

Graves (MO) Loudermilk
Green (TN) Lucas
Greene (GA) Luetkemeyer
Griffith Luttrell
Grothman Mace
Guest Malliotakis
Guthrie Mann
Hageman Massie
Harris Mast
Harshbarger McCarthy
Hern McCaul
Higgins (LA) McClain
Hill McClintock
Hinson McCormick
Houchin McHenry
Hudson Meuser
Huizenga Miller (IL)
Hunt Miller (OH)
Issa Miller (WV)
Jackson (TX) Miller-Meeks
James Mills
Johnson (LA) Molinaro
Johnson (OH) Moolenaar
Johnson (SD) Mooney
Jordan Moore (AL)
Joyce (OH) Moore (UT)
Joyce (PA) Moran
Kean (NJ) Murphy
Kelly (MS) Nehls
Kelly (PA) Newhouse
Kiggans (VA) Norman
Kiley Nunn (IA)
Kim (CA) Obernolte
Kustoff Ogles
LaHood Owens
LaLota Palmer
LaMalfa Pence
Lamborn Perry
Langworthy Pfluger
Latta Posey
LaTurner Reschenthaler
Lawler Rodgers (WA)
Lee (FL) Rogers (KY)
Lesko Rose
Letlow Rosendale

NOES—208

Adams Deluzio
Aguilar DeSaulnier
Allred Dingell
Auchincloss Doggett
Balint Escobar
Barragán Eshoo
Beatty Espaillat
Bera Evans
Beyer Fletcher
Bishop (GA) Foster
Blumenauer Foushee
Blunt Rochester Frankel, Lois
Bonamici Frost
Bowman Gallego
Boyle (PA) Garamendi
Brown Garcia (IL)
Brownley Garcia (TX)
Budzinski Garcia, Robert
Caraveo Golden (ME)
Carbajal Goldman (NY)
Cárdenas Gomez
Carson Gonzalez,
Carter (LA) Vicente
Cartwright Gottheimer
Casar Green, Al (TX)
Case Grijalva
Casten Harder (CA)
Castor (FL) Hayes
Castro (TX) Higgins (NY)
Cherfilus- Himes
McCormick Horsford
Chu Houlihan
Clark (MA) Hoyer
Clarke (NY) Hoyle (OR)
Cleaver Huffman
Clyburn Ivey
Cohen Jackson (IL)
Connolly Jackson (NC)
Correa Jackson Lee
Costa Jacobs
Courtney Jayapal
Craig Jeffries
Crockett Johnson (GA)
Crow Kamlager-Dove
Cuellar Kaptur
Davids (KS) Keating
Davis (IL) Kelly (IL)
Davis (NC) Khanna
Dean (PA) Kildee
DeGette Kilmer
DeLauro Kim (NJ)
DeBene Krishnamoorthi

Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Santos
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dwyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

Ramirez
Raskin
Rogers (AL)
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sanchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell

Bush
Carter (TX)
Luna

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1426

Mr. SHERMAN changed his vote from “present” to “nay.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House and offer the resolution I previously noticed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 757

Resolved, That the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives is hereby declared to be vacant.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution qualifies as a question of the privileges of the House.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to table at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Cole of Oklahoma moves to lay the resolution on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 208, nays 218, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 518]

YEAS—208

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon

Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice

Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Tokuda

Pelosi
Peltola
Sykes

Wilson (FL)

Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxy
Franklin, C.
Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris

NAYS—218

Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DeBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost

Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Santos
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dwyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

Gaetz
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Good (VA)
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlihan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating

Kelly (IL)	Napolitano	Sewell
Khanna	Neal	Sherman
Kildee	Neguse	Sherrill
Kilmer	Nickel	Slotkin
Kim (NJ)	Norcross	Smith (WA)
Krishnamoorthi	Ocasio-Cortez	Sorensen
Kuster	Omar	Soto
Landsman	Pallone	Spanberger
Larsen (WA)	Panetta	Spartz
Larson (CT)	Pappas	Stansbury
Lee (CA)	Pascrell	Stanton
Lee (NV)	Payne	Stevens
Lee (PA)	Perez	Strickland
Leger Fernandez	Peters	Swalwell
Levin	Petterson	Takano
Lieu	Phillips	Thanedar
Lofgren	Pingree	Thompson (CA)
Lynch	Pocan	Thompson (MS)
Mace	Porter	Titus
Magaziner	Pressley	Tlaib
Manning	Quigley	Tokuda
Matsui	Ramirez	Tonko
McBath	Raskin	Torres (CA)
McClellan	Rosendale	Torres (NY)
McCollum	Ross	Trahan
McGarvey	Ruiz	Trone
McGovern	Ruppersberger	Underwood
Meeks	Ryan	Vargas
Menendez	Salinas	Vasquez
Meng	Sánchez	Veasey
Mfume	Sarbanes	Velázquez
Mills	Scanlon	Wasserman
Moore (WI)	Schakowsky	Schultz
Morelle	Schiff	Waters
Moskowitz	Schneider	Watson Coleman
Moulton	Scholten	Wexton
Mrvan	Schrier	Wild
Mullin	Scott (VA)	Williams (GA)
Nadler	Scott, David	

NOT VOTING—7

Bush	Pelosi	Wilson (FL)
Carter (TX)	Peltola	
Luna	Sykes	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1443

So the motion to table was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of rule IX, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Before the gentleman speaks, may I remind my colleagues that all parties need to be heard. Would you please clear the well and clear the aisles, and any extraneous conversations need to be taken from the floor.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, like so many others, I deeply regret that we are here in what was a totally avoidable situation.

I must take you back to January, however, which for many of us was about not repeating the failures of the past and letting Republican voters across the country down once again, when in the past for many years, when Republicans have had majorities in this Chamber, we have passed our major spending bills predominantly with Democratic votes; something the other side of the House has never and would never do with majority control.

Back in January, I expressed my concern that the previous 2 years during my first term here in this House, we had not used every tool at our disposal to fight against the harmful, radical Democrat agenda that is destroying the country, bankrupting the country, and under which the American people are suffering.

Most in here wouldn't know that I helped persuade my five colleagues who comprised the remaining resistance in the wee morning hours of January 7 to switch our votes to "present" to let Mr. MCCARTHY become Speaker.

I went to him on this very floor to tell him that he was finally going to become Speaker on the next vote. In that moment, it was clear to me that I or we could have asked for anything in exchange for switching our votes to "present," but I and we asked for nothing.

The very next week, I requested and had a meeting with Speaker MCCARTHY to tell him he had my full support and that I wanted him to be successful because the country needed him to be successful.

In the ensuing months, I helped him narrowly pass the Parents Bill of Rights and the Limit, Save, Grow bill—I think both of those by just one or two votes—helping persuade some of my most conservative colleagues to come along despite some of the concerns they had with those bills.

We remained united as a Conference through the Limit, Save, Grow vote as we passed a bill that was cutting spending to pre-COVID levels for non-defense discretionary spending or just over \$100 billion, historic spending cuts, as the Speaker had committed to do in January. It also included a host of other conservative fiscal reforms.

Unfortunately, however, that unity and that commitment to significant year-one cuts and spending reforms were discarded in the failed responsibility act, as I call it, which passed overwhelmingly, once again, with a majority of Democrat votes, validating the concern many of us had in January.

