destroyer, \$104,090,000;

(5) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2017/2024: Virginia Class Submarine Program, \$24,646,000;

(6) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2017/2024: DDG-51 Destroyer, \$121,827,000;

(7) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2017/2024: LPD-17, \$16,520,000;

(8) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2018/2024: Ship to Shore Connector Program, \$43,600,000;

(9) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2019/2024: Littoral Combat Ship, \$23,000,000;

(10) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2019/2024: TAO Fleet Oiler, \$27,060,000;

(11) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2020/2024: CVN Refueling Overhauls, \$42,422,000;

(12) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2020/2024: TAO Fleet Oiler, \$93,250,000;

(13) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2020/2024: Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ship Program, \$1,150,000;

(14) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2021/2024: Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ship Program, \$21,809,000;

(15) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2022/2024: TAO Fleet Oiler, \$2,585,000;

(16) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2022/2024: Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ship Program, \$3,300,000; and

(17) Under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, 2022/2024: T-AGOS Surtass Ships Program, \$355,166,000.

SEC. 8070. Funds appropriated by this Act for intelligence and intelligence-related activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)) until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024.

SEC. 8071. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity unless such program, project, or activity must be undertaken immediately in the interest of national security and only after written prior notification to the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 8072. None of the funds in this Act may be used for research, development, test, evaluation, procurement or deployment of nuclear armed interceptors of a missile defense system.

SEC. 8073. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended for the purpose of decommissioning any Littoral Combat Ship, the USS *Germantown*, or the USS *Tortuga*.

SEC. 8074. For purposes of section 1553(b) of title 31, United States Code, any subdivision of appropriations made in this Act under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy” shall be considered to be for the same purpose as any subdivision under the heading “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy” appropriations in any prior fiscal year, and the 1 percent limitation shall apply to the total amount of the appropriation.

SEC. 8075. None of the funds appropriated or made available in this Act shall be used to reduce or disestablish the operation of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the Air Force Reserve, if such action would reduce the WC-130 Weather Reconnaissance mission below the levels funded in this Act: *Provided*, That the Air Force shall allow the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron to perform other missions in support of national defense requirements during the non-hurricane season.

SEC. 8076. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to transfer research and development, acquisition, or other program authority relating to current tactical unmanned aerial vehicles (TUAVs) from the Army.

(b) The Army shall retain responsibility for and operational control of the MQ-1C Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) in order to support the Secretary of Defense in matters relating to the employment of unmanned aerial vehicles.

SEC. 8077. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for integration of foreign intelligence information unless the information has been lawfully collected and processed during the conduct of authorized foreign intelligence activities: *Provided*, That information pertaining to United States persons shall only be handled in accordance with protections provided in the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution as implemented through Executive Order No. 12333.

SEC. 8078. None of the funds appropriated by this Act for programs of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, except for funds appropriated for research and technology, which shall remain available until September 30, 2025, and except for funds appropriated for the purchase of real property, which shall remain available until September 30, 2026.

SEC. 8079. (a) Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit a report to the congressional intelligence committees to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for fiscal year 2024: *Provided*, That the report shall include—

(1) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the President’s budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(2) a delineation in the table for each appropriation by Expenditure Center and project; and

(3) an identification of items of special congressional interest.

(b) None of the funds provided for the National Intelligence Program in this Act shall be available for reprogramming or transfer until the report identified in subsection (a) is submitted to the congressional intelligence committees, unless the Director of National Intelligence certifies in writing to the congressional intelligence committees that such reprogramming or transfer is necessary as an emergency requirement.

SEC. 8080. (a) None of the funds provided for the National Intelligence Program in this or any prior appropriations Act shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a

reprogramming or transfer of funds in accordance with section 102A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(d)) that—

- (1) creates a new start effort;
- (2) terminates a program with appropriated funding of \$10,000,000 or more;

(3) transfers funding into or out of the National Intelligence Program; or

(4) transfers funding between appropriations, unless the congressional intelligence committees are notified 30 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds; this notification period may be reduced for urgent national security requirements.

(b) None of the funds provided for the National Intelligence Program in this or any prior appropriations Act shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming or transfer of funds in accordance with section 102A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(d)) that results in a cumulative increase or decrease of the levels specified in the classified annex accompanying the Act unless the congressional intelligence committees are notified 30 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds; this notification period may be reduced for urgent national security requirements.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8081. Upon a determination by the Director of National Intelligence that such action is necessary and in the national interest, the Director may, with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget, transfer not to exceed \$1,500,000,000 of the funds made available in this Act for the National Intelligence Program: *Provided*, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on unforeseen intelligence requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by the Congress: *Provided further*, That a request for multiple reprogrammings of funds using authority provided in this section shall be made prior to June 30, 2024.

SEC. 8082. Any transfer of amounts appropriated to the Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Account in or for fiscal year 2024 to a military department or Defense Agency pursuant to section 1705(e)(1) of title 10, United States Code, shall be covered by and subject to section 8005 of this Act.

SEC. 8083. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be expended for any Federal contract for an amount in excess of \$1,000,000, unless the contractor agrees not to—

(1) enter into any agreement with any of its employees or independent contractors that requires, as a condition of employment, that the employee or independent contractor agree to resolve through arbitration any claim under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or any tort related to or arising out of sexual assault or harassment, including assault and battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress, false imprisonment, or negligent hiring, supervision, or retention; or

(2) take any action to enforce any provision of an existing agreement with an employee or independent contractor that mandates that the employee or independent contractor resolve through arbitration any claim under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or any tort related to or arising out of sexual assault or harassment, including assault and battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress, false imprisonment, or negligent hiring, supervision, or retention.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be expended for any Federal contract unless the

contractor certifies that it requires each covered subcontractor to agree not to enter into, and not to take any action to enforce any provision of, any agreement as described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a), with respect to any employee or independent contractor performing work related to such subcontract. For purposes of this subsection, a “covered subcontractor” is an entity that has a subcontract in excess of \$1,000,000 on a contract subject to subsection (a).

(c) The prohibitions in this section do not apply with respect to a contractor’s or subcontractor’s agreements with employees or independent contractors that may not be enforced in a court of the United States.

(d) The Secretary of Defense may waive the application of subsection (a) or (b) to a particular contractor or subcontractor for the purposes of a particular contract or subcontract if the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary personally determines that the waiver is necessary to avoid harm to national security interests of the United States, and that the term of the contract or subcontract is not longer than necessary to avoid such harm. The determination shall set forth with specificity the grounds for the waiver and for the contract or subcontract term selected, and shall state any alternatives considered in lieu of a waiver and the reasons each such alternative would not avoid harm to national security interests of the United States. The Secretary of Defense shall transmit to Congress, and simultaneously make public, any determination under this subsection not less than 15 business days before the contract or subcontract addressed in the determination may be awarded.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8084. From within the funds appropriated for operation and maintenance for the Defense Health Program in this Act, up to \$172,000,000, shall be available for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund in accordance with the provisions of section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, Public Law 111-84: *Provided*, That for purposes of section 1704(b), the facility operations funded are operations of the integrated Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, consisting of the North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Navy Ambulatory Care Center, and supporting facilities designated as a combined Federal medical facility as described by section 706 of Public Law 110-417: *Provided further*, That additional funds may be transferred from funds appropriated for operation and maintenance for the Defense Health Program to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Defense to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

SEC. 8085. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense or a component thereof in contravention of the provisions of section 130h of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 8086. Appropriations available to the Department of Defense may be used for the purchase of heavy and light armored vehicles for the physical security of personnel or for force protection purposes up to a limit of \$450,000 per vehicle, notwithstanding price or other limitations applicable to the purchase of passenger carrying vehicles.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8087. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act for “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, \$142,008,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2028, may be

used for the purchase of two used sealift vessels for the National Defense Reserve Fleet, established under section 11 of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (46 U.S.C. 57100): *Provided*, That such amounts are available for reimbursements to the Ready Reserve Force, Maritime Administration account of the United States Department of Transportation for programs, projects, activities, and expenses related to the National Defense Reserve Fleet: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 2218 of title 10, United States Code, none of these funds shall be transferred to the National Defense Sealift Fund for execution.

SEC. 8088. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 8089. The Secretary of Defense shall post grant awards on a public website in a searchable format.

SEC. 8090. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Security Agency to—

(1) conduct an acquisition pursuant to section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 for the purpose of targeting a United States person; or

(2) acquire, monitor, or store the contents (as such term is defined in section 2510(8) of title 18, United States Code) of any electronic communication of a United States person from a provider of electronic communication services to the public pursuant to section 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

SEC. 8091. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used to pay the salary of any officer or employee of any agency funded by this Act who approves or implements the transfer of administrative responsibilities or budgetary resources of any program, project, or activity financed by this Act to the jurisdiction of another Federal agency not financed by this Act without the express authorization of Congress: *Provided*, That this limitation shall not apply to transfers of funds expressly provided for in Defense Appropriations Acts, or provisions of Acts providing supplemental appropriations for the Department of Defense.

SEC. 8092. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, \$667,508,000, to remain available until expended, may be used for any purposes related to the National Defense Reserve Fleet established under section 11 of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (46 U.S.C. 57100): *Provided*, That such amounts are available for reimbursements to the Ready Reserve Force, Maritime Administration account of the United States Department of Transportation for programs, projects, activities, and expenses related to the National Defense Reserve Fleet.

SEC. 8093. (a) None of the funds provided in this Act for the TAO Fleet Oiler program shall be used to award a new contract that provides for the acquisition of the following components unless those components are

manufactured in the United States: Auxiliary equipment (including pumps) for shipboard services; propulsion equipment (including engines, reduction gears, and propellers); shipboard cranes; spreaders for shipboard cranes; and anchor chains, specifically for the seventh and subsequent ships of the fleet.

(b) None of the funds provided in this Act for the FFG(X) Frigate program shall be used to award a new contract that provides for the acquisition of the following components unless those components are manufactured in the United States: Air circuit breakers; gyrocompasses; electronic navigation chart systems; steering controls; pumps; propulsion and machinery control systems; totally enclosed lifeboats; auxiliary equipment pumps; shipboard cranes; auxiliary chill water systems; and propulsion propellers: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Navy shall incorporate United States manufactured propulsion engines and propulsion reduction gears into the FFG(X) Frigate program beginning not later than with the eleventh ship of the program.

SEC. 8094. None of the funds provided in this Act for requirements development, performance specification development, concept design and development, ship configuration development, systems engineering, naval architecture, marine engineering, operations research analysis, industry studies, preliminary design, development of the Detailed Design and Construction Request for Proposals solicitation package, or related activities for the T-ARC(X) Cable Laying and Repair Ship or the T-AGOS(X) Oceanographic Surveillance Ship may be used to award a new contract for such activities unless these contracts include specifications that all auxiliary equipment, including pumps and propulsion shafts, are manufactured in the United States.

SEC. 8095. No amounts credited or otherwise made available in this or any other Act to the Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Account may be transferred to:

(1) the Rapid Prototyping Fund established under section 804(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (10 U.S.C. 2302 note); or

(2) credited to a military-department specific fund established under section 804(d)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (as amended by section 897 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017).

SEC. 8096. From funds made available in title II of this Act, the Secretary of Defense may purchase for use by military and civilian employees of the Department of Defense in the United States Central Command area of responsibility: (1) passenger motor vehicles up to a limit of \$75,000 per vehicle; and (2) heavy and light armored vehicles for the physical security of personnel or for force protection purposes up to a limit of \$450,000 per vehicle, notwithstanding price or other limitations applicable to the purchase of passenger carrying vehicles.

SEC. 8097. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for Government Travel Charge Card expenses by military or civilian personnel of the Department of Defense for gaming, or for entertainment that includes topless or nude entertainers or participants, as prohibited by Department of Defense FMR, Volume 9, Chapter 3 and Department of Defense Instruction 1015.10 (enclosure 3, 14a and 14b).

SEC. 8098. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network is designed to block access to pornography websites.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal,

State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities, or for any activity necessary for the national defense, including intelligence activities.

SEC. 8099. None of the funds provided for, or otherwise made available, in this or any other Act, may be obligated or expended by the Secretary of Defense to provide motorized vehicles, aviation platforms, munitions other than small arms and munitions appropriate for customary ceremonial honors, operational military units, or operational military platforms if the Secretary determines that providing such units, platforms, or equipment would undermine the readiness of such units, platforms, or equipment.

SEC. 8100. (a) None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to any corporation that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting such tax liability, provided that the applicable Federal agency is aware of the unpaid Federal tax liability.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply if the applicable Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation described in such subsection and has made a determination that such suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interests of the Federal Government.

SEC. 8101. Amounts appropriated under title IV of this Act, as detailed in budget activity eight of the "Explanation of Project Level Adjustments" tables in the explanatory statement regarding this Act, may be used for expenses for the agile research, development, test and evaluation, procurement, production, modification, and operation and maintenance, only for the following Software and Digital Technology Pilot programs—

- (1) Defensive CYBER (PE 0608041A);
- (2) Risk Management Information (PE 0608013N);
- (3) Maritime Tactical Command and Control (PE 0608231N);
- (4) Space Command and Control (PE 1208248SF);
- (5) Global Command and Control System (PE 0303150K);
- (6) Acquisition Visibility (PE 0608648D8Z); and
- (7) Defense Innovation Unit Fielding (RDTE,DW Line 281).

SEC. 8102. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to transfer the National Reconnaissance Office to the Space Force: *Provided*, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit or prohibit cooperation, collaboration, and coordination between the National Reconnaissance Office and the Space Force or any other elements of the Department of Defense.

SEC. 8103. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of the following laws enacted or regulations promulgated to implement the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (done at New York on December 10, 1984):

- (1) Section 2340A of title 18, United States Code.
- (2) Section 2242 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (division G of Public Law 105-277; 112 Stat. 2681-822; 8 U.S.C. 1231 note) and regulations prescribed

thereto, including regulations under part 208 of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations, and part 95 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) Sections 1002 and 1003 of the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-148).

SEC. 8104. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide", for the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, \$300,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative: *Provided*, That such funds shall be available to the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to provide assistance, including training; equipment; lethal assistance; logistics support, supplies and services; salaries and stipends; sustainment; and intelligence support to the military and national security forces of Ukraine, and to other forces or groups recognized by and under the authority of the Government of Ukraine, including governmental entities within Ukraine, engaged in resisting Russian aggression against Ukraine, for replacement of any weapons or articles provided to the Government of Ukraine from the inventory of the United States, and to recover or dispose of equipment procured using funds made available in this section in this or prior Acts: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not less than 15 days prior to obligating funds made available in this section, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such obligation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not more than 60 days after such notification is made, inform such committees if such funds have not been obligated and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall consult with such committees in advance of the provision of support provided to other forces or groups recognized by and under the authority of the Government of Ukraine: *Provided further*, That the United States may accept equipment procured using funds made available in this section in this or prior Acts transferred to the security forces of Ukraine and returned by such forces to the United States: *Provided further*, That equipment procured using funds made available in this section in this or prior Acts, and not yet transferred to the military or national security forces of Ukraine or to other assisted entities, or returned by such forces or other assisted entities to the United States, may be treated as stocks of the Department of Defense upon written notification to the congressional defense committees: *Provided further*, That any notification of funds made available in this section in this or prior Acts shall specify whether such funds support ongoing or new programs, the duration and expected cost over the life of each program, a timeline for the delivery of defense articles and defense services, and any equipment that requires enhanced end-use monitoring: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall provide quarterly reports to the congressional defense committees on the use and status of funds made available in this section.

SEC. 8105. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide arms, training, or other assistance to the Azov Battalion.

SEC. 8106. During the current fiscal year, the Department of Defense is authorized to incur obligations of not to exceed \$350,000,000 for purposes specified in section 2350j(c) of title 10, United States Code, in anticipation of receipt of contributions, only from the Government of Kuwait, under that section: *Provided*, That, such contributions shall,

upon receipt, be credited to the appropriations or fund which incurred such obligations.

SEC. 8107. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the heading “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide”, for the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, \$1,343,580,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be available for International Security Cooperation Programs and other programs to provide support and assistance to foreign security forces or other groups or individuals to conduct, support or facilitate counterterrorism, crisis response, or building partner capacity programs: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not less than 15 days prior to obligating funds made available in this section, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any planned obligation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall provide quarterly reports to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the use and status of funds made available in this section.

SEC. 8108. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the heading “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide”, for the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, \$410,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be available to reimburse Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, and Oman under section 1226 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note), for enhanced border security, of which not less than \$150,000,000 shall be for Jordan: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not less than 15 days prior to obligating funds made available in this section, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any planned obligation and the nature of the expenses incurred: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall provide quarterly reports to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the use and status of funds made available in this section.

SEC. 8109. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

SEC. 8110. None of the funds made available by this Act for excess defense articles, assistance under section 333 of title 10, United States Code, or peacekeeping operations for the countries designated annually to be in violation of the standards of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-457; 22 U.S.C. 2370c-1) may be used to support any military training or operation that includes child soldiers, as defined by the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008, unless such assistance is otherwise permitted under section 404 of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008.

SEC. 8111. None of the funds made available by this Act may be made available for any member of the Taliban.

SEC. 8112. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any transfer of funds, appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act, for support to friendly foreign countries in connection with the conduct of operations in which the United States is not participating, pursuant to section 331(d) of title 10, United States Code, shall be made in accordance with section 8005 of this Act.

SEC. 8113. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be used by the Secretary of Defense, or any other official or officer of the Department of Defense, to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, or make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to Rosoboronexport or any subsidiary of Rosoboronexport.

(b) The Secretary of Defense may waive the limitation in subsection (a) if the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, determines that it is in the vital national security interest of the United States to do so, and certifies in writing to the congressional defense committees that—

(1) Rosoboronexport has ceased the transfer of lethal military equipment to, and the maintenance of existing lethal military equipment for, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic;

(2) the armed forces of the Russian Federation have withdrawn from Ukraine; and

(3) agents of the Russian Federation have ceased taking active measures to destabilize the control of the Government of Ukraine over eastern Ukraine.

(c) The Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall conduct a review of any action involving Rosoboronexport with respect to a waiver issued by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to subsection (b), and not later than 90 days after the date on which such a waiver is issued by the Secretary of Defense, the Inspector General shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the results of the review conducted with respect to such waiver.

SEC. 8114. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the heading “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide”, for the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, \$15,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be for payments to reimburse key co-operating nations for logistical, military, and other support, including access, provided to United States military and stability operations to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria: *Provided*, That such reimbursement payments may be made in such amounts as the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, and in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, may determine, based on documentation determined by the Secretary of Defense to adequately account for the support provided, and such determination is final and conclusive upon the accounting officers of the United States, and 15 days following written notification to the appropriate congressional committees: *Provided further*, That these funds may be used for the purpose of providing specialized training and procuring supplies and specialized equipment and providing such supplies and loaning such equipment on a non-reimbursable basis to coalition forces supporting United States military and stability operations to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, and 15 days following written notification to the appropriate congressional committees: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall provide quarterly reports to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the use and status of funds made available in this section.

SEC. 8115. The Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees in writing not more than 30 days after the receipt of any contribution of funds received from the government of a foreign country for any purpose relating to the stationing or operations of the United States Armed Forces: *Provided*, That such notification shall include the amount of the contribution; the purpose for which such contribution was made; and the authority under which such contribution was accepted by the Secretary of Defense: *Provided further*, That not fewer than 15 days prior to obligating such funds, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees in writing a notification of the planned use of such contributions, including whether such contribu-

tions would support existing or new stationing or operations of the United States Armed Forces.

SEC. 8116. (a) The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments and the Chiefs of the Armed Forces, shall submit to the congressional defense committees, not later than 30 days after the last day of each quarter of the fiscal year, a report on the use of operation and maintenance funds for activities or exercises in excess of \$5,000,000 that have been designated by the Secretary of Defense as unplanned activities for fiscal year 2024.

(b) Each report required by subsection (a) shall also include—

(1) the title, date, and location, of each activity and exercise covered by the report;

(2) an identification of the military department and units that participated in each such activity or exercise (including an estimate of the number of participants);

(3) the total cost of the activity or exercise, by budget line item (with a breakdown by cost element such as transportation); and

(4) a short explanation of the objective of the activity or exercise.

(c) The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 8117. Not later than 15 days after the date on which any foreign base that involves the stationing or operations of the United States Armed Forces, including a temporary base, permanent base, or base owned and operated by a foreign country, is opened or closed, the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the opening or closing of such base: *Provided*, That such notification shall also include information on any personnel changes, costs, and savings associated with the opening or closing of such base.

SEC. 8118. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used with respect to Iraq in contravention of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.), including for the introduction of United States Armed Forces into hostilities in Iraq, into situations in Iraq where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, or into Iraqi territory, airspace, or waters while equipped for combat, in contravention of the congressional consultation and reporting requirements of sections 3 and 4 of such Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1542 and 1543).

SEC. 8119. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used with respect to Syria in contravention of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.), including for the introduction of United States armed or military forces into hostilities in Syria, into situations in Syria where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, or into Syrian territory, airspace, or waters while equipped for combat, in contravention of the congressional consultation and reporting requirements of sections 3 and 4 of that law (50 U.S.C. 1542 and 1543).

SEC. 8120. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be obligated or expended by the United States Government for a purpose as follows:

(1) To establish any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq.

(2) To exercise United States control over any oil resource of Iraq or Syria.

SEC. 8121. None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading “Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund”, and under the heading “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide” for Department of Defense security cooperation grant programs, may be used to

procure or transfer man-portable air defense systems.

SEC. 8122. Up to \$500,000,000 of funds appropriated by this Act for the Defense Security Cooperation Agency in “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide” may be used to provide assistance to the Government of Jordan to support the armed forces of Jordan and to enhance security along its borders.

SEC. 8123. Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, United States Southern Command shall assume combatant command responsibility for activities related to Mexico.

SEC. 8124. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release to or within the United States, its territories, or possessions Khalid Sheikh Mohammed or any other detainee who—

(1) is not a United States citizen or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is or was held on or after June 24, 2009, at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense.

