

were closed out by DOJ, meaning there was only one case out of over 11,000 that led to a charge of housing discrimination.

While many housing discrimination complaints are settled, most cases are found to be without cause or closed entirely. According to the Congressional Research Service, 3 to 5 percent of the complaints lead to a formal charge, and between zero to 1 percent of complaints lead to a referral to the Department of Justice.

Again, we need to get our fiscal house in order. We are rapidly approaching \$34 trillion in debt. It is costing families, through devaluation of our dollar, \$1,200 more per month to buy the exact same goods and services as compared to when our current President took office almost 3 years ago.

The effects of that, we all know, with interest rate changes are causing housing problems for a multitude of people.

The debt to GDP ratio is at our highest level since World War II. Our interest payments on the debt are about to cost more than defense spending, and that is within months to years ahead in short order.

Autopilot, mandatory spending amounts to 70 percent of our government spending. This number is expected to skyrocket to 90 percent within the next 10 years. This out-of-control spending at some point has to come to an end, either by choice or it will happen to us by force.

Mr. Chairman, I reiterate that this is incredibly small in terms of cuts—0.022 percent, one-fifth of 1 percent to the underlying bill. Let's return back to the 2019 fiscal year.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment slashes funding for the HUD office responsible for enforcement of fair housing law by 25 percent below fiscal year 2023, undermining basic civil rights protections that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, and familial status.

This gutting of the office would result in the loss of an estimated 150 personnel who work to enforce the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and other civil rights laws.

In addition to improper investigation of fair housing complaints, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity coordinates with the Department of Justice, trains fair housing practitioners, enforces VAWA protections, manages grants, conducts civil rights reviews of HUD investments, and develops policies that proactively advance housing equity.

Mr. Chair, I have seen firsthand in Chicago how, for example, LGBTQ youth—who are over-represented in the homeless population—can face dis-

crimination when attempting to access homeless shelters.

HUD guidance has played a critical role in clarifying the responsibilities of housing providers and assisting them in how to best promote fair and equal access.

Again, weakened civil rights enforcement hurts our most vulnerable constituents the most. In 2021, 54 percent of fair housing complaints nationwide were cases of discrimination on the basis of disability.

Housing affordability is not the only crisis Americans face when seeking stable housing. Discrimination is a real challenge for people with disabilities, veterans, seniors, and Tribal communities, and other vulnerable populations.

Instead of hollowing out meaningful implementation of civil rights protections, we should be taking every possible action to ensure Americans are not falling prey to loopholes and the lack of enforcement.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRECHEEN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. QUIGLEY. 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 Oklahoma will be postponed.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BRECHEEN) having assumed the chair, Mr. GIMENEZ, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4820) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

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, November 3, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on

November 3, 2023, at 3:20 p.m., said to contain a message from the President regarding the President's notification to the Congress consistent with section 8 of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, as amended (22 U.S.C. 1978).

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk of the House.

NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 8 OF THE FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE ACT OF 1967, AS AMENDED (22 U.S.C. 1978)—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-77)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Natural Resources and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

On August 24, 2023, the Secretary of the Interior certified under section 8 of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, as amended (the “Pelly Amendment”) (22 U.S.C. 1978), that nationals of the People's Republic of China (PRC) are engaging in trade or taking of eight species of pangolin that diminishes the effectiveness of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This letter constitutes my notification to the Congress consistent with subsection (b) of the Pelly Amendment.

Pangolins, the world's only scaly mammal, are captured and trafficked at a higher rate annually than rhinoceroses, elephants, and tigers combined. Consumer demand for pangolin scales for traditional medicinal practices has pushed all eight pangolin species, originating from across Africa and Asia, toward extinction. Effective January 2, 2017, all species of pangolin were included in CITES Appendix I, which prohibits international trade for primarily commercial purposes. Despite this prohibition, the PRC remains the largest destination country for pangolin scales.

The PRC has taken some steps to curtail pangolin trafficking at its international ports and has uplisted pangolins under its Wildlife Protection Law. Yet the PRC maintains a system that allows for the legal commercial trade of pangolin scales for medicinal use from its national stockpiles, thereby indirectly providing commercial avenues for selling illegal pangolin specimens through its domestic pangolin market. Provincial governments within the PRC are allowed to issue permits to designated pharmaceutical companies and other entities to acquire pangolin specimens from the PRC's national stockpiles for medicinal use.

According to the United Nations, pangolin seizures have increased tenfold since 2014; moreover, based on data

collected between 2007 and 2018, 71 percent of seizures were destined for the PRC. The size of individual seizures has also increased; for example, in 2019 Malaysian authorities reported seizing a record-setting 30 tons of pangolin products. My Administration therefore remains concerned that, despite assurances from the PRC regarding its anti-trafficking efforts, demand for pangolin scales appears to be growing. The PRC must do more to close domestic markets for pangolins and pangolin specimens that provide cover for the illegal market. Without these actions, it is likely that pangolin populations will continue to decline, bringing the species closer to extinction.