Many of us had begged the Speaker, pleaded with the Speaker repeatedly, to utilize the debt ceiling to leverage spending cuts and reforms.

Instead, he negotiated an unlimited increase to the debt ceiling through January of '25, as much as we can come together and gleefully spend through January of '25, with no significant wins for the American people in that FRA or failed responsibility act.

The Speaker then said that we would use appropriations to bring the fight and finally reduce our spending.

He said the levels of the FRA were the ceiling and not the floor, and re-committed multiple times to go back to the \$1.471 trillion that was the Limit, Save, Grow levels, radically, historically saving \$100 billion and lowering the deficit this year under Republican majority from \$2.2 trillion to \$2.1 trillion. That is what we were asking the Republican House to do, to go to \$2.1 trillion.

Meanwhile, the Speaker had committed to bring a balanced budget vote to this floor, something that still has not happened despite the work that has been done in our Budget Committee to mark it up and have it ready to come to the floor.

He also promised that we would bring all 12 appropriations bills well before the September 30 fiscal deadline. We did not.

We simply, as Republicans, needed the Speaker to cast the vision, request the support of the entire Conference, all of whom voted for the Limit, Save, Grow levels, except for four who wanted to go even further, to lead us in joining him, sticking with him, supporting him, and sending the most conservative spending bills with the most conservative cuts possible to the Senate as the best starting position for negotiations with the Senate. Many of us begged and pleaded with the Speaker to do that over the past 5 months.

When the Speaker failed to lead us to pass our spending bills, bringing only 1 of 12 to the floor before the August district work period, Members began to negotiate amongst themselves without the Speaker to find compromise.

I was among those who reluctantly agreed last month to split the difference between failed responsibilities, \$1.526, and the Limit, Save, Grow, \$1.471. I reluctantly agreed to do that, to go to \$1.526, in order to pass our bills on to the Senate.

We then essentially forced the Speaker with the pressure of the shutdown threat of the calendar to bring those four bills to the floor last week, all of which I voted for, despite some of them not cutting to the levels we agreed to and other concerns I had with the bills.

I reluctantly voted for a 30-day conditional CR, continuing resolution, because it cut an additional \$10 billion in the month of October, going back to the pre-COVID \$1.471 levels for defense, nondefense discretionary, 30 percent, and it had border security. I voted for that.

However, when that vote failed, the Speaker, this past Friday in the Republican Conference meeting, made it abundantly clear that he was willing to do anything to avoid the temporary discomfort and the pressure of a pause in the 15 percent of the nonessential Federal Government operations, which would guarantee that we would lose to the Senate Democrats and the White House. If you are not willing to say no, then you are guaranteed to lose.

That was confirmed with the passage of the unconditional 45-day CR this past Saturday, once again with 209 Democrat votes. The Republican bill, 209-1 Democrats; 51-0 on the Senate side.

The Speaker fought through 15 votes in January to become Speaker but was only willing to fight through one failed CR before surrendering to the Democrats on Saturday. We need a Speaker who will fight for something, anything,

besides just staying or becoming Speaker.

If there was ever a time to fight with \$33 trillion in national debt, a \$2 trillion deficit this year, 40-year high inflation, 20-year high interest rates, a downgraded credit rating, and for the first time in modern history and despite all the help of the media blaming Republicans in the House, the polls showing that the public was blaming Biden and the Democrats for an imminent shutdown. If not fight now, when would we fight? Now is and was the time.

With the Democrats driving the fiscal bus off the cliff at 100 miles an hour, we cannot simply be content to be the party that slows it down to 95 just so we can sit in the front seat and wear the captain's hat.

Our current debt and our spending trajectory is unsustainable. We need a Speaker, ideally somebody who doesn't want to be Speaker and hasn't pursued that at all costs for his entire adult life, who will meet the moment and do everything possible to fight for the country.

A red line was crossed for me, I regret, on Saturday, and so it is with regret that I must vote against the motion to table, as I did, and vote to vacate the Chair.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I share one thing in common with my friend from Virginia. This is a very sad day and certainly a day I never expected to have to live through.

I think, broadly speaking, as I look across this floor, you can divide Members into three groups. I am very happy to be in the first group, the overwhelming majority of my party who supports the Speaker that we elected.

We are proud of the leadership he has shown. We are proud of the manner in which he has been willing to work with everybody in our Conference, and I believe in this Chamber.

There is a second group, a small group. Honestly, they are willing to plunge this body into chaos and this country into uncertainty for reasons that only they really understand. I certainly don't.

Then there are friends on the other side—I mean friends, honestly, with great sincerity—I have a lot of friends over there, and I recognize that my friends on the other side have a very complex set of partisan, personal, and political calculations to make.

I certainly wouldn't presume to give them any advice about that, but I would say think long and hard before you plunge us into chaos because that is where we are headed if we vacate the speakership.

I personally think there are really three reasons why we have come to this point, and that is because at each three of these critical minutes, the Speaker did the right thing.

First, there was a Speaker vote. He got 85 percent of the vote in our Conference; 90 percent of the vote from Republicans on this floor.

Yet, we had a small group that decided no, they would dictate what they want. He didn't let that happen. He fought. Now, he fought for himself, but he fought for 90 percent of us too that wanted him to be the Speaker, and I appreciate that.

Then, of course, we had the debt ceiling deal. Nobody here thought he could pass a bill. Nobody in America thought he could pass a bill.

He did what Speakers are supposed to do. He passed the bill. Then he sat down and negotiated with a Democratic Senate and a Democratic President and came back with a good deal, a deal that will limit spending. He did the right thing.

Finally, last Saturday on this floor, we were on the verge of a government shutdown, a government shutdown that the vast majority of Members in this Chamber did not want, a substantial majority on my side and an overwhelming majority on the Democrat side.

□ 1500

He put his political neck on the line, knowing this day was coming, to do the right thing—the right thing for the country without a doubt. My friends and I agree on that, whether or not we agree on the Speaker. He did the right thing. He did the right thing for this institution. He showed it could function in a time of crisis. Finally, he did the right thing for our party. He made sure that we could continue to negotiate and achieve some of the very objectives my friend from Virginia laid out, and achieve them in divided government, which calls for some degree of give-and-take.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of this Speaker. I am very proud to stand behind him. Tomorrow morning, whether I win or lose, I am going to be pretty proud of the people I fought with and I am going to be extraordinarily proud of the person I fought for, the Speaker of the House, KEVIN MCCARTHY.

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, my friend from Oklahoma says that my colleagues and I who don't support KEVIN MCCARTHY would plunge the House and the country into chaos. Chaos is Speaker MCCARTHY. Chaos is somebody who we cannot trust with their word.

The one thing that the White House, House Democrats, and many of us on the conservative side of the Republican caucus would argue is that the thing we have in common, KEVIN MCCARTHY said something to all of us at one point or another that he didn't really mean and never intended to live up to.

I don't think voting against KEVIN MCCARTHY is chaos. I think \$33 trillion in debt is chaos. I think that facing a \$2.2 trillion annual deficit is chaos. I think that not passing single-subject spending bills is chaos. I think the fact that we have been governed in this country since the mid-1990s by continuing resolution and omnibus is

chaos. The way to liberate ourselves from that is a series of reforms to this body that I would hope would outlast Speaker MCCARTHY's time here, would outlast my time here, and would outlast either of our majorities.