SEC. 8125. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used to transfer any individual detained at United States Naval Station Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, to the custody or control of the individual's country of origin, any other foreign country, or any other foreign entity except in accordance with section 1034 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114–92) and section 1035 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232).

SEC. 8126. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to construct, acquire, or modify any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual described in subsection (c) for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 8127. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 8128. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, to reflect savings due to favorable foreign exchange rates, the total amount appropriated in this Act is hereby reduced by \$950,000,000.

SEC. 8129. In carrying out the program described in the memorandum on the subject of “Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members” issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs on April 3, 2012, and the guidance issued to implement such memorandum, the Secretary of Defense shall apply such policy and guidance, except that—

(1) the limitation on periods regarding embryo cryopreservation and storage set forth

in part III(G) and in part IV(H) of such memorandum shall not apply; and

(2) the term “assisted reproductive technology” shall include embryo cryopreservation and storage without limitation on the duration of such cryopreservation and storage.

SEC. 8130. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made used to support, directly or indirectly, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or any laboratory owned or controlled by the governments of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela under the Maduro regime, or any other country determined by the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to be a foreign adversary.

SEC. 8131. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to fund any work to be performed by EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. in China on research supported by the government of China unless the Secretary of Defense determines that a waiver to such prohibition is in the national security interests of the United States and, not later than 14 days after granting such a waiver, submits to the congressional defense committees a detailed justification for the waiver, including—

(1) an identification of the Department of Defense entity obligating or expending the funds;

(2) an identification of the amount of such funds;

(3) an identification of the intended purpose of such funds;

(4) an identification of the recipient or prospective recipient of such funds (including any third-party entity recipient, as applicable);

(5) an explanation for how the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(6) any other information the Secretary determines appropriate.

SEC. 8132. The Secretary of the Navy shall continue to provide pay and allowances to Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis, United States Navy, until such time as the Secretary of the Navy makes a determination with respect to the separation of Lieutenant Alkonis from the Navy.

SEC. 8133. The Secretary of Defense may obligate funds made available in this Act for procurement or for research, development, test and evaluation for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter to modify up to six F-35 aircraft, including up to two F-35 aircraft of each variant, to a test configuration: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Navy, notify the congressional defense committees not fewer than 30 days prior to obligating funds under this section: *Provided further*, That any transfer of funds pursuant to the authority provided in this section shall be made in accordance with section 8005 of this Act.

SEC. 8134. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be obligated to integrate an alternative engine on any F-35 aircraft.

SEC. 8135. Funds appropriated in title III of this Act may be used to enter into a contract or contracts for the procurement of airframes and engines for the CH-53K heavy lift helicopter program.

SEC. 8136. (a) Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall allocate amounts made available from the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Defense Fund for fiscal year 2024 pursuant to the transfer authority in section 102(b)(1) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (division A of Public Law

117–167), to the account specified, in the amounts specified, and for the projects and activities specified, in the table titled “Department of Defense Allocation of Funds: CHIPS and Science Act Fiscal Year 2024” in the report accompanying this Act.

(b) Neither the President nor his designee may allocate any amounts that are made available for any fiscal year under section 102(b)(2) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 if there is in effect an Act making or continuing appropriations for part of a fiscal year for the Department of Defense: *Provided*, That in any fiscal year, the matter preceding this proviso shall not apply to the allocation, apportionment, or allotment of amounts for continuing administration of programs allocated using funds transferred from the CHIPS for America Defense Fund, which may be allocated pursuant to the transfer authority in section 102(b)(1) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 only in amounts that are no more than the allocation for such purposes in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) The Secretary of Defense may reallocate funds allocated by subsection (a) of this section, subject to the terms and conditions contained in the provisos in section 8005 of this Act: *Provided*, That amounts may be reallocated pursuant to this subsection only for those requirements necessary to carry out section 9903(b) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283).

(d) Concurrent with the annual budget submission of the President for fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate proposed allocations by account and by program, project, or activity, with detailed justifications, for amounts made available under section 102(b)(2) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 for fiscal year 2025.

(e) The Department of Defense shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate quarterly reports on the status of balances of projects and activities funded by the CHIPS for America Defense Fund for amounts allocated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, including all uncommitted, committed, and unobligated funds.

SEC. 8137. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the heading “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide” for the Office of Strategic Capital, \$99,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, shall be available for the cost of loans and loan guarantees: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

SEC. 8138. In addition to the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act, \$800,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Defense to assist with increasing pay for certain enlisted grades: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense shall change the following cells in the military monthly basic pay table that was effective as of January 1, 2023 to the following: E-1 with greater than four months in service to \$2,600.60, E-2 to \$2,799.20, E-3 with less than three years of service to \$2,900.90, E-3 with three years of service to \$2,950.60, E-3 with four years of service to \$3,000.60, E-3 with six or more years of service to \$3,050.60, E-4 with less than two years of service to \$3,010.50, E-4 with two years of service to \$3,060.60, E-4 with three years of service to \$3,100.10, E-4 with four years of service to \$3,150.80, E-4 with six years of service to \$3,210.30, E-4 with eight or more years of service to \$3,260.30, E-5 with less than two years of service to \$3,100.30, E-5 with two years of service to \$3,150.20, E-5 with three years of service to \$3,200.20, E-5 with four years of service to

\$3,250.20, E-6 with less than two years of service to \$3,210: *Provided further*, That the 5.2 percent increase in pay in the fiscal year 2024 budget request for all grades is in addition to the changes identified in this section.

SEC. 8139. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to release information described in paragraph C4.2.2.5.2 of DoD 5400.11-R regarding a current or former member of the Armed Forces to any non-Federal entity or person without the consent of such member or former member or, if the member or former member is deceased, the consent of the next of kin of such member or former member or a legally authorized representative of the estate of such member or former member, unless such information is requested under section 552 of title 5 (commonly referred to as the “Freedom of Information Act”) and such information is not exempt from disclosure under such section: *Provided*, That if such information is requested under such section, the releasing authority shall notify the member or former member who is the subject of the request or, if the member or former member is deceased, the next of kin of such member or former member, or a legally authorized representative of the estate of such member or former member, prior to the release of such information: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to a request for such information from a State or local law enforcement agency.

SEC. 8140. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated or expended for acquisition, construction, installation, or leasing of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property, or otherwise update, modernize, or repair current public works, military installations, and facilities, including leased structures, for United States Space Command until such time as the Secretary of the Air Force formally selects and publicly announces the permanent location of the United States Space Command Headquarters in alignment to the United States Air Force Selection Process for the Permanent Location of the United States Space Command Headquarters, as validated by the United States Government Accountability Office Report to Congress concerning United States Space Command (GAO-22-106055) and United States Department of Defense Inspector General Report titled “Evaluation of the Air Force Selection Process for the Permanent Location of the United States Space Command Headquarters” (DODIG-2022-096).

SEC. 8141. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to carry out sections 554(a) and 913 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283).

SEC. 8142. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, apply, enforce, or carry out the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Strategic Plan of the Department of Defense, or Executive Order 13985 of January 20, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 7009, relating to advancing racial equity and support for under-served communities through the Federal Government), Executive Order 14035 of June 25, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 34593, relating to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the Federal workforce), Executive Order 14091 of February 16, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 10825, relating to further advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the Federal government), or shall be used to execute activities that promote or perpetuate divisive concepts related to race or sex, such as the concepts that one race or sex is inherently superior to another, or that an individual’s moral char-

acter or worth is determined by their race or sex.

SEC. 8143. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for surgical procedures or hormone therapies for the purposes of gender affirming care.

SEC. 8144. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to promote, host, facilitate, or support events on United States military installations or as part of military recruiting programs that violate the Department of Defense Joint Ethics Regulation or bring discredit upon the military, such as a drag queen story hour for children or the use of drag queens as military recruiters.

SEC. 8145. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used or transferred to another Federal agency, board, or commission to recruit, hire, or promote any person who has been convicted of a Federal or State child pornography charge, has been convicted of any other Federal or State sexual assault charge, or has been formally disciplined for using Federal resources to access, use, or sell child pornography.

SEC. 8146. None of the funds appropriated or made available in this Act shall be used to implement, administer, or otherwise carry out the Department of Defense memorandum dated October 20, 2022, or any successor to such memorandum, or to propose, promulgate, or implement any substantially similar rule or policy.

SEC. 8147. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to finalize, promulgate, or implement the rule proposed by the Department of Defense titled “Federal Acquisition Regulation: Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate-Related Financial Risk” (87 Fed. Reg. 68312; November 14, 2022), or to propose, promulgate, or implement any substantially similar rule or policy.

SEC. 8148. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to carry out any program, project, or activity that promotes or advances Critical Race Theory, any concept associated with Critical Race Theory, or that teaches or trains any idea or concept that condones an individual being discriminated against or receiving adverse or beneficial treatment based on race or sex, that condones an individual feeling discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of that individual’s race or sex, as well as any idea or concept that regards one race as inherently superior to another race, the United States or its institutions as being systemically racist or sexist, an individual as being inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive by virtue of that individual’s race or sex, an individual’s moral character as being necessarily determined by race or sex, an individual as bearing responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex, or meritocracy being racist, sexist, or having been created by a particular race to oppress another race.

SEC. 8149. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used to—

(1) classify or facilitate the classification of any communications by a United States person as mis-, dis-, or mal-information; or

(2) partner with or fund nonprofit or other organizations that pressure or recommend private companies to censor lawful and constitutionally protected speech of United States persons, including recommending the censoring or removal of content on social media platforms.

SEC. 8150. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to grant, renew, or maintain a security clearance for any individual listed as a

signatory in the statement titled “Public Statement on the Hunter Biden Emails” dated October 19, 2020.

SEC. 8151. (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman.

(b) **DISCRIMINATORY ACTION DEFINED.**—As used in subsection (a), a discriminatory action means any action taken by the Federal Government to—

(1) alter in any way the Federal tax treatment of, or cause any tax, penalty, or payment to be assessed against, or deny, delay, or revoke an exemption from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of, any person referred to in subsection (a);

(2) disallow a deduction for Federal tax purposes of any charitable contribution made to or by such person;

(3) withhold, reduce the amount or funding for, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any Federal grant, contract, subcontract, cooperative agreement, guarantee, loan, scholarship, license, certification, accreditation, employment, or other similar position or status from or to such person;

(4) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any entitlement or benefit under a Federal benefit program, including admission to, equal treatment in, or eligibility for a degree from an educational program, from or to such person; or

(5) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny access to an entitlement to Federal property, facilities, educational institutions, speech fora (including traditional, limited, and non-public fora), or charitable fundraising campaigns from or to such person.

(c) **ACCREDITATION; LICENSURE; CERTIFICATION.**—The Federal Government shall consider accredited, licensed, or certified for purposes of Federal law any person that would be accredited, licensed, or certified, respectively, for such purposes but for a determination against such person wholly or partially on the basis that the person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction described in subsection (a).

SEC. 8152. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Defense or the Service Secretaries to fly or display a flag over or within a facility of the Department of Defense other than the flag of the United States; the flag of a State, Territory, or District of Columbia; the flag of the Department of Defense; the flag of a Military Service; the flag of Flag or General Officers; the flag of Presidentially-appointed, Senate-confirmed civilians; the flag of Senior Executive Service (SES) and Military Department-specific SES; the POW/MIA flag; the flags of other countries with which the United States is an ally or partner, or for official protocol purposes; the flags of organizations in which the United States is a member, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; or ceremonial, command, unit, or branch flags or guidons.

SEC. 8153. (a) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both the

House of Representatives and Senate a report on excessive contractor payments that exceed the Truthful Cost and Pricing Act (10 U.S.C. chapter 271 and 41 U.S.C. chapter 35) threshold and with respect to which none of the exceptions to certified cost or pricing data requirements applies.

(b) The report required by subsection (a) shall also include the following:

(1) The amounts collected, adjusted, or offset from contractors as a result of providing defective cost and pricing data.

(2) The mechanisms used to identify violations of the Truthful Cost and Pricing Act (10 U.S.C. chapter 271 and 41 U.S.C. chapter 35).

(3) Disciplinary actions taken by the Department of Defense when violations of the Truthful Cost and Pricing Act (10 U.S.C. chapter 271 and 41 U.S.C. chapter 35) are identified, regardless of whether included in the System for Award Management.

(4) Any referrals made to the Department of Justice where appropriate.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 8154. \$0.

This Act may be cited as the “Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024”.

The Acting CHAIR. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived.

No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part A of House Report 118-216, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of House Resolution 723, and pro forma amendments described in section 13 of that resolution.

Each amendment printed in the report 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, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 13 of House Resolution 723, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, except as provided by section 13 of House Resolution 723, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to ten pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR.

CALVERT OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 723, I offer an amendment en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 1, consisting of amendments Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 46, 47, 49, 51, and 65, printed in part A of House Report No. 118-216 offered by Mr. CALVERT of California:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. JAMES OF MICHIGAN

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$15,000,000)”.

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$15,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000) (increased by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. CARBAJAL OF CALIFORNIA

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. JACOBS OF CALIFORNIA

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 9, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 9, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 10, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000) (reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. MCCORMICK OF GEORGIA

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,750,000)”.

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$7,750,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. STEVENS OF MICHIGAN

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. CARAVEO OF COLORADO

Page 9, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. DAVIS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 9, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$8,606,779)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. FALLON OF TEXAS

Page 9, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$55,000,000)”.

Page 27, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$55,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. DUNN OF FLORIDA

Page 10, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. TONY GONZALES OF TEXAS

Page 10, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,200,000) (increased by \$7,200,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. JOYCE OF OHIO

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$4,000,000) (increased by \$4,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. CROW OF COLORADO

Page 10, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. EZELL OF MISSISSIPPI

Page 10, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$8,000,000)”.

Page 38, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$8,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. KELLY OF MISSISSIPPI

Page 10, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 24, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN OF COLORADO

Page 10, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,500,000)”.

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. BACON OF NEBRASKA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. BACON OF NEBRASKA

Page 10, line 19, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 38, line 9, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. BANKS OF INDIANA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 36, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 38, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 28, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 44, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.
 Page 44, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.
 Page 44, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.
 Page 44, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000) (reduced by \$5,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MR. CROW OF COLORADO

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000)”.
 Page 39, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,500,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. FITZGERALD OF WISCONSIN

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$4,000,000)”.
 Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$4,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MR. FITZPATRICK OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.
 Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI OF CALIFORNIA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000) (increased by \$3,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 33 OFFERED BY MR. GARBARINO OF NEW YORK

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.
 Page 38, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MS. HOULAHAN OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.
 Page 39, line 1 after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 36 OFFERED BY MR. ISSA OF CALIFORNIA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MR. JAMES OF MICHIGAN

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.
 Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MR. JAMES OF MICHIGAN

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$122,600,000)”.
 Page 33, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$122,600,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. JOYCE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$15,000,000)”.
 Page 27, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$15,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MS. KAMLAGER-DOVE OF CALIFORNIA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,000,000)”.
 Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$7,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. KEATING OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 42 OFFERED BY MR. KELLY OF MISSISSIPPI

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.
 Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 46 OFFERED BY MRS. LUNA OF FLORIDA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 47 OFFERED BY MR. LUTTRELL OF TEXAS

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$15,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 49 OFFERED BY MR. LUTTRELL OF TEXAS

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.
 Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 43 OFFERED BY MRS. MCCLAIN OF MICHIGAN

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,500,000)”.
 Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$7,500,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 65 OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL OF NEW JERSEY

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.
 Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.
 The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, these are noncontroversial amendments supported by both sides.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I support this amendment. It contains a series of bipartisan amendments in support of Member priorities on both sides. We have no objections, and we encourage the adoption of this amendment, and I wish this in the spirit in which this bill had originally been written.

If the gentleman from California has no other comments, I am ready to yield back.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. CALVERT OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 723, I offer amendment en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

En bloc No. 2, consisting of amendment Nos. 43, 44, 45, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 87, 88, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 106, 107, 108, and 109, printed in part A of House Report 118-216, offered by Mr. CALVERT of California:

AMENDMENT NO. 43 OFFERED BY MS. KUSTER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$12,000,000)”.
 Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$12,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MR. LIEU OF CALIFORNIA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,500,000)”.
 Page 39, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$7,500,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 45 OFFERED BY MR. LIEU OF CALIFORNIA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.
 Page 39, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 50 OFFERED BY MR. LYNCH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$4,000,000)”.
 Page 42, line 6, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$4,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 52 OFFERED BY MRS. MCCLAIN OF MICHIGAN

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.
 Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 53 OFFERED BY MRS. MCCLAIN OF MICHIGAN

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$25,000,000)”.
 Page 27, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$25,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 54 OFFERED BY MR. MCCORMICK OF GEORGIA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$4,000,000)”.
 Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$4,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 55 OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF WEST VIRGINIA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 56 OFFERED BY MR. MILLS OF FLORIDA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.
 Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 58 OFFERED BY MR. NORCROSS OF NEW JERSEY

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.
 Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 59 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.
 Page 42, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 60 OFFERED MR. RASKIN OF MARYLAND

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MR. CALVERT OF CALIFORNIA

Page 42, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 42, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 42, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MR. AUSTIN
SCOTT OF GEORGIA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$4,000,000)”.

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$4,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 62 OFFERED BY MR. SESSIONS
OF TEXAS

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 63 OFFERED BY MS. SEWELL OF
ALABAMA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 42, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 42, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 64 OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL
OF NEW JERSEY

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000)”.

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 75 OFFERED BY MR. SORENSEN
OF ILLINOIS

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 76 OFFERED BY MR. STRONG OF
ALABAMA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000)”.

Page 36, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 77 OFFERED BY MR. STRONG OF
ALABAMA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 78 OFFERED BY MRS. TRAHAN
OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 79 OFFERED BY MRS. TRAHAN
OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$6,000,000)”.

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$6,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 80 OFFERED BY MR. TURNER OF
OHIO

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000)”.

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 81 OFFERED BY MS.
WASSERMAN SCHULTZ OF FLORIDA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 82 OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$16,500,000)”.

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$16,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 83 OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$6,000,000)”.

Page 38, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$6,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 84 OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN
OF COLORADO

Page 19, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000)”.

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 85 OFFERED BY MR. VASQUEZ
OF NEW MEXICO

Page 21, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 87 OFFERED BY MR. JOYCE OF
PENNSYLVANIA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 88 OFFERED BY MS. TENNEY OF
NEW YORK

Page 33, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$150,000,000)(increased by \$150,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 90 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON
LEE OF TEXAS

Page 36, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 42, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 42, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 91 OFFERED BY MR. DUNN OF
FLORIDA

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,000,000) (increased by \$7,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 92 OFFERED BY MRS.
FISCHBACH OF MINNESOTA

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$8,400,000)(increased by \$8,400,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 93 OFFERED BY MR. GUEST OF
MISSISSIPPI

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 94 OFFERED BY MR. HERN OF
OKLAHOMA

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000) (reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 95 OFFERED BY MR. HUDSON OF
NORTH CAROLINA

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 96 OFFERED BY MRS. LESKO OF
ARIZONA

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 97 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN
OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$11,000,000) (increased by \$11,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 99 OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF
WEST VIRGINIA

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,000,000) (increased by \$7,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 101 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO
OF NEW YORK

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 103 OFFERED BY MR. MOYLAN
OF GUAM

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$20,000,000)”.

Page 38, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$20,000,000)”.

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$20,000,000)”.

Page 39, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$20,000,000)”.

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$100,000,000)”.

Page 40, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$20,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 105 OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 106 OFFERED BY MR. EZELL OF
MISSISSIPPI

Page 38, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$4,000,000)”.

Page 41, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$4,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 107 OFFERED BY MR. C. SCOTT
FRANKLIN OF FLORIDA

On page 38, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increase by \$10,000,000)(decrease by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 108 OFFERED BY MR. C. SCOTT
FRANKLIN OF FLORIDA

Page 38, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$6,500,000)”.

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$6,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 109 OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON
OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Page 38, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,000,000)(increased by \$7,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. McCOLLUM) each will control 10 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, these are noncontroversial amendments supported by both sides.

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

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, our country has no greater responsibility than to protect and defend this Nation and its Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic, and I thank Ranking Member McCOLLUM for yielding me time to speak as a member of the Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations.

I am deeply disappointed, I have to say, overall by the bill that the majority has forced to the Floor today. America and our allies are grappling with an increasingly dynamic and dangerous world. Global challenges include real enemies, as well as the unpredictability of nature and climate change, and we now see artificial intelligence threatening to further destabilize the world that we rely on for liberty and prosperity.

Russia is waging a war of aggression against a neighboring democratic state, while China is outpacing our

military development and has positioned itself as a significant geopolitical competitor on many levels.

It is our responsibility and that of the annual Defense Appropriations legislation to ensure we are prepared to surmount these threats. However, the majority's legislation is distracted and consumed by division instead of policies that would ensure the safety of our Nation's most important Defense asset, our brave men and women in uniform.

In another year, I could be proud of important provisions, including support for research, testing and manufacturing of space technologies that would define how our future wars might be fought, many of which, by the way, are being developed in my home State of Ohio.

Instead, this legislation focuses on divisive policies never seen in a Defense Appropriations bill, like banning diversity and inclusion programs in this diverse Nation, targeting women and LGBTQ and servicemembers, and preventing the Department of Defense from addressing the very real dangers of disinformation campaigns and extremist rhetoric in our military.

Enacting these proposals would have disastrous consequences for the morale and readiness of our Armed Forces, worsening the unprecedented recruitment shortfalls they already face. While the legislation maintains funding for many key security commitments to our crucial allies by fully funding key regional security initiatives, it fails to innovate or provide expansion of funding necessary to meet the moment, which is newly defined by the largest war for liberty since World War II, being fought as we speak in the Nation of Ukraine. I could say so much on this.

The Ukrainian people and their east European neighbors—

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. KAPTUR. Might I ask for an additional 10 seconds.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CALVERT. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN).

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak up for the people of Guam, who are facing immediate danger from the Chinese and North Korean missiles. China's DF-26 missiles has been dubbed the Guam Killer.

Also, North Korea repeatedly threatens my island, and our American defense systems cannot simultaneously track or shoot down missiles from two directions at once.