Since the Secretary of the Interior's certification on August 24, 2023, executive departments and agencies have outlined conservation and anti-trafficking conditions that must be met by the PRC to ameliorate United States concerns that the PRC is undermining pangolin conservation under CITES. Necessary actions by the PRC that would demonstrate its commitment to pangolin conservation and compliance with CITES directives include completely closing its domestic market for pangolins and pangolin parts, transparent accounting of domestic stockpiles, and fully removing pangolins and pangolin parts from the national list of approved medicines. The PRC has made some progress towards its international commitments, but given the complexity of the PRC's domestic pangolin market and its overlapping jurisdictions, more time is needed to ensure that the appropriate agencies from the PRC are implementing the necessary steps to protect pangolin species from possible extinction.

That is why I have directed the Department of State and the Department of the Interior to continue their ongoing efforts and to report back to me on the outcome of the ongoing negotiations at the CITES Standing Committee meeting taking place in Geneva from November 6-10, 2023. If significant commitments by the PRC to implement CITES-directed measures to protect pangolin species have not been made by December 31, 2023, I plan to direct certain prohibitions on the importation of, and impose trade measures on, certain products from the PRC.

The United States will take the steps necessary to end illegal trade in order to save pangolins from extinction, with the goal of demonstrating progress by the end of this year.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 3, 2023.

□ 2100

THE PRESIDENT'S FAILED FOREIGN POLICIES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, in only 3 years, President Biden's failed foreign

policies have caused chaos around the globe.

In the Middle East, Biden failed to enforce congressionally enacted sanctions while opening up new lines of cash for Iran to fund terror. Now, Israel is under attack from Iran-backed terrorist proxies.

In Europe, Biden lifted sanctions on Putin's Nord Stream 2 pipeline, a move that he was warned was a calamitous foreign policy disaster, while simultaneously undermining American energy production, weakening our influence, and empowering malign producers of energy like Russia.

In Afghanistan, Biden's chaotic troop withdrawal left Americans dead, the Afghan Government to collapse, and stranded tens of thousands of Afghan allies.

In Asia, Biden continues to ignore a growing number of aggressive provocations from the Chinese Communist Party. He gave the CCP a pass on their COVID obstruction, let their spy balloon gather intelligence from sensitive military sites, promoted the use of the CCP's spyware app called TikTok, and was standing idly by as China reportedly set up a spy base in Cuba.

In North America, cartels are exploiting Biden's open borders agenda to poison tens of thousands of Americans with deadly fentanyl, while experts warn of the ever-growing terror threat as 1.6 million got-aways have escaped into the country on Biden's watch.

Mr. Speaker, his foreign policy agenda has been a failure on every front, and the entire world is less safe from it.

BRIGADIER GENERAL NORMAN "SNAP" GADDIS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Barton College in Wilson, North Carolina, hosted Military Appreciation Day this past weekend.

The Bulldogs brought the community together to honor our veterans and for a good, hard-hitting football game.

We celebrated a true American hero, Brigadier General Norman "Snap" Gaddis. General Gaddis is a World War II fighter pilot who turned 100 years old this past September. He flew 72 combat missions before being listed missing in action, a prisoner of war held by the North Vietnamese for nearly 6 years and holds a Purple Heart.

The Bulldogs also recognized marine veteran and State representative Ken Fontenot.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Barton president Doug Searcy, first lady Beth Searcy, the board chair Eric Sellers, and the entire Bulldog family for honoring our veterans and their families.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

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

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on November 3, 2023, at 3:20 p.m., said to contain a message from the President regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Threat From Securities Investments That Finance Certain Companies of the People's Republic of China.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE THREAT FROM SECURITIES INVESTMENTS THAT FINANCE CERTAIN COMPANIES OF THE PRC—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-78)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the threat from securities investments that finance certain companies of the People's Republic of China (PRC) that was declared in Executive Order 13959 of November 12, 2020, and expanded in scope in Executive Order 14032 of June 3, 2021, is to continue in effect beyond November 12, 2023.

The PRC exploits United States capital to resource and to enable the development and modernization of its military, intelligence, and other security apparatuses, which continues to allow the PRC to directly threaten the United States homeland and United States forces overseas. Through the national strategy of Military-Civil Fusion, the PRC increases the size of the country's military-industrial complex by compelling civilian Chinese companies to support its military and intelligence activities. Those companies, though remaining ostensibly private and civilian, directly support the