Mr. Speaker, these are reforms that I have heard some of the most conservative Members of this body fight for and some of the reforms that we have been battling for that I have even heard those in the Democratic Caucus say would be worthy and helpful to the House—like open amendments and understanding what the budget is.

We have been out of compliance with budget laws for most of my life and most of many of your lives. By the way, if we did those things, if we had single-subject bills, if we had an understanding on the top line, if we had open amendments, if we had trust and honesty and understanding, there would be times when my conservative colleagues and I would lose. There might be a few times when we would win. There would be times when we would form partnerships that might otherwise not be really predictable in the American body politic, but the American people would see us legislating.

These last few days, we have suspended the momentum that we had established the week earlier when we were bringing bills to the floor, voting on them, and staying late at night working hard. That is what the American people expect. It is something Speaker MCCARTHY hasn't delivered. That is why I moved to vacate the Chair.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER), my very good friend.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, KEVIN MCCARTHY has earned this. Under Speaker MCCARTHY's leadership, our House Republican majority has actually defied all odds and overperformed expectations again and again and again.

It all started with the Speaker's race when our Speaker, KEVIN MCCARTHY, showed the American people how he would never give up. It carried over into the Speaker spearheading a Rules package to create the most transparent, Member-driven legislative process that I have ever seen since I have been here.

Since then, Speaker MCCARTHY's Republican majority has been successful in bringing common sense back to our Nation's capital by passing legislation to affirm a parents' right to be involved in their child's education, bolster American energy production, fully fund veterans' care and benefits, fight back against the regulatory state, and continue delivering on our promise to rein in Democrats' reckless spending by passing fiscally responsible appropriations bills.

We have also achieved historic conservative wins like passing the strongest border security legislation in history, passing the first Republican-only NDAA in history, and passing the first Republican-only State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill.

So many Americans are better off because of KEVIN MCCARTHY's leadership: American families, jobs creators, entrepreneurs, servicemembers, law enforcement officers, and the list goes on and on. These are just a few of our House Republican majority successes.

Make no mistake, we need KEVIN MCCARTHY to remain Speaker if we are going to stay focused on our mission of delivering commonsense wins for the American people. We have shown Americans what success looks like when we come together as a team.

Now it is time for us to stand together stronger than ever so we can get back to the work our majority was elected to do.

I am proud to support the Speaker as we continue championing conservative priorities that will put our country on a better path. Mr. Speaker, I thank Speaker MCCARTHY.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, the opening line of my colleague's speech was that Speaker MCCARTHY always overperforms expectations, but after tweeting "bring it" and after engaging in profane-laced tirades at House Conference, he just lost a motion to table. I wouldn't necessarily consider that overperforming expectations.

Time and again, I have heard my colleagues say: Well, he deserves it because he went through a tough Speaker contest. Let me let everyone know, he prevailed in that Speaker contest because he made an agreement to fulfill certain commitments to make this an open and honest process, and he has failed to meet those commitments. That is why we are here.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), my very good friend.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 3 we said the 118th Congress is about three things: pass the bills that need passed, do the oversight work that needs to be done, and stop the inevitable omnibus that comes from the United States Senate right before the holidays.

KEVIN MCCARTHY has been rock-solid on all three. We have passed the bills we told the American people we would pass: the 87,000 IRS agents, that bill passed; Parents Bill of Rights, that bill passed; energy legislation, passed; border security immigration enforcement legislation, the strongest bill ever to pass the Congress, passed earlier this year.

We have done what we told them we were going to do. We can't help that the Senate won't take up those good commonsense bills. They will have to answer to the American people come election day.

Oversight. We have done the oversight that we are supposed to do. Because of our oversight, we know that parents were targeted by the Department of Justice. Because of our oversight, we know that 51 former intel officials misled the country weeks before the most important election we have.

Mr. Speaker, because of our oversight, the Disinformation Governance Board at the Department of Homeland Security is gone. Because of our oversight, the memo attacking pro-life Catholics has been rescinded. Because of over oversight, unannounced visits to Americans' homes by the Internal Revenue Service has stopped. That happened under Speaker MCCARTHY.

On the third one on this side, we know there is a big, old, ugly bill coming at the end of the year with all kinds of spending and garbage in it. We are still in that fight. Frankly, to Mr. GAETZ' point, we don't know how that one is going to shake out.

We do know this: On Saturday, we didn't take the Senate's bill. The Senate tried to send it over and shove it down our throats on Saturday, but we didn't take that bill. The Speaker was in a tough position.

There were five options on the table last week. Option one was to send a long-term CR over there that would have leveraged the 1 percent cut—something a bunch of us voted for, both parties. We couldn't get the votes for that one.

The second option was to focus on the one issue the country is now completely focused on, the border issue. We couldn't get the votes for that one either. When the Senate tried to send us that bill, he said "no" to it.

Mr. Speaker, I think the Speaker has kept his word. I know my colleagues and friends are saying different, but I think he has kept his word on those three things that we talked about on January 3 and, frankly, that entire week.

Mr. Speaker, he has kept his word, and I think we should keep him as Speaker.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, the problem with my friend from Ohio's argument is that many of the bills he referenced as having passed are not law. We are on a fast track to an omnibus bill, and it is difficult to champion oversight when House Republicans haven't even sent a subpoena to Hunter Biden. It is hard to make the argument that oversight is the reason to continue when it sort of looks like failure theater.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, this is a serious time. My mind immediately goes to the young deputy from Cochise County who 2 nights ago, while trying to apprehend a runaway vehicle smuggling humans across the border, suffered major injuries. He was transported to Pima County where he is in a Tucson hospital fighting for his life.

I am talking about a border that remains wide open where drugs come through. The Tucson sector has the most got-aways known and unknown of any sector along the border. There are terrorists coming in, people conducting criminal conduct coming in, criminal gang members, human smugglers, and sex traffickers. They are coming across our border to the tune of hundreds of thousands every month.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues and their position, but I would suggest something: I don't think you can just skip to last weekend and say, oh, my goodness, a CR came out last weekend on Saturday. I think we need to go back to January.

I will say this. This body came together on the Republican side and we passed a good border security piece of legislation, H.R. 2. That is good.

Last week we passed the DHS bill and the DOD bills which had funding for our CBP, ICE, military leaders, and military men and women. Why were we successful in doing that? What happened to motivate us to get there?

Well, for one thing, we didn't bother to pass the 12 appropriations bills as required under the Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974. We didn't do it. Do you know how many times that has not been done?

That has not been done 25 years in a row.

Do you know how many CRs this body has passed in that same period of time?

It is 130.

Do you know what that gets you?

A \$2 trillion-plus structural deficit like we had in fiscal year 2023.

Do you know what that leads you to?

A \$33 trillion national debt, which is where we sit today. It leads you to somewhere north of \$700 billion in interest payments.

Do you know why that happened?

Because this body is entrenched in a suboptimal path and refuses to leave it. It refuses to leave that path. You cannot change if you are unwilling to change. We had every opportunity to change. We were promised change.