Let's also be mindful of the fact that servicemembers from across the Nation serve on Guam and face similar peril.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment with the safety of your constituents in mind. Please vote to protect the people of Guam and vote in favor of my amendment to truly fund Guam missile defense.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from

Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL), a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of Representative WILSON of South Carolina and my bipartisan amendment supporting efforts to modernize personal equipment for female servicemembers and small-statured servicemembers.

Twenty percent of our servicemembers are women serving our Nation. It is alarming, Mr. Chair, that, according to a new Army report, nearly half of female servicemembers in the Army Special Operations Command have trouble accessing and acquiring equipment that is the right size for them.

Imagine one of these warriors are in the battlefield, they are facing an enemy combatant, and their ill-fitting body armor prevents them from proper use of their rifle. That puts them at severe risk for harm and prevents them from executing their duty.

There is no excuse for not giving these patriots the equipment and tools to allow them to do their job safely and effectively. Our military women, they leave their families, they train hard, and are willing to risk their lives to defend our freedom. We need to do a better job to stand up for theirs.

I urge my colleagues to join me and my friend Representative WILSON of South Carolina in a bipartisan amendment to make sure that all our servicemembers have the equipment that they need to keep them safe and do their job effectively.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Chair, this amendment provides \$11 million within Army Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation, Line 44, for the Autonomous Vehicle Mobility project to modernize combat vehicles for multi-domain operations.

The development of next generation combat vehicles for multi-domain battle operations is one of the Army's six modernization priorities. These military vehicles are meant to increase the firepower, speed, and survivability of land forces, allowing them to maneuver into superior positions on the battlefield and to pair with robotic vehicles. The has been actively conducting basic and applied R&D of autonomous ground vehicles, but additional resources are needed to successfully transition novel technologies into functioning prototypes.

This amendment provides funding to establish the nation's first national-level laboratory facility of the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Ground Vehicle Systems Center. The facility will be dedicated to autonomous mobility, maneuverability, and energy efficiency with an emphasis on complex terrains and adversarial environments. It will serve as a research hub and amplify collaboration between the U.S. military, universities, industry partners, and NATO nations. The results of such collaboration will enable our troops to have an unparalleled edge on the battlefield and in tactical situations.

I urge my colleagues to support this modest investment and to vote in favor of En Bloc No. 2.

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Chair, the annual Defense Appropriations bill is one of the best tools we have to strengthen our national security and foster innovation.

This year's bill includes a well-deserved 5.2 percent pay raise for our troops and \$12.5 million dollars to support the Rock Island Arsenal and manufacturing jobs in my district.

Workers in Central and Northwestern Illinois take great pride in supplying our military with new equipment that helps service members safely defend and protect our nation.

That is why I'm proud to introduce my amendment to fund novel technology that can 3D print high-strength, lightweight carbon fiber composite parts into state-of-the-art wings for Unmanned Air Vehicles.

This new technology will produce wings roughly 10 times faster than traditional technologies on the market, allowing for the fabrication of a wing in a single day and assisting the military in meeting the demand for Collaborative Combat Aircraft.

At the same time, this funding will create good-paying jobs for the families in my neighborhood.

I urge Congress to pass my amendment and get this project off the ground for our taxpayers and for our national defense.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. CALVERT OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 723, I offer an amendment en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

En bloc No. 3, consisting of amendment Nos. 86, 89, 98, 100, 102, 104, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, and 159, printed in part A of House report No. 118-216, offered by Mr. CALVERT of California:

AMENDMENT NO. 86 OFFERED BY MS. TITUS OF NEVADA

Page 27, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$750,000)".

Page 36, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$750,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 89 OFFERED BY MR. LAHOOD OF ILLINOIS

Page 35, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$4,300,000) (increased by \$4,300,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 98 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$8,400,000) (increased by \$8,400,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 100 OFFERED BY MR. MILLS OF FLORIDA

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,000,000) (reduced by \$3,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 102 OFFERED BY MR. MORELLE OF NEW YORK

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,600,000) (increased by \$5,600,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 104 OFFERED BY MS. SCANLON OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$15,000,000)(increased by \$15,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 110 OFFERED BY MR. LALOTA OF NEW YORK

Page 38, line 16, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,500,000)(increased by \$5,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 111 OFFERED BY MR. PETERS OF CALIFORNIA

Page 38, line 16, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$8,000,000)(increased by \$8,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 112 OFFERED BY MR. PETERS OF CALIFORNIA

Page 38, line 16, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$8,500,000)(increased by \$8,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 113 OFFERED BY MR. SELF OF TEXAS

Page 38, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 41, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 114 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

Page 38, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$4,000,000)”.

Page 41, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$4,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 115 OFFERED BY MR. BILIRAKIS OF FLORIDA

On page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$4,500,000) (increased by \$4,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 116 OFFERED BY MR. CAREY OF OHIO

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$7,000,000) (reduced by \$7,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 117 OFFERED BY MR. JOYCE OF OHIO

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 118 OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN OF COLORADO

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 40, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 119 OFFERED BY MS. LETLOW OF LOUISIANA

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000) (reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 120 OFFERED BY MS. PETTERSEN OF COLORADO

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 41, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 121 OFFERED BY MS. SEWELL OF ALABAMA

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(decrease by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increase by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 122 OFFERED BY MR. SOTO OF FLORIDA

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 123 OFFERED BY MS. TENNEY OF NEW YORK

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$44,000,000)(increased by \$44,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 124 OFFERED BY MR. WENSTRUP OF OHIO

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 126 OFFERED BY MR. HUIZENGA OF MICHIGAN

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 127 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 128 OFFERED BY MR. CAREY OF OHIO

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$20,000,000)(increased by \$20,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 129 OFFERED BY MR. DAVIS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$8,000,000)(increased by \$8,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 130 OFFERED BY MR. DELUZIO OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 131 OFFERED BY MR. ELLZEY OF TEXAS

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 132 OFFERED BY MRS. HOUCHIN OF INDIANA

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$6,500,000) (increased by \$6,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 133 OFFERED BY MR. HUDSON OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 134 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000) (reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 135 OFFERED BY MR. MILLS OF FLORIDA

Page 39, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 136 OFFERED BY MR. WENSTRUP OF OHIO

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,000,000)”.

Page 42, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$7,000,000)”.

Page 42, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$7,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 138 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

Page 42, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 139 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 42, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$4,000,000) (reduced by \$4,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 140 OFFERED BY MR. ROUZER OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 42, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$7,800,000) (reduced by \$7,800,000)”.

Page 42, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,800,000)”.

Page 42, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$7,800,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 141 OFFERED BY MR. COHEN OF TENNESSEE

Page 42, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$200,000)”.

Page 42, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$200,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 142 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

Page 42, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 143 OFFERED BY MR. FINSTAD OF MINNESOTA

Page 42, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 42, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 42, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 144 OFFERED BY MR. BERGMAN OF MICHIGAN

Page 42, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$842,000) (increased by \$842,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 145 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 42, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$9,000,000) (reduced by \$9,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 146 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 44, line 12, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 44, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 45, line 10, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 45, line 11, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 147 OFFERED BY MR. WILLIAMS OF NEW YORK

Page 39, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 148 OFFERED BY MR. ALFORD OF MISSOURI

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 38, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 149 OFFERED BY MR. FRY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to eliminate a unit of the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps at an institution of higher education.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. McCOLLUM) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, these are noncontroversial amendments supported by both sides.

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

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), in support of this en bloc, which I also support.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for her courtesies.

However, I am particularly concerned as we move forward. This bill directly impacts the men and women who have unselfishly put on the uniform.

I am grateful to the chair and ranking member for working together, but let me be very clear, we have an overall defense bill that is enormously challenging for the American people.

First, it is important for them to know that the members of the United States military, women in particular—1 in 5 members of the military are women—will be blocked from reproductive services that are necessary. Those women, in particular, that live in the State of Texas will be blocked from achieving the reproductive health that they need.

The LGBTQ+ community is also negatively impacted by healthcare.

Mr. Chairman, this has nothing to do with military preparedness and should not be involved. In addition, the general has offered a commitment to electric vehicles, but yet this bill cuts \$714 million.

Mr. Chair, I rise today to say I do not want a government shutdown, but I would like us to do the right thing. Democrats don't want a government shutdown. We are obviously fighting against those who are getting direction from the former President who says to shut it down.

I am very grateful that my amendment dealing with triple negative breast cancer is in this legislation. This is very important to me. It seeks to allocate \$10 million to fund triple negative breast cancer research. This issue is extremely important, especially for the brave men and women in the military who are 20 to 40 percent more likely to develop breast cancer.

Mr. Chair, I offer my appreciation to both the military and the Biden administration for making research into breast cancer a priority. This amendment would allow for more research so that we can one day, hopefully, learn a way to reduce this most devastating aspect of breast cancer. This has a more deadliest impact—that is why it is called triple negative breast cancer—that targets women.

Mr. Chair, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment, the Jackson Lee amendment, and a complete defense bill that responds to the needs of the United States military.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in support of the Jackson Lee Amendment [#90/#233] to H.R. 4365—the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024.

I want to thank my colleagues on the Rules Committee for making this amendment in order.

The Jackson Lee Amendment [#90/#233] is a simple and straightforward amendment in an unfortunate and distracting appropriations bill.

Namely, the Jackson Lee Amendment [#90/#233] seeks to allocate \$10 million to fund triple negative breast cancer research.

This issue is extremely important, especially for the brave men and women in the military, who are up to 20–40 percent more likely to develop breast cancer.

I must offer my appreciation to both the military and the Biden administration for making research into breast cancer a priority, but there is still work to be done.

The Jackson Lee Amendment [#90/#233] would allow for more research so we can one day hopefully learn a way to reduce the number of military personnel affected by breast cancer.

Several initiatives I have designed in the past have aided active-duty servicemen and women along with veterans, such as enforcing accurate reporting of maternity mortality rates among the Armed Forces, addressing physical and mental health concerns, and securing authorization for Triple Negative Breast Cancer as well as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

I am very proud of the work that I and Congress have done to address the health concerns of active duty and veteran servicemen and women, but there are still improvements to be made.

The men and women who are on the front lines or have already completed their valiant service to this country have many pressing issues and challenges they already must face; breast cancer should not be one of them.

Our service members fight and sacrifice for our freedoms.

Now, as lawmakers, we should be working to ensure to protect their lives and freedoms—not trying to take their rights away.

While the negatives of this defense appropriations bill disappointingly outweigh my positive amendment, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Jackson Lee Amendment [#90/#233]—notwithstanding my strong opposition and encouragement to vote down the underlying bill.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin, a retired Navy SEAL.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today with deep, deep reservations about the provisions in this bill funding the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, a program that has been in place since 2016.

Today, the United States has given \$113 billion in security and humanitarian aid to Ukraine for their war against Russia. I acknowledge the fact that is an illegal war and Vladimir Putin should be punished. However, I am not happy with the level of visibility that we have given to this funding.

The United States Government must be in charge of our foreign policy. The United States Government must be in charge of our defense policies, and we should not be handing these over to the Ukrainian Government.

We are funding Ukrainians, we are paying their salaries for their troops and giving them stipends when we are potentially looking forward to shutting down our government due to Democratic intransigence, which means we will not be funding our own troops. This is simply unacceptable.

Before any new money is dispensed to Ukraine, we need a strategic exit plan from the Biden administration with quantifiable metrics. Still, I will not allow D.C.'s dysfunction to undermine our national security and hurt our military families and will support the

underlying bill, again, with great reservations.

We must fund our military and we must pay our troops.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I just want to be clear, in this bill we pay for our troops and our military to equip and do training, but in this bill there is no funding for salaries for Ukrainian troops.

Mr. Chair, I thank the chair for working in such a bipartisan fashion for these en bloc amendments, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Chair, this amendment offered by Congressman BRIAN FITZPATRICK and myself provides a modest \$8.4 million within Army Research, Development, Evaluation and Testing, Line 59, Night Vision System Advanced Development, for the Micro-LED Soldier Systems Display Prototype.

The funds provided by this amendment will support the design, development, and delivery of the U.S. Army's next generation full-color LED micro-display prototype, which will be specifically tailored for dismounted soldier applications such as the Integrated Visual Augmentation System Heads Up Display and the Next Generation Squad Weapon Sight Optic.

The next generation of LED displays promise brightness levels that significantly exceed the Pentagon's most stringent requirements for both monochrome and full-color displays. The funds provided in this amendment will support the design, development, and delivery of a technology readiness Level 7 full-color LED micro-display prototype. In addition, this project will enhance the soldier's target detection capability and eye safety. Clearly, Mr. Chair, this is a win-win that provides desperately needed solutions and safeguards the health and security of our soldiers.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and to vote in favor of En Bloc No. 3.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Chair, I want to commend the managers of the House Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations bill for including my amendment No. 122 in En Bloc 3, to provide a \$5 million increase within the Air Force RDT&E account, to the Air Force Research Lab (AFRL) trusted microchip manufacturing prototype program in the en bloc package.

Microelectronics support nearly all DoD activities, enabling capabilities such as the global positioning system, radar, command and control, and communication. Ensuring secure access to leading-edge microelectronics, however, is a challenge. The pandemic exposed the challenges associated with the global supply chain, the changing global semiconductor industry, and the sophistication of U.S. adversaries, who might target military electronic components.

The AFRL is working on a new modelling and simulation research program to advance next generation semiconductor design and manufacturing, called a secure digital twin. Funding for the zero-trust environment for semiconductor technology will help provide the capabilities to deliver solutions to protect against malicious function insertion, fraudulent products, theft of intellectual property, and reliability failures within DoD semiconductors.

I believe Congress should continue to provide the resources necessary to update our domestic microelectronics security framework. I am proud of the work being undertaken in

my district's semiconductor technology district, known as NeoCity, to support domestic semiconductor manufacturing technology development as we work to address this critical supply chain. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to support this goal.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 29 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MS. HOULAHAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 34 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$50,000,000)”.

Page 36, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$50,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chairman, defense-centric, small businesses, and the industrial base face unique challenges in creating new advanced production lines, scaling, expanding manufacturing capacity, and in competing and leading to issues with how to best support our warfighters with key advanced defense capabilities.

For many of these U.S. businesses, translating investments into marketable products and services remains a challenge. As job creation engines, start-ups are vital to the American economy, but they often lack the resources to bring good ideas to market or to establish a contract with the Department of Defense.

That is why I introduced my bipartisan bill, H.R. 3147, which establishes a defense industrial base advanced capabilities pilot program, to help small businesses bridge that gap between creating innovative ideas to help our servicemembers, and the time that it takes to get to full production capacity.

This bill builds on the success of SBIR and STTR programs to further increase private-sector commercialization of innovations derived from federally funded R&D.

I was very proud to see this bill included in this year's NDAA in Section 853 of the House-passed bill and in Section 831 of the Senate-passed bill, and now we just need to fund it.

Due to its targeted support to small businesses, it is no surprise that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has made this effort a top legislative priority, and I am very proud to have had their support over the years to make this much-needed change.

What does this amendment do?

This amendment would direct \$50 million in O&M defense-wide to the Defense Production Act purchases account to fund the Advanced Defense Capabilities Pilot Program. Funding in fiscal year 2024 would accelerate the scaling, production, manufacturing, and acquisition of defense-centric advanced capabilities to bolster DIB resilience and modernize and increase our competition advantage versus China and other adversaries.

The public-private partnership pilot funding would increase support and investments for domestic small, advanced defense-focused businesses, and stimulate key defense-centric industrial base markets, create new production lines, decrease defense-centric manufacturing supply chain vulnerabilities, provide advisory and scaling support, and unlock private equity capital for advanced warfighting capability aligned with the National Defense Strategy.

Due to this targeted support to small businesses, it is really no surprise that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has made this effort a top legislative priority, and I am very proud to have their support.

As a former engineer and entrepreneur, I know how urgent this legislation is, and we have to support our talented entrepreneurs in translating their innovative ideas into marketable products and cutting edge technologies and to make sure that many endeavors don't fail because they lack access to capital.

Mr. Chair, I very much appreciate your support for this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. VAN ORDEN). The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment. The bill has a constrained top line. I cannot support directing \$50 million to a pilot program.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. McCOLLUM), the ranking member, in support of my amendment.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania for bringing this forward. I wholeheartedly support her amendment, and I hope that it will be adopted in the bill.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 48 OFFERED BY MR. LUTTRELL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 48 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 42, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(reduced by \$15,000,000) (increased by \$15,000,000)”.

Page 42, line 14, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(reduced by \$15,000,000) (increased by \$15,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LUTTRELL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 4365, which would provide \$15 million in funding for a plant-based or psychedelic clinical trial authorized in the House version of the fiscal year 2024 NDAA.

Mr. Chairman, I can personally attest to the benefits in treating post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, and chronic traumatic encephalopathy through the use of psychedelic substances. There is a stigma that exists within this body that I believe stems from a lack of education and experience around the clinical use of plant-based or psychedelic medications.

I understand that when many of my colleagues hear the word psychedelics they think of mushrooms and so on. This isn't what we are talking about today. Unfortunately, the stigma has led to the slow or no adoption of medical procedures that may have saved countless lives of our servicemembers, veterans, and first responders.

Mr. Chairman, it is our duty to explore all options when the lives of our Nation's most precious resources, our sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters are at stake.

Mr. Chair, I urge the adoption of my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Texas for sharing his journey, and I am glad he is doing well.

I don't oppose the study of many of these drugs, but I am going to lay out why, in this particular instance, I am going to oppose this.

On this floor we have had many a debate about whether or not medical

marijuana should be used for post-traumatic stress for veterans and whether we should do research and all kinds of things, things I have supported. Time and time again we haven't done that, in part because it is a schedule I class drug.

The Department is concerned about a study involving Active-Duty servicemembers. They acknowledge, and I am glad that they do, that the benefits are being pursued by veterans. The implementation for Active-Duty servicemembers would be much more challenging at this time because it involves questions around clearances, legal hurdles, and the logistics that would just appear to hamper the success of a pilot program or study with Active-Duty servicemembers.

As I said, schedule I—I gave the example of marijuana—under the Controlled Substances Act means that they have a high potential for abuse and there is no currently accepted medical treatment in the United States for this right now. There is a lack of accepted safety and there is no medical supervision in a way we can move forward.

For this reason, the Defense Health Agency does not believe it could be implemented. I support working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to look at anything we can do to help welcome our servicemen and servicewomen home and to find the help that they need.

Currently, with the way that this amendment is written, I reluctantly cannot support the gentleman's amendment. I look forward to working with the gentleman in the future on this.

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

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman and I appreciate that as a veteran.

I hold degrees in psychology and applied cognizant neuroscience. I have spent the better part of a decade studying our servicemembers, Active-Duty members, veterans, and first responders in the space of cognitive disability and decline.

We lose 22-plus a day in the veterans' space. We lose members in the active-service space as well, daily. I have traveled the country studying the aggressive nature of treatments in spaces like our cognitive decline, like selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, and other modalities.

The numbers that we are seeing are not decreasing, they are increasing. As we transition out of these wars that we fought for so many years, we have to do something more aggressive.

I say clinical studies and clinical trials inside the DOD because it is applicable and it is appropriate. We have some of the most brilliant researchers on the planet that can study this and move this effectively so we can treat the men and women that serve our country.

These medications have short-term—no long-term residual side effects—

short-term, if anything. The effects are groundbreaking. We are at a preface. I hate the fact that the word psychedelic scares everybody. I hate that word myself. When I try to think of a creative term to title this, it always cycles back to the word psychedelics, and that is unfortunate, it is. We have to look past that.

I have never done a drug in my entire life. As a matter of fact, I would tell no one to do this because the aggressiveness of it is so life-changing, but it is effective. That is why I continue to push forward, and I think it is time and its effectiveness needs to be implemented now.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LUTTRELL).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 57 will not be offered.

The Chair understands that amendment Nos. 66 through 74 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 125 OFFERED BY MS. NORTON

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 125 printed in part A of House Report 118–216.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 39, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000) (reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would allocate \$10 million for research, development, test, and evaluation for the Space Force, with the intent that the funds be used for the Space Force Rocket Systems Launch Program. This funding would continue the ongoing single-stage-to-orbit propulsion research that we have funded over the past 3 years and ensure that the commercial space access provider supply chain is as large as possible.

Mr. Chair, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I rise in reluctant opposition to this amendment. The amendment proposes to develop a single-stage-to-orbit rocket. The idea of a single-stage-to-orbit rocket is appealing, but the laws of physics are stubborn.

In the early 2000s, I was the chair of the Space and Aeronautics Committee

at the time, and NASA and industry spent more than a billion dollars on such a concept and concluded that it wasn't practical or feasible.

I am not aware of any facts that changed that conclusion. I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chair, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 137 OFFERED BY MR. CRENSHAW

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 137 printed in part A of House Report 118–216.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 42, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert: “(reduced by \$200,000) (increased by \$200,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. CRENSHAW, I rise today to offer amendment No. 137, which takes the simple yet important step of directing the Defense Health Agency to report to Congress on options for allowing Active-Duty servicemembers to participate in VA psychedelic-assisted therapy clinical trials.

I repeat, these clinical trials are already happening in partnership with the VA, and there is no reason that we should not be looking at the benefits of this research for our men and women that are already currently serving our country actively.

Mr. Chair, I want to be really clear about why I am supporting this small step to research psychedelic-assisted therapy for Active-Duty servicemembers. This is not about legalization. This is not about recreational use. It is about honoring our promise to our military families and confronting the high incidence of suicide in the military and veteran community.

There is a reason for the high rate of suicide—it is the trauma of serving. There are more than 20 veterans who kill themselves every day and 27 percent of post-9/11 veterans are diagnosed with PTSD.

We have a crisis, and the idea that we wouldn't research potential breakthrough treatments is unacceptable. The status quo is inadequate and it won't stop servicemembers and veterans from committing suicide. I believe this research will.

I have good reason for believing that, so let's look at the data. The most recent phase III clinical trials with MDMA found that 86 percent of the study participants had reduced PTSD symptoms and 71 percent didn't even qualify as having PTSD anymore.

Most people hear the word psychedelics and think of Woodstock. This is not the 1960s LSD trip that many people might be imagining. Some groups are actively lobbying Congress—no, this is not the work of the devil.