We were promised we were going to go ahead, and we were going to get those 12 bills done. If we got those 12 bills done—do you know why you do 12 bills?

Because it allows you to reduce spending and get rid of wasteful duplicative programs. It allows you to set an agenda to restore fiscal sanity. We chose to not do it again. We were promised we would do it. That is why at the end some people said: We will vote present. We will go ahead. We are going to put our trust in Mr. MCCARTHY to become the Speaker. That didn't happen. I suspected that would be the case. That was my struggle. That was my struggle last November and December. I iterated it to this body, our Conference anyway.

When we got to the debt ceiling, again, that seemed to spring upon everybody like a surprise. When that happened, I was in there for some of those

negotiations on where that number would be, and I was astonished how that \$1.5 trillion number was negotiated. Unbelievable. Unbelievable.

□ 1515

However, I will tell you this: To his credit, the Speaker told us one thing that I believe to be true. He said that is basically the ante in a poker game. You can sit down at the table.

I told my colleagues who supported that: That \$1.5 trillion in 8 months that you are willing to raise the debt ceiling, that is the opening marker.

Indeed, it was. Now, projections are many trillion dollars above that.

Yes, I think it is time to make a change. I am not the only one, and thus, it is somber. But what have we failed to accomplish? Why didn't we get this stuff done?

When we are campaigning, we are talking about an extension of the debt ceiling to January 2025.

We are talking about additional Ukraine funding. Maybe that is good in your districts. Maybe it is not. That money is not offset. We are not paying for it. We haven't designated how we are going to pay for that—the same with the disaster package.

The IRS remains 80 percent increased. I could go down the list, but I will just tell you why this happens. When you don't do your 12 budget bills and you rely ultimately on a CR—and I will get to the calendar in a second—what happens is, you cannot leverage this administration to actually enforce the border laws that you need to have enforced.

This is a lawless Biden regime. They will not enforce border laws. We can pass them until we are blue in the face, but until you leverage the budget and the spending, you will not see enforcement by this administration.

Now, take a look at the calendar that we were just provided last week. We are supposed to finish our 12 bills by November 3. By November 17 is when we are supposed to see that the conference committees have come together, both sides, and we have resolved this. I don't believe that that is going to happen.

It wasn't going to happen before. You were betting on the come again. At some point, I would urge you to stop betting on the come and bet on the reality. That is why I can't support the Speaker any longer, and I will be voting for the motion to vacate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), my very good friend.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Selah, s-e-l-a-h, selah. This unique word, scattered throughout the Psalms, signals to the reader to pause, reflect, consider, and maybe take a deep breath before moving on.

Psalmists use selah to emphasize the significance of a statement. For exam-

ple, King David wrote: "Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, the God who is our salvation. Selah." That is a profound statement with huge implications. It deserves more than a cursory consideration.

Within the next hour, this House will vote "yea" or "nay" to vacate the Speaker's chair, a profound action with huge implications. This was last tried in 1910. Joseph Cannon won the vote. One hundred thirteen years later, my office is in the Cannon Office Building, and Uncle Joe Cannon's statue sits just outside this Chamber.

No living human has taken the vote we are about to take. It deserves that we pause and reflect, that we consider deeply the ramifications of our actions.

To my fellow Republicans who would consider voting "yes" to removing our Republican Speaker, please pause and ask yourself two questions: Will your "yes" vote make America stronger? Will your "yes" vote strengthen conservative policies?

If you believe "yes" is the right vote, please stand before this body and the American people and articulate your plan—not your grievances or your wishes, your plan. Convince the vast majority of the Republican Conference that strongly disagrees with you to follow you.

If you cannot do that, which you have failed to do so far, then voting "yes" is, at the least, a disruptive overreaction. In reality, it is selfish, bad for conservative policies, and bad for America.

That is why I strongly support Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY and why, without hesitation or reservation, I will vote "no" on this disastrous resolution.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing selfish about wanting a Speaker of the House who tells the truth. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE), my good friend and fellow member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, as the only still-serving coauthor and cosponsor of the motion to vacate Speaker Boehner, I can tell you this motion to vacate is a terrible idea. As the only Member who is serving here who took every chance to vote against Speaker Boehner and to vote against Speaker Ryan, I can tell you that this Chamber has been run better, more conservatively, and more transparently under Mr. MCCARTHY than any other Speaker that I have served under.

As a member of the Rules Committee, one of three conservatives who was placed there out of trust—the Speaker gave us a blocking position by putting three of us on there to keep an eye on the Rules Committee, to make sure the process was fair and even—I can tell you it has been fair and even. None of us are voting against the Speaker today.

Regular order is at odds with predetermined outcomes. Yet, the Speaker

is being accused of not holding to regular order and predetermined outcomes at the same time. It is not possible. You cannot be for both at the same time.

I was a party to the January agreement, and I can tell you that there were promises in there, but there was never a promise for an outcome. There was never a promise that you could force Joe Biden to sign something. There was only the promise that we would try, and try we have. We have tried in the Rules Committee. We have tried on the floor. We have been trying since this summer.

There is enough blame to go around for why we don't have 12 bills, but part of it was a relitigation of the debt limit deal.

By the way, there was no promise on the debt limit deal. There were no conditions on that in January—zero—whatsoever. I was in the room for that.

The 12 bills were delayed over what? \$100 billion. That is a lot of money, but it is nothing compared to the \$2 trillion that I came here to object to when Speaker PELOSI and President Trump pushed that bill through.

We have had over 500 amendments. Listen, this is a referendum on this institution. We have tried regular order. Speaker MCCARTHY has tried regular order. If regular order fails today, if you vote to vacate the Speaker, no one is going to try again. This institution will fail. Please do not vacate the Speaker.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), my very good friend.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, if there was ever a time for sobriety, wisdom, and caution in this House, it is right now.

If this motion carries, the House will be paralyzed. We can expect week after week of fruitless ballots while no other business can be conducted. The Democrats will revel in Republican dysfunction, and the public will rightly be repulsed. It will end when the Democrats are able to enlist a rump caucus of Republicans to join a coalition to end the impasse.

This House will shift dramatically to the left and will effectively end the Republican House majority that the voters elected in 2022. This, in turn, will neutralize the only counterweight in our elected government to the woke left's control of the Senate and the White House at a time when their policies are destroying our economy and have opened our borders to invasion.

There are turning points in history whose significance is only realized by the events that they unleash. This is one of those times. We are at the precipice. There are only minutes left to come to our senses and realize the grave danger our country is in at this moment. Dear God, grant us the wisdom to see it and to save our country from it.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing sober, wise, or cautious about the path we are on. We are on a path to financial ruin if this House does not take a different posture, a different procedure, and yield toward different outcomes and a better future. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ), my very good friend.

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I stand before my colleagues and the Nation as a proud Representative of the great State of Florida. I truly am beyond blessed to represent the paradise that is Miami-Dade County and the Florida Keys. I am beyond proud to represent my community before this Congress, to stand with a leader who has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our country and to the principles that define us as Americans, KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Today is historic for a lot of reasons. For one thing, this is the first time in over 100 years that this has been attempted, but it is also because we are part of a Congress with historically tight majorities for the Republicans in the House and the Democrats in the Senate, and we have a Democratic White House. Divided government is what we have.

The need to negotiate to find solutions to the issues facing this country, that is a reflection of the principles that are uniquely American, principles that make this country exceptional. They are principles that allowed me, an exile who came here from Cuba, fleeing Communist Cuba, to serve in this very institution.

I wasn't born here, but everything that I am, everything that I ever will be, is thanks to America. The best part about it is that my story, the story of the community I am so proud to represent, and the story of many in this body is that we are not the exception in America. We are the rule. That is the America that KEVIN MCCARTHY has fought for his entire career. KEVIN MCCARTHY is a champion for the American Dream, and he has proved it as our Speaker.

Thomas Jefferson once said: I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the guise of taking care of them.

Let's keep KEVIN MCCARTHY as our Speaker. He is a great man, a great leader, and a great Speaker.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to my remaining time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 9¼ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON), my very good friend.

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Speaker, KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Let's be very clear here. We would not have a House Republican majority

without the relentless efforts of this man, our Speaker.

Under his leadership, Joe Biden's policies have had a check and balance. His policies have created a horrific border crisis—10,000 illegal immigrants a day surging across our border. Under Speaker MCCARTHY, Republicans have passed legislation to secure our border.

Joe Biden has done everything to squash American energy, selling our oil reserves to China. Under Speaker MCCARTHY, Republicans have passed legislation to unleash American energy dominance.

Joe Biden has spent taxpayer dollars like there is no tomorrow. Under Speaker MCCARTHY, we have returned to passing single-subject appropriations bills and ending the status quo of omnibus spending.

One of the most valuable pieces of advice that I received was from KEVIN MCCARTHY when I got here to D.C. He told me to separate the signal from the noise. The noise is those who are causing chaos for their own personal benefit while ignoring the needs of their constituents and this country, grinding our work here to a halt. The signal is the many accomplishments that we have delivered for the American people with Speaker MCCARTHY at the helm. The signal is the failures coming out of the White House time and time again. The signal is the work that we must do today and going forward to save our country for my kids and yours.

My colleagues here today have a choice: Be a chaos agent or get back to work. I call on my colleagues: Let's separate the signal from the noise. Let's support our Speaker, KEVIN MCCARTHY, so we can get back to work for the American people.

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

I think I have caught the signal, too. The signal is for \$33 trillion in debt, facing \$2.2 trillion annual deficits. Our fellow Americans may be watching and wondering, how does that happen? How does the greatest country in the world have a process so broken that it would be laughed out of the rooms in the halls of the State legislatures where many of us come from?

□ 1530

Here is how it works. The law says we are supposed to have the very single-subject spending bills that my colleague referenced in the summer; that we are supposed to have that and move it. But there is a dirty little secret in this town, and that is, if you delay, if you hold the bills, if you make multiple contradictory promises—as Speaker MCCARTHY has done—and you back everybody up against shutdown politics, well, nobody wants to shut the government down. No one cheers for a shutdown and, of course, when people are backed up against shutdown politics, the decision calculus changes.

So year after year, decade after decade, we break the law, and we do the same thing. We pass a continuing reso-

lution, then we pass another continuing resolution, and then it is either another continuing resolution or an omnibus bill or a series of minibuses that lump these disparate things together.

The American people want all of us to take votes on single-subject matters. They don't want to see these things all mushed together and logrolled. It was concerning to me to hear of a secret deal on Ukraine funding that would have logrolled more money with Ukraine with our southern border.

Now, how offensive is that to our Customs and Border Patrol, to our ICE, to the people that are suffering as a consequence of our border that some of my colleagues are only willing to stand up and fight for our border if they can send billions to Ukraine to fund their border, too?

Well, I have had enough of that, and that is why I brought this motion to vacate.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), our distinguished majority leader and my good friend.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Oklahoma for yielding.

When we go back to January, as many people have, we knew that it was going to be a narrow majority. We also knew that it wasn't going to be easy. How many of us came here because we thought this job was going to be easy? How many of us thought the task ahead of us to address the problems of this country was going to be easy?

One thing we did know is that if we were going to finally start confronting problems that had been ignored for years and years and years, we had to change the way this place worked, and one thing Speaker MCCARTHY embraced from day one is to start making those kinds of changes to this institution, opening up the process, allowing Members to be more engaged, having amendments come to the floor, single-subject bills, doing appropriations bills.

Yes, making that happen overnight is not something that happens automatically, but it started to happen, and we are now seeing the fruits of it. Just last week, we had four different appropriations bills on this House floor, four different ones. Now, those bills took weeks and weeks to finally get to the floor, going through an open committee process, hundreds of amendments, each one of them where Republicans and Democrats could bring their ideas.

We debated those bills on the floor, some until after midnight where Members could actually participate in the process. This has been a broken process for a long time, but it is a process where we, if we are going to confront the problems that families are facing, we need to resolve our differences inside this House Chamber before we can then go and fight for those families who are struggling. Every single day

across America families are struggling with real problems that we are going to have to get back to solving.

Those problems are real for them. It is inflation. It is the economy. It is high energy costs. It is an open southern border that doesn't just affect the border States. It is affecting every State—Republican districts, Democrat districts. Everybody knows it, and it can be ignored by the White House, but this House is the only body that started to take action with H.R. 2 and then with the border bill last week. Plus, with the action we took last week, over 70 percent of government funding passed out of the House, however everybody voted, Republican or Democrat.

This House passed funding for over 70 percent of the Federal Government's operation, and it is sitting over in the Senate where they passed zero, and we are going to beat each other up and talk about our internal processes and we need to get our internal processes working better, but so does that other body over there and so does the White House.

Everybody in this town needs to be engaged in addressing these problems, but if we don't start here and if we don't focus these next 45 days—because that is what we have got in front of us, we have got two bills this week, we have got two more appropriations bills next week, and if we are going to be confronting those, we have got to stay focused on our mission.

What the other side does, let's continue to put pressure on them, but we also need to put pressure on ourselves to do our job. Speaker MCCARTHY has been leading at the top of the level to make sure that we have the tools to do our jobs in a different way than the House has done it before.

This House is going to have to continue to make those changes, but the American people sent us here to confront those problems. We are finally starting to. This isn't the time to slow that process down. We need to keep doing our work. We need to keep fighting for those families who are struggling, but so does the Senate and so does the White House, as well.

Let's keep doing this work that we were sent here to do.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I agree with everything that the majority leader said in those remarks, except one thing. It is astonishing to hear any colleague give Speaker MCCARTHY credit for moving on to the single-subject appropriations bills.

As you heard my colleague Mr. BIGGS say, that was never the plan from Speaker MCCARTHY. The week before we moved on to those single-subject appropriations bills, the plan was another CR. He pitched a CR. They tried to get us to vote for a CR, and a brave few said we are done governing by continuing resolution. We are here to eulogize the era of the continuing resolution. We will not do it. We will not pass it.

These bills can go. The spending may rise and fall as the years pass, but the notion that we are going to lump in the Department of Education and the Department of Labor with our military and our troops and our Border Patrol is fundamentally unserious, and I would suggest chaotic.