It is not the work of the devil when this treatment is actually saving families and keeping families together. This therapy is supervised by medical practitioners, and it occurs with repeat treatments in a very controlled setting. Oftentimes, it is a one- or two-time treatment and follow-up results reveal that the positive effects continue for years, even after just one treatment.

These clinical trials are already changing the lives of people I know. I have so many close friends of mine who can say that they are alive today because of this treatment. Their marriages have survived because of this treatment. The idea that we wouldn't even research it—that we would keep this out of the hands of people who need it is appalling, frankly.

We should be listening to these stories. They have come up on Capitol Hill multiple times. For the Members we say: We need to learn more. We don't know enough. Well, why would you get in the way of more research?

You haven't come and listened to these veterans and these servicemembers when they have come up and told their stories. They have come up many, many times. We shouldn't make them come up here and spill their guts anymore. We should listen to them and we should act on it.

Mr. Chair, I unapologetically support this research. We shouldn't think twice about it. We owe this to our servicemembers and we owe it to their families. This is a really small but a positive step in the right direction.

I think the VA and the Department of Defense need to coordinate on this research into this psychedelic-assisted therapy, and that is all this amendment does. I encourage my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENshaw).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 149 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 149 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 10, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$300,000,000)”.

Page 118, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$300,000,000)”.

Page 146, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$300,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in support of my amendment that cuts \$300 million in funding for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative. I encourage all of my colleagues to support that.

The fiscal year 2024 Defense Appropriations bill authorizes a total \$826.45 billion in new discretionary spending. This figure is \$28.71 billion or 3.6 percent more than the fiscal year 2023 enacted level.

Currently, the United States has committed over \$113 billion in military, economic, and humanitarian assistance to protect Ukraine's border, but we can't fund our own border to protect our citizens from the fentanyl pouring across our southern border that is killing over 290 Americans daily, and the trafficking that the Mexican cartels are engaging in.

Mr. Chair, I find myself asking this question: How is it that we are willing to send over \$100 billion to Ukraine, and in this bill an additional \$300 million, but we can't spend the money or find the ability and will to secure our own border?

With no end in sight, we cannot continue to blank-check fund a war when this administration said that we are going to stay there as long as it takes and spend as much as it takes. We don't really know why we are there, but we have morphed into a regime-change objective.

I would ask: What does that regime change look like? How are you going to get there? What is going to be the extent of our participation?

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, Ukraine is a democracy. It is a democracy fighting for its life every single day, and the world is watching. The brave men and women of Ukraine are fighting to protect their democracy.

Vladimir Putin violated international law with his illegal invasion of Ukraine. Putin and his thugs are committing war crimes on a mass scale in Ukraine, including the senseless murder of civilians, even while they are in the hospital.

He continues to violate international laws by deliberately targeting marketplaces, supermarkets, daycares, and apartment buildings. Putin has also broken other international laws by permitting—encouraging, not just permitting—encouraging the abduction of Ukrainian children to be taken from their families and their parents.

Democracies need to stand together, and that is what they have been doing. It is the responsibility of the United States, the strongest democracy, and all nations that respect democratically elected governments to support Ukraine's fight against this unlawful Russian aggression.

That is exactly why we have seen such a global response to these atrocities. Our allies, our partners, our fellow democracies are also supporting Ukraine in this fight by providing tanks donated by allies and partners; air defense artillery rounds donated by allies and partners; fighter aircraft donated 100 percent by allies and partners; mid- to long-range air defense systems 75 percent donated by allies and partners; counter unmanned aerial systems 69 percent donated by allies and partners; 155-millimeter artillery systems 64 percent donated by allies and partners; Armor, personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles 63 percent donated by allies and partners; Stinger missiles 52 percent donated by allies and partners; Javelin command launch units 52 percent donated by allies and partners; Javelin missiles 46 percent donated by allies and partners.

America is not providing support alone. The democracies are together on this.

I would point out for a fact that when Ukraine decided to become a democracy, to engage in the free world, they gave up their nuclear weapons. They gave them up. What they are just asking for us right now is to support a fellow democracy.

□ 1030

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to strongly oppose this amendment. Support Ukrainians in their struggle to defend their homeland.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, it is interesting to hear that. I appreciate those comments. Explain to me, then, how this administration and our allies have lost contact and cannot provide a full accounting of all of the money we have sent and all the materiel we have sent.

Here is an example of that: When we talk about insufficient oversight of funding going towards Ukraine, the Pentagon has overestimated the value of the weapons it has sent to Ukraine by \$6.2 billion over the past 2 years. They have overestimated it.

How have central African nations reported that U.S. materiel has been found in the hands of warlords in their areas, in their own countries, rebellious warlords fighting them with U.S. materiel?

How is it that we have gone from supplying surplus to supplying our own inventory, where our own stocks are going to take in some instances 7 to 10 years to rebuild, to put our own Nation in jeopardy?

The democratic peace theory was debunked 20 years ago, and that is the argument I heard today; basically, the democratic peace theory. That was utterly debunked.

This administration has also provided no explanation on what the objective is, what does it look like. The objective is to stay as long as it takes. What does that mean? Another 20-, 30-year war that we are participating in funding? Not only as long as it takes, but as much as it takes.

We are \$33 trillion in debt. Our structural deficit this year is going to be more than \$2 trillion. It will be that next year. Our interest cost is \$700 billion. Everything we are sending to Ukraine, we are borrowing. It is our children and grandchildren who are effectively paying for this.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I have some disagreement with some of the, I want to say, opinions put forward by the gentleman.

We do have oversight at our embassy on where equipment is going. The chair and I have been in classified briefings asking these very tough questions together because, you are right, we want accountability.

As we saw, when the President of Ukraine didn't think he was getting the accountability he deserved from his military leaders and people in his government, he very publicly removed them and said: No, this is not acceptable to me. The oversight is taking place, and our allies are also doing oversight.

As I pointed out earlier, this is an invasion that was brought on for no other reason than a land grab. Putin is trying to put Russia back in an image that he wants to see it in the future.

Who is watching him do this and who is watching who stands up to him? Well, Russia is watching as to what we do, and we know China is with all the chatter we are now hearing about Taiwan.

What does that mean? That means that democracies have to stand together to support another democracy.

As I mentioned earlier today, I was previously a social studies teacher. Take out a map and take a look at the emerging democracies in the area who feel under threat from Russia. Take a look at our allies that have suffered through World War II with aggression from Germany. The democracies, Germany included, have learned from that lesson: We cannot be silent. We have to be there for each other.

Mr. Chair, I will also point out that the money that is being put forward, again, is for equipment and training, and we are doing that with NATO. We are doing that together. As I said, I feel

very passionately about supporting Ukraine.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CRANE), a great American.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my colleague's amendment. As my colleague pointed out, we can't afford it. The gentlewoman just said that all the money that we are sending over there is for training and equipment. That is not true.

"60 Minutes" just discovered the U.S. is financing more than weapons in Ukraine. The government is buying seeds and fertilizer for farmers, paying the salaries of 57,000 first responders, and subsidizing small business.

Again, like my colleague said, we are \$33 trillion in debt. It is no wonder we are \$33 trillion in debt. This is getting out of hand, and we need to stop it.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, in closing, our national interests are best rooted in solving our national debt crisis, which has been determined by many national security leaders as being our number one security threat. I urge Congress to adopt this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, as the designee of the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

First, I want to address some confusion surrounding this funding. This is not the same funding that is included in the supplementals for Ukraine. This funding is not sent directly to Ukraine. Rather, it pays for training and procurement of U.S. equipment.

Congress has funded this initiative in every single year since it was authorized in 2016 during both Democrat and Republican administrations. In July, the House voted to authorize this funding at the same level. After the invasion of Crimea by Russia, we decided to fund this training for the Ukrainian military.

Not only would this amendment strike the funding, it would also strike the important conditions on funding. We have sent a very clear message to the Department, no blank checks. That is why this bill contains many new oversight provisions, including notification requirements before funds are spent, a GAO report review of the De-

fense Department's execution of Presidential drawdown authority, a reporting requirement on increasing burden sharing for Ukraine, and a requirement that the inspector general review the Department's end-use monitoring program. This bill also includes funding for a special inspector general for Ukraine, if authorized by the final NDAA.

The funding included in this bill is not supplemental funding. It is not a blank check. It has broad support. I urge a "no" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT NO. 150 OFFERED BY MR. GRIFFITH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 150 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 132, beginning line 18, strike "in China on research supported by the government of China".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, Section 8131 of this bill states: None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to fund any work to be performed by EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. in China on research supported by the Government of China unless the Secretary of Defense determines that a waiver is in the best interests of the country.

My amendment simply strikes out "in China on research supported by the Government of China."

EcoHealth Alliance was the agency or the private company that got a grant from the NIH to do research on coronavirus, and they are the ones that gave the money as a subcontractor to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. This was not research being done on behalf of China. It was being done on behalf of us.

The problem is, EcoHealth Alliance didn't fulfill their contract. They were supposed to get regular reports from Wuhan. They did not follow up on that. As a result, we are missing nearly a year of data prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 that the American taxpayers paid to have. Instead of just saying EcoHealth can't do things in China that are supported by the Chinese Government, my amendment makes it clear, we are not going to fund EcoHealth Alliance at this point in time.

To make matters worse—you think, how can it be worse?—as a part of our oversight, the Energy and Commerce Committee in February asked 41 questions trying to get information from EcoHealth Alliance. As of this date, we have answers to only seven of those

questions, and they are the most general answers, like when did you get your contract with the NIH. It is not the tough information that we need to do proper oversight to make sure that we never have a situation again where a virus occurs where we are doing research, and we can't answer the questions of the American taxpayers as to whether or not it came out of a lab that we were funding and that we weren't getting the reports from. That is all it does.

It says, no, EcoHealth for right now, at least during this fiscal year, isn't going to receive money through the DOD.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment to have a discussion with the gentleman.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, we have had this provision in the bill for the last 2 years to prohibit funding for the work performed by EcoHealth Alliance for research within China. As the gentleman is very aware of, because he is very knowledgeable of this, it is a global nonprofit organization that works to protect wildlife and public health from the emergence of disease.

This is enacted in law, and we have worked in a bipartisan manner on the committee on this.

The gentleman's amendment, if I understand it correctly, now seeks to establish a full prohibition on funding to EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., in this bill.

I thank the gentleman for the fact that his amendment preserves the waiver option for the Secretary of Defense to make a determination that working with EcoHealth Alliance remains a national security interest. As we move forward, I would like to better understand any ramifications as we move to this broader exemption that the gentleman wants to do as we go to committee to make sure that it lives up to what I heard him say on the floor, to my understanding, with the waiver.

I work a lot on the ICC, the International Conservation Caucus, so I want to make sure that the wildlife work that we are doing is protected as well as the research.

I thank the gentleman for bringing this forward, but I have a few more questions, and we will work on it during conference.

Mr. Chair, I would also just reflect on something that the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CRANE) said in our last debate, where he implied fertilizer and other materials were being supported by the United States Government. That is correct, but that is in the State Department bill. What I said about what we were supporting and not doing in this bill, I was factual with, and I just wanted the gentleman from Arizona to understand that what he was talking about, I wasn't confused, it is

in the State and Foreign Operations bill.

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, here is the bottom line: We have EcoHealth that breaches their contract. While they may be working on some wildlife things—and having once been a pole holder on a mission with a team of British scientists to study bats in northern Burma, I am all for studying wildlife, but we have to make sure that those people who get American taxpayer dollars are living up to their contract, living up to their obligations to give us the information so that if something happens, we can make appropriate decisions.

Whether you believe it was a lab leak or whether you believe it came out of bats, we needed the information that we paid for, to try to make a better decision. They haven't followed through. As of this date, they haven't given us the information that we need for oversight. Hopefully, it will come forward, but until we establish that EcoHealth Alliance understands that if they are going to use taxpayer dollars to do research, we need to get the information we contracted to get, I think that we should not be granting them awards.

I did leave the waiver in, that was very important to me because if it is in the national security interest, I wanted to make sure we weren't taking that power away from the Secretary, but I don't think at this moment in history, we should be funding EcoHealth Alliance with any taxpayer dollars.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 151 OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 151 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 8149.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Chair, this amendment would strike Section 8149 from the bill, removing language banning the Department of Defense from classifying or facilitating the classification of any communications by a United States person as misinformation, disinformation, or malinformation, and banning the Department of Defense from partnering with nonpartisan, nonprofit, outside experts to identify these threats.

As we know, misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation are three of the most important and far-reaching weapons of America's adversaries in Beijing, Tehran, and particularly the Kremlin.

According to the State Department, Russia has operationalized the concept of perpetual adversarial competition in the information environment by encouraging the development of a disinformation and propaganda ecosystem. This ecosystem then creates and spreads false narratives to strategically advance the Kremlin's policy goals. There is no subject off limits to this firehose of falsehoods. Everything from human rights and environmental policy to assassinations and civilian-killing bombing campaigns are fair targets in Russia's malign playbook.

Only truth disarms these disinformation weapons, and the House of Representatives must support our government to ensure that foreign adversaries do not use the American people to disseminate lies with the goal of destroying our democracy without identifying them as misinformation, disinformation, or malinformation.

Here are some truths: The Federal Government of the United States of America and the Department of Defense that we are working here to fund today are unequivocally responsible for the protection of American citizens from all enemies, all threats foreign or domestic. All threats mean all threats, whether the threat is kinetic, economic, infectious, in cyberspace or on Main Street. It is our job to provide the defense of the Nation and its people.

We must continue to come together to seek and promote the truth, and I urge my colleagues to approve this amendment.

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. Under the guise of fighting misinformation, our government agencies have become increasingly weaponized against America's right to free speech.

In the last month, a panel of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the Biden administration and the FBI likely violated the First Amendment by pressuring social media firms to suppress or remove posts.

The bill addresses the case of over 50 former intelligence officials misusing their clearances and status to interfere in our Presidential election by signing the bogus Hunter Biden letter.

The gentlewoman's amendment would facilitate this continued war on the First Amendment. I strongly urge a "no" vote and yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Chair, we all believe in the importance of the First

Amendment. We all believe in the American people's ability and their right to be able to speak out. What we also need to be aware of is the use of misinformation, disinformation by our foreign adversaries, and for the ability of our government to label that as such. It is not to stop people from saying it. It is the ability for us to tell what are lies and what is truth.

I am the ranking member on the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, and what the American people have seen thus far from that committee is the weaponization of Congress to be able to put forward conspiracy theories and lies to support power and quest for conquest over the American people.

Mr. Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the amendment by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT). We know that these countries are seeking to influence our way of life, to find ways to divide us and ultimately make us weaker. We know that China and Russia are very active in this. They are even working to seek to influence our elections and disrupt our democracy.

This amendment is necessary to ensure that we have the tools necessary to fight against these nefarious actions. I support this amendment, and I hope my colleagues will do the same.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Chair, I have nothing further, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 152 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 152 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The salary of Shawn Skelly, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness, shall be reduced to \$1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment that utilizes the Holman rule to reduce the salary of Shawn Skelly, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness. That salary shall be reduced to \$1.

As the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Mr. Skelly is the principal adviser to the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness on all matters related to the readiness of our Armed Forces.

In that capacity, he is supposed to develop policies and plans, provide advice, and make recommendations for total force readiness programs, reporting, and assessments of readiness to execute the national defense strategy.

Like many of Biden's bureaucrats, Mr. Skelly is failing at his job and the basic responsibilities. On his watch, the Army missed their recruiting goal by 15,000 soldiers last year, and all other branches were forced to dig deep into their pools of delayed entry applicants to meet their recruitment goals.

On top of that, the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard are all expected to fall short of their recruitment goals this year.

Mr. Skelly has also been with the Biden administration since the beginning and was appointed to the transition team—some irony there—in November of 2020.

As the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness, Mr. Skelly played an instrumental role in the disastrous and shameful withdrawal from Afghanistan that killed 13 of America's finest, 13 American heroes in that embarrassing surrender to the Taliban.

As DOD's highest ranking trans official, this delusional man, thinking he is a woman, embodies and espouses the wokeism that is causing significant harm to our military readiness and troop morale.

The military shouldn't be focused on this woke agenda and combating climate change. With Mr. Skelly at the helm of readiness, these misguided policy pursuits will continue to be at the forefront of DOD's priorities.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment to restore the focus of our Department of Defense to defend our Nation. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in the strongest opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect when being addressed.

Assistant Secretary Skelly has served in her role admirably, as she has done as her time as a naval officer. Assistant Secretary Skelly has been a naval fighter for over 20 years. I am a little upset because the lack of respect that has been shown to Secretary Skelly by the last speaker is surprising for me on this House floor, which we hold in such high esteem.

She has been a naval flight officer for 20 years, including time spent in the Pacific. While we are all aware of how important this region is right now, there is absolutely no basis for this amendment. The colleague who offers this amendment provides no real substantive reason why Assistant Secretary Skelly should have her salary reduced.

There is only one reason why Assistant Secretary Skelly is being targeted, because she is simply a woman. I have fought long and hard with many women before me and with our allies for pay equity. We still have a long way to go, but I am never going to vote to reduce a woman's salary. I urge my colleagues to vote "no," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I guess delusion runs deep in the Democratic Party. I would go on the record to say that science is a friend in this case and, sure, if you want to call Mr. Skelly a "her," his chromosomes are still X-Y, and we trust the science over here rather than delusion and playing dress-up and imaginary games with our military readiness.

Our military needs to be lethal and able to defend our national security, not pander to the woke extremist left and make up fairy tales.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, when it comes to service to our country, there are a couple of things we ask from people: To take a loyalty oath, and they do that; to pass basic training and to be up and fit for the job that they are called upon to do, and they do that. Secretary Skelly qualifies in all those areas.

As far as the conversation that my colleague is having, I am not going to engage in hateful rhetoric, Mr. Chair. Instead, I will focus on the admirable service that our transgender, gay, bisexual members do in an all-volunteer Army. They volunteer to put their lives on the line. They deserve the dignity and respect this House can give them.

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

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I just want the RECORD to reflect that there is nothing hateful about truth. Again, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment to restore the focus of our Department of Defense to defend our Nation. I look forward to this Holman rule being utilized to reduce the salary of Secretary Shawn Skelly, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness, to \$1.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I am just baffled here that we can pick and choose what is science and what is not science, what is human rights and dignity and respect and what is not human rights and dignity and respect. I look forward to having a discussion on climate change based on science

with the gentlewoman from Colorado at some point in time.

Mr. Chair, I thank all our servicemen and -women for their service, and their families, who serve alongside them. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado will be postponed.

□ 1100

AMENDMENT NO. 153 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 153 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The salary of Norvel Dillard, Director of Diversity and Inclusion Management at the Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion of the Department of Defense, shall be reduced to \$1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise in favor of my amendment, which will reduce the salary of Norvel Dillard, director of Diversity and Inclusion Management at the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion of the Department of Defense, to \$1.

Norvel “Rock” Dillard is a part of Joe Biden and Lloyd Austin’s attempt to weaken and weaken our military. He works in an office that should not exist doing a job that also should not exist.

Our military is not a social experiment, and we definitely should not be treating it like one or spending taxpayer dollars to do so.

Woke ideology undermines military readiness. It undermines cohesiveness by emphasizing differences based on race, ethnicity, and sex.

It undermines leadership authority by introducing questions about whether promotion is based on merit or quota requirements. It leads to military personnel serving in specialty areas for which they are not qualified or ready. It takes time and resources away from training activities and weapons development to contribute to readiness.

Unelected bureaucrats at the DOD need to be held responsible for their

failed leadership, which has distracted from DOD’s mission and jeopardized the United States military’s ability to defend our country.

From the botched Afghanistan withdrawal that left 13 American soldiers dead to the implementation of a woke agenda that has weakened our military and caused recruitment to suffer, bureaucrats like Norvel Dillard have continued to put a leftist agenda ahead of our national security.

The Federal Government’s obsession with diversity, equity, and inclusion needs to come to an end, especially at DOD, where our brave servicemembers volunteer to put themselves in harm’s way to fight for freedom. They don’t care about the skin color of their brothers and sisters in uniform. They care about completing the mission and going home to their families. Our Defense Department should have the same mindset.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment to restore the focus of our Department of Defense to defend our Nation.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, Dr. Dillard has dedicated his life to service to the United States. Commissioned in the United States Army in 1981, he served for 26 years and retired as a colonel after numerous command and staff positions. I thank him for his service.

In his current position as director of diversity and inclusion, he provides oversight and guidance to individuals working across the Department of Defense on these issues, and he has the experience to know where improvements can be made.

The goals of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion promote the Department of Defense culture of dignity and respect that values diversity and inclusion and readiness imperatives.

As the Department executes the Secretary of Defense’s direction to “take care of our people,” it is about supporting both the servicemember and their family, regardless of who they are. It is about having their backs while they put their lives on the line in the defense of this country.

The chairman and others in this room are fond of Ronald Reagan, so I offer a quote: “Government’s first duty is to protect the people, not to run their lives.”

Rather than trying to run the lives of each servicemember into the ground, let us concentrate on what should be the focus of this bill—ensuring that our military servicemembers have the tools they need to defend our Nation and to come home safely.

Need I remind everyone in the room that we are in the middle of a recruitment crisis? The chair and I have heard

why we are in the middle of a recruitment crisis. Many companies and private businesses are in the middle of a recruitment crisis. What are they doing? They are opening up positions for diversity and inclusion to make sure people know that they are welcome in their companies.

We want to make sure that people are welcomed in the Department of Defense. We must find ways to attract young people to choose to serve this country, to know that their service will be honored.

If they feel that serving in different branches of the Department will open them up to ridicule, disrespect, or worse, why would they volunteer to serve and put their lives on the line?

Mr. Dillard is trying to ensure that all feel welcome. He should not be vilified for that. He should be applauded.

Let’s stop the attacks on building a diverse force that represents all of America.

Mr. Chair, I remember as a young high school student—I am not afraid to admit my age with my gray hair—in 1972, all the discussions about women in the military academy. That was a radical idea. You know what the military had to do. They had to go out and recruit, and they had to show that they wanted the diversity. They wanted the respect.