We cannot do that. It was only because we forced that to happen. By the way, if we continue with Speaker MCCARTHY, the appropriations process will go right back to what he wanted it to go back to—just a sideshow, just a puppet show, just something to keep the hamsters on the hamster wheel as they continue to back people up against a calendar, centralize power with the lobbyists and special interests that move all kinds of money through the leadership. That is how they get their way, and that is why the American people have been getting screwed decade after decade. I am not going to tolerate it anymore without a fight.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MIKE GARCIA), my very good friend and fellow member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to recalibrate our minds on what is actually happening here today.

This proceeding looks important. It feels consequential, but let's look at what else is happening across America.

Today, about 300 Americans will die from fentanyl poisoning. Today, about 11,000 people will illegally penetrate our borders. Today's debt is approaching \$34 trillion. Today's mortgage rates just hit a 25-year high now approaching 8 percent. Our energy prices are again at backbreaking highs with gas approaching \$8 a gallon in my district. Today, China and the CCP grow stronger with an intent to go to war by 2027, and our military is experiencing record-low retention and record-low recruitment.

This is the reality of today for 335 million Americans under President Joe Biden. It is a dark and scary reality. This Republican majority here today in the House is the only firewall against the damaging far-left policies of the Biden administration.

The single-subject appropriations bills that we were supposed to be voting on this week will literally fight to reverse the darkness of these realities and fight inflation, cut spending, secure our border, while enhancing our Nation's security and investing in our soldiers at a meaningful level.

Today, this body filled with people in fancy suits led by a few Republicans who are running with scissors and supported by Democrats who have personal issues with the Speaker, have uncertain intentions and even more uncertain goals, and they have decided to make today about drama. Today is not about solving problems and helping our constituents but about drama.

We need to be the no-drama option for America—this party, this majority. I fear that this self-inflicted drama of today jeopardizes our majority and by definition removes the last layer of defense protecting America from this Biden administration.

Let's dispense with the drama, do our jobs, and move on with defending this beautiful country.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I am here to solve problems, too, but we have decade after decade of history showing us that you don't solve any problems with continuing resolutions and omnibus bills. That creates more problems, more debt, more inflation, more pain for American families.

So the way to solve problems is to break the fever dream of governing by continuing resolution and omnibus bills and instead return to the very single-subject spending bills that we will only get if my resolution passes to vacate Speaker MCCARTHY.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY).

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, every step of the way, Speaker MCCARTHY has been doubted.

After the first Speaker vote, he was mocked, right? After 15, they called him Speaker, and even then it was the media and the left that mocked him.

With the narrowest Republican majority in a generation, what did we achieve? We brought the President to the table when he stubbornly said for 100 days he would not negotiate on the debt ceiling. I took him at his word.

The Speaker said, no, we will get him to the table, and sure enough, we did. The result: The most conservative spending package we have seen in generations, the largest spending cuts year over year that any Congress has passed. Conservative outcomes.

I understand your position on the left. I understand that.

But my friends on the right, why?

Then this past weekend, I understand the frustration on the left at what happened on the continuing resolution, but why would we have conservatives object to that? Why would we have House Members object to that?

We rolled the Senate. We never roll the Senate as a House. Moreover, we never roll the Senate to get less spending, and we got it this weekend, so I understand why the left is mad. What I don't understand is why some Republicans think that that is a bad thing.

The frustration for me today—I understand where the liberals are. I know you support the constitutional order except in a moment like this when you are questioned on that. I understand that. You can't be counted on in a moment like this with the state of the speakership.

For Republicans, why would we give up a conservative working majority for better outcomes and hand the keys over to the Democrats? Why would we do that?

With this record of success that we have seen KEVIN MCCARTHY and the Republican majority produce in a Washington run by Democrats, we are going to throw that away, resulting in more liberal outcomes, not more conservative ones. I understand why the left is where you are today. You don't like an effective conservative majority.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, it is lovely to hear from the principal architect of Mr. MCCARTHY's debt limit deal, but here is the reality: The only Republicans in America who believe that the debt limit deal was conservative are in this Chamber right now because all over America, Republicans think that when you negotiated that debt limit deal, they took your lunch money.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE).

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Under his leadership and a very small, five-seat majority, House Republicans have achieved, contrary to popular belief, numerous victories. We passed the Parents Bill of Rights; the Lower Energy Costs Act to lower the cost of gasoline and restore American energy independence; the Fiscal Responsibility Act, which was one of the largest enacted cuts with enforceable spending caps in American history; and H.R. 2, the most conservative southern border security bill in history—all of this while fully funding our military and our Nation's veterans.

Let me be abundantly clear: Attempting to remove Speaker MCCARTHY will put this House in a stalemate and paralyze our ability to fight for our constituents and instead create a fight amongst one another.

We have 43 days to restore fiscal responsibility and advance conservative appropriations priorities, which is exactly what my colleagues have asked for. Instead, we are threatening any House proceedings.

□ 1545

This is an unnecessary distraction. Working together under the leadership of Speaker MCCARTHY is of the utmost importance.

Mr. Speaker, I stand and strongly support KEVIN MCCARTHY for Speaker of the House, and I encourage my Republican colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), my very good friend, and our distinguished Conference leader.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, anyone and everyone who knows KEVIN MCCARTHY, whether they are a friend or foe, knows that KEVIN MCCARTHY is a happy warrior. He is tireless. He has that uniquely American grit.

Under KEVIN's speakership, that lasted 15 rounds of him never giving up,

this Republican majority have exceeded all expectations:

We reopened the people's House.

We passed the strongest border security bill in our Nation's history.

We passed an energy plan to unleash American energy dominance.

We passed Defense bills to support our troops.

Under KEVIN's leadership, he has brought hundreds and hundreds of bipartisan Members of Congress to Israel, our greatest ally.

He elected the most diverse class of Republicans ever, with the largest number of Republican women ever in American history.

This boy from Bakersfield, he cares deeply about his constituents, his country, and the American people, and that includes each and every one of his colleagues.

He has been to our districts, toasted at our weddings, celebrated the birth of our children, mourned the loss of our loved ones, and has cheered us when we haven't believed in ourselves, which is why the Republicans strongly support Speaker MCCARTHY and are proud he is our Speaker.

Now more than ever, the Republicans must unify. The stakes are too high. We need to save our country, which is why this Conference is proud to strongly support KEVIN MCCARTHY as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will just say that if this House of Representatives has exceeded all expectations, then we definitely need higher expectations.

While it is heartwarming and kind that the Speaker calls people on their birthday and visits their district and congratulates them on their children, please know this isn't a critique of the individual. It is a critique of the job. The job hasn't been done. We have had multiple contradictory promises.

It is quite something, for those of you keeping track at home, the last three speakers you have heard opposing my resolution all voted for the debt deal. So if you believe that the debt limit deal that Speaker MCCARTHY brought into law was a good thing, maybe you agree with their perspective.

I think the debt limit deal was a terrible deal, and it really was the original sin of the McCarthy speakership, and it is one of the reasons I seek to vacate the Chair now.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), my very good friend.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we have been here for 8 months with one of the tightest majorities in modern history. Yet, look at the accomplishments of this majority, this conservative majority, with the majority of Republicans voting for:

The strongest border security in my lifetime.

Fighting against this incomprehensible energy policy that is driving up energy costs 40 percent, utility and gasoline payments, pushing Americans into energy poverty.