I am proud I do that with my military academies, where I have Hmong, African Americans, and people from different sexual orientations apply to serve our country. They put their lives on the line. It is duty first for them.

Let’s stop the attacks on building a diverse force.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle agree that there is a recruitment crisis. Why is that? I think it is because our brave men and women who put their lives on the line to serve our Nation dutifully, with honor, don’t see a true Commander in Chief in office. They don’t see true leadership that they can be proud to serve alongside, to serve under.

I don’t believe that our brave men and women see that they will be taken care of when they put their lives in harm’s way to defend our Nation, to defend our allies throughout the world.

Let me ask my colleagues a broad question: This Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, did that save our 13 servicemembers in Afghanistan, or did it distract from the actual mission?

I heard from my colleagues, Mr. Chair, on the other side of the aisle that this was a way to ridicule and disrespect. I think it is ridiculing to promote someone who does not have the qualifications needed for a position just because of how they identify, their race.

This is what is ridiculing. This is what is disrespectful.

This woke agenda, this DEI, this movement that the left has created, I see it as a way to erase women. I heard my colleague on the other side of the aisle talk about, in the 1970s, there was a recruitment effort to bring more women to our military, and if that were the case today, if that were the mission today, to offer a more diverse military and recruit more women, well, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would simply put men in a dress and put them in heels. Heck, I got some red lipstick you could borrow.

That is not the answer. The answer is readiness. The answer is that we are all equal under the law, and you do not promote someone simply because of these qualifications.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota has 1½ minutes remaining.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, some of the remarks that my colleague made, I am not even going to bother to respond to because I don't think they are appropriate for this august Chamber which we are in.

The military only takes people who are qualified to serve. Then after they have done their service for our country, they should still be respected. This is a very sad conversation that we are having, and I go back to the fact about diversity.

I will use the example of the Hmong in my community who fought along with our soldiers in Vietnam and protected and rescued many of our pilots. They came here, and they didn't have a written language. They came here, and they didn't know about military academies. They wanted to honor and serve our country, but they weren't quite sure how to go about it.

What did we do? We created opportunities for diversity and inclusion, and it is amazing when you put a hand out to somebody and say: We want you to be part of this great Nation. You are willing to put your life on the line, and we thank you for that.

The chair and I know why we have a recruitment problem. I understand why we have a recruitment problem. I serve on the committee, and I am doing everything I can to address it, and part of that is this office.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 154 OFFERED BY MR. CLYDE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 154 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to administer, implement, or enforce—

(1) the proposed action outlined in the Notice published by the Department of Army to the Federal Register on August 4, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 51786); or

(2) recommendations of the Naming Commission regarding any monument in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chair, my amendment to the FY24 Defense appropriations bill would simply prohibit the Department of Defense from using funds to administer, implement, or enforce the proposed action by the Department of the Army regarding the removal of the Reconciliation Monument at Arlington National Cemetery.

Following 4 brutal years of the American Civil War, our Nation's great leaders, President Abraham Lincoln and future President Union General Ulysses S. Grant, took great measures to ensure that our Nation reconciled and unified after the conflict that turned fellow countryman against fellow countryman. These unifying actions included pardons for Confederate leaders that waged war as well as the restoration of confiscated property.

What these great American leaders understood is that a nation divided against itself cannot stand.

Then, in 1898, following the Spanish-American War, where Union and Confederate veterans fought side by side under one flag, the American flag, President McKinley declared in the heart of the South, in Atlanta, Georgia, the capital of my home State, that the U.S. Government would commit to sharing the burden of honoring and properly burying the Confederate dead, stating: "Sectional feeling no longer holds back the love we feel for each other. The old flag waves over us in peace with new glories."

In 1900, Congress authorized Confederate remains to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. In 1906, President McKinley allowed for the construction of a new monument honoring our country's new shared reconciliation from its troubled divisions.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson, a Democrat, unveiled this new memorial to national unity, which was designed by a Jewish-American sculptor. The memorial is topped with a woman

crowned by an olive wreath to symbolize peace.

Beginning with the unveiling of the statue and now every year since, it is the tradition of the President of the United States to send a wreath to the memorial, honoring the dead buried in a circle around the monument. This tradition, which shows tremendous national unity, has been carried on regardless of party or politics of the sitting President.

In fact, even President Obama understood the Reconciliation Monument in the context for which it stood, which was unity, not division, when he continued the Presidential tradition of sending a wreath to the monument.

Despite the bipartisan support for this monument, the renaming commission established by the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act overstepped its legislative authority and recommended that the Department of the Army remove the memorial from Arlington National Cemetery. The renaming commission's authority given to them by Congress empowers them to recommend the removal of "names, symbols, displays, monuments, and paraphernalia that honor or commemorate the Confederate States of America."

Yet, as described previously, the Reconciliation Monument does not honor nor commemorate the Confederacy. It commemorates reconciliation and national unity.

Furthermore, the renaming commission's authority explicitly prohibits the desecration of gravesites. There are hundreds of gravestones encircling the monument, and I do not know how in the world these graves will remain untouched if the Department of the Army proceeds with its proposal to remove the monument.

Former Virginia Democrat Senator Jim Webb, a decorated Marine Corps officer who served multiple combat tours in Vietnam and later became the Secretary of the Navy, recently published an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal concerning the Reconciliation Monument at Arlington Cemetery.

Senator Webb describes his own journey of reconciliation following his combat tours in Vietnam. He explains how he hosted a delegation of Vietnamese officials in Washington to encourage them to be peaceful toward former South Vietnamese veterans, who were labeled as traitors after the war and had been treated as such.

Senator Webb described how to make his point to the delegation. He brought them to the Reconciliation Monument in Arlington and pointed across the Potomac toward the Lincoln Memorial to show that old wounds can be healed. Senator Webb concludes with this: If the monument is taken apart and removed, "it would send a different message, one of a deteriorating society willing to erase the generosity of its past, in favor of bitterness and misunderstanding."

Mr. Chair, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to take a stand

against such a divisive and history-erasing action and support my amendment to defund the effort to remove the Reconciliation Monument from the Arlington National Cemetery.

My amendment prevents this tyrannical encroachment by legislative authority, ignorance of congressional intent, and disregard of national unity.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, in 2021, Congress passed the NDAA, creating a naming commission with the intent of renaming military installations and relocating memorials that celebrate the Confederate attempt to rip apart the United States for the sake of maintaining slavery.

The NDAA was passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. In fact, the NDAA had so much bipartisan support that it defeated President Trump's veto by a vote of 322-87.

The few remaining Confederate monuments at minor installations that have already not been renamed or removed will happen soon.

As required by Congress and implemented by the Secretary of Defense, Arlington National Cemetery is required to remove a Confederate memorial and has initiated the process for careful removal and relocation of the memorial located in section 16 of the cemetery.

Therefore, this amendment not only attempts to defy the overwhelming bipartisan support and will of Congress, but it is likely too late to even make a difference. Congress decided in a unified fashion that it was time to move on from the regretful error of the Civil War and human rights atrocities. This amendment will do nothing to stop that.

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chair, it would be an absolute disgrace if this Reconciliation Monument to our Nation's national unity is removed from Arlington National Cemetery and the graves that encircle it are desecrated.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 155 OFFERED BY MR. CLYDE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 155 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to implement or enforce section 370 of Public Law 116-283 (10 U.S.C. 113 note).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chair, my amendment prevents any funds in this year's Defense appropriations bill from being spent on section 370 of the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, providing a commonsense solution to block unnecessary and frivolous efforts to rename military bases across the country.

As a Navy combat veteran, an area of great concern for me is the inessential renaming of military bases and facilities as this issue is not a matter of national security nor an improvement of our military's combat readiness.

The Department of Defense's focus should remain on bolstering our defense capabilities and ensuring that we maintain the most lethal fighting force in the world. Instead, the Department of Defense is continuing to pursue plans to rename military bases, two of which, Fort Benning and Fort Gordon, are in my home State of Georgia.

The Department of Defense's renaming efforts are expected to cost taxpayers over \$62 million and would have a detrimental economic impact in the surrounding communities.

Take Fort Gordon, for example, where local small business owners who take great pride in our Nation's military have named their establishments or attractions after the local Army base. If the name of the base is changed, then local entrepreneurs will be forced to rename and rebrand businesses, replacing merchandise and creating completely new marketing strategies, which is not cheap. In fact, in many cases, you may see that rebranding of businesses actually will cause the businesses to fail.

In rural communities like those in Georgia, this economic burden would be catastrophic, and I know communities across the country will be confronted with the same issues if we allow the Department of Defense to continue this reckless plan.

I was disappointed that earlier this year, when I offered a similar amendment to the fiscal year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, these amendments were not even considered

or debated on the House floor. However, we have a second opportunity right now as we look to fund the Department of Defense.

We must carefully examine how taxpayer dollars are being used to fund the Department of Defense and its policies, and I adamantly believe that Americans' hard-earned tax dollars should not be wasted on renaming military bases but should be focused on making our military the most lethal in the world.

Due to President Biden's failed leadership and Big Government socialist agenda, our Nation is facing an ongoing economic crisis. Excessive Washington spending has not only ballooned our national debt, which just surpassed \$33 trillion last week, but has also inflated the prices of basic goods and services for our constituents, while running an annual deficit of almost \$2 trillion.

It is simply unacceptable to spend millions of dollars of borrowed money to rename military bases and facilities only to undoubtedly burden hard-working Americans and small business owners already struggling in Joe Biden's disastrous economy.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support my commonsense amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, 2 years ago, we passed the NDAA, which established a bipartisan commission, including both civilians and military, to rename installations that were associated with the Confederate States of America. This amendment attempts to stop the implementation of the commission's recommendations.

I am pleased to see that the administration has already started the renaming process, officially renaming seven installations with two more to go by the end of October. I will provide some context for these renamings.

Fort Benning in Georgia was named after a Confederate general who strongly supported slavery and was a leader in the secession movement. Now that fort has been renamed Fort Moore after Army Lieutenant General Hal Moore and his wife, Julia Compton Moore.

General Moore commanded the first large-scale battle of the Vietnam war, and Julia Compton Moore was instrumental in setting up survivor support networks and casualty notification teams.

Then there is Fort Bragg in North Carolina. That was named after a former slave owner and one of the most hated generals in history. In fact, he was hated by his own Army, and some of the Confederate soldiers tried to end his life. He is also known to be a military failure. That base has now been renamed Fort Liberty.

Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia, which was named after a failed Confederate general, will be renamed Fort Walker after

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, the first woman surgeon in the Civil War and the only woman awarded the Medal of Honor.

Renaming these installations helps us remember that they deserve to be remembered in a way that celebrates the true patriots of this Nation who supported this country and who have contributed to its advancement. Why would we continue to honor and celebrate traitors to this very Nation? They were also involved in horrific crimes.

In my home State of Minnesota, we have been renaming several buildings and schools and other areas that were named at one time honoring who we thought were a great territorial Governor and State officials, but as history was finally taught in its entirety, we found out they committed atrocities. They were part of the genocide against Tribal nations.

My State, my community, decided they should not be honored, and I believe that is also true in the case of these military installations. Congress and the administration set up an appropriate and fair process to review and rename them.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chair, renaming does nothing to make our military more combat-ready. In fact, it is a waste of taxpayer funds. Our military defense funding should be used to make our troops the most lethal in the entire world, the most feared in the entire world. It should be spent on training, not renaming, which does absolutely nothing but divert resources from the critical mission of our military.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, when we name something, whether it is a post office, whether it is a road named by a local government, we do so to honor something that is significant. We do that to show we are proud of this person. We are proud of their actions. What we are doing with the renaming in these commissions is saying: Let's reflect back. Why was this named this way? Are we proud of people who led the secession against this country? Should we look toward the new patriots, the people who have served in the past and the people who are currently serving to give them the honor, the privilege, of showing forward their courage and actions as we strive to be a more perfect Union?

Mr. Chair, I continue to oppose this amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further pro-

ceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 156 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 156 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used in violation of section 129a of title 10, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment regarding the Department of Defense workforce, which is particularly important as we face a shutdown.

However, first, I need to address two of the biggest workforce challenges facing the military, both wholly manufactured by my friends on the other side of the aisle.

First and foremost, to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, do not shut down the Federal Government. Step up to the plate and govern on a bipartisan basis. I know it is hard, but the country needs you to set aside impeachment inquiries, ideological crusades, and infighting to do your job.

Second, Senator TOMMY TUBERVILLE's holds on more than 300 military promotions are a direct threat to our national security and undermine the leadership of our military.

For the first time in the history of the Department of Defense, three of the five military services were operating without Senate-confirmed leaders. General and flag officers are being required to perform double duty in acting roles. Military families are having their lives put on hold.

How are we going to retain talented officers if their careers face a graveyard in the U.S. Senate, buried under the desk of one Senator who cannot name the three branches of government?

Senator TUBERVILLE's holds, which would require more than 700 hours of floor time in the Senate to overcome individually, are an outrageous assault on our Nation's military at the altar of a far-right culture war.

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I call on my colleagues to join me in condemning this reckless behavior. But I digress.

My amendment would prevent Congressional Republicans from further compounding their attacks on the Department's workforce. The amendment

would prevent any cuts to the Department of Defense civilian workforce that undermine our military and national security.

Please follow along closely.

Defense appropriations bills routinely include language that says: None of the funds appropriated by this act may be used to reduce the civilian workforce programmed full-time equivalent levels absent the appropriate analysis of the impacts of those reductions.

This language has received broad bipartisan support. It was included in the 2023 omnibus. It is in the current FY24 Department of Defense Appropriations bill in the Senate, and it was adopted as part of other past fiscal year Department of Defense appropriations bills in this body and in the other.

This language is derived from section 129(a) of Title 10, General Policy For Total Force Management, which states, “The Secretary may not reduce the civilian workforce programmed full-time equivalent levels unless the Secretary conducts an appropriate analysis of the impacts of such reductions on workload, military force structure, lethality, readiness, operational effectiveness, stress on the military force, and fully burdened costs.”

My amendment would restore that important language and legacy by prohibiting dangerous civilian workforce cuts that do not prioritize those enumerated priorities. It is helpful to understand the broader context to appreciate why this is essential.

The underlying bill cuts the civilian workforce by \$1.1 billion. The Committee Report for the bill refers vaguely to robotic process automation and artificial intelligence as ways to reduce the civilian workforce. That is a low bar for due diligence.

Forgive me, but I prefer the previous standard Congress reiterated and endorsed, which was to remind the Department that any such reduction in the civilian workforce must first prioritize the lethality, readiness, and operational effectiveness of the military.

My amendment would restore that consideration and that language.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD a letter from the American Federation of Government Employees in support of my amendment.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO,
Washington, DC, September 21, 2023.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), which represents over 750,000 federal and District of Columbia employees, including 250,000 Defense Department civilian employees, I write to provide AFGE's views on several amendments that were made in order by the House Rules Committee with respect to H.R. 4365, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024, that the House is expected to consider today.

Specifically, AFGE strongly urges you to oppose amendment 168 that will be offered by

Rep. Hageman (R-AZ), amendment 167 that will be offered by Rep. Greene (R-GA), amendments 155 and 156 that will be offered by Rep. Boebert (R-CO), amendment 161: that will be offered by Rep. Fallon (R-TX), amendment 178 that will be offered by Rep. Roy (R-TX), amendment 172 that will be offered by Rep. Norman (R-SC), and amendments 176 and 184 that will be offered by Rep. Rosendale (R-MT) during floor consideration of H.R. 4365, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024.

Hageman amendment 168 would arbitrarily and without justification prohibit regular telework and remote work for Defense Department civilian employees and contractors. Longstanding policy has, with considerable success, directed DoD agency managers and personnel to collaboratively develop and implement telework policies that address the specific needs of agencies and further their missions. Importantly, the workplace flexibility that telework enables has improved DoD's capacity to maintain continuous operations in the event of a natural or national security crisis. It has also helped DoD agencies recruit and retain talent, be more productive, and reduce traffic congestion and emissions. Not insignificantly, remote work and telework are particularly important for military spouses who are frequently deployed to remote places with few job opportunities but can otherwise contribute to the federal civilian workforce.

Greene amendment 167, Boebert amendments 155 and 156, Fallon amendment 161, and Roy amendment 178 would invoke the so-called Holman Rule to either reduce to \$1.00 the annual salaries of various DoD officials. These cynical amendments, if enacted, would do great damage to the Department's ability to maintain readiness and recruit and retain personnel who reflect the diversity of America.

Rosendale amendments 176 and 184 would strip the Defense Department of its authority to set policy as it pertains to the prevention of COVID-19. These amendments are singularly irresponsible and reckless. Enactment would risk the health of tens of thousands of DoD military personnel and civilian employees in the event of a future COVID-19 outbreak—all to make a cynical political point. Senior Defense Department officers and medical personnel are in a much better position than Congress to determine appropriate measures to protect the health of military personnel and civilian employees.

Norman amendment 172 would, if enacted, reverse important strides the Defense Department—one of the least diverse agencies in the federal government—has made in recent years to recruit and retain the best and the brightest personnel from all corners of America.

AFGE recommends that you support amendment 159 that will be offered by Rep. Connolly (D-VA). This amendment would restore important language included in previous Defense Appropriations Acts prohibiting the Defense Department from reducing its civilian workforce absent the appropriate analysis of the effects of these reductions on workload, military force structure, lethality, readiness, operational effectiveness, stress on the military force, and fully burdened costs. By omitting the provision that Rep. Connolly's amendment proposes to restore, H.R. 4365, if enacted, could lead to reckless cuts in the civilian workforce that the armed services depend on to protect and defend our nation.

Please vote against these amendments should recorded votes be requested. For questions or more information please contact Julie Tippens or Keith Abouchar.

Sincerely,

JULIE N. TIPPENS,
Director, Legislative Department.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment. The amendment is unnecessary.

Section 129(a) has long been codified in Title 10. However, I am compelled to point out that the section in question directs the Secretary of Defense to achieve a cost-efficient personnel mix.

The administration has failed in this regard and continues to grow the Department civilian workforce to a fiscally unsustainable level. The bill before us directs the Secretary of Defense to address the issue by noting the unsustainable cost of civilian personnel within the Department over \$101 billion in fiscal year 2022 alone.

Reducing the civilian workforce request by \$1.1 billion, which is less than 1 percent of the total request, and achievable through attrition, to fund a historic 30-percent pay raise for our junior enlisted—a 30-percent pay raise which they richly deserve—and directing the Secretary to reassess manpower requirements against core missions and adopt technology to create a cost-efficient workforce, is essentially directing the Secretary to abide by section 129(a).

Mr. Chair, I urge a “no” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the distinguished gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. McCOLLUM).

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I support this amendment. This amendment advocates for civilian personnel in the Department.

As I pointed out earlier in my opening remarks, we tried this once before and we did not see substantial savings. People who work in the civilian part of our Department of Defense do an admirable job. They work very hard for all of us, and they are loyal to us.

They are loyal to the Department of Defense. They are not loyal to a contractor or at the whim of a contractor if they decide they want to change a pay scale or to do something different, or raise the price of the contract and hold us hostage.

When it comes to the Secretary to determine what is necessary for staffing, I am going to leave it to the Secretary at this time, and I encourage my colleagues to support the amendment of the gentleman from Virginia.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 157 OFFERED BY MR. CRANE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 157 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following:

SEC. ___. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to deploy United States Armed Forces to Ukraine.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CRANE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer my amendment to the Department of Defense appropriations bill, which would prohibit American troops from being sent to fight on the ground in Ukraine.

The United States ought to be encouraging peace talks between Russia and Ukraine, not giving into calls for deadly escalation that could turn nuclear.

It is well past time for the United States to disentangle itself from this misguided war effort and start promoting a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

To date, we have shipped more than 100 billion American tax dollars to Ukraine, a country not known for its strict commitment to anticorruption measures.

Sending money is bad enough. Our men and women being sent to die over this conflict is unthinkable.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment to prevent American lives from being sacrificed.

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

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, let me be crystal clear. The United States does not currently plan to deploy forces to Ukraine in the ongoing defense against the Russian invasion. The United States does not currently plan to deploy forces.

There is no current or future year funding for the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces to Ukraine in this bill or any other bill that I am aware of. Therefore, this amendment would not impact any current or planned support to Ukraine. However, this amendment

would impede the ability of the Department to provide security aid to American personnel in the region. I am not talking about in Ukraine, just in the region, it would impede it.

For example, this prohibition would block the Department from providing security forces to assist congressional or executive delegation travel to Ukraine. I don't think that was the gentleman's intention, but that is what this amendment does.

Additionally, it would hinder the Department's ability to provide emergency security assistance to American personnel in the U.S. Embassy if there was ever a threat or a need for an evacuation.

This amendment would not change how the U.S. is aiding Ukraine in their war against Russian aggression. Meanwhile, it would change the way we protect Americans abroad.

We put our elected and civil service in danger by doing that, so I strongly oppose this amendment. I don't think this was the gentleman's intention, but I have to oppose this amendment.

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

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment. I don't support the deployment of U.S. troops into Ukraine. The Ukrainians are doing an able job against Russian aggression.

They degraded the third-largest standing army in the world and taken out 50 percent of the Russian conventional capability. They are doing fine on their own. They don't need U.S. troops.

Mr. Chair, I urge a "yes" on the gentleman's amendment.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I understand what the distinguished chair of the Defense Subcommittee just said. He doesn't support U.S. troops in Ukraine. That would be a vote we would have to take here in Congress, but this amendment does so much more than that, and that is why I was clear that I don't think it was the gentleman's intention.

This amendment would impede the ability of the Department to provide security and aid to American personnel in the region. It would block the Department from providing security forces to even assist congressional or executive delegation travel to Ukraine: the military escorts that go with us.

Additionally, it would hinder the Department's ability to provide emergency security assistance to American personnel at the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine if there was ever a threat or a need for an urgent evacuation.

I understand clearly the gentleman's intentions. This amendment does more than that. I would possibly ask the gentleman to consider withdrawing the amendment at this time and remove the things that I am concerned about in it, and then I would be happy to look

at supporting not having U.S. forces go to Ukraine without Congress having a discussion.

Mr. Chair, unfortunately, this amendment does so much more than what the gentleman's, I believe, true and honest intentions are.

Mr. Chair, I oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ).

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Chairman, the American people need to observe what is happening on this floor. My colleague from Arizona is simply saying that in the \$886 billion we are sending across the river to the Pentagon, we at least don't want that to fund U.S. troops, boots on the ground, in Ukraine, and there seems to be no guardrail that some in this body would not accept so as to stop our country from inadvertently stumbling into world war III.

Mr. Chair, I have amendments coming to stop security assistance, but this is the humblest of amendments seemingly to comport with what this body in a bipartisan way has expressed.

We do not want American servicemembers dying in Ukraine. That risks escalation and that risks accident. It always starts with just a few security advisers. That is how we got entangled in the Syrian civil war. We ought to be disentangling ourselves from Ukraine and embracing the good amendment from my colleague from Arizona.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, once again, I want to be crystal clear. This amendment does so much more than what the gentleman from Florida refers to, and the gentleman from Arizona who offered it.

When we have Members who are doing oversight, this would prohibit the military escorts that go on codeps with us or with the executive branch from taking us on those missions. I don't think that was the gentleman's intention, and that is why I am asking for the amendment to be withdrawn and written in a way that truly reflects what both my colleagues just spoke to.

I think you will get a lot more support on that than saying that we couldn't even bring troops in if we needed to do something at our embassy to evacuate State personnel. The Marines on post wouldn't be enough to do it by themselves.

Mr. Chair, I ask the gentleman to reconsider the way this amendment is written so that we can have bipartisan support.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRANE. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. FOXX). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CRANE).

The amendment was agreed to.

VACATING DEMAND FOR RECORDED VOTE ON
AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. NORTON

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the re-

quest for a recorded vote on amendment No. 125 offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) to the end that the amendment stands disposed of by the earlier voice vote thereon.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the request for a recorded vote is withdrawn. Accordingly, the amendment is not adopted.

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 158 OFFERED BY MR. FALLON

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 158 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mr. FALLON. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The salary of Kelisa Wing, within the Department of Defense, shall be reduced to \$1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 732, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FALLON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FALLON. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to reduce the salary of Ms. Kelisa Wing to \$1.

Until recently, Ms. Wing was with the Department of Defense Education Activity, better known as DoDEA. She was the chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer. As a self-proclaimed woke administrator, she used her authority to promote racist, divisive, and quite frankly, hateful ideology.

In a tweet from September 23, 2020, Ms. Wing said: "I'm so exhausted at these White folk in these PD [professional development] sessions. This lady actually had the CAUDacity to say that Black people can be racist too . . . I had to stop the session and give Karen the business. . . ."

If you replace the word "White" with any other race or minority group, we would have people from both sides of the aisle clamoring for her immediate removal.

Instead, she continued to serve unfettered for an unbelievable 3 additional years. Moreover, the mission of DoDEA is to provide a high-quality education to the children of servicemembers. This is a position of great trust.

Ms. Wing broke the trust of the American people, our servicemembers, and their children. We should be focused on providing these young minds with a world-class education, not indoctrinating them with divisive, radical, and again, hateful ideology.

Madam Chair, let me take a moment right now to speak directly to the children of DoDEA, and quite frankly, the children across this country, to remind them of a few things.

What you are isn't important. Who you are is everything. Pigmentation is immaterial. It is what is in your heart and what is on your mind that matters.

Further, to be American, it is not an ethnicity, it is an ideal. You want to live your dreams in this country? Work smart, work hard, stay focused, persevere, delay gratification, and constantly improve. In 2023 America, you might just get there, because the secret to your future is hidden in your daily routine. It is not, and nor does it have anything to do with what you are.

Thankfully, I believe Ms. Wing saw the writing on the wall and recently resigned from her position within DoDEA. It is my earnest hope that this amendment sends a message to the American people that racism will not be tolerated.

Madam Chair, I served in the military 30 years ago, and the idea was you would advance on merit and merit alone. It was a meritocracy. We didn't have any tolerance for any kind of isms. I wish we could get back to that and not be promoting Democratic generals or Republican generals, but rather American generals.

In the very building where we work and stand today, the Statue of Freedom, right underneath it are three words: *E pluribus unum*. Out of many one.

That is a focus that DoDEA should be promoting instead of this awful and, quite frankly, toxic poison.

Madam Chair, I withdraw my amendment, and I urge support for the underlying bill.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 160 OFFERED BY MR. GAETZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 160 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to provide security assistance to Ukraine.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 732, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Chair, this Congress has authorized \$115 billion to Ukraine. My amendment would ensure that this Defense appropriations bill sends no more.

Madam Chair, \$115 billion is an astonishing amount of money, especially when you consider that our Nation sits atop a \$33 trillion debt and we are facing \$2 trillion in annual deficits. It is

not as if the \$115 billion has brought this conflict any closer to an end. In fact, the massacres and the killings and the death continue.

The next statement is so obvious I can't believe I have to say it out loud.

It does not make the United States of America stronger to borrow money from China to give it to Ukraine.

I hear a lot of the war hawks in this Congress stand up and say, well, we have to send a message to China by fighting for however long it takes at whatever cost in Ukraine. The message we are sending to China is that they are engaged in a leverage buyout of Russia and increasingly of our own country.

We have problems here in America with our own borders. Americans are watching as foreign flags are being erected in the middle of the Rio Grande River while our Nation is being invaded by tens of thousands of people every month. Yet, we go spend all this money on the border of another country.

I do not fear broken Russian tanks rolling through Europe. I fear Russia's nuclear weapons and the risk that we could be sleepwalking into a nuclear conflict that could end life as we know it on the planet, all for what? To live out some neoconservative dream in Ukraine? Give me a break.

Right now, a lot of this funding that we have sent for Ukraine has been inflationary. Fuel and food, these are the markets that have been affected globally because of this crisis and because of the money we are spending to extend the conflict.

At the beginning of this Congress, Speaker MCCARTHY said there is not going to be a blank check to Ukraine, but when we bring witnesses before us to ask them whether or not we are complying with our own laws regarding end-use monitoring of materiel, they cannot say we are even following our own laws.

Enough is enough. I am putting my countrymen first. I don't think we should send another nickel to Ukraine.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, here again is an attempt to cut off any support for Ukraine as they fight to defend their country from an illegal Russian invasion.

As I said earlier, once again, Putin is attempting to rewrite the map of Europe through the use of force. He is doing so in violation of international law. He is deliberately targeting civilians, as I mentioned: hospitals, daycare centers, apartment buildings.

While he is doing that, yes, he is destroying the economy and the livelihood of Ukrainians in the process.

Putin and his thugs are committing war crimes on a mass scale. The United

States and the other democratic nations of the world must continue to oppose him. If we do not, then he or another authoritarian leader will try something like this again, yes, either in Ukraine or elsewhere in the world.

Earlier, I laid out that America is not alone in the support of Ukraine. Our allies and our partners are donating tanks, air defense systems, artillery, vehicles, rockets, and infantry fighting vehicles. This list goes on and on.

Let's not abandon our fellow democracies.

Let's not abandon the EU and our NATO allies now.

Let's not abandon Ukraine.

Faced with daunting odds against Russian forces, they have taken up a mantle to defend themselves, defend their values, and our shared democratic principles. They deserve our continued support.

Madam Chair, I understand my colleague has a different view than I do, but I thank him for a respectful engagement in this discussion, and I urge my colleagues at this time to oppose this amendment.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Chair, indeed, this is a respectful policy dispute that we have over this matter, and I am grateful that we are taking up the Defense appropriations bill as a single subject bill to work through these things, and let the votes fall where they may, but it seems the full sum of the argument against my amendment is: Putin bad, which I concede.

As a matter of fact, Vladimir Putin has sanctioned me personally, so I don't have to be sold on that argument. He is a bad guy.

The question is whether after \$115 billion, it is the \$300 million in this bill that is going to really kick the door in. There has been no argument that that is the case, because of course that would not comport with logic and reason. When my colleagues say we cannot abandon the EU, that is like fingernails on a chalkboard to my fellow Americans who often feel like they are the ones who have been abandoned as we send \$115 billion to Ukraine and ignore what is going on on our own border.

Madam Chair, we also ignore what is going on with a lot of our first responders.

In our country, there are police and firemen who do not know if their pension fund will be strong enough to support their benefits throughout their life. We do very little on that front, but we have underwritten the full pension of every civil servant and government employee in Ukraine.

Abandon them? I just don't think we should bankroll them, and that is why I would encourage the adoption of my amendment.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word as the designee of the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arkansas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment which prohibits security assistance for Ukraine.

The bill contains funding and conditions for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which is different from the funding that has been included in supplementals for Ukraine. This funding is not sent directly to Ukraine; rather, it pays for training and procurement of U.S. equipment.

Congress has funded this initiative every single year since it was authorized in 2016 during both Democrat and Republican administrations. Just last month, the House voted to authorize this funding at the same level.

Madam Chair, this assistance and the partnership between Ukraine and the California National Guard is what enabled the Ukrainians to beat back the Russian invasion and greatly diminish Russia's conventional military forces.

I have been very clear to the Department: No blank checks. That was why this bill contains many new oversight provisions and funding for a special inspector general for Ukraine, if authorized in the final NDAA.

The gentleman has often noted that funds used in support of Ukraine should go to securing our southern border. I argue that we should secure the border and partner with Ukraine to degrade Russia while never taking our eye off China.

We do not yet know how the war will play out, but I do know that voting for this amendment will send the wrong message at the wrong time.

Madam Chair, I urge a “no” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Chair, the argument my colleague made is, well, we have always sent this \$300 million. That may be true, but we used to send that \$300 million when we weren't sending \$100 billion in supplementals on top of that, so I don't think that argument really holds water.

When my colleague says: Well, we can do both. We can secure Ukraine's border and we can secure our border; my argument would be: Can we at least secure our own border first? How about that? How about prioritizing our own people first before we start going and engaging in misadventures throughout Europe.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota has 3 minutes remaining.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas who struck the last word and also spoke on behalf of the chair of the full Appropriations Committee.

I had the pleasure of being with Mr. WOMACK in Poland where we did oversight of the very money that we are talking about right now. I have been in other theaters where we were supporting other troops, and what we saw was the enthusiasm, the commitment, and the dedication from the Ukrainians who were under our supervision getting ready to receive training, and it was outstanding. It was like nothing else I have ever seen before.

We do need to do our due diligence. That is one of the reasons why I opposed an earlier amendment which would have actually restricted the military from escorting us on those types of codes into the future.

In my years in Congress, I have worked on many international foreign affairs issues. When I was in Germany just before the Ukrainian invasion took place, I have never in my life seen the democracies so united to work together because they know of the threat of what is happening. They want to make sure—and we want to make sure—that we continue to give the Ukrainians the support they deserve.

I have a friend who is returning home from just visiting, and her cousin is going back after taking some R&R after being wounded. The stories that she is sharing and the stories that I have heard from other people in Ukraine is everybody is participating; 60-year-olds are driving the tanks because they can't be out there on the frontlines. They are doing that, and they are able to do that because of the support and the equipment and the training that we have given them, not only to fight against Russia, but to also maintain the equipment they have.

I thank the gentleman for striking the last word and speaking to this, and we need to do our due diligence to make sure that the oversight is done right.

I do not support Mr. GAETZ's amendment as offered today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Chair, the United States of America is not the world's piggy bank, and we are not the world's policeman.

I applaud all of the enthusiasm in Ukraine. I am rooting for them, but enthusiasm in this country is waning to continue to support all of that effort abroad.

We want to secure our border. We want to see enthusiasm with our Border Patrol. We do not support continued inflationary, escalatory, dangerous spending in this war on Ukraine.

Madam Chair, I appreciate the House's indulgence for considering my amendment. I would encourage its adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for this respectful

debate, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 161 OFFERED BY MR. GAETZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 161 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transfer cluster munitions.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Chair, this is an amendment to prohibit the transfer of cluster munitions pursuant to this legislation.

Madam Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS), a member of the Armed Services Committee, someone who has led this Congress to try to stop the transfer of cluster munitions.

Ms. JACOBS. Madam Chair, I thank Congressman GAETZ for his partnership on this important issue.

Many of us have this idea of American exceptionalism—that America is set apart from the rest of the world.

Well, that is certainly true when it comes to cluster munitions and not in the way that we want.

America is an outlier. We are one of the few countries that hasn't become party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and that is a grave mistake.

These weapons maim and kill indiscriminately. In 2021, the Landmine and Cluster Munitions Monitor found that over 97 percent of casualties from cluster bomb remnants were civilians; and two-thirds of those were children.

That is because these bomblets are small, colorful, and interesting shapes, so to children they look like toys. So when kids find these unexploded bomblets stuck in trees or in the water or simply on the ground and try to pick them up and play with them, they can lose a limb or their life in the blink of an eye.

Unfortunately, there is no amount of guardrails or promised precautions for cluster munitions that are enough.

These weapons are unpredictable, and the human cost is far too high to justify.

Now, let's be clear. This isn't about one country. This is not about Ukraine. This is about protecting civilian lives and ensuring our national security all over the world because sending these weapons anywhere makes us complicit in unavoidable civilian harm and creates blowback that undermines our national security.

Our partners and allies look to us and expect us to do the right thing to protect the marginalized, defend human rights, and strengthen democracy. This reputation is what allows us to build and maintain international coalitions that further our goals.

If other countries don't look up to us and don't expect us to do the right thing, we will be alone on the world stage.

I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to avoid all of these horrific consequences and support our bipartisan amendment to ensure that no funds can be used to transfer cluster munitions.

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment. Artillery has been a critical part of Ukrainians' fight for survival. Cluster munitions fill a needed gap right now until the U.S. production and inventory of 155 ammunition can catch up.

The Russians have been using cluster munitions for 1½ years—from day one. We should not limit Ukrainians' ability to fight the Russians.

I also note that there must be a commitment for all parties involved to clean up any remnants after this war ends.

This amendment goes beyond prohibiting the transfer of cluster munitions to Ukraine and would tie our hands in future conflicts.

It is not hard to imagine, unfortunately, a situation where we might need to transfer these munitions to our allies and partners, for example, during a conflict on the Korean Peninsula or over Taiwan.

Finally, the amendment may prevent the Department from transferring used munitions among the military services, limiting the flexibility to support our war fighters. Madam Chair, I urge a "no" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Chair, I would observe that we cannot have a goal of creating parity with the Ukrainian military and the Russian military. If that is the case, why not send nuclear weapons?

These cluster bombs are indiscriminate. They have killed tens of thousands of people. You just heard my colleague say that when this is all done

we will be right back here on the floor appropriating money to demine the cluster munitions that we are now sending, which seems ludicrous to me.

Madam Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), the distinguished ranking member, for her thoughts on the matter.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this amendment.

The decision by the Biden administration to transfer cluster munitions to the Ukraine, in my opinion, was unnecessary and a sad mistake.

Congress has been clear in prohibiting the transfer of any cluster munitions with a dud rate greater than 1 percent.

The legacy of U.S. cluster munitions into the battlefield in Ukraine undermines our moral authority and places the U.S. in a position that directly contradicts 23 of our NATO allies who have joined the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The legacy of cluster bombs is misery, death, and an expensive cleanup after generations of use, and I have been in Laos, and I have worked with other countries to clean up this legacy.

As has been pointed out, the U.S. pays tens of millions of dollars annually to remove cluster munitions from Laos and the Vietnam area. These remnants of war continue to kill and maim civilians as we are here today.

As a strong supporter of the Biden administration's policy in Ukraine, I must state in the strongest possible terms my absolute opposition to the U.S. transferring cluster munitions. These weapons should be eliminated from the stockpiles.

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has the only time remaining.

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Chair, I appreciate the bipartisan support for this amendment. I thank Mr. MASSIE of Kentucky and Mr. McGOVERN of Massachusetts on the Rules Committee for having made this amendment in order.

I look forward to us working together to ensure that we have humane policies when it comes to our munitions.

Just to respond to the argument that there is somehow a Taiwan nexus here, I have studied the war games and the plans around Taiwan pretty extensively, and I have seen no scenario in which we believe that the appropriate utilization of munitions in Taiwan is going to require cluster munitions. It is largely going to be torpedoes, sea mining.

We are still demining the cluster munitions in Laos. We can make a wiser choice now and one certainly that doesn't put any of our allies in jeopardy.

Madam Chair, I encourage adoption of this bipartisan amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 162 will not be offered.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 163 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 164 OFFERED BY MS. GREENE OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 164 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. The salary of Lloyd James Austin III, the Secretary of Defense, shall be reduced to \$1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Chair, today I will introduce an amendment that uses the Holman rule to slash the Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin's salary to no more than \$1, and \$1 is too much money.

Let's talk about the job description of the Secretary of Defense. That role oversees the Defense Department and acts as the principal defense policymaker and adviser to the President of the United States.

The Department of Defense's mission statement states: "With our military tracing its roots back to pre-Revolutionary times, the Department has grown and evolved with our Nation. Our mission is to provide the military forces needed to deter war and ensure our Nation's security."

Secretary Austin has not fulfilled his job duties. As matter of fact, he is destroying our military.

During Secretary Austin's tenure, military recruitment has reached crisis levels of low recruitment. The numbers show that the Army expects to fall 15,000 recruits short of its annual recruiting goal this year. The Navy is expecting to be short 10,000 recruits. The Air Force is down another 3,000.

This cannot stand, especially with our government funding and fueling a war in Ukraine that is leading us undoubtedly to world war III.

Secretary Lloyd Austin failed America with his withdrawal from Afghanistan, making American forces leave in retreat and feeling like a failure.

Secretary Austin also forced more than 8,000 troops to be kicked out of

the military for refusing the COVID vaccine.

My amendment is a strong amendment, and many Americans agree. We do not want the United States military led by failure causing us to be weak. We need to pass my amendment.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, we have seen several of these amendments. I think, Madam Chair, you know how disappointed I am that these types of amendments have been proposed by the majority, but especially this one.

Secretary Austin has dedicated his life to service in the United States. For 41 years, he served in the United States Army, which began as an appointment to West Point and rose to the rank of four-star general. He served as the 33rd vice chief of the staff of the Army and completed his career as the head of Central Command.

Secretary Austin was awarded the Silver Star for his leadership in the Army's 3rd Infantry Division during the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

He didn't have to return to service for the Nation after giving 41 years of his life, but when called by President Biden, he served again.

You may disagree with the administration's policies as well as we have done over our careers with different administrations, but Secretary Austin has done nothing to merit this amendment.

Upon taking the job of Secretary of Defense, Secretary Austin has outlined his priorities for himself and the Department:

First, defend the Nation, which included prioritizing China as a pacing threat and address advanced and persistent threats.

Second, take care of our people, this includes growing our talent, building our resilience and our readiness and ensuring accountable leadership.

Third, and finally, succeed through teamwork. Focus on working with allies and partners and building unity within the Department.

Each one of these principles should be policies and qualities that we support in our Secretary of Defense, no matter what administration he or she serves in.

Secretary Austin has worked tirelessly to ensure that our allies and partners remain united.

Secretary Austin has personally pulled together the ministers of defense from all over NATO to mount an unprecedented coordination of equipment, training, and tools that the Ukrainians need to fight Vladimir Putin's illegal invasion.

Upon taking office, our relationship with the Philippines was at an all-time low. Secretary Austin reaffirmed our Visiting Forces Agreement, which led

to the creation of a rotational access to nine total locations, strengthening our defense in the critical Indo-Pacific area.

He has made historic breakthroughs through our cooperation with Japan, leading to Japan updating their national strategy documents, which increases security burden sharing in the region with a key ally.

He has worked to cement the principles of a trilateral security pact between Australia, the U.K., and the United States, and that helps us with our U.S. military position in the Pacific.

He has introduced programs that will help our military personnel, for example. As pointed out, recruitment is at an all-time low, but it is not because of anything Secretary Austin did.

Here is what he is doing to keep retention and attract military personnel: introducing universal pre-K, which will cut daycare costs for our military men and women; instituting increases in basic allowance for housing for Active-Duty servicemembers in 28 military housing areas that have experienced an average cost of more than 20 percent spike in rental housing costs; expanding military spouse employment opportunities, strengthening support to our families; and cutting the cost of food at commissaries.

Each one of these efforts help retain our servicemen and -women in service to our Nation.

There, of course, is more work to do, and there always is, but Secretary Austin is making the effort, and there is no need for us to make such a personal drastic attack by eliminating his pay.

For these reasons, I ask you and my fellow colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN), who has also proudly served in the United States military.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Madam Chair, I have multiple combat tours as a Navy SEAL, including two to Afghanistan, and that is why I rise today in support of the amendment to use the Holman rule to reduce Secretary Austin's salary to \$1.

To paraphrase a famous British officer's evaluation: Secretary Austin consistently sets low standards and then fails to meet them.

Secretary Austin remains in charge of the Pentagon, despite the fact that he has been responsible for the greatest degradation of the United States military since the Vietnam war and the highest Active Duty and veteran suicide rate in our history.

He is directly responsible for abandoning thousands of American citizen and our allies to terrorists in Afghanistan and the subsequent deaths of 13 of our brave men and women in uniform during that fiasco.

I support applying the Holman rule to reduce his salary to \$1 simply because we cannot reduce it to zero.

Secretary Austin could save further controversy and redeem his honor by resigning immediately and publicly apologizing to all of the Gold Star families he is directly responsible for creating at the bombing of Abbey Gate.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I will be brief. The loss of our veterans to suicide is tragic. Coming from a family with many who have served, and in going to military reunions, I know how serious this issue is. To put this on Secretary Austin, to me, is just wrong, and it is disrespectful. I have had these conversations with him personally about this.

I remind Members that the Trump administration started the immediate, quick, fast-paced withdrawal out of Afghanistan. When President Biden came into office, he knew we were at a critical juncture to try to get people out safely. He was able to negotiate a small extension, but that was it.

It is a shared responsibility for what happened in Afghanistan.

Maybe the administration could have planned it better, but the Biden administration's hand was forced by what the Trump administration had put into action.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Chair, there is no excuse. You can't blame President Trump for the failure in Afghanistan. That failure lies on Secretary Lloyd Austin, Joe Biden, the President of the United States, and his administration.