We passed legislation to unleash America's energy resources, pushing back this administration's brainless policies on energy.

We passed legislation to pull back, to stop spending, \$4.8 trillion, that—I want to make note—my friends that are carrying this motion to vacate opposed.

We passed legislation to streamline regulations permitting environmental laws for the first time in 40 years. Again, my friends here opposed.

We strengthened work requirements for welfare to get people back into the workforce. Again, my friends over here opposed.

I keep wondering, what is going on? Are we redefining what conservative is? What is going on in this country today? What is going on in this body?

We have FreedomWorks, Heritage, CHIP ROY and JIM JORDAN say something is conservative and these folks say it is not, and they are right.

All of a sudden, my phone keeps sending text messages, saying: Hey, give me money.

Look at that. Oh, look: Give me money. I filed a motion to vacate.

Using official actions, official actions to raise money; it is disgusting. It is what is disgusting about Washington.

Mr. Speaker, we have watched as these folks right here that have brought up this motion to vacate have refused to pay our military servicemembers, refused to pay them.

I would quote my delegation member, my Senator from Louisiana, JOHN KENNEDY. If we are not going to pay our servicemembers, if they are not going to be there to protect us, the next time someone invades America, "call a crackhead." Let me know how that works out.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I have heard people talk about bad faith here. I have heard them make reference to this January agreement—my friends from Arizona, Virginia, and Florida.

Let me be crystal clear: Not a single one of them was in the room.

You know what? The Speaker didn't meet the targets of that January agreement, he exceeded them. The greatest savings in American history. The greatest savings in American history.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't about fundraising. This is about our country. It is about our children and our grandchildren.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, we need to stand behind this majority. We need to stand behind the greatest Speaker in modern history that has delivered the best conservative wins for this country.

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

Mr. Speaker, my colleague says we have passed the strongest border bills in history. Well, guess what? Look at the border right now.

We didn't use sufficient leverage in the debt limit or in any other thing to actually get results on the border.

The border is a disaster; really something I don't think you are going to be campaigning on that you fixed the border.

Second, the gentleman said he streamlined regulations. What the gentleman from Louisiana doesn't tell you is that all of the regulatory reform he was just bragging about is waivable by the stroke of a pen of someone in the Biden White House.

Do you really think you have anything for that? It is a total joke.

Finally, the Welfare-to-Work that the gentleman from Louisiana said we have, the welfare programs that they said they streamlined with their Welfare-to-Work stuff, they are actually going to grow. While they did work requirements, they blew out those programs of expanded eligibility.

I am really glad my colleagues didn't put work requirements on Medicaid. It probably would have resulted in Medicaid expansion.

When it comes to how those raise money, I take no lecture on asking patriotic Americans to weigh in and contribute to this fight from those who would grovel and bend knee for the lobbyists and special interests who own our leadership, who have—oh, boo all you want—who have hollowed out this town and have borrowed against the future of our future generations.

I will be happy to fund my political operation through the work of hardworking Americans, \$10, \$20, and \$30 at a time. My colleagues can keep showing up at the lobbyists' fundraisers and see how that goes for you.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Once again, the Chair would admonish those speaking from the floor to direct their comments to the Chair.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining for each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma has 3 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Florida has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG), my great friend.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, let's be clear why we are here: Because the incentive structure in this town is completely broken.

We no longer value loyalty, integrity, confidence, or collaboration. In-

stead, we have descended to a place where clicks, TV hits, and the never-ending quest for the most mediocre taste of celebrity drives decisions and encourages juvenile behavior that is so far beneath this esteemed body.

KEVIN MCCARTHY has done more in 9 months to restore the people's House than any Speaker in decades. We have done regular order. We have had open amendments. Every single Member of this Chamber has the right, the ability, and the opportunity to be heard on the floor.

It has been messy. It has been raucous, and at times, it has been chaotic. God bless every minute of it, because democracy is supposed to be hard. The alternative is a closed-door process where 2,000-page bills come out of the Speaker's office at midnight and are forced to the floor the next morning.

KEVIN MCCARTHY has broken that cycle. That alone is enough for him to remain our Speaker, but that doesn't deliver his opponents what they crave the most: attention.

We shouldn't stand for it. I won't stand for it. I will stand here with our Speaker, with our leader, that the overwhelming majority of our Conference supports. You need to look no further than where the opponents are sitting today in this Chamber.

They are not over here. They are over there.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to face these challenges together. I say bring whatever comes next because we believe in the job our Speaker has done. We believe in his vision, and, most importantly, we are proud to call KEVIN MCCARTHY our friend and our Speaker of the House.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, to be clear, I tried to get one of the three podiums on the Republican side, and my colleagues wouldn't let me have them, so they sent me over here.

Mr. Speaker, you know what, I will make this argument at any desk in this building, from the well, from the Chair. I will make it on every street corner in this country that Washington must change.

We have to break the cycle. We have to break the fever. I would hope, truly, that the reforms that we are fighting for are reforms that would last and be embraced and that would democratize power in this institution beyond the privileged few who back us up against shutdown politics and Christmases and deadlines in order to achieve their objectives.

Mr. Speaker, high inflation is on the verge of bankrupting American families. Our economy is breaking in half. A typical American family can't afford to buy a House in 99 percent of U.S. counties. Inflation is stealing more than \$700 a month from working Americans; nearly \$9,000 a year.

KEVIN MCCARTHY is the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and he

has failed to take a stand where it matters; so if he won't, I will. I make no apologies for defending the right of every hardworking American to afford a decent life for themselves and their families, and we have a greater opportunity to do that and to build coalitions under new leadership.

We have to rip off the Band-Aid. We have to get back on a better course.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know how this vote is going to go. Usually when a vote comes to this floor, it is pretty pre-determined. This one, I am not so sure.

I am sure that we have made the right argument: that this place deserves single-subject spending bills; that we should have 72 hours to read a bill; that something that spends more than \$100 million shouldn't be put on the suspension agenda such that we can't amend it; and there shouldn't be secret side deals made on a continuing resolution to lump Ukraine in with border security.

That is not right for Ukraine or border security because it fails to give either of those issues the dignity that they would require.

We can return that dignity to this House. We can get back on a better path. We can have single-subject appropriation bills. We can set a budget, a budget top line. We haven't had a budget in this place since I was in high school.

Let's get a budget. Let's get our act together. Let's get on with it. Let's vacate the Chair, and let's get a better Speaker.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on adoption of the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 3 of rule XX, the Chair directs the Clerk to conduct the vote by a call of the roll.

The Clerk will call the roll alphabetically by surname.