President Trump would have never led our troops to failure in Afghanistan. He would have never abandoned \$7 billion worth of military equipment. President Trump would have never left the Afghan people in complete ruin to be controlled by a terrorist government, the Taliban.

That is a complete excuse. Democrats need to stop blaming President Trump and his administration for Joe Biden's failures.

I urge the House to adopt my amendment, Madam Chair, to take Secretary Lloyd Austin's salary using the Holman rule, which is a rule that allows us to fire failures that are serving our government and serving our country.

Lloyd Austin is not serving the United States military.

Lloyd Austin is leading the United States into failure.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 165 OFFERED BY MS. HAGEMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 165 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay for the costs of teleworking or remote working for any employee or contractor of the Department of Defense on a regular and recurring base.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Chair, I rise today in favor of my amendment No. 165 to H.R. 4365.

My amendment prohibits the use of funds to pay regular remote and telework for the civilian and contractor workforce of the Department of Defense.

Madam Chair, at the very beginning of this Congress, our majority brought the voice of the American people to this Chamber saying that enough was enough, that it was time for the Federal workforce to return to work.

To this end, we passed the SHOW UP Act because our constituents were sick and tired of the lack of service from the Federal Government.

While progress has been made to some extent, there are still legacy and recent telework and remote work agreements that keep Federal workers who are supposed to be delivering for the American people out of the office. This includes the Department of Defense workforce, which is allowed to work from home in varying capacities.

In 2019, the Office of the Director of National Security found that across the entire Federal Government 4.2 million employees were eligible to access classified information. The Defense Department is responsible for 3.8 million of these clearances. Of these clearances for employees of the DOD, 20 percent are civilian workforce and 26 percent are contractors.

The DOD works largely in a classified setting. Its responsibilities are to safeguard this Nation. How this mission can be fulfilled when the employees are sitting at home is beyond me.

Madam Chair, it is time for the Federal workforce, including those who work for the DOD, to return to work so the American people can receive a full and fair return on the services that they fund through their tax dollars.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASE. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASE. Madam Chair, I am reading the text of this amendment, and it says here none of the funds appropriated may be used for the purposes of teleworking or remote working for any employee or any contractor of the Department of Defense on a regular and recurring basis.

That seems pretty excessive to me.

Now, I would agree with my colleague from Wyoming that certainly telework presents opportunities in some cases for abuse just as regular work does, but we are living in a new world. We are living in a post-COVID world.

There is a place in our workforce for regular work, which is not so regular anymore, and there is a place in our world for telework.

I can certainly envision legitimate purposes for an employee or a contractor of the Department of Defense to engage in telework; for example, particularly, a valuable contractor who does, in fact, choose to work at home and that contractor's services are desired by the Department of Defense.

Why should we limit the Department of Defense in its ability to utilize telework if and as appropriate? By the way, it may be not only about the efficiency of the work, but it may be more cost effective. It may be more cost effective for that work to be engaged in from the telework perspective. We have the technology to do that.

There are a lot of ways that we can provide for work. We are obviously in a significant recruiting and retention challenge for the Department of Defense, and if the Department of Defense wants to engage in telework or offer that as an alternative to satisfy its own needs, I see no reason to provide an excessive amendment that essentially rules out an entire option that is available really to the rest of our society.

Madam Chair, for those reasons, I must oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Chair, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the amendment.

Regular telework was a necessary evil to sustain DOD operations during the COVID lockdown, but that time is over.

Main Street small business went back to work in person years ago, and big business is steadily ending full telework policies.

Leaders across the country have found that full-time telework drives more meetings, reduces productivity, and hinders the development of new employees.

Further, DOD personnel must also access and work on highly classified national security issues.

Madam Chair, I urge a "yes" vote.

□ 1230

Mr. CASE. Madam Chair, to my friend and colleague, Mr. CALVERT, Main Street small business is engaging in telework today. It is finding the opportunities to utilize telework where appropriate. Main Street government is engaging in telework where appropriate.

I completely agree with the concerns for telework in a national security environment. Presumably, if one was ex-

ercising flexibility from a responsible perspective, one would not engage in telework, especially in the national security area.

Obviously, we have a great part of our Federal Government that does not engage in national security directly. Why shouldn't the Department of Defense have this particular flexibility?

Again, the excessiveness of the amendment and the no exceptions at all nature of the amendment, I think, advise against it.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Chair, I believe that my colleague on the other side misunderstands the amendment or the scope of it. The amendment does not prevent DOD employees from working from home if needed, such as for health or emergency situations. In fact, the Defense Civilian Personnel Advisory Service is responsible for policy oversight of the DOD telework and remote work programs. These programs are administered in accordance with DOD Instruction 1035.01.

This amendment specifically prevents only telework and remote work on a regular, recurring basis. The other categories that accommodate health issues, emergency situations, and more would be left untouched, providing the necessary flexibility.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASE. Madam Chair, to my colleague, I am simply reading the language of the amendment, "on a regular and recurring basis." There may well be suitable reasons why telework would be advisable on a regular and recurring basis which is not health related and not very specifically narrow as she has pointed out.

We have belabored this point long enough. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Chair, this should be a no-brainer that our Federal workers and our employees should actually go to work. In fact, it is actually bipartisan. President Biden called on his Cabinet members to aggressively execute plans for Federal employees to work more in their offices.

The President and I do not see eye to eye on very much—in fact, very little. In this instance, putting workers back in the office is common sense.

This amendment would not defund telework and remote work for servicemen and -women. This amendment specifically prevents funds for DOD employees, civilians, and contractors.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASE. Madam Chair, suitable oversight of telework by the DOD is appropriate. It is something that we should engage in. To foreclose it under all circumstances, I believe, is unwise.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 166 OFFERED BY MS. JAYAPAL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 166 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to carry out section 222a or 222b of title 10, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Chair, my bipartisan amendment would prevent funding from this bill to be used to carry out the Defense Department's "unfunded priorities list." This list that the DOD is required to send to Congress is simply a wish list of things that individual commanders and generals would like to fund and by definition have been determined non-essential to our national security.

This practice does not serve the national security interests of the United States, and it was not mandatory until the passage of the fiscal 2017 NDAA. Mandating these wish lists only serves special interests in the defense contractor industry eager to grow their profits by selling expensive equipment that was not important enough to make it into the Pentagon's own budget. This is corruption and a waste of taxpayer dollars.

This practice has long been criticized by DOD officials and lawmakers of both parties. Bush-appointed Defense Secretary Robert Gates all but banned the list, strongly discouraging his generals from submitting wish lists to Congress during his tenure. Senator John McCain, chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, publicly stated his skepticism of the practice.

In fact, in response to a letter that I sent to the Department of Defense on this practice, Under Secretary of Defense Michael McCord said on behalf of Defense Secretary Austin: "Therefore, the Department supports your proposal to repeal the requirement in 10 U.S.C. 222a"—that is, to send Congress an unfunded priorities list.

These wish lists are packed with billions of dollars of excessive line items, this year totaling more than \$17 billion on top of the \$842 billion requested by the White House. The Space Force alone requested half a billion in unfunded priorities, almost all classified. Meanwhile, we cannot verify that the

money that we authorize for DOD is even spent responsibly because the Department of Defense has never passed a budget audit.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues, especially those across the aisle who are interested in fiscal conservatism, to vote "yes" on this bipartisan and commonsense amendment.

I thank my Republican colleagues, Congressman MCCLINTOCK and Congressman DAVIDSON, as well as members of my own party, Congressman GARAMENDI and Congressman MOULTON, who understand that this is wrong and have worked in concert with me to rein in this wasteful spending that has no benefit to our national security.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Unfunded priorities lists are a critical tool to provide Congress with unfiltered information on what the military services and combatant commanders need. Access to this information is so important that the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act established a statutory requirement.

Unfunded priorities lists give our military services and combatant commanders a direct channel to Congress, which allows Congress to make more informed decisions.

I would just say, for instance, USINDOPACOM obviously has challenges dealing with China, and unfortunately, we are constrained by our budget in getting the resources there that they would like to have. If, in fact, resources become available, we would like to take care of those combatant commanders to deal with the threats that they have.

Madam Chair, I urge opposition to this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), the top Democrat on the Appropriations Committee's Defense Subcommittee.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Washington has 2½ minutes remaining.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I rise in support of my colleague's amendment. We all support funding for our national security, but should any department, agency, or entity really get an opportunity to request additional funding outside of the President's and administration's request?

The service chiefs appear before the committee each year to discuss how their budget needs are included in the National Defense Strategy. Most of the

combatant commanders testify before committees also. Congress is able to assess, with strength and oversight, what we believe the needs are for our country and its national security.

With the levers that we have in place, I support my colleague's amendment, and I urge others to support it.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA).

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Chair, I understand that we are living in uncertain times. We are witnessing an unjustifiable war of aggression in Ukraine and a global democratic backslide. Congress can respond to national security needs as they arise. We don't have to spend billions of dollars on what-ifs.

These risks are already built into the Pentagon's budget request. If military leaders want more funding for their wish lists, there is nothing in this amendment that will prevent the DOD from supplying an unfunded priorities list to Congress, but this process should be optional just as it was 7 years ago.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD the letter from Under Secretary of Defense Michael McCord that I quoted from earlier.

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
Washington, DC, March 20, 2023.

Hon. PRAMILA JAYAPAL,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE JAYAPAL: I am responding on behalf of Secretary Austin to your letter of January 31, 2023, regarding the submission of unfunded priorities lists (UPLs) to Congress.

The Department appreciates your sustained commitment to our service members, their families, and our entire work force. We are grateful for your leadership, and we share your commitment to maximizing the impact of every dollar Congress appropriates.

The practice of senior military leaders providing to Congress a list of unfunded priorities was initiated by Congress, first as a request and, since 2017, as a statutory requirement. This process was created by Congress and we agree the Congress should reconsider the merits of this approach. Every Department of Defense (DoD) budget supervised and submitted by Secretary Austin is built to implement his National Defense Strategy and represents the Department's highest priorities. The current statutory practice of having multiple individual senior leaders submit priorities for additional funding absent the benefit of weighing costs and benefits across the Department is not an effective way to illuminate our top joint priorities.

Although Secretary Austin follows a similar practice to that of former Secretary Gates by requiring that these lists are submitted for his review, that process alone does not effectively address the underlying issue of requiring individual leaders to submit proposals with no necessary connection to the Secretary's global priorities. Therefore, the Department supports your proposal to repeal the requirement in 10 U.S.C. 222a.

In contrast to the UPL requirement, in November 2022, after the Congress had already decided to increase the Department's budget, and in response to multiple Congressional inquiries as to how higher than expected inflation was impacting the Department, DoD

provided the congressional defense committees, as drafting assistance for conference, our best assessment of the highest priorities for additional funding, with a focus on addressing unbudgeted inflation. This document was in lieu of, not in addition to, any unfunded priority list submitted under 10 U.S.C. 222a.

That list included upward adjustments for various fact-of-life increases including service member's Basic Allowances for Housing and Subsistence rates, health care costs, additional costs to complete military construction projects, and fuel price impacts. The list also included other critical emergent requirements such as the Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response Action Plan you noted, as well as additional funds to increase capacity to enable the Defense Industrial Base to accelerate the replacement of defense articles being drawn down and provided to Ukraine.

I hope that this information is helpful and look forward to working with you in the 118th Congress. A similar letter is being sent to the other signatories of your letter.

MICHAEL MCCORD

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, I close out by saying that we know that the Department of Defense is necessarily a hierarchical institution where the top leaders identify the most important priorities across a very vast swath of departments within the Department of Defense, and they are the ones who we confirm, frankly, to be in charge of that appropriations request and budget.

What is happening now with this unfunded priorities list—and we have had testimony on this in the Budget Committee and other committees—is that these lists are just coming from people who simply do not have any authority to determine the importance.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. GRIFFITH). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Washington will be postponed.

VACATING DEMAND FOR RECORDED VOTE ON
AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CLYDE

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 154 be withdrawn to the end that the amendment stands disposed of by the earlier voice vote thereon.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the request for a recorded vote is withdrawn. Accordingly, the amendment is agreed to.

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 167 OFFERED BY MR.
D'ESPOSITO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 167 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk as the designee of Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide assistance to the Department of Homeland Security to house persons on a military installation located in the United States.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Chair, today is September 27, 2023, and because of the dereliction of duty of Secretary Mayorkas and the Biden administration, this Nation is under siege. We have record numbers of migrants coming into this country, estimated at 10,000 a day that we know of and an unknown amount of got-aways.

In places like New York City, where people like Mayor Eric Adams and Governor Kathy Hochul have celebrated sanctuary cities, we now see, in fact, that they had no plans to be a sanctuary. They just wanted to pander.

In places like New York City, we have migrants who are coming into the United States of America through our points of entry. They are coming to the United States of America for a better way of life. They are leaving their homes, their families, risking their lives to cross this border. Instead of being given that sanctuary, they are in old hotels and empty warehouses at airports.

This amendment today will ensure that no funds made available by this act may be used by the Department of Defense to provide assistance to the Department of Homeland Security to house migrants or illegal immigrants or illegal aliens on military installations located in the United States of America.

Back in May, Governor Hochul sent a letter to President Biden, and cc'd members of the New York delegation, asking that he allow military installations to be utilized for housing migrants.

Just recently, we have seen that there is a deal in place for migrants to not only be housed but buildings to be erected at Floyd Bennett Field, a military installation in Brooklyn, New York. Not only is it a military installation, but like many others throughout this country, Floyd Bennett Field plays host to my brothers and sisters from the New York City Police Department, housing our aviation team, our

scuba team, special operations, and more.

This simply says no funds will be utilized, given to the Department of Homeland Security, to house migrants and illegal aliens on military installations.

Mr. Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the amendment. The Biden administration is failing our country and undermining our security with the unmitigated crisis along our southern border.

This policy-driven crisis affects more than just the four States that share a border with Mexico, mine included. Today, every city in America is dealing with the influx of illegal migrants because the Biden administration has failed to secure the border and is unwilling to enforce the Nation's immigration laws.

The administration's refusal to act has created a looming crisis at our Nation's military installations, which should not be used to house migrants. They are not designed or equipped for refugee camps.

Housing illegal immigrants on military installations negatively impacts our security and readiness. I understand that New York Democrats have created over 200 migrant camps in the gentleman's area, and I stand with them on the need for real solutions to the border crisis.

Mr. Chair, I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Chair, I just heard my friend and chair of the subcommittee say something that I completely agree with, which is we need real solutions to immigration and the border crisis, and that is true. This takes a piecemeal approach that is unnecessarily broad and unnecessary in general.

To our knowledge, there is no current or planned use of active military bases to support DHS' need for temporary or long-term detention of migrants crossing the southern border. Certainly, if the claims by my colleague from New York are correct, that is worthy of debate.

However, the amendment goes much further than that particular point. It says that the military cannot provide any assistance to the Department of Homeland Security to house persons on a military installation. Therefore, we have to ask the question: Is that too broad in an amendment?

Let's take a look at a couple of examples or at least one example in particular. It would apply in that case to governmentwide efforts like Operation Allies Welcome, which was the evacuation of Afghan refugees after the collapse of the government in Afghanistan in 2021. The DHS at the time worked with the Departments of Defense and

State to use military installations to temporarily house Afghan refugees fleeing imminent danger and persecution. This was a critical tool to save lives.

There are, I am sure, other situations that we can envision in which we would want to access our military installations for very tailored purposes, with congressional oversight, that are under the control of the Department of Homeland Security.

If we want to have a debate over immigration, let's have it. If we want to recognize that we have a real problem, I am the first to recognize that, as well. The amendment certainly takes a very broad approach to a problem that I think we can all agree is definitely a problem and rules out many other situations that, in all honesty, we would want the discretion for the DOD. It is much better for Congress to retain that discretion to the DOD where necessary for national security purposes with congressional oversight and with very tailored congressional restrictions.

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

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Chair, I am glad to see that we are all looking for solutions to the failed policies of Joe Biden.

What we are focused on today is the fact that military installations, our national parks, like Floyd Bennett Field, where military operations actually take place, are critical to defense. They are not equipped to house migrants. That is what we are focused on today, that there are no plans in place and that these plans, the ones that they are rushing to, are not the ones that we support.

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

Mr. CASE. Mr. Chair, first of all, I think we are trying to confirm whether or not Floyd Bennett Field is, in fact, a military installation within the definition of the gentleman's amendment.

That point aside, again, I would say that if we are trying to solve the particular issue that my colleague and friend from New York is trying to solve, let's try to solve that one. Let's not do so with a blunt instrument that takes away discretion across the board for legitimate uses of military installations under congressional oversight, such as the Afghan refugee situation.

We can talk about this on the floor. Yes, it is completely necessary to discuss and debate this, but let's not overplay this so that the DOD never has the flexibility to have any military installation used for legitimate purposes that we would all agree with.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 168 OFFERED BY MR. NORMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 168 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for any office of diversity, equity, or inclusion.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, I cannot believe I am up here having this debate, particularly at this critical time for our military—\$1.4 billion in 2022 for money spent on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

A woke military is a weak military. The military's sole purpose is to provide for the defense of our great Nation. Our military's focus should be the protection of the American people and our freedoms, not liberal feelings.

Therefore, my amendment would eliminate any offices of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Armed Forces and the Department of Defense.

Woke ideology undermines our readiness in a variety of ways. It undermines cohesiveness by emphasizing differences based on race, ethnicity, and sex.

We recently had 160 retired flag officers write a letter to Speaker McCARTHY and House Armed Services Committee Chair ROGERS about the dangers of DEI and the opposition to it in the military.

The officers wrote: "We respectfully request that Congress, pursuant to its constitutional powers 'to raise and support Armies' and 'to provide and maintain a Navy,' take legislative action to remove all diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs from the Department of Defense."

Another one: "Our military must be laser focused on one mission: readiness, undiminished by the culture war engulfing our country."

DEI is dividing, not unifying, our military and society.

Another one: "We have fought for our Nation and are sounding the alarm that DEI poses a grave danger to our military warfighting ethos and is degrading warfighting readiness. Social engineering, commonly called wokeism, has no place in our military."

Finally: These indoctrination programs differentiate servicemembers along racial and gender lines, which runs completely counter to the military imperative to build cohesiveness based on common loyalties, training, and standards.

What is more, the Army missed its recruitment target by 25 percent in 2022 at this critical time in the history of this great Republic. This is a Bud Light level of failure.

Mr. Chair, I urge that this amendment be adopted in light of an administration that has completely left our Nation vulnerable.

President Biden told a group of overseas Air Force airmen that the Joint Chiefs of Staff had determined that the greatest threat facing America was global warming, a claim that the Joint Chiefs had to walk back.

He didn't mention Russia. He didn't mention China. He didn't mention the threat of the debt that has engulfed this country. He mentioned global warming.

As I mentioned, the DOD spent \$1.4 billion on their equity action plan. That is money we don't have, and it just adds to the national debt.

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

Mr. CASE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Chair, we have confirmed, to the prior amendment, that Floyd Bennett Field in New York is not a military installation.

Do we not value diversity in our military? That is the question in this amendment.

Does it matter that we have a diverse military? Does it matter or not?

Do we not value equity in our military? Does it matter?

Do we not value inclusion? Do we want a military that represents our society or just a slice of it? That is the question.

If you say that you value a diverse, equal, and inclusive military, if you say that that is of value to you, it doesn't happen automatically. It takes effort.

That is why our military leaders over a long period of time now have valued the investment in diversity, equity, and inclusion. They understand that a military that reflects the society that we live in values our military and accelerates, enhances, and improves the overall service that it provides. They understand that that military in that situation will be supported by the American people.

They understand that it will be respected around the world where many other militaries of our partners and allies around the world do value diversity, equity, and inclusion. They don't have these debates in their parliaments and congresses. They don't face these attacks on the attempt to value these attributes within our military.

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We need to back those up, and yes, that does take an investment. Where you think that those efforts are wrong, where you think they have gone too far, where you think that they are somehow affecting military service, then go ahead and oversee those efforts.

Your solution is to cut the funding from all of them because you don't

value these attributes in our military. You think that valuing these attributes leads to a weak military. I heard you say that. I don't agree with that. That is fundamentally not a position that we agree with.

From our perspective, again, to take a blunt instrument and wipe out an entire department that values efforts that will improve military service, and, by the way, improve military recruitment, I hope the author of the amendment agrees that military recruitment is a major challenge for our military.

Yet, let's just say to whole parts of our society, sorry, we don't value you at all because we are not going to take care of trying to provide for diversity, equality, and inclusion. That is the wrong approach.

Fundamentally, this is a difference in policy. It is a difference in goal. Apparently, it is a difference in assessment of what makes our military strong and will continue to make it strong.

For those reasons, I have to strongly oppose this amendment. I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is just more liberal gibberish. \$1.4 billion? Sir, you tell these young people behind me, you tell them instead of building ships, instead of building airplanes, instead of protecting cybersecurity, you are going to really pay for transgender operations. Hogwash.

You try to make that case to anybody in this room, and they would laugh—well, it is so serious, they wouldn't laugh.

Let me tell you some other things that I am sick and tired of—feelings. Talk to the military Gold Star mothers who have lost their children. Tell them what you just said on this House floor.

An Admiral told midshipmen at the Naval Academy that they need to read "How to Be an Antiracist," a book that teaches the only remedy to pass discrimination.

Another one. Military recruitment videos in recent years have touted the military's inclusivity to LGBT members. They use a rainbow flag.

Enough is enough. Americans are tired of this. Why do you think there is a shortage of people entering the military who have to put up with this kind of thinking?

For this reason, we shouldn't even be wasting our time debating this thing, but it is what it is. Thanks to the Biden administration and their anti-military and anti-readiness, it is a time in America that we are in severe danger economically and security-wise.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the chair.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Chair, obviously we have a difference of opinion here.

I would also submit that the leadership of our military have a difference

of opinion with the perspectives expressed by the author of this amendment.

Again, they understand the values of pursuing a diverse, equitable, equal, and inclusive military. They understand the challenges of a military that is not representative of the American people. They understand the need to provide for that investment.