The following is the result of the vote, and there were—yeas 216, nays 210, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 519]

YEAS—216

Adams	Blumenauer	Carbajal
Aguilar	Blunt Rochester	Cárdenas
Allred	Bonamici	Carson
Auchincloss	Bowman	Carter (LA)
Balint	Boyle (PA)	Cartwright
Barragán	Brown	Casar
Beatty	Brownley	Case
Bera	Buck	Casten
Beyer	Budzinski	Castor (FL)
Biggs	Burchett	Castro (TX)
Bishop (GA)	Caraveo	

Cherfilus-	Jackson (NC)	Pingree	Ellzey	Kelly (MS)	Pfluger
McCormick	Jackson Lee	Pocan	Emmer	Kelly (PA)	Posey
Chu	Jacobs	Porter	Estes	Kiggans (VA)	Reschenthaler
Clark (MA)	Jayapal	Pressley	Ezell	Kiley	Rodgers (WA)
Clarke (NY)	Jeffries	Quigley	Fallon	Kim (CA)	Rogers (AL)
Cleaver	Johnson (GA)	Ramirez	Feenstra	Kustoff	Rogers (KY)
Clyburn	Kamlager-Dove	Raskin	Ferguson	LaHood	Rose
Cohen	Kaptur	Rosendale	Finstad	LaLota	Rouzer
Connolly	Keating	Ross	Fischbach	LaMalfa	Roy
Correa	Kelly (IL)	Ruiz	Fitzgerald	Lamborn	Rutherford
Costa	Khanna	Ruppersberger	Fitzpatrick	Langworthy	Salazar
Courtney	Kildee	Ryan	Fleischmann	Latta	Santos
Craig	Kilmer	Salinas	Flood	LaTurner	Scalise
Crane	Kim (NJ)	Sánchez	Fox	Lawler	Schweikert
Crockett	Krishnamoorthi	Sarbanes	Franklin, C.	Lee (FL)	Scott, Austin
Crow	Kuster	Scanlon	Scott	Lesko	Self
Cuellar	Landsman	Schakowsky	Fry	Letlow	Sessions
Davids (KS)	Larsen (WA)	Schiff	Fulcher	Loudermilk	Simpson
Davis (IL)	Larson (CT)	Schneider	Gallagher	Lucas	Smith (MO)
Davis (NC)	Lee (CA)	Scholten	Garbarino	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NE)
Dean (PA)	Lee (NV)	Schrier	Garcia, Mike	Luttrell	Smith (NJ)
DeGette	Lee (PA)	Scott (VA)	Jimenez	Malliotakis	Smucker
DeLauro	Leger Fernandez	Scott, David	Gonzales, Tony	Mann	Spartz
DelBene	Levin	Sewell	Gosar	Massie	Staubert
Deluzio	Lieu	Sherman	Granger	Mast	Steel
DeSaulnier	Lofgren	Sherrill	Graves (LA)	McCarthy	Stefanik
Dingell	Lynch	Slotkin	Graves (MO)	McCauley	Steil
Doggett	Mace	Smith (WA)	Green (TN)	McClain	Steube
Escobar	Magaziner	Sorensen	Greene (GA)	McClintock	Strong
Eshoo	Manning	Soto	Griffith	McCormick	Tenney
Espallat	Matsui	Spanberger	Grothman	McHenry	Thompson (PA)
Evans	McBath	Stansbury	Guest	Meuser	Tiffany
Fletcher	McClellan	Stanton	Guthrie	Miller (IL)	Timmons
Foster	McCollum	Stevens	Hageman	Miller (OH)	Turner
Foushee	McGarvey	Strickland	Harris	Miller (WV)	Valadao
Frankel, Lois	McGovern	Swalwell	Harshbarger	Mills	Van Drew
Frost	Meeks	Takano	Hern	Molinaro	Van Dwyne
Gaetz	Menendez	Thanedar	Higgins (LA)	Moolenaar	Van Orden
Galleo	Meng	Thompson (CA)	Hill	Mooney	Wagner
Garamendi	Mfume	Thompson (MS)	Hinson	Moore (AL)	Walberg
Garcia (IL)	Moore (WI)	Titus	Houchin	Moore (UT)	Waltz
Garcia (TX)	Morelle	Tlaib	Hudson	Moran	Weber (TX)
Garcia, Robert	Moskowitz	Tokuda	Huizenga	Murphy	Webster (FL)
Golden (ME)	Moulton	Tonko	Hunt	Nehls	Wenstrup
Goldman (NY)	Mirman	Torres (CA)	Issa	Newhouse	Westerman
Gomez	Mullin	Torres (NY)	James	Norman	Williams (NY)
Gonzalez,	Nadler	Trahan	Johnson (LA)	Nunn (IA)	Williams (TX)
Vicente	Napolitano	Trone	Johnson (OH)	Obermole	Wilson (SC)
Good (VA)	Neal	Underwood	Johnson (SD)	Ogles	Wittman
Gottheimer	Neguse	Vargas	Jordan	Owens	Womack
Green, Al (TX)	Nickel	Vasquez	Joyce (OH)	Palmer	Yakym
Grijalva	Norcross	Veasey	Joyce (PA)	Pence	Zinke
Harder (CA)	Ocasio-Cortez	Wasserman	Kean (NJ)	Perry	
Hayes	Omar	Schultz			
Higgins (NY)	Pallone	Waters			
Himes	Panetta	Watson Coleman			
Horsford	Pappas	Wexton			
Houlahan	Pascrell	Wild			
Hoyer	Payne	Williams (GA)			
Hoyle (OR)	Perez	Wilson (FL)			
Huffman	Peters				
Ivey	Petterson				
Jackson (IL)	Phillips				

NAYS—210

Aderholt	Bishop (NC)	Clyde
Alford	Boebert	Cole
Allen	Bost	Collins
Amodei	Brecheen	Comer
Armstrong	Buchanan	Crawford
Arrington	Bucshon	Crenshaw
Babin	Burgess	Curtis
Bacon	Burlison	D'Esposito
Baird	Calvert	Davidson
Balderson	Cammack	De La Cruz
Banks	Carey	DesJarlais
Barr	Carl	Diaz-Balart
Bean (FL)	Carter (GA)	Donalds
Bentz	Chavez-DeRemer	Duarte
Bergman	Ciscomani	Duncan
Bice	Cline	Dunn (FL)
Bilirakis	Cloud	Edwards

NOT VOTING—7

Bush	Luna	Sykes
Carter (TX)	Pelosi	
Gooden (TX)	Peltola	

□ 1642

So the resolution was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of votes due to my participating in official memorials and honoring the legacy of my friend Senator Feinstein. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 518 and "yea" on rollcall No. 519.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during today's votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 516,

"nay" on rollcall No. 517, "nay" on rollcall No. 518, and "yea" on rollcall No. 519.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Office of Speaker of the House of the United States House of Representatives is hereby declared vacant.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 3, 2023.

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: This is to notify you that the first name on the letter received by the Clerk, pursuant to clause 8(b)(3)(B) of rule I, is the Honorable Patrick T. McHenry of North Carolina.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McHENRY). Pursuant to clause 8(b)(3) of rule I, I will now act as Speaker pro tempore.

The Chair will inform the Members of the House of the following:

The Office of Speaker was rendered vacant pursuant to the adoption of H. Res. 757.

Upon a vacancy in the Office of Speaker, clause 8(b)(3) of rule I provides that the next Member on a list submitted by the Speaker pursuant to the rule acts as Speaker pro tempore until the election of a new Speaker, and bestows the authorities of the Office of Speaker upon the Speaker pro tempore to the extent necessary and appropriate to that end.

In the opinion of the Chair, prior to proceeding to the election of a Speaker, it would be prudent to first recess subject to the call of the Chair in order to allow the parties to meet in Caucus and Conference.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

NOTICE

Incomplete record of House proceedings.

Today's House proceedings will be continued once the House reconvenes.