Again, we can oversee this particular effort. We can question particular representations of that policy. To take a blunt instrument to this entire effort and defund it and say that it has no value at all, that is what is objectionable in this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 169 OFFERED BY MR. NORMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 169 printed in part A of House Report 118–216.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. 8155. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used, with regards to a member of the Armed Forces with a minor dependent child enrolled in an EFMP—

(1) to provide gender transition procedures, including surgery or medication, to such child through such EFMP;

(2) to provide a referral for a procedure described in paragraph (1) to such child through such EFMP; or

(3) to approve a change of duty station for such member through such EFMP for the purpose of providing such child with access to procedures described in paragraph (1).

(b) In this section, the term "EFMP" means a program under section 1781c(e) of title 10, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, again, like the other amendment I have, I cannot believe we are sitting here debating this.

What my amendment does is prohibits provisions of gender transition procedures, including surgery or medication, through the Exceptional Family Member Program.

Let me tell you what the Exceptional Family Member Program is. It provides resources to military families with special needs.

This program is designed for military spouses, children, and other dependent family members who require ongoing medical educational services such as individuals with autism, asthma, chronic respiratory illnesses, Down syndrome, and many others.

The military has tried to politicize this matter, and my amendment ensures that we reserve the valuable programs and the dollars for these programs, which would go toward the intent of what it was put in for in the first place, which is to help families with special needs and prevent the further dissolution and misguided dollars spent on something like gender transition procedures.

My amendment also prohibits the change of duty station simply for the purpose of providing a child with easier access to these procedures.

I urge adoption of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Chair, again, we have an amendment that would want us, apparently, to occupy some other state of reality as opposed to the world as we have it today.

In that world, we do have transgender individuals who need help, children whose parents are looking for the right courses of conduct for them.

This measure would say that those parents do not have the right to make those decisions in consultation with their doctors and with their children.

Further, what this amendment says is that those parents need not apply to join our military because they will not be welcomed there with the decisions that they need to make for their families.

This amendment that cuts gender-affirming care options for servicemembers' children will drive individuals out of the military, prevent recruitment to start with, and is, frankly, needlessly cruel. These decisions should be reserved for parents and their children.

I hear all the time from the other side of the aisle talk about parents' rights—all the time. Parents should have the right to make these decisions.

Is there an exception for military families? Parents get to make these decisions, but by the way, if you are a member of our military, you don't get to make these decisions.

This is a very personal decision for parents to make with their families, with their children, and with their doctors.

It is probably, in all honesty, unconstitutional as courts believe healthcare bans like this violate the equal protection clause of the Constitution, but let's just leave that aside and talk about the policy.

Is the policy wise to say to servicemembers and their families that they cannot access care that is provided to them in a non-servicemember world?

I think that is the wrong policy, so I oppose this amendment and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, let me tell you the dollar amount spent for the past 5 years—\$15 million. That is \$15 million for surgery for a man who can't

decide whether he is a man, or a girl who can't decide whether she is a girl. Imagine that.

You tell those families that have children with Down syndrome, you tell those families that have severely autistic children you are going to spend it for changing genders?

I don't mind somebody questioning their gender but pay for it yourself when you have to have it, not on the backs of our brave military families.

In the past 5 years, \$15 million was spent to treat 1,892 transgender troops. Well, isn't that something? You want somebody who is trying to decide if they are a man or a woman on the firing line?

Is that really a question to decide in the military? There was \$11.5 million spent on psychotherapy and \$3.1 million for surgeries.

The price tag for individuals getting this surgery and treatments after have ranged from \$8,000 to \$100,000. Related healthcare coverage is only going up.

My point is, I think, to make this argument, particularly with dollars that could be spent helping meaningful children who have disabilities should be made. To spend this money that we don't have just really spits in the face of our military families.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Chair, first of all, we can certainly debate the efficient use of our funds for expenses and the cost, but I strongly suspect that my colleague's objections in this amendment do not relate to cost but to a judgment about what should and shouldn't be provided to our military families.

Now, we can have this debate about transgender care for our military servicemembers, and the debate will look something like this one, but this particular amendment would ban any care for minor children.

What this amendment would do is to say to our military servicemembers, you cannot have the full range of recognized medical options for your children that are available in a non-military setting.

That is what this amendment would do. This is about children. It is about parents making decisions for their children.

This is a situation where that decision should be left to the servicemember parents who have a choice as to whether they serve in the military or not, have a choice as to whether to join the military or not, or stay in the military.

We should provide them the same basic rights and options as are available in the private sector. Otherwise, aside from not being fair to them, in my estimation, we also will not have a strong military because they will choose not to join or to stay in.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from South Carolina has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, I will just say that it is this kind of thinking that has the military in a demoralized state.

It is this kind of thinking, this kind of rationalization of our hard-earned tax money that has the military recruitment numbers way down.

It is this kind of woke thinking that is penalizing families that want to serve this country, families who have children with these disabilities who need the care that they would deprive them of because they want to fund somebody who doesn't know what gender they are.

It is this kind of thinking that America is sick and tired of. Ask any military family, and they will tell you the same thing.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 170 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 170 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to remove a Chinese military company from the list required by section 1260H of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, the section 1260H list maintained by the Department of Defense was created by the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act and intended to identify any Chinese military companies operating directly or indirectly in the United States.

Section 1260H is a part of a largely bipartisan, years-long effort to name and shame CCP companies operating in our Nation.

While the Biden administration has made important additions to this list, including military companies such as ChemChina and China State Construction Engineering, the administration has still fallen short of a full commitment to countering the malign influences of the CCP.

Earlier this year, we saw Secretaries Yellen, Blinken, and Raimondo take trips to China as part of a diplomatic overture.

Many of my colleagues would undoubtedly agree that the CCP could

care less about diplomacy and that these trips have very little, if any, bearing on how China chooses to behave on the international stage.

One could argue that these trips only serve to demonstrate the limits and the lack of American resolve to confront the PRC's obviously petulant behavior.

For instance, it is a daily occurrence to see the PRC infringe on Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone. The PRC regularly makes threats to wage war against Taiwan.

They manipulate international organizations to do their bidding. They entrap developing countries into contracts that make them de facto vassal states. They construct dual-use ports across the world, and it goes on and on and on, Mr. Chairman.

In the face of the CCP's belligerent escalatory actions, the gut reaction of the American administration ought not to be for the Secretary of the Treasury to fly to China and consume psychedelic mushrooms. Yet, that is what we saw from Janet Yellen.

Before Secretary Raimondo's visit to China, the Department of Commerce, acting through the Bureau of Industry and Security, unilaterally removed 27 CCP entities from the bureau's so-called unverified list.

Our Department of Commerce literally chose to make a concession to an aggressive state in order to get the CCP to meet with our Secretary of Commerce.

It is clear that this President's judgment cannot be trusted. This administration's assessment of China has only emboldened our Nation's foremost enemy. Appeasement has long failed as a strategy, and it continues to fail today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of my amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 171 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 171 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be made available to NewsGuard Technologies Inc.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, it would appear that many in the Democratic Party have taken it upon themselves to offer their talents and considerable abilities to help determine which information is reliable and which isn't. Thanks, but no thanks.

Mr. Chairman, in September 2021, the Department of Defense offered NewsGuard, a self-proclaimed fact-checker, a \$750,000 grant to effectively censor conservative viewpoints and opinions.

Want proof of NewsGuard's censorship efforts? I am more than happy to provide undisputed facts.

NewsGuard has given extremely subjective and clearly biased ratings to several conservative news outlets, including The Federalist, a 12½ percent accuracy and credibility score; Newsmax, 15 percent; The Epoch Times, a 17½ percent score; and OAN, 17½ percent.

I am sure these conservative news outlets have lost out on crucial ad revenue from these ratings. It is censorship.

It is fundamentally pathetic that this administration thinks they can sideline conservative viewpoints and demonize conservative platforms without the American people finding out about this.

All this is happening while Politico, NPR, and The New York Times have previously received a perfect 100 percent; CBS, 95 percent.

Mr. Chairman, we are supposed to have an open and free press. There should be no censorship. This is the United States of America. The fact that we are funding an organization that is censoring viewpoints and news is untenable.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. NewsGuard does a service that provides tools to counter misinformation, and it has been around since 2018.

It uses tools to catalog and track all of the top false narratives spreading online, which is effective in countering hostile misinformation targeting Democratic governments like our own.

There is no doubt that China, Russia, Iran, and other bad actors are trying to influence our country through its mis-, dis-, and mal-information.

We need every tool available to determine what is real and what is not when it comes to what is being reported by the press.

The amendment does nothing but weaken our ability to do that, so I oppose this amendment. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, it should be noted that Newsmax TV is more than just online. CBS isn't just online. The New York Times isn't just online.

These are news outlets with multiple platforms, so it is not about censoring online. It is about censorship.

The irony here is abundant, especially when considering that these leftist news outlets parroted the lie promoted by 51 intelligence officials and our disaster of a Secretary of State that the Hunter Biden laptop story was a production of Russian disinformation.

Only in America could a guy who helped steal an election and undermine our democracy be promoted to oversee our Nation's policy on Ukraine, but that is the story of Antony Blinken in a nutshell.

The Hunter Biden laptop debacle was literally the biggest story of the 2021 election, and a story, if taken seriously, that might have resulted in a different outcome.

Instead, our government is subsidizing a self-identified fact-checker who completely whiffed on the biggest story of a Presidential cycle.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, just a few facts about NewsGuard. Journalists are employed by NewsGuard. They have technology people that score websites based on their reliability and general trustworthiness.

It is not censored. People still have the freedom to read and to believe whatever they choose to, but this analysis is designed to be transparent.

It also includes the name of the staffer who analyzed the information. If somebody has a dispute with it, they know exactly who made the score system happen.

Let me just tell you a couple of things, Mr. Chair, about what they do. They look at the frequency of publication that has inaccurate information, the extent of sourcing and original reporting on information, and the degree of demarcation between news and opinion journalists.

Mr. Chair, I attended both public and private grade schools and colleges, and I remember the good Sister saying, you are entitled to your own opinion, it should be said so respectfully, but you are not entitled to your own facts.

One of the things that they try to do is ferret out what is hard news and what is somebody's opinion. We are entitled to read people's opinions.

When opinions somehow get woven in and they become fact, it becomes very confusing for people. What NewsGuard tries to do is kind of help separate that out; the accuracy of headlines, including those that are click-bait headlines and the degree of disclosure of the website's owner.

If you are reading something and you want to know who owns it, is it owned by your next-door neighbor? Is it owned by an American company? Is it owned by a Chinese company? Is it owned by a foreign national? It discloses all those kinds of things.

I am the daughter of a librarian. I am not about censorship, but I am about people being able to sort out in this day and age what is opinion, what is fact, and who is writing what, so we know what their bias is.

That is why I strongly oppose this amendment and believe that NewsGuard is a service that provides some tools to counter misinformation, and they have been around since 2018.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, while I appreciate my colleague's perspective, it should be noted that when conservative versus other news sources are compared with similar metrics that the more liberal-leaning news outlets are ranked 27 points higher.

This has a direct impact on revenue streams. To say that they are somehow unbiased literally defies the facts that I have laid out before you and that you have conservative news sites on the bottom end of the spectrum, whereas the more mainstream, liberal-leaning news sites are at the top.

Mr. Chairman, it should also be noted that NewsGuard is known to be reliant on and working with the WHO, the World Health Organization, which is known for disinformation and lying and is unduly influenced by the CCP.

This is a grant that should not be authorized, it should not be continued, and they should not be relied upon.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I would love to see the source for NewsGuard working directly with the World Health Organization.

They might report things from the World Health Organization, but that is different than working directly with them because that implies something else.

I am going to close this up just saying there are many people, when they are sorting through something, that just want to know that there is a fact-checker.

I am sorry if the gentleman, Mr. Chair, feels that somehow or another, some of the papers or the websites or the news programs he wants to watch don't have as high a rating from NewsGuard. He is still free to watch and do that.

For people who just want to make sure that things are fact-checked, they want to know who owns the site, who is operating the site, where they are getting their sources and cites from, that is what NewsGuard's function is.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 172 OFFERED BY MR. ROSENDALE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 172 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. 8155. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require a member

of the Armed Forces or a civilian employee of the Department of Defense to receive a vaccination against COVID-19.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Chair, my amendment No. 172 would prohibit funds made available by this act to require a member of the Armed Forces or a civilian employee of the Department of Defense to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

The fiscal year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act rescinded Secretary Austin's memorandum requiring that members of the Armed Forces be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Unfortunately, the NDAA did not prohibit future mandates. The last mandate resulted in over 8,400 troops being kicked out of the military for refusing this experimental vaccine, and we lost about 60,000 reservists. Countless individuals also decided not to enlist because of this mandate.

While our military is failing dramatically to meet recruiting goals, it is outrageous that the Department of Defense would condition employment on receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

For example, in 2022, the Army sought 60,000 recruits but only enlisted 45,000. For 2023, the Army is aiming to recruit 65,000 new members but is only expected to recruit between 50- and 55,000 Active-Duty members.

Additionally, young, healthy males are the least at risk of getting a severe case of COVID-19 while they are the most likely group to have an adverse reaction from the vaccine, making the mandate not just counterproductive but potentially dangerous.

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The Biden administration is already urging all Americans to get a booster shot, despite no human-outcome data on the new shot. Congress must preemptively stop all COVID-19 vaccine requirements before these unelected bureaucrats try to take more control of our lives.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. The Department took bold and effective action to confront the COVID-19 pandemic, protect our personnel across the force, and ensure that the U.S. military can fight and win wherever they are needed.

In fact, the Department of Defense lost 96 servicemembers to COVID. There were 96 servicemembers that died from COVID. More than 2 million servicemembers have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

All the servicemembers in the Department of Defense are required to

comply with applicable medical readiness requirements. One such requirement is when you go to boot camp—and a lot of us have seen the movies and know people who have served—all servicemembers must receive, if they have not already, inoculations and immunizations. They usually are the same ones that we have had as children. They just want to make sure they are up-to-date because you have to get your tetanus redone and things like that that are required.

These vaccinations also include measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, and chicken pox. In some cases, service personnel are required to take certain medications if they are deployed to an area, for example, to prevent malaria or maybe yellow fever. That is to make sure that they are safe.

Applicants for military service and servicemembers may seek an exemption—that has always been available to them and it continues to be available to them. They can seek an exemption for vaccine requirements based on qualifying medical or religious—so they can ask for that, and they are often granted it.

Members of Congress should not be directing or deciding what vaccines or medications are needed for our military personnel.

Madam Chair, I would ask my colleagues to take a second and for you to come along with me. Just imagine you are on a submarine. My father-in-law served on a submarine in World War II, and he would tell me how close those quarters are. I have been on a submarine, so I know how close they are. There is no place for total privacy and germs are all over.

Just think what would happen if there was a COVID-19 outbreak, how that could possibly affect national security. All of our service personnel are in close quarters with one another. We must try to protect them from any disease that could inhibit their ability to execute that mission.

At this point there are no COVID vaccine requirements. There aren't for any members of the total force. There aren't any requirements pending for this right now. The Department of Defense says, no, you don't have to get this one, there are other ones you have to get.

Madam Chair, since there are no COVID-19 vaccine requirements pending, I don't know why we are debating this amendment. For this reason, I would ask my colleagues to vote against this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Chair, I am glad we are talking about the effectiveness and the readiness of our military. Again, 60,000 reservists left the military because of a mandate. Fortunately, we did learn something from it and it was removed from the NDAA, and Austin went along with it.

These are the mandatory vaccinations that all servicemembers are re-

quired to receive before initial entry in basic training: adenovirus, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcal, poliovirus, tetanus-diphtheria, and varicella.

However, the main difference is that these other vaccines are much different and more effective than the COVID-19 vaccine. Take measles, for example. One estimate found that the measles vaccine is 85 times more effective than the Pfizer COVID vaccine.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), my dear friend.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of this amendment because it is extremely important. The reason there isn't a mandate at the Department of Defense right now is because we demanded that it end. That is the truth. We forced it through on that ridiculous omnibus spending bill last December.

Here is the reality. We have a doctor here in the building right now speaking to a group of members from Johns Hopkins University talking about the extent to which the current iteration of the COVID vaccine has been tested on 10 lab rats. It hasn't gone through any human trials that are necessary.

When my father had polio and the vaccine came after, it was a decade of testing and trials. We have stuck this vaccine out because of panic. We have undermined the health and well-being of our soldiers, airmen, and marines. We should stop it. We should prohibit it in the future, and we should make backpay available to our former members of the military that were kicked out.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, at some point I would like the gentleman from Montana to show me his statistics. We might have had 60,000 people who chose not to re-up. To attribute it all to COVID, I would like to see that information. I am sure Chair CALVERT would like to see that information because that would be important to see. That is a statistic I would like to see where it came from.

Madam Chair, I will state again that the COVID-19 vaccine currently isn't required, but to ban it in such a blanket way in which we are doing, takes away some of the ability for the Department. You volunteer to be on a submarine. It takes away some of the flexibility that the Department or commander or someone in the height of a pandemic—should it come again—they should have every tool in their toolbox. Right now there is no current reason for it.

Madam Chair, I am like you, talking to friends and neighbors. Some are deciding to get it, some are deciding not to get it, just like people do with the flu shot. There are certain times that the Department of Defense says you need to take these certain medications.

The gentleman from Montana listed off a lot of them. We have had them.

Our kids have had them. Our servicemembers have them. COVID-19 isn't on a list right now of anything that is being required. This seems to me to be superfluous and kind of creates more friction and anxiousness about how we talk about medicine that is being provided. This is medicine that should be optional.

Is this an option that would be available if a servicemember going in said, hey, I want to get the COVID vaccine? I want to have it, and I would like the Department of Defense to provide it to me.

I really think we should leave it up to the medical professionals at the Department of Defense to say what is necessary. Right now they are saying this isn't a mandated vaccine.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Chair, we don't have a single problem with this being an option. If any servicemembers want to go and get an experimental vaccination plugged into their arm, they are welcome to do so.

What we are saying is that the dollars that are going to be issued to the Department of Defense should not include any mandate for this experimental vaccination.

In August of 2022, The Washington Post reported that 58 percent of the deaths related to COVID-19 were among vaccinated or boosted persons. This raises serious questions about even the effectiveness of this vaccine.

I would also like to state that the COVID-19 vaccine requirements also continue to ignore natural immunity. As renowned Dr. Marty Makary testified in the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic this year, "Over the past 3 years, over 200 studies have shown that natural immunity is at least as effective as vaccinated immunity. A recent Lancet review . . . natural immunity is at least as effective as vaccinated immunity, and probably better."

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mrs. HOUCHEIN). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 173 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 173 printed in part A of House Report 118-216.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 45, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$20,000,000) (increased by \$20,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, the amendment that I have offered increases funding for the inspector general by \$20 million for an Office of the Special Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance, if authorized, to enhance the oversight and accountability measures for funds appropriated for Ukraine, increasing the inspector general by \$20 million.

Over the last year and half, Congress has appropriated approximately \$113 billion in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

I am one of these individuals that believes that we did have agreements with Ukraine, and we have got to recognize those from the mid-1990s when we asked them to denuclearize and work with our partners in Eastern Europe.

I also don't believe that we ought to be just providing an endless supply of funds to Ukraine with no clear mission, with no clear accountability of the dollars, and without clear accountability of whether NATO and our European allies are upholding their end of the bargain.

This is a step to try to rectify at least one part of that: by making sure there is a fully empowered inspector general, to make sure that the information that we have is complete, and that we have a full understanding of every dollar that has already been appropriated and might be appropriated in the future, and to make sure that we are tracking it to the level that is necessary.

There have been a number of different issues that we have identified in the past. For example, if you look at other conflicts like Afghanistan, the lead for the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan found at least \$19 billion in U.S. taxpayer funds sent to Afghanistan was lost to waste, fraud, and abuse from 2002 to 2020.

It is critically important that we track this and follow it and understand it.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I claim time in opposition only to have a discussion.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, let it be said loud and clear, the chair and I and all the members on the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee have been bird-dogging, asking questions, wanting to have great reports on what is happening with the money.

You are in lockstep with what your ultimate goal is and what we have been doing on the committee. In fact, we fund a lot of this. In general, I support the idea of this amendment, but the bill already includes funding the oversight of all of the dollars we are spending to support Ukraine.

I am kind of a penny-pincher, believe it or not. You are smiling, but I ask

people a lot of questions. I won't get into that. I ask a lot of questions. I am kind of concerned about some duplicity and inefficiencies in here, which I know is something we are striving to make sure that that doesn't happen.

Madam Chair, keeping track of every dollar, especially when it comes to DOD is something that when I was on the Oversight Committee during the Iraq war and the way that we didn't have oversight over equipment and dollars and cold, hard cash that was being delivered there is something that I am very, very interested in and support doing.

I thank the gentleman for the amendment. The committee has it in hand. I want you to know that this is a bipartisan, full Appropriations Defense Subcommittee thing. We are asking these questions every time somebody is in to see us.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments, and I think we have a general agreement on what we are trying to accomplish.

I would note that in the NDAA we passed an authorization for this, and this would be the appropriation necessary to carry it out. That was the desire of our efforts to try to put a birds-eye view on this across agencies to ensure that dollars are being spent the way they are supposed to.

Madam Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK).

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the amendment. As the ranking member of the Defense Subcommittee just said, the Defense Subcommittee is united in this entire process to try to bring accountability to the table. It is practical and it is rational that we have complete accountability and oversight.

That is why this bill contains many new oversight provisions, including notification requirements before funds are spent, a GAO review of the Defense Department's execution of Presidential draw-down authority, a reporting requirement on increasing burden-sharing for Ukraine, and a requirement that the inspector general review the Department's end use monitoring program. These are provisions that go directly to the heart of the gentleman's concerns about accountability.

This bill also includes funding for a Special Inspector General for Ukraine, if authorized, in the National Defense Authorization Act. This amendment furthers these efforts.

Madam, I urge a "yes" vote. I think I can speak for a good segment of our Defense Subcommittee, including those on the other side of the aisle, and I encourage a "yes" vote.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 1½ minutes.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ).