

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

NOT VOTING—8

Arrington	Ezell	Mullin
Cherfilus-	Jackson Lee	Pelosi
McCormick	Mooney	Salazar

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1112

Mr. PHILLIPS changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. OGLES changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

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.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5894, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 864 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. 5894.

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

□ 1121

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. 5894) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with Mr. DESJARLAIS 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 one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

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

Mr. Chair, I rise in support this morning of H.R. 5894, the FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies bill.

This is my first year as chair of this very important subcommittee, and I am proud to be able to support programs that touch the lives of literally every American in one form or fashion.

Our Nation remains mired in high inflation, which was only worsened by the massive infusion of government spending, both during and immediately after the COVID pandemic. I have said on numerous occasions that inflation is a tax on every single American. Moreover, it is a tax borne disproportionately by low-income Americans.

We cannot continue to make our constituents pay for our reckless D.C. beltway spending. At some point, we must stop the out-of-control spending spree that we have seen over the past 2 years. This bill that is before the House this morning represents a clear first step toward returning to fiscal responsibility while at the same time ensuring that funding for critical and high-priority functions are maintained.

Yes, the bill before us today reflects the challenges in achieving deficit reduction solely through reductions in discretionary spending. To be honest, a \$60 billion cut to social spending programs in this bill requires scrutiny and priority setting.

Over 50 programs are proposed for reduction and another 60 programs are eliminated. Most of those that are eliminated are unauthorized or they have expired authorizations. Title I grants to States are cut by almost 80 percent, or more than \$14 billion.

While title I grants do support school districts everywhere, including rural districts and the districts back in Alabama that I represent, these funds disproportionately support big city public

schools, those same public schools that failed to educate the most vulnerable children that were entrusted to them by closing their doors for almost 2 years during the pandemic.

It is estimated that over \$20 billion in unspent funding still remains available from those funds that were provided during the pandemic to these schools. Until this funding—over \$21 billion—is drawn down and used responsibly, the Federal Government should not continue to make further investments in these failing schools.

At the same time, the priorities of this bill are biodefense, programs that support rural America, targeted education programs, including those for children with special needs and congressional oversight responsibilities.

The bill also maintains support for Pell grants and language to ensure borrowers can quickly resume payments of their student loans following the recent Supreme Court decision.

Other programs for certain vulnerable populations, such as Americans with disabilities, older Americans, and foster children, are maintained at current levels.

Childcare block grants, which provide vouchers for families to choose childcare settings of their choice, are maintained at \$8 billion.

In response to this administration's executive branch overreach, this bill prohibits funding for programs focused solely on diversity, equity, and inclusion. It eliminates funding for Planned Parenthood and other controversial grantees. It also protects religious freedom and values by stopping the administration's regulations that would require schools to allow biological boys to compete against girls in women's sports programs and prohibiting any Federal funding from going toward enforcing gender identity politics or social, hormonal, or surgical interventions to look like the opposite sex.

The bill prohibits funding for controversial ideologies like critical race theory. These radical views do not belong in public schools. Schools should be teaching our children how to think, not what to think.

The bill maintains the longstanding Hyde amendment to ensure that taxpayer funds are not used for abortion on demand and that no one is forced to participate in an abortion or refer for one under any Federal program.

The bill also makes sure that taxpayer funds are not used to circumvent State laws restricting abortion and also ensures that Federal research funds are not used on human fetal tissue obtained from an elective abortion.

Furthermore, the bill before us also includes provisions preventing this administration from moving forward with job-killing regulations that relate to independent contractors, joint employer status, and federally forced wage rates for agricultural workers. The administration's regulatory agenda is stifling small businesses, which should be an incubator for innovation.

To protect against man-made pandemics, the bill prohibits any funding from going to EcoHealth Alliance, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or any lab located in Russia or China. The bill also prohibits funding from being used for any gain-of-function research, which was being used on bat coronavirus prior to the COVID pandemic, and it prohibits enforcement of the CMS COVID vaccine mandate on healthcare workers.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, in addition to thanking everybody that has had a part in this, I want to say a special thanks to the chair of our committee, Chairwoman GRANGER, and also my fellow subcommittee members and their staff. I certainly also thank the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee staff on both the Democrat and the Republican side, as we have had to work through this bill over the last several months. I just appreciate everyone's hard work and input as we have moved forward on this.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to the debate today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I congratulate Chairman ADERHOLT on his first bill as chairman of the subcommittee. I thank the minority staff—particularly Stephen Steigleder, Philip Tizzani, Laurie Mignone, and Jackie Kilroy—for all of their hard work, as well as the majority staff, Susan Ross, Kathryn Salmon, James Redstone, Emily Goff, and Laura Stagno. As I have often said, they keep our names on the door, so many thanks to all.

Mr. Chair, I have never seen an appropriations bill quite like this one. I have never seen a bill that was this inhumane and which defies all the values and ideals of a society which promises to address the needs and the challenges of its people.

□ 1130

In Charles Dickens' "Great Expectations," Pip observes the Pocket family children as "not growing up or being brought up, but were tumbling up." This bill leaves America's children tumbling up.

This bill is the largest domestic appropriations bill, and for good reason. The programs funded in Labor-HHS-Education ensure that our workforce is strong, our families are healthy and safe, and our children's future is secure.

Indeed, last Congress, we passed a Labor-HHS bill that supported middle-class working families, lifted up vulnerable Americans, and prepared our Nation for future crises, which makes it even more disappointing to see where we have ended up in this year's process.

The majority's 2024 Labor-HHS-Education bill and its 28 percent cut of \$64 billion bring us back to a level unseen since 2008. It heralds their intent to

end public education in the United States. This bill eliminates present and future job opportunities for young adults, seniors, and working families. It jeopardizes maternal, pediatric, and public health.

This bill is shameful, which is presumably the reason why it was never marked up or voted on by the full Appropriations Committee.

As disappointed as I am to see the authority of the Appropriations Committee surrendered, sadly, based on where the majority has taken this entire process, it is not surprising.

Mr. Chair, 154 days ago, the House Appropriations Committee held its first full committee markup of the 2024 bill. Nine more followed. This bill was not one of them.

Nonetheless, the House majority circumvented the committee process. They air-dropped five new poison pill riders into the Labor-HHS bill without any bipartisan consultation or vote by the committee.

We are left to assume that the majority knew this bill had no path forward in committee, and they know it has no path forward, period.

Horace Mann called education "the great equalizer." Perhaps, then, it is the majority's aversion to equality that explains why they cut 28 percent from the Department of Education.

They will take at least 224,000 teachers out of low-income classrooms and eviscerate the programs that help at-risk youth build a bright future. This cut would entail a loss of 3,700 teachers in Alabama, 800 teachers in Idaho, 4,400 teachers in Maryland, 4,300 teachers in Tennessee, 6,500 teachers in Michigan, 5,000 teachers in Louisiana, 8,300 teachers in Georgia, 1,500 teachers in Kansas, 22,300 teachers in Texas, and 4,400 teachers in Arizona. Explain that to your constituents.

I am deeply concerned about the impact such a colossal retraction from public education funding would have on children across our country.

This bill tells the story of where the majority seeks to take this country. Republicans have made it clear they are opposed to public education, and they seek to destroy it.

Quality education will no longer be accessible to working families, but it will be accessible, again, to the purview of the rich.

I must underscore that point. This is no messaging bill. This is their Commitment to America. I am taking Republicans at their word, as should all American people. This is what they want to do.

When 161 House Republicans voted earlier this year to eliminate all K-12 funding at the Department of Education in the Massie amendment to H.R. 5, I was horrified, but that was only the beginning.

House Republicans are in lockstep behind the most extreme ideologues in their party. Just this summer, former Secretary Betsy DeVos penned an op-ed calling to eliminate the Department of Education.

The Heritage Foundation's budget blueprint includes a proposal to eliminate the Department of Education.

Former OMB Director Russ Vought wants massive funding reductions to "thwart" a public education system he sees as "an existential threat to the American Republic."

We are witnessing a widespread attack on public education that should shock every American family. If left to their own devices, Republicans will gleefully take public education to the graveyard.

How will this bill move us closer toward those ends?

English language acquisition funding to help 5 million English learners nationwide is eliminated, disadvantaging and discriminating against students who primarily speak another language and restraining their future ability to compete and succeed in the economy.

Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants, which provide professional development opportunities for educators, are completely gone.

Federal work-study is no more for the 660,000 students who need it to help finance their postsecondary education. It limits their potential earnings and future success in the job market.

Nearly \$1 billion is cut from the supplemental educational opportunity grants, which eliminate need-based financial aid for 1.7 million students nationwide.

Promise Neighborhoods, social and emotional learning grants, and magnet schools are all completely erased, as well.

The programs that are not completely abolished in this bill are so poorly funded as to be completely nonfunctional.

A \$14.7 billion cut from title I, the very foundation of public education in America, is patently unthinkable and would remove hundreds of thousands of teachers from classrooms, directly harming children in every single one of our districts.

Students nationwide are struggling with rising college costs, and this bill provides no relief by freezing the maximum Pell grant for the first time in 12 years.

I believe we all agree that we have a crisis in our Nation's classrooms, but rather than address the teacher shortage and fully fund our children's future, our Nation's future, the majority's solution is to abolish the public classroom altogether. If you cannot afford a private education for your children, well, too bad.

This is the every child left behind act. Regardless of your age or stage in life, this bill means you can't count on your country for assistance in getting back on your feet.

Youth job training, adult job training, Job Corps, and senior community service employment programs are all eliminated. If you want to work and just need help finding the right job or finding a better job, this bill has nothing to offer you.

They are putting workers who do find jobs at risk by cutting \$313 million for worker protection agencies like the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The 30 percent cut to the Wage and Hour Division, the agency that is tasked with enforcing wage law and ensuring that our children are not working illegally, will send the rights of workers in this country back to a time before World War II.

This bill hangs working families out to dry. Healthy Start, diaper distribution, teen pregnancy prevention, title X family planning—all abolished.

With riders that block access to abortions and reproductive healthcare services and force providers to withhold critical information about healthcare options, it is clear in this area that the majority does not trust women to make their own decisions, and where they are taking us is moving down a road to a nationwide abortion ban.

These provisions amount to the majority simultaneously ensuring anyone who may get pregnant will get pregnant, teenagers included, and there are no resources or lifelines available to help those children and their families.

People can only hope that they do not get cancer. You will not find support from House Republicans. From the National Institutes of Health, over \$2 billion is cut from the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Cuts to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are as outrageous as they are dangerous. Firearm injury prevention, tobacco prevention, and ending the HIV epidemic, which, by the way, was an initiative of President Donald Trump, Republicans have decided that addressing these problems is not worth a single dollar to the American people.

What should we be doing if not combating the leading causes of death in this country? What should we fund if not the health and future of America's families? Supporting our children and working families is the bare minimum of what the greatest country in the world should do for its people, but this bill goes well below the bare minimum.

This bill steals from our children's future, from our families' health, and from Americans' livelihood. It abandons young adults. It stifles biomedical innovation. It surrenders to current and future public health crises. It hurts women with poison pill riders on abortion.

Mr. Chair, for these reasons, I vehemently oppose this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CARL).

Mr. CARL. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. ADERHOLT for his remarkable work on this bill, particularly under the trying

circumstances in which we find ourselves.

One area of concern I would like to touch on is the Medicare wage index. The wage index is unfair to rural southern States like Alabama.

Alabama has one of the lowest reimbursement rates in the Nation. Even worse, Mobile and Baldwin Counties, which I represent, face a huge struggle with the labor market since they are so close to Florida and competing with Florida's higher reimbursement rate.

A small adjustment to this classification for Mobile and Baldwin Counties would level the playing field at a time when hiring and retaining healthcare workers is at such a critical stage. It would also address the massive population growth that we are having in these counties and the increasingly older population on the Alabama Gulf Coast.

The reclassification is carefully designed to address this unique situation. These carve-outs have been accomplished for decades in higher reimbursement States while lowering the reimbursement for States that need it the most and that have been ignored. To achieve more fair funding in healthcare, especially in a unique situation like Mobile and Baldwin Counties, a reclassification is the right thing to do.

Mr. Chair, I support this bill, and I hope that by working together, we can address these critical issues and ensure a brighter future for our communities.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of these remarks from my friend and colleague from Alabama (Mr. CARL).

Hospitals in Alabama and, really, across the Nation are facing financial pressure because of healthcare disparities created by a specific Medicare regulation called the Medicare area wage index, as Mr. CARL just mentioned.

The wage index system is broken. It is punishing cost-effective hospitals in so many rural areas. Despite increases in labor costs, the wage index in these States consistently decreases over the years, and the decline is projected to continue.

I thank the gentleman from Alabama for raising this issue here today. Although this is primarily under the jurisdiction of the authorizing committees, I am proud that this bill includes provisions drawing attention to this very important issue.

I hope that, moving forward, Congress can work to address this long-broken system, which is continuing to create serious challenges for our rural hospitals and their communities.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the distinguished ranking member of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I rise in strong opposition to this spending bill.

In it, House Republicans have reduced funding to the NIH and the National Cancer Institute and virtually eliminated funding for medical and behavioral research into deadly diseases.

House Republicans eliminated the CDC's tobacco prevention and control programs. I repeat: House Republicans have defunded our most important antismoking programs with this bill.

Deaths will be the reality if these cuts come to fruition. How can Republicans still be this beholden to Big Tobacco?

House Republicans also eliminated the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative despite States like Florida, where we are seeing a 33 percent spike in new HIV diagnoses.

With this bill, House Republicans are eliminating Healthy Start, whose sole mission is to improve the well-being of expectant mothers or those who just gave birth, all to reduce infant mortality.

On top of that, this extreme MAGA bill eliminates funding for title X family planning because their far-right ideology forbids access to reproductive health and related preventive health services.

Of course, House Republicans have eliminated the Teen Pregnancy Prevention program in tandem with riders that block access to abortion services or reproductive healthcare services.

At least this bill nakedly reflects the true values of the MAGA House Republicans because it will encourage discrimination, promote bigotry, trample on women's rights, decimate public education, and push minorities further away from equality.

□ 1145

Of course, it "protects" Americans from critical race theory, LGBTQI+ communities, and programs that promote diversity and equity.

This bill should adhere to the agreement that was made in the Fiscal Responsibility Act we passed on a bipartisan basis in the spring. Slash-and-burn budgeting hurts real people while you take care of your corporate co-conspirators.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this terrible spending bill if it ever even comes to a vote.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE).

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Chair, our Nation's foster care system is overburdened and limited in its ability to adequately address the adversities, challenges, and traumas that children and families often confront in some of the most vulnerable times of their lives. This is the unfortunate reality—a status quo where good enough is not good enough. It is a status quo where children are forgotten and neglected, a status quo that leaves children to gather in the

trauma that introduced them to the foster care system.

The Administration for Children and Families has emboldened the status quo for far too long. Studies show that children placed in foster care are significantly more likely to face lifelong struggles that include homelessness, sex trafficking, incarceration, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

To move past these challenges, we must introduce innovative solutions that address the complex needs of children and families involved in the foster care system.

Our foster care system lacks innovation, but that is something that we can change. We must educate, support, and empower children in the foster care system to reach their full potential.

To accomplish these goals, our foster care system needs intervention, trauma-informed programming molded to the unique circumstances of each child in the foster care system.

I encourage my colleagues to recognize these unique challenges and help set foster care youth on a path to success.

Ms. DELAURO. 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. My, my, my. In the spending bill that most affects our social fabric, MAGA Republicans take an ax to women's reproductive freedom, public education, and Medicare.

At a time when costs are too high for working people, Republicans underfund childcare and eldercare. Instead of lifting up American families, this bill brings us down with culture war garbage.

It is a "no" for me. We can and we must do better.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE), a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chair, I am literally losing my voice, but somehow I will find the strength to make my voice heard on this dangerous bill.

I rise today to speak against this bill's completely dated, out-of-date insistence on stripping women of their fundamental freedoms, not to mention the 80 percent cut to title I across this country. This is funding for our most at-risk students everywhere, in every community in this country. It will eliminate over 200,000 teachers and jeopardize the education of 26 million students.

First, I will take you back to a week ago when Americans all across this country from Ohio to Kentucky to Virginia came out in droves to reject extremist efforts to strip a woman's right to make decisions about her own body.

Now, Republicans here in Washington are doubling down on that same out-of-touch agenda, this time by sneaking partisan policy wins into what is sup-

posed to be a bipartisan process for funding our government.

Conservatives have spent 50 years saying abortion should be left up to the States. They finally got their way when the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Now, even after local communities everywhere are demonstrating clearly that they believe in a woman's fundamental freedoms, radical House Republicans are doing everything they can to make abortion illegal at a national level.

It is time to wake up, listen to women across this country from the coasts to the hills to the deserts who have spoken and will continue to say: Hands off our bodies. It is our choice. Let's leave it that way.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no." This nonsense needs to end.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for her strong voice, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI), a member of our Appropriations Committee that has been very helpful on this bill that is before us today.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of Head Start programs across the country.

As a father of six, I recognize the importance of early learning and development for our next generation. As a dad, I want to ensure all children have the same opportunities to build a strong foundation for their lives.

That is why I joined my colleague and friend Representative LAWLER on his amendment, which we will consider later, to increase the amount of Head Start funding provided in the FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Further, I introduced my own amendment, which is included in the en bloc to underscore the importance of the Head Start program.

The importance of these programs, both in my district and across the country, cannot be understated. When our students and families have access to these resources, they are better equipped to put their best foot forward each day, both in and out of the classrooms.

With 22 Head Start programs at almost 500 locations in Arizona, these programs are vital to the well-being of families and children everywhere. In my district alone, 10 percent of the families with children under the age of 5 lives below the poverty level. The tools our students need to succeed go far beyond pencils and notebooks in the classroom. When we invest in our kids, we are investing in a stronger community.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. CISCOMANI for his comments. As we move forward with this bill, I look forward to working with him, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN).

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Chair, I thank Congresswoman DELAURO for her leadership.

When we invest in our children, we invest in our communities. I agree, and that is why I am so perplexed and frankly outraged by the draconian cuts in this bill, specifically targeting teachers, students, and title I schools that serve vulnerable communities.

These draconian cuts would force 220,000 teachers from the classrooms. In my district, that is nearly 700 title I teachers who would lose their jobs.

I am one of the few mothers of young children in this Congress. I have an eighth grader and a third grader. I see every day that at a time when our schools are still struggling to address learning disruption and a growing achievement gap resulting, in part, from the COVID pandemic and the growing mental health crisis, that this bill compounds that problem by cutting resources to our schools and cutting mental health services that will help to address the crisis that our children and the adults that care for them are facing every day.

For that reason, I urge my colleagues to vote against this extreme Labor-HHS appropriation bill.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER).

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Chair, every child deserves access to a high-quality education, but House Republicans are proposing harmful cuts that would close the doors of opportunity for millions of children.

At a time when we are facing a nationwide teacher shortage, House Republicans want to cut title I funding by 80 percent, kicking 220,000 teachers out of the classroom, including 1,000 teachers in Rhode Island.

House Republicans also propose to cut Head Start funding by \$750 million, putting 50,000 children, including hundreds in Rhode Island, out of early childhood education programs and making it harder for their parents to go back to work.

All told, this bill would cut \$22.5 billion from the Department of Education, and many of my Republican colleagues who are advocating for these cuts, who are saying we just can't find the money to pay teachers and help kids, had no problem voting for a tax cut program of \$1.9 trillion that went disproportionately to billionaires and big corporations. They voted for \$750 billion of tax cuts to corporations, \$150 billion of cuts for multimillion-dollar inheritances, and now when it comes to finding even a fraction of that same amount to fund teachers and fund children, they are saying they can't find the money.

Please.

If you can find trillions of dollars to give to billionaires and big corporations, you can sure as heck find money for teachers and students.

Instead of handouts for those at the top, let's focus on policies that will help working people.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill, fight back against extremism, and stand up for our kids.

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

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

It is incredulous the scope of this bill and its damage to the American people, their healthcare, their education, and their opportunity for a job and their future.

Just quickly, in the Department of Labor: Adult Job Training; Youth Job Training; Job Corps; Senior Community Service Employment; the Bureau of International Labor Affairs; the Women's Bureau, the Women's Bureau that helps women find jobs in nontraditional areas, these are all eliminated. They are eliminated.

Let's go now to the Department of Health and Human Services: Title X Family Planning; Healthy Start; Ryan White Ending the HIV Epidemic, something that George Bush and Donald Trump wanted to provide funding for, eliminated.

Nursing Workforce Diversity. We have a shortage of nurses today. We need to be recruiting and training nurses to be able to take care of patients, to be able to administer healthcare.

I always classify nurses as angels of mercy. They were with me every single day when I was in the hospital a number of years ago for a period of time. The doctors could look at me, they did great surgery, but it was the nurses who looked at me, and they could tell whether it was a good day or a bad day, and they were there for comfort and care. But, no, we don't want to train and recruit nurses.

The CDC, Tobacco Prevention and Control—my God, we have gone to such an extent to really cut back on addiction and not to make kids addicted in our country.

□ 1200

Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention. This is research and the same kind of research we did with regard to understanding how good seatbelts were and how they could save people. This is not taking anyone's gun away. This is about public health, but, no, that is eliminated.

Global HIV/AIDS, the CDC's contribution to PEPFAR—launched by George Bush—all eliminated. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, Minority AIDS. My God, we are suffering a mental health crisis in this country, but, no, the Republicans would eliminate that.

Preschool Development Grants, Adult Protective Services Formula Grants, all eliminated.

Now, the Department of Education. Effective Instruction State Grants, eliminated. Social and Emotional Learning, eliminated. Civics—we find

today that young people, older people, don't know anything about the American government. They don't know who does what at local, State, or federal. They don't engage in a dialogue with one another so that you can get to some sort of a rapprochement, understand what is being done in government. No, Republicans don't want a literate society, so let's eliminate civics.

Magnet Schools Assistance, Promise Neighborhoods, the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants. My God, the kids who need financial assistance.

Federal Work-Study, let me mention that one, because today, working families, middle-class families, vulnerable families, are having a tough time. They are going paycheck to paycheck. Yeah, you know what? They want their kids to go to school to get an education. You know what? Their kids are willing to work. They will go to the library. They will do those jobs with the Federal Work-Study Program.

When I talk about Republicans wanting to eliminate public education, this is a very good example, because you cut off the opportunity for that child to be able to work and to help his parents support him in getting an education.

Who are we and what are we about with this bill?

I could go on, but what would be the point? That is what this bill is about. As I said, it is not a messaging bill. This is where the majority wants to take us. They want to eliminate public education in this Nation.

I come from an immigrant family whose parents could dare dream their daughter serves in the United States House of Representatives. I can hear, day in and day out, my folks who have now passed who said: Get an education. Get an education. They sacrificed for that education, and we have a majority of this body who wants to take it away.

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

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 5894—Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

House Republicans had an opportunity to engage in a productive, bipartisan appropriations process, but instead are wasting time with partisan bills that cut domestic spending to levels well below the Fiscal Responsibility Act agreement and endanger critical services for the American people.

As with all the additional appropriation bills that have been up for consideration on the House Floor, I strongly oppose the passage of this bill for a myriad of reasons.

The 2024 Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act provides \$163 billion, which is a 28 percent cut of \$64 billion, and brings us back to a level unseen since 2008.

This dangerous and irresponsible legislation would do the following:

Decimate support for children in K–12 elementary schools and early childhood education.

Abandon college students and low-income workers trying to improve their lives through higher education or job training.

Stifle lifesaving biomedical innovation by cutting funding for cancer research, mental health research, and neurological research, and by slashing funding for advanced research projects intended to develop new cures and therapies.

Surrender to ongoing public health crises in mental health, opioid use, HIV/AIDS, and health disparities.

Harm women's health by cutting programs that support maternal and child health, eliminating programs that provide access to health services and contraception, and adding numerous partisan and poison pill riders related to abortion and reproductive health.

This bill is out of regular order. It was never marked up and considered in the House Appropriations committee.

There is no example of this happening in the last 20 years.

House Republicans are stripping \$63.8 billion away from Texas, making it harder for Texans to access education, health care, employment, and more.

I think we can all agree children are our future and that we should invest to make our future better and brighter.

As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am extremely passionate about the wellbeing and education of children.

Which is why I offered the Jackson Lee Amendment No. 51 as incorporated in the En Bloc.

Despite the horrible provisions throughout the entirety of this appropriations bill, the Jackson Lee Amendment No. 51 as incorporated into En Bloc Amendment is an important amendment that would increase by \$2 million the Head Start Act, including Head Start partnerships.

One of the objectives of the Congressional Children's Caucus is to ensure that all the children in this country have an opportunity to receive an education, including early childhood development.

Head Start helps all children succeed, especially vulnerable children.

If we continue to underfund education in the United States, our children will suffer, we will dismantle public education, and we will be weaker as a nation.

This legislation would kick teachers out of classrooms.

The United States is already in a teacher shortage and this bill would cut another 22,300 teachers from Texas schools due to cuts from Title 1.

This bill would severely impact teachers and students all over the state of Texas, where the Texas Education Agency has already decided to unnecessarily takeover Houston ISD.

Houston ISD is the largest school district in the state, with a student population of more than 200,000, according to a breakdown by the Texas Tribune.

A TEA takeover would have a negative impact on each Independent School District (ISD) because a board of managers are not elected, and they don't have to answer to the constituents in those districts.

State takeovers in other districts have led to school closures, layoffs, and no improvements in test scores.

The vast majority of school districts that have been taken over by state agencies (TEA included) have not improved but declined.

TEA has no experience managing a district of 200k-plus scholars and we should not suffer as the guinea pigs.

Texas is behind the national average of how much the state spends per student in the classroom.

More specifically, data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that Texas spends \$3,000 less than the national average.

We have to stop the State from intermeddling and overstepping into our educational systems—causing further harm and damage to our communities.

This legislation will make cuts to schools and communities that are already suffering.

With the pandemic, burnout and the rise in the cost of living, teachers are already struggling, and this bill will only add to that.

Without the support of our teachers, students will be left behind.

I also offered the Jackson Lee Amendment No. 24 as incorporated in the En Bloc.

Again, despite the horrible provisions throughout the entirety of this bill, the Jackson Lee Amendment No. 24 as incorporated into En Bloc Amendment is an important amendment that would increase and decrease by \$2 million the National Cancer Institute in order to research triple negative breast cancer.

Breast cancer accounts for 12.5 percent of all new annual cancer cases worldwide, making it the most common cancer in the world.

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.

There are few people in this country whose lives have not been touched by breast cancer.

Yet, there are persistent disparities in breast cancer incidence and death rates.

Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States for Black and Hispanic women.

Black women are more likely to die from breast cancer than women of any other racial or ethnic group.

Experts believe that it's partially because about 1 in 5 Black women is diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer, more than any other racial or ethnic group.

Compared with non-Hispanic white women, Black women are less likely to receive guideline adherent care and have an approximate 2-fold higher mortality incidence, resulting in a disproportionately higher risk of death from Triple Negative Breast Cancer.

Triple Negative Breast Cancer ("TNBC") is one of many forms of breast cancer and accounts for about 15–30 percent of all diagnosed invasive breast cancer cases in the United States.

Due to its aggressive behavior, TNBC grows quickly and is more likely to have spread at the time it is found and is more likely to come back after treatment than other types of breast cancer.

TNBC cells do not contain (are "negative for") three key receptors that medicines typically target in other types of breast cancers; therefore, there are limited treatment options that can be used to treat the cancer.

Patients with an early diagnosis can often be treated with chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery; however, the limited therapies available specifically addressing the management of TNBC has made treating this disease a challenge for clinicians.

Recent innovation in targeted therapies have fueled advances in the fight against TNBC.

Advances in breast cancer screening and treatment over the last few decades have reduced the overall breast cancer mortality rate, yet the disproportionate impact of TNBC on racial and ethnic minority communities raises considerations about the underlying determinants driving the disparities.

It is necessary to promote TNBC education, raise awareness about the disease-related disparities, and tackle inequities within the health care delivery such as inadequate access to screening, diagnostic testing, and care, to improve early detection and survival.

Providing the NIH with the resources necessary to research TNBC could save thousands of lives each year.

The Jackson Lee Amendment No. 24 would allow for more research so we can one day hopefully learn a way to reduce the number of Americans affected by breast cancer.

Additionally, I have introduced H.R. 225, the Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Research and Education Act of 2023, which focuses on expanding, intensifying, and coordinating programs for the conduct and support of research on triple-negative breast cancer, a type of breast cancer that is difficult to detect but disproportionately impacts African American and Hispanic women.

While these Jackson Lee Amendments are important, the negatives of this appropriations bill vastly outweigh these positive amendments—which is why H.R. 5894 must be voted down.

Importantly, this bill is harmful for women's reproductive rights.

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 women's ability to make personal decisions about their health and safety.

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

The shameful attacks on women's reproductive health rights 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 women's freedom and autonomy, all while trying to claim they support women's rights.

Access to reproductive health care, including abortion and fertility care, is critical to our democracy and overall well-being as a free nation.

As policymakers, we must ensure that all Americans 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.

This bill will undoubtedly have a devastating impact on all Americans.

As we know, the National Institutes of Health has had major progress in human health advances, promising medical findings, and research insights.

Yet, significant cuts to NIH make maintaining American research and development leadership worldwide more challenging at a time when competitor nations are increasing their support for biomedical research.

Funding cuts will delay progress towards new cures, treatments, and diagnostics that

benefit the nation and drive our biomedical innovation economy forward.

Beyond sustaining American leadership in biomedical research, the NIH is a major catalyst for local economies, directly and indirectly supporting over 560,000 jobs and producing \$96.84 billion in new economic activity in FY22, equaling an economic return of \$2.64 for every \$1 in research funding.

This bill eliminates funding for the Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (–\$220 million), the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (–\$165 million), and Community Health Centers Program (–\$157 million).

The bill also cuts funding for the Minority HIV/AIDS Fund by 53 percent (–\$32 million).

We have made significant advances in HIV/AIDS research and it would be devastating to cut back on the important work that is being done.

Rather than cutting billions of dollars for NIH-supported medical research occurring in nearly every congressional district across the country, the House should build on decades of strong bipartisan support and investment that has led to the lifesaving medications and treatments Americans rely on every day.

We must fund the NIH and the Department of Health and Human Services in order to research and solve conditions such as Triple Negative Breast Cancer, diabetes, and HIV.

This legislation would also impact Federal Work Study programs and Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants making it more difficult than it already is for college students to pay for a higher education and receive financial aid.

The elimination of these programs and the flat funding levels of Pell Grants for the first time since 2012 would create financial emergencies for low-income students.

Cutting these programs would not only drive-up student borrowing and potentially discourage the next generation of students, but it would also create a real and immediate financial shortfall for current low-income students who have rely on these programs to earn their degree.

This legislation would also take away funding from our elderly population.

Under the current LHHS bill there would be a \$250 million dollar decrease to the Social Security Administration's customer service budget at a time when the agency continues to struggle to deliver timely and accurate service. This year saw continued record high hold times and wait times for disability claims.

The bill has a \$15 million decrease for Elder Rights Supports, funding used to protect older Americans from elder abuse.

The Senior Community Service Employment Program would be eliminated. This program provides the opportunity for tens of thousands of older Americans to find work despite pernicious age discrimination.

This bill negatively impacts every single person in the United States from the youngest to the oldest.

This bill doesn't choose to impact just Republicans or Democrats.

We will all feel the severity of this bill if it is passed.

We cannot better the lives of everyday Americans with this terrible bill that eliminates much of the progress that has been made in education, public health, and the workforce.

This reckless underlying legislation would painfully impact the lives of millions of Americans by making disastrous cuts to programs that workers and families count on every day.

Instead of investing in America, Republicans would rather focus on advancing unpopular and dangerous right-wing priorities.

The proposal in front of us here today is not a reasonable middle ground, nor is it even a starting point for discussion.

I recognize that we are in the midst of austere budgetary and political times, however, we cannot continue to ignore the return on investment that advanced developments in health research, employment assistance, and education will yield to the American public.

I urge all my colleagues to oppose this dangerous and shameful bill.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

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

An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118-13, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 118-272, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5894

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (referred to in this Act as “WIOA”) and the National Apprenticeship Act, \$2,836,808,000, plus reimbursements, shall be available. Of the amounts provided:

(1) for grants to States for adult employment and training activities and dislocated worker employment and training activities, \$1,807,553,000 as follows:

(A) \$712,000,000 for adult employment and training activities, which shall be available for the period October 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; and

(B) \$1,095,553,000 for dislocated worker employment and training activities, of which \$235,553,000 shall be available for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, and of which \$860,000,000 shall be available for the period October 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025:

Provided, That the funds available for allotment to outlying areas to carry out subtitle B of title I of the WIOA shall not be subject to the requirements of section 127(b)(1)(B)(ii) of such Act: Provided further, That notwithstanding the requirements of WIOA, outlying areas may submit a single application for a consolidated grant that awards funds that would otherwise be available to such areas to carry out the activities described in subtitle B of title I of the WIOA: Provided further, That such application shall be submitted to the Secretary of Labor (referred to in this title as “Secretary”), at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require: Provided further, That outlying areas awarded a consolidated grant described in the preceding provisos may use the funds for any of the programs and activities authorized under such subtitle B of title I of the WIOA subject to approval of the application and such reporting requirements issued by the Secretary; and

(2) for national programs, \$1,029,255,000 as follows:

(A) \$360,859,000 for the dislocated workers assistance national reserve, of which \$160,859,000 shall be available for the period July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, and of which \$200,000,000 shall be available for the period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025: Provided, That funds provided to carry out section 132(a)(2)(A) of the WIOA may be used to provide assistance to a State for statewide or local use in order to address cases where there have been worker dislocations across multiple sectors or across multiple local areas and such workers remain dislocated; coordinate the State workforce development plan with emerging economic development needs; and train such eligible dislocated workers: Provided further, That funds provided to carry out sections 168(b) and 169(c) of the WIOA may be used for technical assistance and demonstration projects, respectively, that provide assistance to new entrants in the workforce and incumbent workers: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 168(b) of the WIOA, of the funds provided under this subparagraph, the Secretary may reserve not more than 10 percent of such funds to provide technical assistance and carry out additional activities related to the transition to the WIOA: Provided further, That of the funds provided under this subparagraph, \$115,000,000 shall be for training and employment assistance under sections 168(b), 169(c) (notwithstanding the 10 percent limitation in such section) and 170 of the WIOA as follows:

(i) \$50,000,000 shall be for workers in the Appalachian region, as defined by 40 U.S.C. 14102(a)(1), workers in the Lower Mississippi, as defined in section 4(2) of the Delta Development Act (Public Law 100-460, 102 Stat. 2246; 7 U.S.C. 2009aa(2)), and workers in the region served by the Northern Border Regional Commission, as defined by 40 U.S.C. 15733; and

(ii) \$65,000,000 shall be for the purpose of developing, offering, or improving educational or career training programs at community colleges, defined as public institutions of higher education, as described in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and at which the associate's degree is primarily the highest degree awarded, with other eligible institutions of higher education, as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, eligible to participate through consortia, with community colleges as the lead grantee;

(B) \$60,000,000 for Native American programs under section 166 of the WIOA, which shall be available for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025;

(C) \$97,396,000 for migrant and seasonal farmworker programs under section 167 of the WIOA, including \$90,134,000 for formula grants (of which not less than 70 percent shall be for employment and training services), \$6,591,000 for migrant and seasonal housing (of which not less than 70 percent shall be for permanent housing), and \$671,000 for other discretionary purposes, which shall be available for the period April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law or related regulation, the Department of Labor shall take no action limiting the number or proportion of eligible participants receiving related assistance services or discouraging grantees from providing such services: Provided further, That notwithstanding the definition of “eligible seasonal farmworker” in section 167(i)(3)(A) of the WIOA relating to an individual being “low-income”, an individual is eligible for migrant and seasonal farmworker programs under section 167 of the WIOA under that definition if, in addition to meeting the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii) of section 167(i)(3)(A), such individual is a member of a family with a total family income equal to or less than 150 percent of the poverty line;

(D) \$105,000,000 for YouthBuild activities as described in section 171 of the WIOA, which

shall be available for the period April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025;

(E) \$115,000,000 for ex-offender activities, under the authority of section 169 of the WIOA, which shall be available for the period April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025: Provided, That of this amount, \$30,000,000 shall be for competitive grants to national and regional intermediaries for activities that prepare for employment young adults with criminal legal histories, young adults who have been justice system-involved, or young adults who have dropped out of school or other educational programs, with a priority for projects serving high-crime, high-poverty areas;

(F) \$6,000,000 for the Workforce Data Quality Initiative, under the authority of section 169 of the WIOA, which shall be available for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; and

(G) \$285,000,000 to expand opportunities through apprenticeships, to be available to the Secretary to carry out activities through grants, cooperative agreements, contracts and other arrangements, with States and other appropriate entities, including equity intermediaries and business and labor industry partner intermediaries, which shall be available for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES

For payments during fiscal year 2024 of trade adjustment benefit payments and allowances under part I of subchapter B of chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, and section 246 of that Act; and for training, employment and case management services, allowances for job search and relocation, and related State administrative expenses under part II of subchapter B of chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, and including benefit payments, allowances, training, employment and case management services, and related State administration provided pursuant to section 231(a) of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011, sections 405(a) and 406 of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, and section 285(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, \$30,700,000 together with such amounts as may be necessary to be charged to the subsequent appropriation for payments for any period subsequent to September 15, 2024: Provided, That notwithstanding section 502 of this Act, any part of the appropriation provided under this heading may remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year pursuant to the authorities of section 245(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2317(c)).

STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OPERATIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For authorized administrative expenses, \$84,066,000, together with not to exceed \$3,921,556,000 which may be expended from the Employment Security Administration Account in the Unemployment Trust Fund (“the Trust Fund”), of which—

(1) \$3,141,635,000 from the Trust Fund is for grants to States for the administration of State unemployment insurance laws as authorized under title III of the Social Security Act (including not less than \$382,000,000 to carry out reemployment services and eligibility assessments under section 306 of such Act, any claimants of regular compensation, as defined in such section, including those who are profiled as most likely to exhaust their benefits, may be eligible for such services and assessments: Provided, That of such amount, \$117,000,000 is specified for grants under section 306 of the Social Security Act and is provided to meet the terms of section 251(b)(2)(E)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, and \$265,000,000 is additional new budget authority specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(E)(i)(V) of such Act; and \$9,000,000 for continued support of the Unemployment Insurance Integrity Center of Excellence), the administration of unemployment insurance for Federal employees and for ex-service

members as authorized under 5 U.S.C. 8501–8523, and the administration of trade readjustment allowances, reemployment trade adjustment assistance, and alternative trade adjustment assistance under the Trade Act of 1974 and under section 231(a) of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011, sections 405(a) and 406 of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, and section 285(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, and shall be available for obligation by the States through December 31, 2024, except that funds used for automation shall be available for Federal obligation until expended, and for State obligation through September 30, 2026, and funds for competitive grants awarded to States for improved operations and to conduct in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews and provide reemployment services and referrals to training, as appropriate, shall be available for Federal obligation through December 31, 2024 (except that funds for outcome payments pursuant to section 306(f)(2) of the Social Security Act shall be available for Federal obligation through March 31, 2025), and for obligation by the States through September 30, 2026, and funds for the Unemployment Insurance Integrity Center of Excellence shall be available for obligation by the State through September 30, 2025, and funds used for unemployment insurance workloads experienced through September 30, 2024 shall be available for Federal obligation through December 31, 2024;

(2) \$23,000,000 from the Trust Fund is for national activities necessary to support the administration of the Federal-State unemployment insurance system;

(3) \$658,639,000 from the Trust Fund, together with \$21,413,000 from the General Fund of the Treasury, is for grants to States in accordance with section 6 of the Wagner-Peyser Act, and shall be available for Federal obligation for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025;

(4) \$25,000,000 from the Trust Fund is for national activities of the Employment Service, including administration of the work opportunity tax credit under section 51 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (including assisting States in adopting or modernizing information technology for use in the processing of certification requests), and the provision of technical assistance and staff training under the Wagner-Peyser Act;

(5) \$73,282,000 from the Trust Fund is for the administration of foreign labor certifications and related activities under the Immigration and Nationality Act and related laws, of which \$50,000,000 shall be available for the Federal administration of such activities, and \$23,282,000 shall be available for grants to States for the administration of such activities; and

(6) \$62,653,000 from the General Fund is to provide workforce information, national electronic tools, and one-stop system building under the Wagner-Peyser Act and shall be available for Federal obligation for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, of which up to \$9,800,000 may be used to carry out research and demonstration projects related to testing effective ways to promote greater labor force participation of people with disabilities: Provided, That the Secretary may transfer amounts made available for research and demonstration projects under this paragraph to the “Office of Disability Employment Policy” account for such purposes:

Provided, That to the extent that the Average Weekly Insured Unemployment (“AWIU”) for fiscal year 2024 is projected by the Department of Labor to exceed 2,365,000, an additional \$28,600,000 from the Trust Fund shall be available for obligation for every 100,000 increase in the AWIU level (including a pro rata amount for any increment less than 100,000) to carry out title III of the Social Security Act: Provided further, That funds appropriated in this Act that are allotted to a State to carry out activities

under title III of the Social Security Act may be used by such State to assist other States in carrying out activities under such title III if the other States include areas that have suffered a major disaster declared by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act: Provided further, That the Secretary may use funds appropriated for grants to States under title III of the Social Security Act to make payments on behalf of States for the use of the National Directory of New Hires under section 453(j)(8) of such Act: Provided further, That the Secretary may use funds appropriated for grants to States under title III of the Social Security Act to make payments on behalf of States to the entity operating the State Information Data Exchange System: Provided further, That funds appropriated in this Act which are used to establish a national one-stop career center system, or which are used to support the national activities of the Federal-State unemployment insurance, employment service, or immigration programs, may be obligated in contracts, grants, or agreements with States and non-State entities: Provided further, That States awarded competitive grants for improved operations under title III of the Social Security Act, or awarded grants to support the national activities of the Federal-State unemployment insurance system, may award subgrants to other States and non-State entities under such grants, subject to the conditions applicable to the grants: Provided further, That funds appropriated under this Act for activities authorized under title III of the Social Security Act and the Wagner-Peyser Act may be used by States to fund integrated Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service automation efforts, notwithstanding cost allocation principles prescribed under the final rule entitled “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards” at part 200 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations: Provided further, That the Secretary, at the request of a State participating in a consortium with other States, may reallocate funds allotted to such State under title III of the Social Security Act to other States participating in the consortium or to the entity operating the Unemployment Insurance Information Technology Support Center in order to carry out activities that benefit the administration of the unemployment compensation law of the State making the request: Provided further, That the Secretary may collect fees for the costs associated with additional data collection, analyses, and reporting services relating to the National Agricultural Workers Survey requested by State and local governments, public and private institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations and may utilize such sums, in accordance with the provisions of 29 U.S.C. 9a, for the National Agricultural Workers Survey infrastructure, methodology, and data to meet the information collection and reporting needs of such entities, which shall be credited to this appropriation and shall remain available until September 30, 2025, for such purposes.

ADVANCES TO THE UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST FUND AND OTHER FUNDS

For repayable advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund as authorized by sections 905(d) and 1203 of the Social Security Act, and to the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund as authorized by section 9501(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and for nonrepayable advances to the revolving fund established by section 901(e) of the Social Security Act, to the Unemployment Trust Fund as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 8509, and to the “Federal Unemployment Benefits and Allowances” account, such sums as may be necessary, which shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2025.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

For expenses of administering employment and training programs, \$108,900,000, together with not to exceed \$54,015,000 which may be ex-

pended from the Employment Security Administration Account in the Unemployment Trust Fund.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SECURITY ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Employee Benefits Security Administration, \$152,880,000, of which up to \$3,000,000 shall be made available through September 30, 2025, for the procurement of expert witnesses for enforcement litigation.

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION FUND

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (“Corporation”) is authorized to make such expenditures, including financial assistance authorized by subtitle E of title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, within limits of funds and borrowing authority available to the Corporation, and in accord with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations, as provided by 31 U.S.C. 9104, as may be necessary in carrying out the program, including associated administrative expenses, through September 30, 2024, for the Corporation: Provided, That none of the funds available to the Corporation for fiscal year 2024 shall be available for obligations for administrative expenses in excess of \$512,900,000: Provided further, That to the extent that the number of new plan participants in plans terminated by the Corporation exceeds 100,000 in fiscal year 2024, an amount not to exceed an additional \$9,200,000 shall be available through September 30, 2028, for obligations for administrative expenses for every 20,000 additional terminated participants: Provided further, That obligations in excess of the amounts provided for administrative expenses in this paragraph may be incurred and shall be available through September 30, 2028 for obligation for unforeseen and extraordinary pre-termination or termination expenses or extraordinary multiemployer program related expenses after approval by the Office of Management and Budget and notification of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: Provided further, That an additional amount shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2028 to the extent the Corporation’s costs exceed \$250,000 for the provision of credit or identity monitoring to affected individuals upon suffering a security incident or privacy breach, not to exceed an additional \$100 per affected individual.

WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Wage and Hour Division, including reimbursement to State, Federal, and local agencies and their employees for inspection services rendered, \$185,000,000.

OFFICE OF LABOR-MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Office of Labor-Management Standards, \$48,515,000.

OFFICE OF FEDERAL CONTRACT COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, \$83,232,000.

OFFICE OF WORKERS’ COMPENSATION PROGRAMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs, \$106,500,000, together with \$2,205,000 which may be expended from the Special Fund in accordance with sections 39(c), 44(d), and 44(j) of the Longshore and Harbor Workers’ Compensation Act.

SPECIAL BENEFITS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation, benefits, and expenses (except administrative expenses

not otherwise authorized) accruing during the current or any prior fiscal year authorized by 5 U.S.C. 81; continuation of benefits as provided for under the heading "Civilian War Benefits" in the Federal Security Agency Appropriation Act, 1947; the Employees' Compensation Commission Appropriation Act, 1944; section 5(f) of the War Claims Act (50 U.S.C. App. 2012); obligations incurred under the War Hazards Compensation Act (42 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and 50 percent of the additional compensation and benefits required by section 10(h) of the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, \$700,000,000, together with such amounts as may be necessary to be charged to the subsequent year appropriation for the payment of compensation and other benefits for any period subsequent to August 15 of the current year, for deposit into and to assume the attributes of the Employees' Compensation Fund established under 5 U.S.C. 8147(a): Provided, That amounts appropriated may be used under 5 U.S.C. 8104 by the Secretary to reimburse an employer, who is not the employer at the time of injury, for portions of the salary of a re-employed, disabled beneficiary: Provided further, That balances of reimbursements unobligated on September 30, 2023, shall remain available until expended for the payment of compensation, benefits, and expenses: Provided further, That in addition there shall be transferred to this appropriation from the Postal Service and from any other corporation or instrumentality required under 5 U.S.C. 8147(c) to pay an amount for its fair share of the cost of administration, such sums as the Secretary determines to be the cost of administration for employees of such fair share entities through September 30, 2024: Provided further, That of those funds transferred to this account from the fair share entities to pay the cost of administration of the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, \$83,007,000 shall be made available to the Secretary as follows:

(1) For enhancement and maintenance of automated data processing systems operations and telecommunications systems, \$28,153,000;

(2) For automated workload processing operations, including document imaging, centralized mail intake, and medical bill processing, \$26,526,000;

(3) For periodic roll disability management and medical review, \$26,527,000;

(4) For program integrity, \$1,801,000; and

(5) The remaining funds shall be paid into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts:

Provided further, That the Secretary may require that any person filing a notice of injury or a claim for benefits under 5 U.S.C. 81, or the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, provide as part of such notice and claim, such identifying information (including Social Security account number) as such regulations may prescribe.

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

For carrying out title IV of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, as amended by Public Law 107-275, \$22,890,000, to remain available until expended.

For making after July 31 of the current fiscal year, benefit payments to individuals under title IV of such Act, for costs incurred in the current fiscal year, such amounts as may be necessary.

For making benefit payments under title IV for the first quarter of fiscal year 2025, \$7,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION FUND

For necessary expenses to administer the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act, \$66,532,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Secretary may require that any person filing a claim for benefits under the Act provide as part of such claim such identifying information (including Social Security account number) as may be prescribed.

BLACK LUNG DISABILITY TRUST FUND (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Such sums as may be necessary from the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund (the "Fund"), to remain available until expended, for payment of all benefits authorized by section 9501(d)(1), (2), (6), and (7) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and repayment of, and payment of interest on advances, as authorized by section 9501(d)(4) of that Act. In addition, the following amounts may be expended from the Fund for fiscal year 2024 for expenses of operation and administration of the Black Lung Benefits program, as authorized by section 9501(d)(5): not to exceed \$44,059,000 for transfer to the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, "Salaries and Expenses"; not to exceed \$41,178,000 for transfer to Departmental Management, "Salaries and Expenses"; not to exceed \$368,000 for transfer to Departmental Management, "Office of Inspector General"; and not to exceed \$356,000 for payments into miscellaneous receipts for the expenses of the Department of the Treasury.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, \$536,922,000, including not to exceed \$120,000,000 which shall be the maximum amount available for grants to States under section 23(g) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (the "Act"), which grants shall be no less than 50 percent of the costs of State occupational safety and health programs required to be incurred under plans approved by the Secretary under section 18 of the Act; and, in addition, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration may retain up to \$499,000 per fiscal year of training institute course tuition and fees, otherwise authorized by law to be collected, and may utilize such sums for occupational safety and health training and education: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, the Secretary is authorized, during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, to collect and retain fees for services provided to Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories, and may utilize such sums, in accordance with the provisions of 29 U.S.C. 9a, to administer national and international laboratory recognition programs that ensure the safety of equipment and products used by workers in the workplace: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated under this paragraph shall be obligated or expended to prescribe, issue, administer, or enforce any standard, rule, regulation, or order under the Act which is applicable to any person who is engaged in a farming operation which does not maintain a temporary labor camp and employs 10 or fewer employees: Provided further, That no funds appropriated under this paragraph shall be obligated or expended to administer or enforce any standard, rule, regulation, or order under the Act with respect to any employer of 10 or fewer employees who is included within a category having a Days Away, Restricted, or Transferred ("DART") occupational injury and illness rate, at the most precise industrial classification code for which such data are published, less than the national average rate as such rates are most recently published by the Secretary, acting through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in accordance with section 24 of the Act, except—

(1) to provide, as authorized by the Act, consultation, technical assistance, educational and training services, and to conduct surveys and studies;

(2) to conduct an inspection or investigation in response to an employee complaint, to issue a citation for violations found during such inspection, and to assess a penalty for violations which are not corrected within a reasonable abatement period and for any willful violations found;

(3) to take any action authorized by the Act with respect to imminent dangers;

(4) to take any action authorized by the Act with respect to health hazards;

(5) to take any action authorized by the Act with respect to a report of an employment accident which is fatal to one or more employees or which results in hospitalization of two or more employees, and to take any action pursuant to such investigation authorized by the Act; and

(6) to take any action authorized by the Act with respect to complaints of discrimination against employees for exercising rights under the Act:

Provided further, That the foregoing proviso shall not apply to any person who is engaged in a farming operation which does not maintain a temporary labor camp and employs 10 or fewer employees: Provided further, That not less than \$3,500,000 shall be for Voluntary Protection Programs.

MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Mine Safety and Health Administration, \$325,052,000, including purchase and bestowal of certificates and trophies in connection with mine rescue and first-aid work, and the hire of passenger motor vehicles, including up to \$2,000,000 for mine rescue and recovery activities and not less than \$10,537,000 for State assistance grants: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, not to exceed \$750,000 may be collected by the National Mine Health and Safety Academy for room, board, tuition, and the sale of training materials, otherwise authorized by law to be collected, to be available for mine safety and health education and training activities: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, the Mine Safety and Health Administration is authorized to collect and retain up to \$2,499,000 from fees collected for the approval and certification of equipment, materials, and explosives for use in mines, and may utilize such sums for such activities: Provided further, That the Secretary is authorized to accept lands, buildings, equipment, and other contributions from public and private sources and to prosecute projects in cooperation with other agencies, Federal, State, or private: Provided further, That the Mine Safety and Health Administration is authorized to promote health and safety education and training in the mining community through cooperative programs with States, industry, and safety associations: Provided further, That the Secretary is authorized to recognize the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association as a principal safety association and, notwithstanding any other provision of law, may provide funds and, with or without reimbursement, personnel, including service of Mine Safety and Health Administration officials as officers in local chapters or in the national organization: Provided further, That any funds available to the Department of Labor may be used, with the approval of the Secretary, to provide for the costs of mine rescue and survival operations in the event of a major disaster.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, including advances or reimbursements to State, Federal, and local agencies and their employees for services rendered, \$589,952,000, together with not to exceed \$68,000,000 which may be expended from the Employment Security Administration account in the Unemployment Trust Fund.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY SALARIES AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for the Office of Disability Employment Policy to provide leadership, develop policy and initiatives, and award grants furthering the objective of eliminating barriers

to the training and employment of people with disabilities, \$43,000,000, of which not less than \$9,000,000 shall be for research and demonstration projects related to testing effective ways to promote greater labor force participation of people with disabilities: Provided, That the Secretary may transfer amounts made available under this heading for research and demonstration projects to the "State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations" account for such purposes.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for Departmental Management, including the hire of three passenger motor vehicles, \$200,995,000, together with not to exceed \$308,000, which may be expended from the Employment Security Administration account in the Unemployment Trust Fund: Provided, That \$6,211,000 shall be used for program evaluation and shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2025: Provided further, That funds available for program evaluation may be used to administer grants for the purpose of evaluation: Provided further, That grants made for the purpose of evaluation shall be awarded through fair and open competition.

VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Not to exceed \$269,841,000 may be derived from the Employment Security Administration account in the Unemployment Trust Fund to carry out the provisions of chapters 41, 42, and 43 of title 38, United States Code, of which—

(1) \$185,000,000 is for Jobs for Veterans State grants under 38 U.S.C. 4102A(b)(5) to support disabled veterans' outreach program specialists under section 4103A of such title and local veterans' employment representatives under section 4104(b) of such title, and for the expenses described in section 4102A(b)(5)(C), which shall be available for expenditure by the States through September 30, 2026, and not to exceed 3 percent for the necessary Federal expenditures for data systems and contract support to allow for the tracking of participant and performance information: Provided, That, in addition, such funds may be used to support such specialists and representatives in the provision of services to transitioning members of the Armed Forces who have participated in the Transition Assistance Program and have been identified as in need of intensive services, to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded, ill, or injured and receiving treatment in military treatment facilities or warrior transition units, and to the spouses or other family caregivers of such wounded, ill, or injured members;

(2) \$34,379,000 is for carrying out the Transition Assistance Program under 38 U.S.C. 4113 and 10 U.S.C. 1144;

(3) \$47,048,000 is for Federal administration of chapters 41, 42, and 43 of title 38, and sections 2021, 2021A and 2023 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That, up to \$500,000 may be used to carry out the Hire VETS Act (division O of Public Law 115–31); and

(4) \$3,414,000 is for the National Veterans' Employment and Training Services Institute under 38 U.S.C. 4109:

Provided, That the Secretary may reallocate among the appropriations provided under paragraphs (1) through (4) above an amount not to exceed 3 percent of the appropriation from which such reallocation is made.

In addition, from the General Fund of the Treasury, \$65,500,000 is for carrying out programs to assist homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness who are transitioning from certain institutions under sections 2021, 2021A, and 2023 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That notwithstanding subsections (c)(3) and (d) of section 2023, the Secretary may award grants through September 30, 2024, to provide services under such section: Provided further, That services provided under sections

2021 or under 2021A may include, in addition to services to homeless veterans described in section 2002(a)(1), services to veterans who were homeless at some point within the 60 days prior to program entry or veterans who are at risk of homelessness within the next 60 days, and that services provided under section 2023 may include, in addition to services to the individuals described in subsection (e) of such section, services to veterans recently released from incarceration who are at risk of homelessness: Provided further, That notwithstanding paragraph (3) under this heading, funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used for data systems and contract support to allow for the tracking of participant and performance information: Provided further, That notwithstanding sections 2021(e)(2) and 2021A(f)(2) of title 38, United States Code, such funds shall be available for expenditure pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1553.

In addition, fees may be assessed and deposited in the HIRE Vets Medallion Award Fund pursuant to section 5(b) of the HIRE Vets Act, and such amounts shall be available to the Secretary to carry out the HIRE Vets Medallion Award Program, as authorized by such Act, and shall remain available until expended: Provided, That such sums shall be in addition to any other funds available for such purposes, including funds available under paragraph (3) of this heading: Provided further, That section 2(d) of division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115–31; 38 U.S.C. 4100 note) shall not apply.

IT MODERNIZATION

For necessary expenses for Department of Labor centralized infrastructure technology investment activities related to support systems and modernization, \$27,269,000, which shall be available through September 30, 2025.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$91,187,000, together with not to exceed \$5,841,000 which may be expended from the Employment Security Administration account in the Unemployment Trust Fund: Provided, That not more than \$2,000,000 of the amount provided under this heading may be available until expended.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds appropriated by this Act for the Job Corps shall be used to pay the salary and bonuses of an individual, either as direct costs or any proration as an indirect cost, at a rate in excess of Executive Level II.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 102. Not to exceed 1 percent of any discretionary funds (pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985) which are appropriated for the current fiscal year for the Department of Labor in this Act may be transferred between a program, project, or activity, but no such program, project, or activity shall be increased by more than 3 percent by any such transfer: Provided, That the transfer authority granted by this section shall not be used to create any new program or to fund any project or activity for which no funds are provided in this Act: Provided further, That the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

SEC. 103. In accordance with Executive Order 13126, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to this Act shall be obligated or expended for the procurement of goods mined, produced, manufactured, or harvested or services rendered, in whole or in part, by forced or indentured child labor in industries and host countries already identified by the United States Department of Labor prior to enactment of this Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in this section, none of the funds made available to the Department of Labor for grants under section

414(c) of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2916a) may be used for any purpose other than competitive grants for training individuals who are older than 16 years of age and are not currently enrolled in school within a local educational agency in the occupations and industries for which employers are using H–1B visas to hire foreign workers, and the related activities necessary to support such training.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading "Employment and Training Administration" shall be used by a recipient or subrecipient of such funds to pay the salary and bonuses of an individual, either as direct costs or indirect costs, at a rate in excess of Executive Level II. This limitation shall not apply to vendors providing goods and services as defined in Office of Management and Budget Circular A–133. Where States are recipients of such funds, States may establish a lower limit for salaries and bonuses of those receiving salaries and bonuses from subrecipients of such funds, taking into account factors including the relative cost-of-living in the State, the compensation levels for comparable State or local government employees, and the size of the organizations that administer Federal programs involved including Employment and Training Administration programs.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 106. (a) Notwithstanding section 102, the Secretary may transfer funds made available to the Employment and Training Administration by this Act, either directly or through a set-aside, for technical assistance services to grantees to "Program Administration" when it is determined that those services will be more efficiently performed by Federal employees: Provided, That this section shall not apply to section 171 of the WIOA.

(b) Notwithstanding section 102, the Secretary may transfer not more than 0.5 percent of each discretionary appropriation made available to the Employment and Training Administration by this Act to "Program Administration" in order to carry out program integrity activities relating to any of the programs or activities that are funded under any such discretionary appropriations: Provided, That funds transferred under this subsection shall be available to the Secretary to carry out program integrity activities directly or through grants, cooperative agreements, contracts and other arrangements with States and other appropriate entities: Provided further, That funds transferred under the authority provided by this subsection shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2024.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 107. (a) The Secretary may reserve not more than 0.75 percent from each appropriation made available in this Act identified in subsection (b) in order to carry out evaluations of any of the programs or activities that are funded under such accounts. Any funds reserved under this section shall be transferred to "Departmental Management" for use by the Office of the Chief Evaluation Officer within the Department of Labor, and shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2024: Provided, That such funds shall only be available if the Chief Evaluation Officer of the Department of Labor submits a plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate describing the evaluations to be carried out 15 days in advance of any transfer.

(b) The accounts referred to in subsection (a) are: "Training and Employment Services", "State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations", "Employee Benefits Security Administration", "Office of Workers' Compensation Programs", "Wage and Hour Division", "Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs", "Office of Labor Management Standards", "Occupational Safety and Health

Administration", "Mine Safety and Health Administration", "Office of Disability Employment Policy", and "Veterans' Employment and Training".

SEC. 108. (a) Section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207) shall be applied as if the following text is part of such section:

"(s)(1) The provisions of this section shall not apply for a period of 2 years after the occurrence of a major disaster to any employee—

"(A) employed to adjust or evaluate claims resulting from or relating to such major disaster, by an employer not engaged, directly or through an affiliate, in underwriting, selling, or marketing property, casualty, or liability insurance policies or contracts;

"(B) who receives from such employer on average weekly compensation of not less than \$591.00 per week or any minimum weekly amount established by the Secretary, whichever is greater, for the number of weeks such employee is engaged in any of the activities described in subparagraph (C); and

"(C) whose duties include any of the following:

"(i) interviewing insured individuals, individuals who suffered injuries or other damages or losses arising from or relating to a disaster, witnesses, or physicians;

"(ii) inspecting property damage or reviewing factual information to prepare damage estimates;

"(iii) evaluating and making recommendations regarding coverage or compensability of claims or determining liability or value aspects of claims;

"(iv) negotiating settlements; or

"(v) making recommendations regarding litigation.

"(2) The exemption in this subsection shall not affect the exemption provided by section 13(a)(1).

"(3) For purposes of this subsection—

"(A) the term 'major disaster' means any disaster or catastrophe declared or designated by any State or Federal agency or department;

"(B) the term 'employee employed to adjust or evaluate claims resulting from or relating to such major disaster' means an individual who timely secured or secures a license required by applicable law to engage in and perform the activities described in clauses (i) through (v) of paragraph (1)(C) relating to a major disaster, and is employed by an employer that maintains worker compensation insurance coverage or protection for its employees, if required by applicable law, and withholds applicable Federal, State, and local income and payroll taxes from the wages, salaries and any benefits of such employees; and

"(C) the term 'affiliate' means a company that, by reason of ownership or control of 25 percent or more of the outstanding shares of any class of voting securities of one or more companies, directly or indirectly, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, another company."

(b) This section shall be effective on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 109. (a) FLEXIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO THE CROSSING OF H-2B NONIMMIGRANTS WORKING IN THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), if a petition for H-2B nonimmigrants filed by an employer in the seafood industry is granted, the employer may bring the nonimmigrants described in the petition into the United States at any time during the 120-day period beginning on the start date for which the employer is seeking the services of the nonimmigrants without filing another petition.

(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR CROSSINGS AFTER 90TH DAY.—An employer in the seafood industry may not bring H-2B nonimmigrants into the United States after the date that is 90 days after the start date for which the employer is seeking the services of the nonimmigrants unless the employer—

(A) completes a new assessment of the local labor market by—

(i) listing job orders in local newspapers on 2 separate Sundays; and

(ii) posting the job opportunity on the appropriate Department of Labor Electronic Job Registry and at the employer's place of employment; and

(B) offers the job to an equally or better qualified United States worker who—

(i) applies for the job; and

(ii) will be available at the time and place of need.

(3) EXEMPTION FROM RULES WITH RESPECT TO STAGGERING.—The Secretary of Labor shall not consider an employer in the seafood industry who brings H-2B nonimmigrants into the United States during the 120-day period specified in paragraph (1) to be staggering the date of need in violation of section 655.20(d) of title 20, Code of Federal Regulations, or any other applicable provision of law.

(b) H-2B NONIMMIGRANTS DEFINED.—In this section, the term "H-2B nonimmigrants" means aliens admitted to the United States pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(B)).

SEC. 110. The determination of prevailing wage for the purposes of the H-2B program shall be the greater of—(1) the actual wage level paid by the employer to other employees with similar experience and qualifications for such position in the same location; or (2) the prevailing wage level for the occupational classification of the position in the geographic area in which the H-2B nonimmigrant will be employed, based on the best information available at the time of filing the petition. In the determination of prevailing wage for the purposes of the H-2B program, the Secretary shall accept private wage surveys even in instances where Occupational Employment Statistics survey data are available unless the Secretary determines that the methodology and data in the provided survey are not statistically supported.

SEC. 111. None of the funds in this Act shall be used to enforce the definition of corresponding employment found in 20 CFR 655.5 or the three-fourths guarantee rule definition found in 20 CFR 655.20, or any references thereto. Further, for the purpose of regulating admission of temporary workers under the H-2B program, the definition of temporary need shall be that provided in 8 CFR 214.2(h)(6)(ii)(B).

SEC. 112. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may furnish through grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and other arrangements, up to \$2,000,000 of excess personal property, at a value determined by the Secretary, to apprenticeship programs for the purpose of training apprentices in those programs.

SEC. 113. (a) The Act entitled "An Act to create a Department of Labor", approved March 4, 1913 (37 Stat. 736, chapter 141) shall be applied as if the following text is part of such Act:

"SEC. 12. SECURITY DETAIL.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor is authorized to employ law enforcement officers or special agents to—

"(1) provide protection for the Secretary of Labor during the workday of the Secretary and during any activity that is preliminary or postliminary to the performance of official duties by the Secretary;

"(2) provide protection, incidental to the protection provided to the Secretary, to a member of the immediate family of the Secretary who is participating in an activity or event relating to the official duties of the Secretary;

"(3) provide continuous protection to the Secretary (including during periods not described in paragraph (1)) and to the members of the immediate family of the Secretary if there is a unique and articulable threat of physical harm, in accordance with guidelines established by the Secretary; and

"(4) provide protection to the Deputy Secretary of Labor or another senior officer representing the Secretary of Labor at a public event if there is a unique and articulable threat of physical harm, in accordance with guidelines established by the Secretary.

"(b) AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary of Labor may authorize a law enforcement officer or special agent employed under subsection (a), for the purpose of performing the duties authorized under subsection (a), to—

"(1) carry firearms;

"(2) make arrests without a warrant for any offense against the United States committed in the presence of such officer or special agent;

"(3) perform protective intelligence work, including identifying and mitigating potential threats and conducting advance work to review security matters relating to sites and events;

"(4) coordinate with local law enforcement agencies; and

"(5) initiate criminal and other investigations into potential threats to the security of the Secretary, in coordination with the Inspector General of the Department of Labor.

"(c) COMPLIANCE WITH GUIDELINES.—A law enforcement officer or special agent employed under subsection (a) shall exercise any authority provided under this section in accordance with any—

"(1) guidelines issued by the Attorney General; and

"(2) guidelines prescribed by the Secretary of Labor."

(b) This section shall be effective on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 114. The Secretary is authorized to dispose of or divest, by any means the Secretary determines appropriate, including an agreement or partnership to construct a new Job Corps center, all or a portion of the real property on which the Treasure Island Job Corps Center is situated. Any sale or other disposition, to include any associated construction project, will not be subject to any requirement of any Federal law or regulation relating to the disposition of Federal real property or relating to Federal procurement, including but not limited to subchapter III of chapter 5 of title 40 of the United States Code, subchapter V of chapter 119 of title 42 of the United States Code, and chapter 33 of division C of subtitle I of title 41 of the United States Code. The net proceeds of such a sale shall be transferred to the Secretary, which shall be available until expended to carry out the Job Corps Program on Treasure Island.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 115. Of the unobligated funds available under section 286(s)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(s)(2)), \$206,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded not later than September 30, 2024.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 116. Of the amounts which are made available to "Employment and Training Administration—Training and Employment Services" on October 1, 2023 by Public Law 117-328, \$712,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 117. No Federal funds may be made available to alter or affect the administration, implementation, or enforcement of the final rule entitled "Independent Contractor Status Under the Fair Labor Standards Act" (86 Fed. Reg. 1168) and dated January 7, 2021.

SEC. 118. No Federal funds may be made available to administer, implement, or enforce the rule entitled "Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights" (87 Fed. Reg. 73822) and dated December 1, 2022.

SEC. 119. No Federal funds may be made available to administer, implement, or enforce—

(1) the final rule entitled "Adverse Effect Wage Rate Methodology for the Temporary Employment of H-2A Nonimmigrants in Non-Range Occupations in the United States" (88 Fed. Reg. 12760) and dated February 28, 2023; or

(2) section 655.131(b) of title 20, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to joint employer requirements) as amended by the final regulations published by the Department of Labor in the Federal Register on October 12, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 61660).

SEC. 120. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or promote a program for clean energy apprenticeships or the promotion of apprenticeship opportunities based on a job applicant or potential job applicant's race, color, religion, or sex.

SEC. 121. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce the proposed rule entitled "Improving Protections for Workers in Temporary Agricultural Employment in the United States" published by the Department of Labor in the Federal Register on September 15, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 63750 et seq.).

This title may be cited as the "Department of Labor Appropriations Act, 2024".

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

For carrying out titles II and III of the Public Health Service Act (referred to in this Act as the "PHS Act") with respect to primary health care and the Native Hawaiian Health Care Act of 1988, \$1,858,772,000: Provided, That no more than \$1,000,000 shall be available until expended for carrying out the provisions of section 224(o) of the PHS Act: Provided further, That no more than \$120,000,000 shall be available until expended for carrying out subsections (g) through (n) and (q) of section 224 of the PHS Act, and for expenses incurred by the Department of Health and Human Services (referred to in this Act as "HHS") pertaining to administrative claims made under such law: Provided further, That not less than \$150,000,000 shall be obligated in fiscal year 2024 for construction and capital improvement costs: Provided further, That the time limitation in section 330(e)(3) of the PHS Act shall not apply to funds made available under the preceding proviso.

HEALTH WORKFORCE

For carrying out titles III, VII, and VIII of the PHS Act with respect to the health workforce, sections 1128E and 1921 of the Social Security Act, and the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986, \$1,336,348,000: Provided, That section 751(j)(2) of the PHS Act and the proportional funding amounts in paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 756(f) of the PHS Act shall not apply to funds made available under this heading: Provided further, That for any program operating under section 751 of the PHS Act on or before January 1, 2009, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this title as the "Secretary") may hereafter waive any of the requirements contained in sections 751(d)(2)(A) and 751(d)(2)(B) of such Act for the full project period of a grant under such section: Provided further, That section 756(c) of the PHS Act shall apply to paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 756(a) of such Act: Provided further, That no funds shall be available for section 340G-1 of the PHS Act: Provided further, That fees collected for the disclosure of information under section 427(b) of the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986 and sections 1128E(d)(2) and 1921 of the Social Security Act shall be sufficient to recover the full costs of operating the programs authorized by such sections and shall remain available until expended for the National Practitioner Data Bank: Provided further, That funds transferred to this account to carry out section 846 and subpart 3 of part D of title III of the PHS Act may be used to make prior year adjustments to awards made under such section and subpart: Provided further, That \$126,000,000 shall remain available until expended for the purposes of providing pri-

mary health services, assigning National Health Service Corps ("NHSC") participants to expand the delivery of substance use disorder treatment services, notwithstanding the assignment priorities and limitations under sections 333(a)(1)(D), 333(b), and 333A(a)(1)(B)(ii) of the PHS Act, and making payments under the NHSC Loan Repayment Program under section 338B of such Act: Provided further, That, within the amount made available in the previous proviso, \$16,000,000 shall remain available until expended for the purposes of making payments under the NHSC Loan Repayment Program under section 338B of the PHS Act to individuals participating in such program who provide primary health services in Indian Health Service facilities, Tribally-Operated 638 Health Programs, and Urban Indian Health Programs (as those terms are defined by the Secretary), notwithstanding the assignment priorities and limitations under section 333(b) of such Act: Provided further, That for purposes of the previous two provisos, section 331(a)(3)(D) of the PHS Act shall be applied as if the term "primary health services" includes clinical substance use disorder treatment services, including those provided by masters level, licensed substance use disorder treatment counselors: Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$6,000,000 shall be available to make grants to establish, expand, or maintain optional community-based nurse practitioner fellowship programs that are accredited or in the accreditation process, with a preference for those in Federally Qualified Health Centers, for practicing postgraduate nurse practitioners in primary care or behavioral health: Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$10,000,000 shall remain available until expended for activities under section 775 of the PHS Act: Provided further, That the United States may recover liquidated damages in an amount determined by the formula under section 338E(c)(1) of the PHS Act if an individual either fails to begin or complete the service obligated by a contract under section 775(b) of the PHS Act: Provided further, That for purposes of section 775(c)(1) of the PHS Act, the Secretary may include other mental and behavioral health disciplines as the Secretary deems appropriate: Provided further, That the Secretary may terminate a contract entered into under section 775 of the PHS Act in the same manner articulated in section 206 of this title for fiscal year 2024 contracts entered into under section 338B of the PHS Act.

Of the funds made available under this heading, \$60,000,000 shall remain available until expended for grants to public institutions of higher education to expand or support graduate education for physicians provided by such institutions, including funding for infrastructure development, maintenance, equipment, and minor renovations or alterations: Provided, That, in awarding such grants, the Secretary shall give priority to public institutions of higher education located in States with a projected primary care provider shortage in 2030, as determined by the Secretary: Provided further, That grants so awarded are limited to such public institutions of higher education in States in the top quintile of States with a projected primary care provider shortage in 2030, as determined by the Secretary: Provided further, That the minimum amount of a grant so awarded to such an institution shall be not less than \$1,000,000 per year: Provided further, That such a grant may be awarded for a period not to exceed 5 years: Provided further, That such a grant awarded with respect to a year to such an institution shall be subject to a matching requirement of non-Federal funds in an amount that is not more than 10 percent of the total amount of Federal funds provided in the grant to such institution with respect to such year.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

For carrying out titles III, XI, XII, and XIX of the PHS Act with respect to maternal and

child health and title V of the Social Security Act, \$991,582,000: Provided, That notwithstanding sections 502(a)(1) and 502(b)(1) of the Social Security Act, not more than \$177,268,000 shall be available for carrying out special projects of regional and national significance pursuant to section 501(a)(2) of such Act and \$10,276,000 shall be available for projects described in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of section 501(a)(3) of such Act.

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS PROGRAM

For carrying out title XXVI of the PHS Act with respect to the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program, \$2,332,535,000, of which \$2,045,630,000 shall remain available to the Secretary through September 30, 2026, for parts A and B of title XXVI of the PHS Act, and of which not less than \$900,313,000 shall be for State AIDS Drug Assistance Programs under the authority of section 2616 or 311(c) of such Act.

HEALTH SYSTEMS

For carrying out titles III and XII of the PHS Act with respect to health care systems, and the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, \$101,009,000, of which \$122,000 shall be available until expended for facility renovations and other facilities-related expenses of the National Hansen's Disease Program: Provided, That the second sentence in section 372(a) of the PHS Act and section 372(b)(1)(A) of the PHS Act shall not apply to any contracts awarded by the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the operation of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

RURAL HEALTH

For carrying out titles III and IV of the PHS Act with respect to rural health, section 427(a) of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, and sections 711 and 1820 of the Social Security Act, \$402,607,000, of which \$74,277,000 from general revenues, notwithstanding section 1820(j) of the Social Security Act, shall be available for carrying out the Medicare rural hospital flexibility grants program: Provided, That of the funds made available under this heading for Medicare rural hospital flexibility grants, \$25,942,000 shall be available for the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Grant Program for quality improvement and adoption of health information technology, no less than \$5,000,000 shall be available to award grants to public or non-profit private entities for the Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance Program, and up to \$1,000,000 shall be to carry out section 1820(g)(6) of the Social Security Act, with funds provided for grants under section 1820(g)(6) available for the purchase and implementation of telehealth services and other efforts to improve health care coordination for rural veterans between rural providers and the Department of Veterans Affairs: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 338J(k) of the PHS Act, \$12,500,000 shall be available for State Offices of Rural Health: Provided further, That \$12,700,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2026, to support the Rural Residency Development Program.

HRSA-WIDE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

For carrying out title III of the Public Health Service Act and for cross-cutting activities and program support for activities funded in other appropriations included in this Act for the Health Resources and Services Administration, \$215,088,000, of which \$45,050,000 shall be for expenses necessary for the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth, including grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements for the advancement of telehealth activities: Provided, That funds made available under this heading may be used to supplement program support funding provided under the headings "Primary Health Care", "Health Workforce", "Maternal and Child Health", "Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program", "Health Systems", and "Rural Health".

VACCINE INJURY COMPENSATION PROGRAM TRUST FUND

For payments from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program Trust Fund (the "Trust Fund"), such sums as may be necessary for claims associated with vaccine-related injury or death with respect to vaccines administered after September 30, 1988, pursuant to subtitle 2 of title XXI of the PHS Act, to remain available until expended: Provided, That for necessary administrative expenses, not to exceed \$15,200,000 shall be available from the Trust Fund to the Secretary.

COVERED COUNTERMEASURES PROCESS FUND

For carrying out section 319F-4 of the PHS Act, \$7,000,000, to remain available until expended.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

IMMUNIZATION AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES

For carrying out titles II, III, XVII, and XXI, and section 2821 of the PHS Act, and titles II and IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act, with respect to immunization and respiratory diseases, \$326,075,000.

HIV/AIDS, VIRAL HEPATITIS, SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES, AND TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTION

For carrying out titles II, III, XVII, and XXIII of the PHS Act with respect to HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, and tuberculosis prevention, \$1,171,056,000.

EMERGING AND ZOO NOTIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES

For carrying out titles II, III, and XVII, and section 2821 of the PHS Act, and titles II and IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act, with respect to emerging and zoonotic infectious diseases, \$708,772,000: Provided, That of the amounts made available under this heading, up to \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended to pay for the transportation, medical care, treatment, and other related costs of persons quarantined or isolated under Federal or State quarantine law.

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION

For carrying out titles II, III, XI, XV, XVII, and XIX of the PHS Act with respect to chronic disease prevention and health promotion, \$797,569,000: Provided, That funds made available under this heading may be available for making grants under section 1509 of the PHS Act for not less than 21 States, tribes, or tribal organizations: Provided further, That the proportional funding requirements under section 1503(a) of the PHS Act shall not apply to funds made available under this heading.

BIRTH DEFECTS, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, DISABILITIES AND HEALTH

For carrying out titles II, III, XI, and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to birth defects, developmental disabilities, disabilities and health, \$205,560,000.

PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

For carrying out titles II, III, and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to health statistics, surveillance, health informatics, and workforce development, \$654,497,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

For carrying out titles II, III, and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to environmental health, \$130,850,000: Provided, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading up to \$2,600,000 may remain available until expended for carrying out the Vessel Sanitation Program, in addition to user fee collections available for such purpose.

INJURY PREVENTION AND CONTROL

For carrying out titles II, III, and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to injury prevention and control, \$730,779,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

For carrying out titles II, III, and XVII of the PHS Act, sections 101, 102, 103, 201, 202, 203, 301, and 501 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act, section 13 of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act, and sections 20, 21, and 22 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, with respect to occupational safety and health, \$247,700,000.

ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to administer the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act, \$55,358,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That this amount shall be available consistent with the provision regarding administrative expenses in section 151(b) of division B, title I of Public Law 106-554.

GLOBAL HEALTH

For carrying out titles II, III, and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to global health, \$370,772,000, of which \$100,000,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2026, for global public health protection: Provided, That funds may be used for purchase and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries.

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

For carrying out titles II, III, and XVII of the PHS Act with respect to public health preparedness and response, and for expenses necessary to support activities related to countering potential biological, nuclear, radiological, and chemical threats to civilian populations, \$735,000,000: Provided, That the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this title as "CDC") or the Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry may detail staff without reimbursement to support an activation of the CDC Emergency Operations Center, so long as the Director or Administrator, as applicable, provides a notice to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 15 days of the use of this authority, a full report within 30 days after use of this authority which includes the number of staff and funding level broken down by the originating center and number of days detailed, and an update of such report every 180 days until staff are no longer on detail without reimbursement to the CDC Emergency Operations Center.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition of real property, equipment, construction, installation, demolition, and renovation of facilities, \$40,000,000, which shall remain available until expended: Provided, That funds made available to this account in this or any prior Act that are available for the acquisition of real property or for construction or improvement of facilities shall be available to make improvements on non-federally owned property, provided that any improvements that are not adjacent to federally owned property do not exceed \$2,500,000, and that the primary benefit of such improvements accrues to CDC: Provided further, That funds previously set-aside by CDC for repair and upgrade of the Lake Lynn Experimental Mine and Laboratory shall be used to acquire a replacement mine safety research facility: Provided further, That funds made available to this account in this or any prior Act that are available for the acquisition of real property or for construction or improvement of facilities in conjunction with the new replacement mine safety research facility shall be available to make improvements on non-federally owned property, provided that any improvements that are not adjacent to federally owned property do not exceed \$5,000,000: Provided further, That in addition, the prior year unobligated balance of any amounts assigned to former employees in accounts of CDC made available for Individual

Learning Accounts shall be credited to and merged with the amounts made available under this heading to support the replacement of the mine safety research facility.

CDC-WIDE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For carrying out titles II, III, XVII and XIX, and section 2821 of the PHS Act and for cross-cutting activities and program support for activities funded in other appropriations included in this Act for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, \$231,428,000: Provided, That paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (b) of section 2821 of the PHS Act shall not apply to funds appropriated under this heading and in all other accounts of the CDC: Provided further, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$35,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available to the Director of the CDC for deposit in the Infectious Diseases Rapid Response Reserve Fund established by section 231 of division B of Public Law 115-245: Provided further, That funds appropriated under this heading may be used to support a contract for the operation and maintenance of an aircraft in direct support of activities throughout CDC to ensure the agency is prepared to address public health preparedness emergencies: Provided further, That employees of CDC or the Public Health Service, both civilian and commissioned officers, detailed to States, municipalities, or other organizations under authority of section 214 of the PHS Act, or in overseas assignments, shall be treated as non-Federal employees for reporting purposes only and shall not be included within any personnel ceiling applicable to the Agency, Service, or HHS during the period of detail or assignment: Provided further, That CDC may use up to \$10,000 from amounts appropriated to CDC in this Act for official reception and representation expenses when specifically approved by the Director of CDC: Provided further, That in addition, such sums as may be derived from authorized user fees, which shall be credited to the appropriation charged with the cost thereof: Provided further, That with respect to the previous proviso, authorized user fees from the Vessel Sanitation Program and the Respirator Certification Program shall be available through September 30, 2025.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to cancer, \$7,104,159,000, of which up to \$30,000,000 may be used for facilities repairs and improvements at the National Cancer Institute—Frederick Federally Funded Research and Development Center in Frederick, Maryland.

NATIONAL HEART, LUNG, AND BLOOD INSTITUTE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to cardiovascular, lung, and blood diseases, and blood and blood products, \$3,982,345,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL AND CRANIOFACIAL RESEARCH

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to dental and craniofacial diseases, \$520,163,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DIABETES AND DIGESTIVE AND KIDNEY DISEASES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to diabetes and digestive and kidney disease, \$2,300,721,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS AND STROKE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to neurological disorders and stroke, \$2,588,925,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to allergy and infectious diseases, \$5,062,279,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GENERAL MEDICAL SCIENCES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to general medical sciences, \$3,154,679,000, of which \$1,327,482,000 shall be from funds available under section 241 of the PHS Act: Provided, That not less than \$435,956,000 is provided for the Institutional Development Awards program.

EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to child health and human development, \$1,749,078,000.

NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to eye diseases and visual disorders, \$896,549,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to environmental health sciences, \$913,979,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to aging, \$4,407,623,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ARTHRITIS AND MUSCULOSKELETAL AND SKIN DISEASES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to arthritis and musculoskeletal and skin diseases, \$685,465,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DEAFNESS AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to deafness and other communication disorders, \$534,333,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NURSING RESEARCH

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to nursing research, \$197,693,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to alcohol abuse and alcoholism, \$595,318,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to drug abuse, \$1,662,695,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to mental health, \$2,112,843,000.

NATIONAL HUMAN GENOME RESEARCH INSTITUTE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to human genome research, \$663,200,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BIOMEDICAL IMAGING AND BIOENGINEERING

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to biomedical imaging and bioengineering research, \$440,627,000.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR COMPLEMENTARY AND INTEGRATIVE HEALTH

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to complementary and integrative health, \$170,384,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to minority health and health disparities research, \$524,395,000.

JOHN E. FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CENTER

For carrying out the activities of the John E. Fogarty International Center (described in subpart 2 of part E of title IV of the PHS Act), \$95,162,000.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to health information

communications, \$497,548,000: Provided, That of the amounts available for improvement of information systems, \$4,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025: Provided further, That in fiscal year 2024, the National Library of Medicine may enter into personal services contracts for the provision of services in facilities owned, operated, or constructed under the jurisdiction of the National Institutes of Health (referred to in this title as "NIH").

NATIONAL CENTER FOR ADVANCING TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the PHS Act with respect to translational sciences, \$923,323,000: Provided, That not less than \$75,000,000 shall be available to implement section 480 of the PHS Act, relating to the Cures Acceleration Network: Provided further, That at least \$629,560,000 is provided to the Clinical and Translational Sciences Awards program.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

For carrying out the responsibilities of the Office of the Director, NIH, \$2,069,459,000: Provided, That funding shall be available for the purchase of not to exceed 29 passenger motor vehicles for replacement only: Provided further, That all funds credited to the NIH Management Fund shall remain available for one fiscal year after the fiscal year in which they are deposited: Provided further, That \$722,401,000 shall be available for the Common Fund established under section 402A(c)(1) of the PHS Act: Provided further, That of the funds provided, \$10,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses when specifically approved by the Director of the NIH: Provided further, That the Office of AIDS Research within the Office of the Director of the NIH may spend up to \$8,000,000 to make grants for construction or renovation of facilities as provided for in section 2354(a)(5)(B) of the PHS Act: Provided further, That \$80,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 4041 of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. 283k), relating to biomedical and behavioral research facilities: Provided further, That amounts made available under this heading are also available to establish, operate, and support the Research Policy Board authorized by section 2034(f) of the 21st Century Cures Act.

In addition to other funds appropriated for the Common Fund established under section 402A(c) of the PHS Act, \$12,600,000 is appropriated to the Common Fund from the 10-year Pediatric Research Initiative Fund described in section 9008 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9008), for the purpose of carrying out section 402(b)(7)(B)(ii) of the PHS Act (relating to pediatric research), as authorized in the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For the study of, construction of, demolition of, renovation of, and acquisition of equipment for, facilities of or used by NIH, including the acquisition of real property, \$350,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NIH INNOVATION ACCOUNT, CURES ACT (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the purposes described in section 1001(b)(4) of the 21st Century Cures Act, in addition to amounts available for such purposes in the appropriations provided to the NIH in this Act, \$407,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amounts are appropriated pursuant to section 1001(b)(3) of such Act, are to be derived from amounts transferred under section 1001(b)(2)(A) of such Act, and may be transferred by the Director of the National Institutes of Health to other accounts of the National Institutes of Health solely for the purposes provided in such Act: Provided further, That upon a determination by the Director that funds transferred pursuant to the previous proviso are not necessary for the purposes provided, such amounts may be transferred back to the

Account: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY FOR HEALTH

For carrying out section 301 and part J of title IV of the PHS Act with respect to advanced research projects for health, \$500,000,000.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION MENTAL HEALTH

For carrying out titles III, V, and XIX of the PHS Act with respect to mental health, the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act, and the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, \$2,706,282,000: Provided, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$93,887,000 shall be for the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 520A(f)(2) of the PHS Act, no funds appropriated for carrying out section 520A shall be available for carrying out section 1971 of the PHS Act: Provided further, That in addition to amounts provided herein, \$21,039,000 shall be available under section 241 of the PHS Act to carry out subpart I of part B of title XIX of the PHS Act to fund section 1920(b) technical assistance, national data, data collection and evaluation activities, and further that the total available under this Act for section 1920(b) activities shall not exceed 5 percent of the amounts appropriated for subpart I of part B of title XIX: Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading for subpart I of part B of title XIX of the PHS Act, at least 5 percent shall be available to support evidence-based crisis systems: Provided further, That up to 10 percent of the amounts made available to carry out the Children's Mental Health Services program may be used to carry out demonstration grants or contracts for early interventions with persons not more than 25 years of age at clinical high risk of developing a first episode of psychosis: Provided further, That section 520E(b)(2) of the PHS Act shall not apply to funds appropriated in this Act for fiscal year 2024: Provided further, That \$385,000,000 shall be available for grants to communities and community organizations who meet criteria for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics pursuant to section 223(a) of Public Law 113-93: Provided further, That none of the funds provided for section 1911 of the PHS Act shall be subject to section 241 of such Act: Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$21,420,000 shall be to carry out section 224 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-93; 42 U.S.C. 290aa 22 note).

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

For carrying out titles III and V of the PHS Act with respect to substance abuse treatment and title XIX of such Act with respect to substance abuse treatment and prevention, section 1003 of the 21st Century Cures Act, and the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, \$3,980,103,000: Provided, That \$1,583,000,000 shall be for carrying out section 1003 of the 21st Century Cures Act: Provided further, That of such amount in the preceding proviso not less than 4 percent shall be made available to Indian Tribes or tribal organizations: Provided further, That of the amount reserved by the previous proviso, the Secretary shall award grants using data that the Secretary determines to be the most objective and reliable measure of drug use and drug-related deaths: Provided further, That in addition to amounts provided herein, the following amounts shall be available under section 241 of the PHS Act: (1) \$79,200,000 to carry out subpart II of part B of title XIX of the PHS Act to fund section 1935(b) technical assistance, national data, data collection and evaluation activities, and further that the total available under this Act for section 1935(b) activities shall

not exceed 5 percent of the amounts appropriated for subpart II of part B of title XIX; and (2) \$2,000,000 to evaluate substance abuse treatment programs: Provided further, That none of the funds provided for section 1921 of the PHS Act or State Opioid Response Grants shall be subject to section 241 of such Act.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

For carrying out titles III and V of the PHS Act with respect to substance abuse prevention, \$179,602,000.

HEALTH SURVEILLANCE AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

For program support and cross-cutting activities that supplement activities funded under the headings “Mental Health”, “Substance Abuse Treatment”, and “Substance Abuse Prevention” in carrying out titles III, V, and XIX of the PHS Act and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, \$109,895,000: Provided, That in addition to amounts provided herein, \$31,428,000 shall be available under section 241 of the PHS Act to supplement funds available to carry out national surveys on drug abuse and mental health, to collect and analyze program data, and to conduct public awareness and technical assistance activities: Provided further, That, in addition, fees may be collected for the costs of publications, data, data tabulations, and data analysis completed under title V of the PHS Act and provided to a public or private entity upon request, which shall be credited to this appropriation and shall remain available until expended for such purposes: Provided further, That amounts made available in this Act for carrying out section 501(o) of the PHS Act shall remain available through September 30, 2025: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading (other than amounts specified in the first proviso under this heading) may be used to supplement program support funding provided under the headings “Mental Health”, “Substance Abuse Treatment”, and “Substance Abuse Prevention”.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES GRANTS TO STATES FOR MEDICAID

For carrying out, except as otherwise provided, titles XI and XIX of the Social Security Act, \$406,956,850,000, to remain available until expended.

In addition, for carrying out such titles after May 31, 2024, for the last quarter of fiscal year 2024 for unanticipated costs incurred for the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended.

In addition, for carrying out such titles for the first quarter of fiscal year 2025, \$245,580,414,000, to remain available until expended.

Payment under such title XIX may be made for any quarter with respect to a State plan or plan amendment in effect during such quarter, if submitted in or prior to such quarter and approved in that or any subsequent quarter.

PAYMENTS TO THE HEALTH CARE TRUST FUNDS

For payment to the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund, as provided under sections 217(g), 1844, and 1860D–16 of the Social Security Act, sections 103(c) and 111(d) of the Social Security Amendments of 1965, section 278(d)(3) of Public Law 97–248, and for administrative expenses incurred pursuant to section 201(g) of the Social Security Act, \$476,725,000,000.

In addition, for making matching payments under section 1844 and benefit payments under section 1860D–16 of the Social Security Act that were not anticipated in budget estimates, such sums as may be necessary.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

For carrying out, except as otherwise provided, titles XI, XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act, titles XIII and XXVII of the

PHS Act, the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988, and other responsibilities of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, not to exceed \$3,326,690,000 to be transferred from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund, as authorized by section 201(g) of the Social Security Act; together with all funds collected in accordance with section 353 of the PHS Act and section 1857(e)(2) of the Social Security Act, funds retained by the Secretary pursuant to section 1893(h) of the Social Security Act, and such sums as may be collected from authorized user fees and the sale of data, which shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: Provided, That all funds derived in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 9701 from organizations established under title XIII of the PHS Act shall be credited to and available for carrying out the purposes of this appropriation: Provided further, That the Secretary is directed to collect fees in fiscal year 2024 from Medicare Advantage organizations pursuant to section 1857(e)(2) of the Social Security Act and from eligible organizations with risk-sharing contracts under section 1876 of that Act pursuant to section 1876(k)(4)(D) of that Act: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$397,334,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025, and shall be available for the Survey and Certification Program: Provided further, That amounts available under this heading to support quality improvement organizations (as defined in section 1152 of the Social Security Act) shall not exceed the amount specifically provided for such purpose under this heading in division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141).

HEALTH CARE FRAUD AND ABUSE CONTROL ACCOUNT

In addition to amounts otherwise available for program integrity and program management, \$915,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2025, to be transferred from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund, as authorized by section 201(g) of the Social Security Act, of which \$675,648,000 shall be for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services program integrity activities, of which \$100,145,000 shall be for the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General to carry out fraud and abuse activities authorized by section 1817(k)(3) of such Act, and of which \$132,207,000 shall be for the Department of Justice to carry out fraud and abuse activities authorized by section 1817(k)(3) of such Act: Provided, That the report required by section 1817(k)(5) of the Social Security Act for fiscal year 2024 shall include measures of the operational efficiency and impact on fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP programs for the funds provided by this appropriation: Provided further, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$311,000,000 is provided to meet the terms of section 251(b)(2)(C)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, and \$604,000,000 is additional new budget authority specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(C)(i)(XI) of such Act for additional health care fraud and abuse control activities: Provided further, That the Secretary shall provide not less than \$35,000,000 from amounts made available under this heading and amounts made available for fiscal year 2024 under section 1817(k)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act for the Senior Medicare Patrol program to combat health care fraud and abuse.

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

For carrying out, except as otherwise provided, titles I, IV–D, X, XI, XIV, and XVI of the Social Security Act and the Act of July 5, 1960,

\$3,309,000,000, to remain available until expended; and for such purposes for the first quarter of fiscal year 2025, \$1,400,000,000, to remain available until expended.

For carrying out, after May 31 of the current fiscal year, except as otherwise provided, titles I, IV–D, X, XI, XIV, and XVI of the Social Security Act and the Act of July 5, 1960, for the last 3 months of the current fiscal year for unanticipated costs, incurred for the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary.

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

For making payments under subsections (b) and (d) of section 2602 of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621 et seq.), \$4,011,000,000: Provided, That notwithstanding section 2609A(a) of such Act, not more than \$9,600,000 may be reserved by the Secretary for technical assistance, training, and monitoring of program activities for compliance with internal controls, policies and procedures, and to supplement funding otherwise available for necessary administrative expenses to carry out such Act, and the Secretary may, in addition to the authorities provided in section 2609A(a)(1), use such funds through contracts with private entities that do not qualify as nonprofit organizations: Provided further, That all but \$900,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be allocated as though the total appropriation for such payments for fiscal year 2024 was less than \$1,975,000,000: Provided further, That, after applying all applicable provisions of section 2604 of such Act and the previous proviso, each State or territory that would otherwise receive an allocation that is less than 97 percent of the amount that it received under this heading for fiscal year 2023 from amounts appropriated in Public Law 117–328 shall have its allocation increased to that 97 percent level, with the portions of other States' and territories' allocations that would exceed 100 percent of the amounts they respectively received in such fashion for fiscal year 2023 being ratably reduced.

REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE

For necessary expenses for refugee and entrant assistance activities authorized by section 414 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, and for carrying out section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (“TVPA”), and the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998, \$2,756,956,000, of which \$2,707,201,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2026, for carrying out such sections 414, 501, 462, and 235: Provided, That amounts available under this heading to carry out the TVPA shall also be available for research and evaluation with respect to activities under such Act: Provided further, That the contribution of funds requirement under section 235(c)(6)(C)(iii) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 shall not apply to funds made available under this heading.

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

For carrying out the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (“CCDBG Act”), \$8,021,387,000 shall be used to supplement, not supplant State general revenue funds for child care assistance for low-income families: Provided, That technical assistance under section 658I(a)(3) of such Act may be provided directly, or through the use of contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, or interagency agreements: Provided further, That all funds made available to carry out section 418 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 618), including funds appropriated for that purpose in such section 418 or any other provision of law, shall be subject to the reservation of funds authority in paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 658O(a) of the CCDBG Act: Provided further, That notwithstanding section

6580(a)(2) of such Act, 5 percent of the amount appropriated under this heading for such Act shall be reserved under such section for Indian tribes and tribal organizations with applications approved under section 6580(c) of such Act: Provided further, That of the amounts made available under this heading, the Secretary may reserve up to 0.5 percent for Federal administrative expenses.

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

For making grants to States pursuant to section 2002 of the Social Security Act, \$1,700,000,000: Provided, That notwithstanding subparagraph (B) of section 404(d)(2) of such Act, the applicable percent specified under such subparagraph for a State to carry out State programs pursuant to title XX-A of such Act shall be 10 percent.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS

For carrying out, except as otherwise provided, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, the Head Start Act, the Every Student Succeeds Act, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, sections 303 and 313 of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the Native American Programs Act of 1974, title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (adoption opportunities), part B-1 of title IV and sections 429, 473A, 477(i), 1110, 1114A, and 1115 of the Social Security Act, and the Community Services Block Grant Act ("CSBG Act"); and for necessary administrative expenses to carry out titles I, IV, V, X, XI, XIV, XVI, and XX-A of the Social Security Act, the Act of July 5, 1960, and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, \$13,388,077,000, of which \$75,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2025, shall be for grants to States for adoption and legal guardianship incentive payments, as defined by section 473A of the Social Security Act and may be made for adoptions and legal guardianships completed before September 30, 2024: Provided, That \$11,246,820,000 shall be for making payments under the Head Start Act, including for Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, and, of which, notwithstanding section 640 of such Act:

(1) \$25,000,000 shall be available for allocation by the Secretary to supplement activities described in paragraphs (7)(B) and (9) of section 641(c) of the Head Start Act under the Designation Renewal System, established under the authority of sections 641(c)(7), 645A(b)(12), and 645A(d) of such Act, and such funds shall not be included in the calculation of "base grant" in subsequent fiscal years, as such term is used in section 640(a)(7)(A) of such Act;

(2) \$8,000,000 shall be available for the Tribal Colleges and Universities Head Start Partnership Program consistent with section 648(g) of such Act; and

(3) up to \$40,000,000 shall be available to supplement funding otherwise available for research, evaluation, and Federal administrative costs:

Provided further, That notwithstanding the income eligibility requirements of subsection (a) and paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (d) of section 645 of the Head Start Act, and of the income eligibility criteria and allowances prescribed in regulations under such Act, an Indian tribe that operates a Head Start program may, at its discretion, establish selection criteria, including criteria to prioritize children in families for which a child, a family member, or a member of the same household, is a member of an Indian tribe, to enroll children who would benefit from the Head Start program: Provided further, That the Secretary may reduce the reservation of funds under section 640(a)(2)(C) of such Act in lieu of reducing the reservation of funds under sections 640(a)(2)(B), 640(a)(2)(D), and 640(a)(2)(E) of such Act: Provided further, That \$804,383,000 shall be for making payments under the CSBG Act: Provided further, That \$34,383,000 shall be for section 680 of the CSBG

Act, of which not less than \$22,383,000 shall be for section 680(a)(2) and not less than \$12,000,000 shall be for section 680(a)(3)(B) of such Act: Provided further, That, notwithstanding section 675C(a)(3) of the CSBG Act, to the extent Community Services Block Grant funds are distributed as grant funds by a State to an eligible entity as provided under such Act, and have not been expended by such entity, they shall remain with such entity for carryover into the next fiscal year for expenditure by such entity consistent with program purposes: Provided further, That the Secretary shall establish procedures regarding the disposition of intangible assets and program income that permit such assets acquired with, and program income derived from, grant funds authorized under section 680 of the CSBG Act to become the sole property of such grantees after a period of not more than 12 years after the end of the grant period for any activity consistent with section 680(a)(2)(A) of the CSBG Act: Provided further, That intangible assets in the form of loans, equity investments and other debt instruments, and program income may be used by grantees for any eligible purpose consistent with section 680(a)(2)(A) of the CSBG Act: Provided further, That these procedures shall apply to such grant funds made available after November 29, 1999: Provided further, That funds appropriated for section 680(a)(2) of the CSBG Act shall be available for financing construction and rehabilitation and loans or investments in private business enterprises owned by community development corporations: Provided further, That \$240,000,000 shall be for carrying out section 303(a) of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, of which \$7,000,000 shall be allocated notwithstanding section 303(a)(2) of such Act for carrying out section 309 of such Act: Provided further, That the percentages specified in section 112(a)(2) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act shall not apply to funds appropriated under this heading: Provided further, That \$1,864,000 shall be for a human services case management system for federally declared disasters, to include a comprehensive national case management contract and Federal costs of administering the system: Provided further, That up to \$2,000,000 shall be for improving the Public Assistance Reporting Information System, including grants to States to support data collection for a study of the system's effectiveness.

PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES

For carrying out, except as otherwise provided, section 436 of the Social Security Act, \$345,000,000 and, for carrying out, except as otherwise provided, section 437 of such Act, \$86,515,000: Provided, That of the funds available to carry out section 437, \$59,765,000 shall be allocated consistent with subsections (b) through (d) of such section: Provided further, That of the funds available to carry out section 437, to assist in meeting the requirements described in section 471(e)(4)(C), \$20,000,000 shall be for grants to each State, territory, and Indian tribe operating title IV-E plans for developing, enhancing, or evaluating kinship navigator programs, as described in section 427(a)(1) of such Act and \$6,750,000, in addition to funds otherwise appropriated in section 476 for such purposes, shall be for the Family First Clearinghouse and to support evaluation and technical assistance relating to the evaluation of child and family services: Provided further, That section 437(b)(1) shall be applied to amounts in the previous proviso by substituting "5 percent" for "3.3 percent", and notwithstanding section 436(b)(1), such reserved amounts may be used for identifying, establishing, and disseminating practices to meet the criteria specified in section 471(e)(4)(C): Provided further, That the reservation in section 437(b)(2) and the limitations in section 437(d) shall not apply to funds specified in the second proviso: Provided further, That the minimum grant award for kinship navigator

programs in the case of States and territories shall be \$200,000, and, in the case of tribes, shall be \$25,000.

PAYMENTS FOR FOSTER CARE AND PERMANENCY

For carrying out, except as otherwise provided, title IV-E of the Social Security Act, \$8,594,000,000.

For carrying out, except as otherwise provided, title IV-E of the Social Security Act, for the first quarter of fiscal year 2025, \$3,400,000,000.

For carrying out, after May 31 of the current fiscal year, except as otherwise provided, section 474 of title IV-E of the Social Security Act, for the last 3 months of the current fiscal year for unanticipated costs, incurred for the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary.

ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For carrying out, to the extent not otherwise provided, the Older Americans Act of 1965 ("OAA"), the RAISE Family Caregivers Act, the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act, titles III and XXIX of the PHS Act, sections 1252 and 1253 of the PHS Act, section 119 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, title XX-B of the Social Security Act, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, parts 2 and 5 of subtitle D of title II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, titles II and VII (and section 14 with respect to such titles) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and for Department-wide coordination of policy and program activities that assist individuals with disabilities, \$2,418,901,000, together with \$55,242,000 to be transferred from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund to carry out section 4360 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990: Provided, That of amounts made available under this heading to carry out sections 311, 331, and 336 of the OAA, up to one percent of such amounts shall be available for developing and implementing evidence-based practices for enhancing senior nutrition, including medically-tailored meals: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, funds made available under this heading to carry out section 311 of the OAA may be transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with such section: Provided further, That up to 5 percent of the funds provided for adult protective services grants under section 2042 of title XX of the Social Security Act may be used to make grants to Tribes and tribal organizations: Provided further, That \$2,000,000 shall be for competitive grants to support alternative financing programs that provide for the purchase of assistive technology devices, such as a low-interest loan fund; an interest buy-down program; a revolving loan fund; a loan guarantee; or an insurance program: Provided further, That applicants shall provide an assurance that, and information describing the manner in which, the alternative financing program will expand and emphasize consumer choice and control: Provided further, That State agencies and community-based disability organizations that are directed by and operated for individuals with disabilities shall be eligible to compete: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used by an eligible system (as defined in section 102 of the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act (42 U.S.C. 10802)) to continue to pursue any legal action in a Federal or State court on behalf of an individual or group of individuals with a developmental disability (as defined in section 102(8)(A) of the Developmental Disabilities and Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (20 U.S.C. 15002(8)(A)) that is attributable to a mental impairment (or a combination of mental and physical impairments), that has

as the requested remedy the closure of State operated intermediate care facilities for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities, unless reasonable public notice of the action has been provided to such individuals (or, in the case of mental incapacitation, the legal guardians who have been specifically awarded authority by the courts to make healthcare and residential decisions on behalf of such individuals) who are affected by such action, within 90 days of instituting such legal action, which informs such individuals (or such legal guardians) of their legal rights and how to exercise such rights consistent with current Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: Provided further, That the limitations in the immediately preceding proviso shall not apply in the case of an individual who is neither competent to consent nor has a legal guardian, nor shall the proviso apply in the case of individuals who are a ward of the State or subject to public guardianship.

ADMINISTRATION FOR STRATEGIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND PROCUREMENT

For carrying out title III and subtitles A and B of title XXVIII of the PHS Act, with respect to the research, development, storage, production, and procurement of medical countermeasures to counter potential chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats to civilian populations, \$3,277,991,000. Of such amount:

(1) \$1,100,000,000 shall be for expenses necessary to support advanced research and development pursuant to section 319L of the PHS Act and other administrative expenses of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, to remain available through September 30, 2025: Provided, That funds provided under this heading for purposes of acquisition of security countermeasures shall be in addition to any other funds made available for such purposes: Provided further, That products purchased with funds made available under this paragraph may, at the discretion of the Secretary, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile pursuant to section 319F-2 of the PHS Act;

(2) \$850,000,000 shall be for expenses necessary for procuring security countermeasures (as defined in section 319F-2(c)(1)(B) of the PHS Act), to remain available until expended;

(3) \$1,000,000,000 shall be for expenses necessary to carry out section 319F-2(a) of the PHS Act, to remain available until expended; and

(4) \$327,991,000 shall be for expenses necessary to prepare for or respond to an influenza pandemic, of which \$300,000,000 shall remain available until expended for activities including the development and purchase of vaccines, antivirals, necessary medical supplies, diagnostics, and surveillance tools: Provided, That notwithstanding section 496(b) of the PHS Act, funds allocated under this paragraph may be used for the construction or renovation of privately owned facilities for the production of pandemic influenza vaccines and other biologics, if the Secretary finds such construction or renovation necessary to secure sufficient supplies of such vaccines or biologics.

OPERATIONS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For carrying out titles III, XII, and subtitles A and B of title XXVIII of the PHS Act, operations and emergency response activities related to countering potential chemical biological, radiological, and nuclear threats and other public health emergencies, \$342,606,000.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

GENERAL DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided, for general departmental management, for carrying out titles III, XVII, XXI, and section 229 of the PHS Act, the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission Act, and research studies under section 1110 of the Social Security Act, \$402,341,000, together with \$58,028,000 from the amounts available under section 241 of the

PHS Act to carry out national health or human services research and evaluation activities: Provided, That of this amount, \$28,000,000 shall be for minority AIDS prevention and treatment activities: Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$40,000,000 shall be for making competitive grants which exclusively implement education in sexual risk avoidance (defined as voluntarily refraining from non-marital sexual activity): Provided further, That funding for such competitive grants for sexual risk avoidance shall use medically accurate information referenced to peer-reviewed publications by educational, scientific, governmental, or health organizations; implement an evidence-based approach integrating research findings with practical implementation that aligns with the needs and desired outcomes for the intended audience; and teach the benefits associated with self-regulation, success sequencing for poverty prevention, healthy relationships, goal setting, and resisting sexual coercion, dating violence, and other youth risk behaviors such as underage drinking or illicit drug use without normalizing teen sexual activity: Provided further, That no more than 10 percent of the funding for such competitive grants for sexual risk avoidance shall be available for technical assistance and administrative costs of such programs: Provided further, That funds provided in this Act for embryo adoption activities may be used to provide to individuals adopting embryos, through grants and other mechanisms, medical and administrative services deemed necessary for such adoptions: Provided further, That such services shall be provided consistent with 42 CFR 59.5(a)(4): Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$5,000,000 shall be for carrying out prize competitions sponsored by the Office of the Secretary to accelerate innovation in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of kidney diseases (as authorized by section 24 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719)).

MEDICARE HEARINGS AND APPEALS

For expenses necessary for Medicare hearings and appeals in the Office of the Secretary, \$196,000,000, of which \$40,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025, to be transferred in appropriate part from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

For expenses necessary for the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, including grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements for the development and advancement of interoperable health information technology, \$56,238,000 shall be from amounts made available under section 241 of the PHS Act.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles for investigations, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$80,000,000: Provided, That of such amount, necessary sums shall be available for providing protective services to the Secretary and investigating non-payment of child support cases for which non-payment is a Federal offense under 18 U.S.C. 228: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, necessary sums shall be available for carrying out activities authorized under section 3022 of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-52).

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

For expenses necessary for the Office for Civil Rights, \$32,000,000.

RETIREMENT PAY AND MEDICAL BENEFITS FOR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

For retirement pay and medical benefits of Public Health Service Commissioned Officers as

authorized by law, for payments under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan and Survivor Benefit Plan, and for medical care of dependents and retired personnel under the Dependents' Medical Care Act, such amounts as may be required during the current fiscal year.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. Funds appropriated in this title shall be available for not to exceed \$50,000 for official reception and representation expenses when specifically approved by the Secretary.

SEC. 202. None of the funds appropriated in this title shall be used to pay the salary of an individual, through a grant or other extramural mechanism, at a rate in excess of Executive Level II: Provided, That none of the funds appropriated in this title shall be used to prevent the NIH from paying up to 100 percent of the salary of an individual at this rate.

SEC. 203. None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be expended pursuant to section 241 of the PHS Act, except for funds specifically provided for in this Act, or for other taps and assessments made by any office located in HHS, prior to the preparation and submission of a report by the Secretary to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the planned uses of such funds.

SEC. 204. Notwithstanding section 241(a) of the PHS Act, such portion as the Secretary shall determine, but not more than 2.5 percent, of any amounts appropriated for programs authorized under such Act shall be made available for the evaluation (directly, or by grants or contracts) of the implementation and effectiveness of such programs.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 205. Not to exceed 1 percent of any discretionary funds (pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985) which are appropriated for the current fiscal year for HHS in this Act may be transferred between appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 3 percent by any such transfer: Provided, That the transfer authority granted by this section shall not be used to create any new program or to fund any project or activity for which no funds are provided in this Act: Provided further, That the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

SEC. 206. In lieu of the timeframe specified in section 338E(c)(2) of the PHS Act, terminations described in such section may occur up to 60 days after the effective date of a contract awarded in fiscal year 2024 under section 338B of such Act, or at any time if the individual who has been awarded such contract has not received funds due under the contract.

SEC. 207. None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be made available to any entity under title X of the PHS Act unless the applicant for the award certifies to the Secretary that it encourages family participation in the decision of minors to seek family planning services and that it provides counseling to minors on how to resist attempts to coerce minors into engaging in sexual activities.

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no provider of services under title X of the PHS Act shall be exempt from any State law requiring notification or the reporting of child abuse, child molestation, sexual abuse, rape, or incest.

SEC. 209. None of the funds appropriated by this Act (including funds appropriated to any trust fund) may be used to carry out the Medicare Advantage program if the Secretary denies participation in such program to an otherwise eligible entity (including a Provider Sponsored Organization) because the entity informs the Secretary that it will not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or provide referrals for abortions: Provided, That the Secretary shall make appropriate prospective adjustments to the capitation payment to such an entity (based on an

actuarially sound estimate of the expected costs of providing the service to such entity's enrollees): Provided further, That nothing in this section shall be construed to change the Medicare program's coverage for such services and a Medicare Advantage organization described in this section shall be responsible for informing enrollees where to obtain information about all Medicare covered services.

SEC. 210. None of the funds made available in this title may be used, in whole or in part, to advocate or promote gun control.

SEC. 211. The Secretary shall make available through assignment not more than 60 employees of the Public Health Service to assist in child survival activities and to work in AIDS programs through and with funds provided by the Agency for International Development, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund or the World Health Organization.

SEC. 212. In order for HHS to carry out international health activities, including HIV/AIDS and other infectious disease, chronic and environmental disease, and other health activities abroad during fiscal year 2024:

(1) The Secretary may exercise authority equivalent to that available to the Secretary of State in section 2(c) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956. The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of State and relevant Chief of Mission to ensure that the authority provided in this section is exercised in a manner consistent with section 207 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 and other applicable statutes administered by the Department of State.

(2) The Secretary is authorized to provide such funds by advance or reimbursement to the Secretary of State as may be necessary to pay the costs of acquisition, lease, alteration, renovation, and management of facilities outside of the United States for the use of HHS. The Department of State shall cooperate fully with the Secretary to ensure that HHS has secure, safe, functional facilities that comply with applicable regulation governing location, setback, and other facilities requirements and serve the purposes established by this Act. The Secretary is authorized, in consultation with the Secretary of State, through grant or cooperative agreement, to make available to public or nonprofit private institutions or agencies in participating foreign countries, funds to acquire, lease, alter, or renovate facilities in those countries as necessary to conduct programs of assistance for international health activities, including activities relating to HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, chronic and environmental diseases, and other health activities abroad.

(3) The Secretary is authorized to provide to personnel appointed or assigned by the Secretary to serve abroad, allowances and benefits similar to those provided under chapter 9 of title 1 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980, and 22 U.S.C. 4081 through 4086 and subject to such regulations prescribed by the Secretary. The Secretary is further authorized to provide locality-based comparability payments (stated as a percentage) up to the amount of the locality-based comparability payment (stated as a percentage) that would be payable to such personnel under section 5304 of title 5, United States Code if such personnel's official duty station were in the District of Columbia. Leaves of absence for personnel under this subsection shall be on the same basis as that provided under subchapter I of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code, or section 903 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980, to individuals serving in the Foreign Service.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 213. The Director of the NIH, jointly with the Director of the Office of AIDS Research, may transfer up to 3 percent among institutes and centers from the total amounts identified by these two Directors as funding for research pertaining to the human immunodeficiency virus:

Provided, That the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 214. Of the amounts made available in this Act for NIH, the amount for research related to the human immunodeficiency virus, as jointly determined by the Director of NIH and the Director of the Office of AIDS Research, shall be made available to the "Office of AIDS Research" account. The Director of the Office of AIDS Research shall transfer from such account amounts necessary to carry out section 2353(d)(3) of the PHS Act.

SEC. 215. (a) **AUTHORITY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director of NIH ("Director") may use funds authorized under section 402(b)(12) of the PHS Act to enter into transactions (other than contracts, cooperative agreements, or grants) to carry out research identified pursuant to or research and activities described in such section 402(b)(12).

(b) **PEER REVIEW.**—In entering into transactions under subsection (a), the Director may utilize such peer review procedures (including consultation with appropriate scientific experts) as the Director determines to be appropriate to obtain assessments of scientific and technical merit. Such procedures shall apply to such transactions in lieu of the peer review and advisory council review procedures that would otherwise be required under sections 301(a)(3), 405(b)(1)(B), 405(b)(2), 406(a)(3)(A), 492, and 494 of the PHS Act.

SEC. 216. Not to exceed \$100,000,000 of funds appropriated by this Act to the institutes and centers of the National Institutes of Health may be used for alteration, repair, or improvement of facilities, as necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of the activities authorized herein, at not to exceed \$5,000,000 per project.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 217. Of the amounts made available for NIH, 1 percent of the amount made available for National Research Service Awards ("NRSA") shall be made available to the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration to make NRSA awards for research in primary medical care to individuals affiliated with entities who have received grants or contracts under sections 736, 739, or 747 of the PHS Act, and 1 percent of the amount made available for NRSA shall be made available to the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to make NRSA awards for health service research.

SEC. 218. (a) The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority ("BARDA") may enter into a contract, for more than one but not more than 10 program years, for purchase of research services or of security countermeasures, as that term is defined in section 319F-2(c)(1)(B) of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6b(c)(1)(B)), if—

(1) funds are available and obligated—

(A) for the full period of the contract or for the first fiscal year in which the contract is in effect; and

(B) for the estimated costs associated with a necessary termination of the contract; and

(2) the Secretary determines that a multi-year contract will serve the best interests of the Federal Government by encouraging full and open competition or promoting economy in administration, performance, and operation of BARDA's programs.

(b) A contract entered into under this section—

(1) shall include a termination clause as described by subsection (c) of section 3903 of title 41, United States Code; and

(2) shall be subject to the congressional notice requirement stated in subsection (d) of such section.

SEC. 219. (a) The Secretary shall publish in the fiscal year 2025 budget justification and on Departmental Web sites information concerning

the employment of full-time equivalent Federal employees or contractors for the purposes of implementing, administering, enforcing, or otherwise carrying out the provisions of the ACA, and the amendments made by that Act, in the proposed fiscal year and each fiscal year since the enactment of the ACA.

(b) With respect to employees or contractors supported by all funds appropriated for purposes of carrying out the ACA (and the amendments made by that Act), the Secretary shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

(1) For each such fiscal year, the section of such Act under which such funds were appropriated, a statement indicating the program, project, or activity receiving such funds, the Federal operating division or office that administers such program, and the amount of funding received in discretionary or mandatory appropriations.

(2) For each such fiscal year, the number of full-time equivalent employees or contracted employees assigned to each authorized and funded provision detailed in accordance with paragraph (1).

(c) In carrying out this section, the Secretary may exclude from the report employees or contractors who—

(1) are supported through appropriations enacted in laws other than the ACA and work on programs that existed prior to the passage of the ACA;

(2) spend less than 50 percent of their time on activities funded by or newly authorized in the ACA; or

(3) work on contracts for which FTE reporting is not a requirement of their contract, such as fixed-price contracts.

SEC. 220. The Secretary shall publish, as part of the fiscal year 2025 budget of the President submitted under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, information that details the uses of all funds used by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services specifically for Health Insurance Exchanges for each fiscal year since the enactment of the ACA and the proposed uses for such funds for fiscal year 2025. Such information shall include, for each such fiscal year, the amount of funds used for each activity specified under the heading "Health Insurance Exchange Transparency" in the Explanatory Materials published at <https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/republicans.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY24-LHHS-Explanatory-Materials.pdf> (hereinafter "Explanatory Materials").

SEC. 221. None of the funds made available by this Act from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund or the Federal Supplemental Medical Insurance Trust Fund, or transferred from other accounts funded by this Act to the "Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—Program Management" account, may be used for payments under section 1342(b)(1) of Public Law 111-148 (relating to risk corridors).

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. (a) Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transfer funds appropriated under section 4002 of the ACA to the accounts specified, in the amounts specified, and for the activities specified under the heading "Prevention and Public Health Fund" in the Explanatory Materials.

(b) Notwithstanding section 4002(c) of the ACA, the Secretary may not further transfer these amounts.

(c) Funds transferred for activities authorized under section 2821 of the PHS Act shall be made available without reference to section 2821(b) of such Act.

SEC. 223. Effective during the period beginning on November 1, 2015 and ending January 1, 2026, any provision of law that refers (including through cross-reference to another provision of law) to the current recommendations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force with respect to breast cancer screening, mammography, and prevention shall be administered by the Secretary involved as if—

(1) such reference to such current recommendations were a reference to the recommendations of such Task Force with respect to breast cancer screening, mammography, and prevention last issued before 2009; and

(2) such recommendations last issued before 2009 applied to any screening mammography modality under section 1861(jj) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(jj)).

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 224. The NIH Director may transfer funds for opioid addiction, opioid alternatives, stimulant misuse and addiction, pain management, and addiction treatment to other Institutes and Centers of the NIH to be used for the same purpose 15 days after notifying the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: Provided, That the transfer authority provided in the previous proviso is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

SEC. 225. (a) The Secretary shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate:

(1) Detailed monthly enrollment figures from the Exchanges established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 pertaining to enrollments during the open enrollment period; and

(2) Notification of any new or competitive grant awards, including supplements, authorized under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act.

(b) The Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate must be notified at least 2 business days in advance of any public release of enrollment information or the award of such grants.

SEC. 226. The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate a biannual report 30 days after enactment of this Act on staffing described in the Explanatory Materials.

SEC. 227. Funds appropriated in this Act that are available for salaries and expenses of employees of the Department of Health and Human Services shall also be available to pay travel and related expenses of such an employee or of a member of his or her family, when such employee is assigned to duty, in the United States or in a U.S. territory, during a period and in a location that are the subject of a determination of a public health emergency under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act and such travel is necessary to obtain medical care for an illness, injury, or medical condition that cannot be adequately addressed in that location at that time. For purposes of this section, the term “U.S. territory” means Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

SEC. 228. The Department of Health and Human Services may accept donations from the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and other groups independent of the Federal Government for the care of unaccompanied alien children (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))) in the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the Administration for Children and Families, including medical goods and services, which may include early childhood developmental screenings, school supplies, toys, clothing, and any other items intended to promote the wellbeing of such children.

SEC. 229. In addition to the existing Congressional notification for formal site assessments of potential influx facilities, the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate at least 15 days before operationalizing an unlicensed facility, and shall (1) specify whether the facility is hard-sided or soft-sided, and (2) provide analysis that indicates that, in the absence

of the influx facility, the likely outcome is that unaccompanied alien children will remain in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security for longer than 72 hours or that unaccompanied alien children will be otherwise placed in danger. Within 60 days of bringing such a facility online, and monthly thereafter, the Secretary shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report detailing the total number of children in care at the facility, the average length of stay and average length of care of children at the facility, and, for any child that has been at the facility for more than 60 days, their length of stay and reason for delay in release.

SEC. 230. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to prevent a United States Senator or Member of the House of Representatives from entering, for the purpose of conducting oversight, any facility in the United States used for the purpose of maintaining custody of, or otherwise housing, unaccompanied alien children (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))), provided that such Senator or Member has coordinated the oversight visit with the Office of Refugee Resettlement not less than two business days in advance to ensure that such visit would not interfere with the operations (including child welfare and child safety operations) of such facility.

SEC. 231. Not later than 14 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and monthly thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and make publicly available online, a report with respect to children who were separated from their parents or legal guardians by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) (regardless of whether or not such separation was pursuant to an option selected by the children, parents, or guardians), subsequently classified as unaccompanied alien children, and transferred to the care and custody of ORR during the previous month. Each report shall contain the following information:

(1) the number and ages of children so separated subsequent to apprehension at or between ports of entry, to be reported by sector where separation occurred; and

(2) the documented cause of separation, as reported by DHS when each child was referred.

SEC. 232. Funds appropriated in this Act that are available for salaries and expenses of employees of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall also be available for the primary and secondary schooling of eligible dependents of personnel stationed in a U.S. territory as defined in section 227 of this Act at costs not in excess of those paid for or reimbursed by the Department of Defense.

SEC. 233. Section 231 of division B of the Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (42 U.S.C. 247d-4a) is amended by striking “Provided further, That the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives” and all that follows through “and all the actual obligations incurred to date:” and inserting the following: “Provided further, That the Director shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, at least 15 days in advance of any transfer or obligation of funds made under the authority provided in this section, (1) a notification on the anticipated uses of funds by program, project, or activity; and (2) a detailed spend plan of anticipated uses of funds, including estimated personnel and administrative costs, disaggregated by program, project, or activity: Provided further, That such spend plans shall be updated to include all applicable obligations to date and unobligated amounts and submitted quarterly to such Committees on Appropriations until such funds are fully expended: Provided further, That the Director

shall brief such Committees on Appropriations not later than 15 days after providing such a notification: Provided further, That the Director shall provide to such Committees on a monthly basis a report on all amounts available in the Reserve Fund for the current fiscal year and the preceding two fiscal years, including (1) each individual obligation above \$5,000,000; (2) with respect to each such obligation, the notification to which it relates; and (3) the total amount unobligated in the Reserve Fund:”.

SEC. 234. Title VIII of division B of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136) is amended, under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support”, by striking “Provided further, That the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Director of the CDC, shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate every 14 days, for one year from the date from any such declaration or determination described in the third proviso of section 231 of division B of Public Law 115-245, that details commitment and obligation information for the Reserve Fund during the prior two weeks, as long as such report would detail obligations in excess of \$5,000,000, and upon the request by such Committees:”.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 235. Of the unobligated balances in the “Nonrecurring Expenses Fund” established in section 223 of division G of Public Law 110-161, \$1,000,000,000 are hereby rescinded not later than September 30, 2024: Provided, That from any remaining unobligated balances in such Fund, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may transfer up to \$85,000,000 to “Department of Health and Human Services—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Buildings and Facilities” to be merged with and to be available for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: Provided further, That, except as otherwise provided in this Act, none of the funds provided by this Act may be obligated for a new program, project, or activity using such Fund for which a notification was not submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate prior to the date of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That the Secretary may obligate funds from such Fund for any program, project, or activity for which a notification was submitted before the date of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That the Secretary may transfer amounts into such Fund: Provided further, That any amounts transferred into such Fund are available for the purposes provided by this section or for which a notification was submitted to such Committees on Appropriations before the date of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That the authority to transfer amounts under this section is in addition to any other transfer authority in law.

SEC. 236. (a) Not later than March 16, 2023, and every 30 days thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report with respect to Federal expenditures made pursuant to a covered law. Such report shall include the following (if applicable for the period covered by the report):

(1) The total amount of funding made available by covered laws (and the amendments made by such laws) that has been obligated to date.

(2) A list of each financial award funded, in part or in full, by covered laws (and the amendments made by such laws), including the following information for each such award:

(A) All recipients for which funding has been obligated.

(B) The amount of funding that has been obligated for each recipient.

(C) The type of award (such as a grant or loan).

(3) The number, job title, and duties of any full time equivalent employees who have been hired using the funding made available by covered laws (and the amendments made by such laws).

(4) An accounting of such funds that have not yet been obligated.

(5) The identity of any contractors that have been procured using such funding.

(6) The total amount of funding awarded under a covered law that was returned to the Treasury and the specific accounts to which such funds were obligated after being so returned.

(7) The total amount of such funds that have been transferred out of each account established or funded under a covered law, and with respect to such transferred funds, the information specified in paragraphs (1) through (6).

(b) For purposes of this section, the term “covered law” means—

(1) section 11004 of Public Law 117–169 (commonly referred to as the “Inflation Reduction Act of 2022”);

(2) the American Rescue Plan Act (Public Law 117–2) (and the amendments made by such Act); and

(3)(A) the third paragraph under the heading “Office of the Secretary—Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund” of division B of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136);

(B) the second paragraph under the heading “Office of the Secretary—Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund” of division B of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (Public Law 116–139); and

(C) the third paragraph under the heading “Office of the Secretary—Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund” of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (division M of Public Law 117–260).

SEC. 237. None of the funds provided in this Act under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Office of the Secretary—General Departmental Management” may be used for employee travel.

SEC. 238. None of the funds provided in this Act may be used to conduct or support research using human fetal tissue if such tissue is obtained pursuant to an induced abortion.

SEC. 239. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available by this Act may be made available either directly, through a State (including through managed care contracts with a State), or through any other means, to a prohibited entity.

(b) PROHIBITED ENTITY.—The term “prohibited entity” means an entity, including its affiliates, subsidiaries, successors, and clinics—

(1) that, as of the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) is an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code;

(B) is an essential community provider described in section 156.235 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), that is primarily engaged in family planning services, reproductive health, and related medical care; and

(C) performs, or provides any funds to any other entity that performs abortions, other than an abortion performed—

(i) in the case of a pregnancy that is the result of an act of rape or incest; or

(ii) in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed, including a life endangering physical condition caused by, or arising from, the pregnancy itself; and

(2) for which the total amount of Federal grants to such entity, including grants to any

affiliates, subsidiaries, or clinics of such entity, under title X of the Public Health Service Act in fiscal year 2016 exceeded \$23,000,000.

(c)(1) END OF PROHIBITION.—The definition in subsection (b) shall cease to apply to an entity if such entity certifies that it, including its affiliates, subsidiaries, successors, and clinics, will not perform, and will not provide any funds to any other entity that performs, an abortion as described in subsection (b)(1)(C).

(2) REPAYMENT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall seek repayment of any Federal assistance received by any entity that had made a certification described in paragraph (1) and subsequently violated the terms of such certification.

SEC. 240. None of the funds in this Act may be used to support, administer, oversee, or issue a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement for the purposes of providing information on, promoting access to, or facilitating an abortion.

SEC. 241. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal funding may be made available to the EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. located in New York.

SEC. 242. None of the funds provided in this Act to the Department of Health and Human Services, or provided under a previous or subsequent appropriations Act to such department, or provided from any account in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to such department, may be used to enforce the rule titled “Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination”, which was issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on November 5, 2021, or any substantially similar rule.

SEC. 243. None of the funds in this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce Executive Order 13988, entitled “Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation,” published by the Executive Office of the President on January 25, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 7023).

SEC. 244. Beginning on the fourth day following the date of enactment of this Act, the aggregate dollar amount appropriated under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Office of the Secretary—General Departmental Management” shall be reduced by \$1,000 for each day on which the Secretary of Health and Human Services fails to submit to the Congress the fiscal year 2023 and 2024 Moyer Report.

SEC. 245. None of the funds appropriated under this act may be used to require any project under title X of the PHS Act to refer for abortions: Provided, That no provider of services under title X of the PHS Act shall be required to subvert or operate in conflict with any State law limiting referral for abortion/pregnancy counseling.

SEC. 246. Title II of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 202 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 245 the following:

“SEC. 245A. CIVIL ACTION FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A qualified party may, in a civil action, obtain appropriate relief with regard to a designated violation.

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

“(1) DESIGNATED VIOLATION.—The term ‘designated violation’ means an actual or threatened violation of—

“(A) section 507(d) of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (or any subsequent substantially similar provision); or

“(B) any funding condition imposed by the Federal Government pursuant to such section 507(d) (or such provision).

“(2) QUALIFIED PARTY.—The term ‘qualified party’ means—

“(A) the Attorney General of the United States;

“(B) any attorney general of a State; or

“(C) any person or entity adversely affected by the designated violation without regard to

whether such person or entity is a health care provider.

“(3) STATE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.—The term ‘State governmental entity’ means a State, a local government within a State, and any agency or other governmental unit or subdivision of a State, or of such a local government.

“(c) ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES NOT REQUIRED.—An action under this section may be commenced, and relief may be granted, without regard to whether the party commencing the action has sought or exhausted any available administrative remedies.

“(d) DEFENDANTS.—An action under this section may be maintained against a Federal agency committing a designated violation described in subsection (b)(1)(A) or any recipient or sub-recipient of Federal assistance committing a designated violation described in subsection (b)(1)(B), including a State governmental entity.

“(e) NATURE OF RELIEF.—In an action under this section, the court shall grant—

“(1) all appropriate relief, including injunctive relief, declaratory relief, and compensatory damages to prevent the occurrence, continuance, or repetition of the designated violation and to compensate for losses resulting from the designated violation; and

“(2) to a prevailing plaintiff, reasonable attorneys’ fees and litigation costs.

Relief in an action under this section may include money damages even if the defendant is a governmental entity.

“(f) ABROGATION OF STATE IMMUNITY.—No State or governmental official that commits a designated violation shall be immune under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, or any other source of law, from an action under subsection (a).”

SEC. 247. None of the funds in this Act may be used to issue or implement as a final rule the proposed rule entitled “Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities” published by the Department of Health and Human Services in the Federal Register on August 4, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 47824) (relating to section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act) or any successor or substantially similar rule.

SEC. 248. None of the funds in this Act may be used by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to declare a public health emergency pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) or any related order that would impede, limit, or restrict a citizen’s Second Amendment right.

This title may be cited as the “Department of Health and Human Services Appropriations Act, 2024”.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

EDUCATION FOR THE DISADVANTAGED

For carrying out title I and subpart 2 of part B of title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (referred to in this Act as “ESEA”) and section 418A of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (referred to in this Act as “HEA”), \$13,055,290,000, of which \$2,126,990,000 shall become available on July 1, 2024, and shall remain available through September 30, 2025, and of which \$10,841,177,000 shall become available on October 1, 2024, and shall remain available through September 30, 2025, for academic year 2024–2025: Provided, That \$1,906,901,000 shall be for basic grants under section 1124 of the ESEA: Provided further, That up to \$5,000,000 of these funds shall be available to the Secretary of Education (referred to in this title as “Secretary”) on October 1, 2023, to obtain annually updated local educational agency-level census poverty data from the Bureau of the Census: Provided further, That \$1,362,301,000 shall be for concentration grants

under section 1124A of the ESEA: Provided further, That \$4,542,550,000 shall be for targeted grants under section 1125 of the ESEA: Provided further, That \$4,542,550,000 shall be for education finance incentive grants under section 1125A of the ESEA: Provided further, That \$224,000,000 shall be for carrying out subpart 2 of part B of title II: Provided further, That \$52,123,000 shall be for carrying out section 418A of the HEA.

IMPACT AID

For carrying out programs of financial assistance to federally affected schools authorized by title VII of the ESEA, \$1,618,112,000, of which \$1,468,242,000 shall be for basic support payments under section 7003(b), \$48,316,000 shall be for payments for children with disabilities under section 7003(d), \$18,406,000 shall be for construction under section 7007(a), \$78,313,000 shall be for Federal property payments under section 7002, and \$4,835,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for facilities maintenance under section 7008: Provided, That for purposes of computing the amount of a payment for an eligible local educational agency under section 7003(a) for school year 2023–2024, children enrolled in a school of such agency that would otherwise be eligible for payment under section 7003(a)(1)(B) of such Act, but due to the deployment of both parents or legal guardians, or a parent or legal guardian having sole custody of such children, or due to the death of a military parent or legal guardian while on active duty (so long as such children reside on Federal property as described in section 7003(a)(1)(B)), are no longer eligible under such section, shall be considered as eligible students under such section, provided such students remain in average daily attendance at a school in the same local educational agency they attended prior to their change in eligibility status.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

For carrying out school improvement activities authorized by part B of title I, part A of title II, subpart 1 of part A of title IV, part B of title IV, part B of title V, and parts B and C of title VI of the ESEA; the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; section 203 of the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002; the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003; and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, \$4,850,428,000, of which \$3,053,673,000 shall become available on July 1, 2024, and remain available through September 30, 2025, and of which \$1,681,441,000 shall become available on October 1, 2024, and shall remain available through September 30, 2025, for academic year 2024–2025: Provided, That \$1,329,673,000 shall be for part B of title IV: Provided further, That \$45,897,000 shall be for part B of title VI, which may be used for construction, renovation, and modernization of any public elementary school, secondary school, or structure related to a public elementary school or secondary school that serves a predominantly Native Hawaiian student body, and that the 5 percent limitation in section 6205(b) of the ESEA on the use of funds for administrative purposes shall apply only to direct administrative costs: Provided further, That \$44,953,000 shall be for part C of title VI, which shall be awarded on a competitive basis, and may be used for construction, and that the 5 percent limitation in section 6305 of the ESEA on the use of funds for administrative purposes shall apply only to direct administrative costs: Provided further, That \$24,464,000 shall be available to carry out the Supplemental Education Grants program for the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands: Provided further, That the Secretary may reserve up to 5 percent of the amount referred to in the previous proviso to provide technical assistance in the implementation of these grants: Provided further, That \$215,000,000 shall be for part B of title V: Provided further, That \$1,380,000,000 shall be available for grants under subpart 1 of part A of title IV: Provided further, That notwithstanding

subsection (a)(3) of section 4103 of such Act, the Secretary may reserve not more than 1 percent under such subsection (a)(3) only for technical assistance.

INDIAN EDUCATION

For expenses necessary to carry out, to the extent not otherwise provided, title VI, part A of the ESEA, \$194,746,000, of which \$72,000,000 shall be for subpart 2 of part A of title VI and \$12,365,000 shall be for subpart 3 of part A of title VI: Provided, That the 5 percent limitation in sections 6115(d), 6121(e), and 6133(g) of the ESEA on the use of funds for administrative purposes shall apply only to direct administrative costs: Provided further, That grants awarded under sections 6132 and 6133 of the ESEA with funds provided under this heading may be for a period of up to 5 years.

INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

For carrying out activities authorized by subparts 1, 3, and 4 of part B of title II, and parts C, E, and subparts 1 and 4 of part F of title IV of the ESEA, \$737,000,000: Provided, That \$3,000,000 shall be for subpart 3 of part B of title II and shall be made available without regard to sections 2201 and 2231(b): Provided further, That \$450,000,000 shall be for part C of title IV, and shall be made available without regard to section 4311: Provided further, That section 4303(d)(3)(A)(i) shall not apply to the funds available for part C of title IV: Provided further, That of the funds available for part C of title IV, the Secretary shall use not less than \$65,000,000 to carry out section 4304, up to \$140,000,000, to remain available through March 31, 2025, to carry out section 4305(b), and not more than \$16,000,000 to carry out the activities in section 4305(a)(3): Provided further, That the Secretary shall allow entities receiving grants under section 4303 to use up to 10 percent of such grants for activities described in section 4303(b)(2) and up to 5 percent for the activities described in section 4303(c)(1)(C): Provided further, That entities receiving grants under section 4304(k) shall not be required to meet the matching requirements described in section 4304(k)(2)(C) and (D) and shall not be required to use such grants to support facilities aid programs that allocate funds on a per-pupil basis: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 4601(b), \$284,000,000 shall be available through December 31, 2024 for subpart 1 of part F of title IV.

SAFE SCHOOLS AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

For carrying out activities authorized by subparts 2 and 3 of part F of title IV of the ESEA, \$316,000,000, to remain available through December 31, 2024: Provided, That \$216,000,000 shall be available for section 4631, of which up to \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the Project School Emergency Response to Violence (Project SERV) program: Provided further, That \$100,000,000 shall be available for section 4625.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

For carrying out the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004, \$15,453,264,000, of which \$5,870,321,000 shall become available on July 1, 2024, and shall remain available through September 30, 2025, and of which \$9,283,383,000 shall become available on October 1, 2024, and shall remain available through September 30, 2025, for academic year 2024–2025: Provided, That the amount for section 611(b)(2) of the IDEA shall be equal to the lesser of the amount available for that activity during fiscal year 2023, increased by the amount of inflation as specified in section 619(d)(2)(B) of the IDEA, or the percent change in the funds appropriated under section 611(i) of the IDEA, but not less than the amount for that activity during fiscal year 2023: Provided further, That the Secretary shall, without regard to section 611(d) of the IDEA, distribute to all other States (as that term is defined in section 611(g)(2)),

subject to the third proviso, any amount by which a State's allocation under section 611, from funds appropriated under this heading, is reduced under section 612(a)(18)(B), according to the following: 85 percent on the basis of the States' relative populations of children aged 3 through 21 who are of the same age as children with disabilities for whom the State ensures the availability of a free appropriate public education under this part, and 15 percent to States on the basis of the States' relative populations of those children who are living in poverty: Provided further, That the Secretary may not distribute any funds under the previous proviso to any State whose reduction in allocation from funds appropriated under this heading made funds available for such a distribution: Provided further, That the States shall allocate such funds distributed under the second proviso to local educational agencies in accordance with section 611(f): Provided further, That the amount by which a State's allocation under section 611(d) of the IDEA is reduced under section 612(a)(18)(B) and the amounts distributed to States under the previous provisos in fiscal year 2012 or any subsequent year shall not be considered in calculating the awards under section 611(d) for fiscal year 2013 or for any subsequent fiscal years: Provided further, That, notwithstanding the provision in section 612(a)(18)(B) regarding the fiscal year in which a State's allocation under section 611(d) is reduced for failure to comply with the requirement of section 612(a)(18)(A), the Secretary may apply the reduction specified in section 612(a)(18)(B) over a period of consecutive fiscal years, not to exceed 5, until the entire reduction is applied: Provided further, That the Secretary may, in any fiscal year in which a State's allocation under section 611 is reduced in accordance with section 612(a)(18)(B), reduce the amount a State may reserve under section 611(e)(1) by an amount that bears the same relation to the maximum amount described in that paragraph as the reduction under section 612(a)(18)(B) bears to the total allocation the State would have received in that fiscal year under section 611(d) in the absence of the reduction: Provided further, That the Secretary shall either reduce the allocation of funds under section 611 for any fiscal year following the fiscal year for which the State fails to comply with the requirement of section 612(a)(18)(A) as authorized by section 612(a)(18)(B), or seek to recover funds under section 452 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1234a): Provided further, That the funds reserved under 611(c) of the IDEA may be used to provide technical assistance to States to improve the capacity of the States to meet the data collection requirements of sections 616 and 618 and to administer and carry out other services and activities to improve data collection, coordination, quality, and use under parts B and C of the IDEA: Provided further, That the Secretary may use funds made available for the State Personnel Development Grants program under part D, subpart 1 of IDEA to evaluate program performance under such subpart: Provided further, That States may use funds reserved for other State-level activities under sections 611(e)(2) and 619(f) of the IDEA to make subgrants to local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, other public agencies, and private non-profit organizations to carry out activities authorized by those sections: Provided further, That, notwithstanding section 643(e)(2)(A) of the IDEA, if 5 or fewer States apply for grants pursuant to section 643(e) of such Act, the Secretary shall provide a grant to each State in an amount equal to the maximum amount described in section 643(e)(2)(B) of such Act: Provided further, That if more than 5 States apply for grants pursuant to section 643(e) of the IDEA, the Secretary shall award funds to those States on the basis of the States' relative populations of infants and toddlers except that no such State shall receive a grant in excess of the amount described in section

643(e)(2)(B) of such Act: Provided further, That States may use funds allotted under section 643(c) of the IDEA to make subgrants to local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, other public agencies, and private non-profit organizations to carry out activities authorized by section 638 of IDEA: Provided further, That, notwithstanding section 638 of the IDEA, a State may use funds it receives under section 633 of the IDEA to offer continued early intervention services to a child who previously received services under part C of the IDEA from age 3 until the beginning of the school year following the child's third birthday with parental consent and without regard to the procedures in section 635(c) of the IDEA.

REHABILITATION SERVICES

For carrying out, to the extent not otherwise provided, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Helen Keller National Center Act, \$4,397,033,000, of which \$4,253,834,000 shall be for grants for vocational rehabilitation services under title I of the Rehabilitation Act.

SPECIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND

For carrying out the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind of March 3, 1879, \$43,431,000.

NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

For the National Technical Institute for the Deaf under titles I and II of the Education of the Deaf Act of 1986, \$92,500,000: Provided, That from the total amount available, the Institute may at its discretion use funds for the endowment program as authorized under section 207 of such Act.

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

For the Kendall Demonstration Elementary School, the Model Secondary School for the Deaf, and the partial support of Gallaudet University under titles I and II of the Education of the Deaf Act of 1986, \$165,361,000, of which up to \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for construction, as defined by section 201(2) of such Act: Provided, That from the total amount available, the University may at its discretion use funds for the endowment program as authorized under section 207 of such Act.

CAREER, TECHNICAL, AND ADULT EDUCATION

For carrying out, to the extent not otherwise provided, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 ("Perkins Act") and the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act ("AEFLA"), \$2,191,436,000, of which \$1,400,436,000 shall become available on July 1, 2024, and shall remain available through September 30, 2025, and of which \$791,000,000 shall become available on October 1, 2024, and shall remain available through September 30, 2025: Provided, That \$25,000,000 shall be available for innovation and modernization grants under such section 114(e) of the Perkins Act: Provided further, That of the amounts made available for AEFLA, \$13,712,000 shall be for national leadership activities under section 242.

STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

For carrying out subparts 1 and 10 of part A of title IV of the HEA, \$22,475,352,000 which shall remain available through September 30, 2025.

The maximum Pell Grant for which a student shall be eligible during award year 2024–2025 shall be \$6,335.

STUDENT AID ADMINISTRATION

For Federal administrative expenses to carry out part D of title I, and subparts 1, 9, and 10 of part A, and parts B, D, and E of title IV of the HEA, and subpart 1 of part A of title VII of the Public Health Service Act, \$1,769,207,000, to remain available through September 30, 2025: Provided, That for student loan contracts awarded prior to October 1, 2017, the Secretary shall allow student loan borrowers who are con-

solidating Federal student loans to select from any student loan servicer to service their new consolidated student loan: Provided further, That in order to promote accountability and high-quality service to borrowers, the Secretary shall not award funding for any contract solicitation for a new Federal student loan servicing environment, including the solicitation for the Federal Student Aid (FSA) Next Generation Processing and Servicing Environment, unless such an environment provides for the participation of multiple student loan servicers that contract directly with the Department of Education to manage a unique portfolio of borrower accounts and the full life-cycle of loans from disbursement to pay-off with certain limited exceptions, and allocates student loan borrower accounts to eligible student loan servicers based on performance: Provided further, That the Secretary shall provide quarterly briefings to the Committees on Appropriations and Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate on general progress related to solicitations for Federal student loan servicing contracts: Provided further, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, FSA shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed spend plan of anticipated uses of funds made available in this account for fiscal year 2024 and provide quarterly updates on this plan (including contracts awarded, change orders, bonuses paid to staff, reorganization costs, and any other activity carried out using amounts provided under this heading for fiscal year 2024).

HIGHER EDUCATION

For carrying out, to the extent not otherwise provided, titles III, IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII of the HEA, and section 117 of the Perkins Act, \$2,767,239,000: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this Act to carry out title VI of the HEA may be used to support visits and study in foreign countries by individuals who are participating in advanced foreign language training and international studies in areas that are vital to United States national security and who plan to apply their language skills and knowledge of these countries in the fields of government, the professions, or international development: Provided further, That of the funds referred to in the preceding proviso up to 1 percent may be used for program evaluation, national outreach, and information dissemination activities: Provided further, That up to 1.5 percent of the funds made available under chapter 2 of subpart 2 of part A of title IV of the HEA may be used for evaluation: Provided further, That section 313(d) of the HEA shall not apply to an institution of higher education that is eligible to receive funding under section 318 of the HEA: Provided further, That of the funds made available under this Act to carry out part B of title III of the HEA, to supplement amounts otherwise available, not less than \$10,000,000 shall be for grants to part B institutions as defined under section 322(2) of the HEA, that are junior or community colleges, as defined in section 312(f) of the HEA: Provided further, That funds in the preceding proviso are in addition to any grant award that any such institution may receive under section 323 of such Act and shall be allocated in accordance with the allotments specified under section 324 of such Act.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

For partial support of Howard University, \$301,693,000, of which not less than \$3,405,000 shall be for a matching endowment grant pursuant to the Howard University Endowment Act and shall remain available until expended.

COLLEGE HOUSING AND ACADEMIC FACILITIES LOANS PROGRAM

For Federal administrative expenses to carry out activities related to existing facility loans pursuant to section 121 of the HEA, \$321,000.

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAPITAL FINANCING PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans, \$20,150,000, as authorized pursuant to part D of title III of the HEA, which shall remain available through September 30, 2025: 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: Provided further, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$377,340,824: Provided further, That these funds may be used to support loans to public and private Historically Black Colleges and Universities without regard to the limitations within section 344(a) of the HEA.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the Historically Black College and University Capital Financing Program entered into pursuant to part D of title III of the HEA, \$528,000.

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

For necessary expenses for the Institute of Education Sciences as authorized by section 208 of the Department of Education Organization Act and carrying out activities authorized by the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act, section 208 of the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002, and section 664 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, \$707,372,000, which shall remain available through September 30, 2025.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

For carrying out, to the extent not otherwise provided, the Department of Education Organization Act, including rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia and hire of three passenger motor vehicles, \$350,000,000: Provided, That none of the funds provided by this Act may be used to support a number of non-career employees that is above the number of non-career employees as of December 31, 2021.

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

For expenses necessary for the Office for Civil Rights, as authorized by section 203 of the Department of Education Organization Act, \$105,000,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General, as authorized by section 212 of the Department of Education Organization Act, \$60,000,000, of which \$3,000,000 shall be available through September 30, 2025.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. No funds appropriated in this Act may be used to prevent the implementation of programs of voluntary prayer and meditation in the public schools.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 302. Not to exceed 1 percent of any discretionary funds (pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985) which are appropriated for the Department of Education in this Act may be transferred between appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 3 percent by any such transfer: Provided, That the transfer authority granted by this section shall not be used to create any new program or to fund any project or activity for which no funds are provided in this Act: Provided further, That the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

SEC. 303. Funds appropriated in this Act and consolidated for evaluation purposes under section 8601(c) of the ESEA shall be available from July 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

SEC. 304. (a) An institution of higher education that maintains an endowment fund supported with funds appropriated for title III or V of the HEA for fiscal year 2024 may use the income from that fund to award scholarships to

students, subject to the limitation in section 331(c)(3)(B)(i) of the HEA. The use of such income for such purposes, prior to the enactment of this Act, shall be considered to have been an allowable use of that income, subject to that limitation.

(b) Subsection (a) shall be in effect until titles III and V of the HEA are reauthorized.

SEC. 305. Section 114(f) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1011c(f)) shall be applied by substituting “2024” for “2021”.

SEC. 306. Section 458(a)(4) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1087h(a)) shall be applied by substituting “2024” for “2021”.

SEC. 307. Funds appropriated in this Act under the heading “Student Aid Administration” may be available for payments for student loan servicing to an institution of higher education that services outstanding Federal Perkins Loans under part E of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087aa et seq.).

SEC. 308. The Secretary may reserve not more than 0.5 percent from any amount made available in this Act for an HEA program, except for any amounts made available for subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the HEA, to carry out rigorous and independent evaluations and to collect and analyze outcome data for any program authorized by the HEA: Provided, That no funds made available in this Act for the “Student Aid Administration” account shall be subject to the reservation under this section: Provided further, That any funds reserved under this section shall be available through September 30, 2026: Provided further, That if, under any other provision of law, funds are authorized to be reserved or used for evaluation activities with respect to a program or project, the Secretary may also reserve funds for such program or project for the purposes described in this section so long as the total reservation of funds for such program or project does not exceed any statutory limits on such reservations: Provided further, That not later than 30 days prior to the initial obligation of funds reserved under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives a plan that identifies the source and amount of funds reserved under this section, the impact on program grantees if funds are withheld for the purposes of this section, and the activities to be carried out with such funds.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 309. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act for “Institute of Education Sciences”, up to \$19,000,000 shall be available for the Secretary of Education (“the Secretary”) to provide support services to the Institute of Education Sciences (including, but not limited to information technology services, lease or procurement of office space, human resource services, financial management services, financial systems support, budget formulation and execution, legal counsel, equal employment opportunity services, physical security, facilities management, acquisition and contract management, grants administration and policy, and enterprise risk management): Provided, That the Secretary shall calculate the actual amounts obligated and expended for such support services by using a standard Department of Education methodology for allocating the cost of all such support services: Provided further, That the Secretary may transfer any amounts available for IES support services in excess of actual amounts needed for IES support services, as so calculated, to the “Program Administration” account from the “Institute of Education Sciences” account: Provided further, That in order to address any shortfall between amounts available for IES support services and amounts needed for IES support services, as so calculated, the Secretary may transfer necessary amounts to the “Insti-

tute of Education Sciences” account from the “Program Administration” account: Provided further, That the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 14 days in advance of any transfer made pursuant to this section.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 310. Of the unobligated balances in the “Department of Education Nonrecurring Expenses Fund” established in section 313 of division H of Public Law 116–260, \$29,000,000 are hereby rescinded not later than September 30, 2024: Provided, That from any remaining unobligated balances in such Fund, the Secretary may transfer up to \$45,325,000 to “Howard University” for completion of the Howard University hospital, to remain available until expended: Provided further, That, except as otherwise provided in this Act, none of the funds provided by this Act may be obligated for a new program, project, or activity using such Fund for which a notification was not submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate before the date of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That the Secretary may obligate funds from such Fund for any program, project, or activity for which a notification was submitted before the date of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That the Secretary may transfer amounts into such Fund: Provided further, That any amounts transferred into such Fund are available for the purposes provided by this section or for which a notification was submitted to such Committees on Appropriations before the date of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That the authority to transfer amounts under this section is in addition to any other transfer authority in law.

SEC. 311. (a) None of the funds made available by this title may be used to issue or implement as final rules the rules proposed by the Department of Education relating to title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681–1688) and described under the heading “Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance” (87 Fed. Reg. 41390; published July 12, 2022).

(b) None of the funds made available by this title may be used to issue or implement—

(1) as final rules the rules proposed by the Department of Education relating to title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681–1688) and described under the heading “Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance: Sex-Related Eligibility Criteria for Male and Female Athletic Teams” (88 Fed. Reg. 22860; published April 13, 2023), or

(2) any rule similar in substance to the proposed rules described in paragraph (1) that relates to eligibility criteria for participation on athletic teams.

SEC. 312. None of the funds made available under this Act may be provided to any public institution of higher education that denies to a religious student organization any right, benefit, or privilege that is otherwise afforded to other student organizations at the institution (including full access to the facilities of the institution and official recognition of the organization by the institution) because of the religious beliefs, practices, speech, leadership standards, or standards of conduct of the religious student organization.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 313. Of the amounts which are made available to “Department of Education—Education for the Disadvantaged” on October 1, 2023 by Public Law 117–328, \$8,671,399,000 are hereby rescinded.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 314. Of the amounts which are made available to “Department of Education—School Improvement Programs” on October 1, 2023 by

Public Law 117–328, \$1,681,441,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 315. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to—

(1) implement the waivers and modifications of statutory and regulatory provisions relating to an extension of the suspension of payments on certain loans and waivers of interest on such loans under section 3513 of the CARES Act (20 U.S.C. 1001 note), described by the Department of Education in the Federal Register on October 12, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 61513 et seq.), and most recently extended in the announcement by the Department of Education on November 22, 2022;

(2) take any substantially similar action; or

(3) waive any consequences of nonpayment by a borrower in repayment such as delinquency or default.

SEC. 316. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to—

(1) implement the modifications of statutory and regulatory provisions relating to debt discharge described by the Department of Education in the Federal Register on October 12, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 61514), or take any substantially similar action;

(2) issue a final rule or otherwise implement the proposed rule on “Improving Income-Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program” published by the Department of Education in the Federal Register on January 11, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 1894 et seq.), or take any substantially similar action; or

(3) implement, administer, or enforce parts 600, 668, and 685 of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations, (relating to borrower defense to repayment), as amended by the final regulations published by the Department of Education in the Federal Register on November 1, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 65904 et seq.) or take any substantially similar action.

SEC. 317. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide financial assistance to an educational institution that allows an individual whose sex is male to participate in an athletic program or activity that is designated for women or girls. For the purpose of this section, the term “sex” means the reproductive biology and genetics of an individual as determined solely at birth.

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

TITLE IV

RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (referred to in this title as “the Committee”) established under section 8502 of title 41, United States Code, \$13,124,000: Provided, That in order to authorize any central nonprofit agency designated pursuant to section 8503(c) of title 41, United States Code, to perform requirements of the Committee as prescribed under section 51–3.2 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations, the Committee shall enter into a written agreement with any such central nonprofit agency: Provided further, That such agreement shall contain such auditing, oversight, and reporting provisions as necessary to implement chapter 85 of title 41, United States Code: Provided further, That such agreement shall include the elements listed under the heading “Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled—Written Agreement Elements” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 of Public Law 114–113 (in the matter preceding division A of that consolidated Act): Provided further, That any such central nonprofit agency may not charge a fee under section 51–3.5 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations, prior to executing a written agreement with the Committee: Provided further, That no less than \$3,150,000 shall be available for the Office of Inspector General.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Corporation for National and Community Service (referred to in this title as “CNCS”) to carry out the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (referred to in this title as “1973 Act”) and the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (referred to in this title as “1990 Act”), \$593,347,000, notwithstanding sections 198B(b)(3), 198S(g), 501(a)(4)(C), and 501(a)(4)(F) of the 1990 Act: Provided, That of the amounts provided under this heading up to 1 percent of program grant funds may be used to defray the costs of conducting grant application reviews, including the use of outside peer reviewers and electronic management of the grants cycle: Provided further, That for the purposes of carrying out the 1990 Act, satisfying the requirements in section 122(c)(1)(D) may include a determination of need by the local community.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of administration as provided under section 501(a)(5) of the 1990 Act and under section 504(a) of the 1973 Act, including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, the employment of experts and consultants authorized under 5 U.S.C. 3109, and not to exceed \$2,500 for official reception and representation expenses, \$60,000,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$7,595,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. CNCS shall make any significant changes to program requirements, service delivery or policy only through public notice and comment rulemaking. For fiscal year 2024, during any grant selection process, an officer or employee of CNCS shall not knowingly disclose any covered grant selection information regarding such selection, directly or indirectly, to any person other than an officer or employee of CNCS that is authorized by CNCS to receive such information.

SEC. 402. AmeriCorps programs receiving grants under the National Service Trust program shall meet an overall minimum share requirement of 24 percent for the first 3 years that they receive AmeriCorps funding, and thereafter shall meet the overall minimum share requirement as provided in section 2521.60 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, without regard to the operating costs match requirement in section 121(e) or the member support Federal share limitations in section 140 of the 1990 Act, and subject to partial waiver consistent with section 2521.70 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 403. Donations made to CNCS under section 196 of the 1990 Act for the purposes of financing programs and operations under titles I and II of the 1973 Act or subtitle B, C, D, or E of title I of the 1990 Act shall be used to supplement and not supplant current programs and operations.

SEC. 404. In addition to the requirements in section 146(a) of the 1990 Act, use of an educational award for the purpose described in section 148(a)(4) shall be limited to individuals who are veterans as defined under section 101 of the Act.

SEC. 405. For the purpose of carrying out section 189D of the 1990 Act—

(1) entities described in paragraph (a) of such section shall be considered “qualified entities” under section 3 of the National Child Protection Act of 1993 (“NCPA”);

(2) individuals described in such section shall be considered “volunteers” under section 3 of NCPA; and

(3) State Commissions on National and Community Service established pursuant to section

178 of the 1990 Act, are authorized to receive criminal history record information, consistent with Public Law 92–544.

SEC. 406. Notwithstanding sections 139(b), 146 and 147 of the 1990 Act, an individual who successfully completes a term of service of not less than 1,200 hours during a period of not more than one year may receive a national service education award having a value of 70 percent of the value of a national service education award determined under section 147(a) of the Act.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 407. Of the unobligated balances available in the “National Service Trust” established in section 102 of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, \$243,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded, except that no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were previously designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (“Service”) to carry out the functions vested in it by the Labor-Management Relations Act, 1947, including hire of passenger motor vehicles; for expenses necessary for the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978; and for expenses necessary for the Service to carry out the functions vested in it by the Civil Service Reform Act, \$53,705,000: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, fees charged, up to full-cost recovery, for special training activities and other conflict resolution services and technical assistance, including those provided to foreign governments and international organizations, and for arbitration services shall be credited to and merged with this account, and shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That fees for arbitration services shall be available only for education, training, and professional development of the agency workforce: Provided further, That the Director of the Service is authorized to accept and use on behalf of the United States gifts of services and real, personal, or other property in the aid of any projects or functions within the Director’s jurisdiction.

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, \$18,012,000.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

OFFICE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES: GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

For carrying out the Museum and Library Services Act of 1996 and the National Museum of African American History and Culture Act, \$294,800,000.

MEDICAID AND CHIP PAYMENT AND ACCESS COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary to carry out section 1900 of the Social Security Act, \$9,405,000.

MEDICARE PAYMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary to carry out section 1805 of the Social Security Act, \$13,824,000, to be transferred to this appropriation from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the National Council on Disability as authorized by title IV of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, \$3,850,000.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the National Labor Relations Board to carry out the functions vested in it by the Labor-Management Relations Act, 1947, and other laws, \$200,000,000: Provided, That no part of this appropriation shall be available to organize or assist in organizing agricultural laborers or used in connection with investigations, hearings, directives, or orders concerning bargaining units composed of agricultural laborers as referred to in section 2(3) of the Act of July 5, 1935, and as amended by the Labor-Management Relations Act, 1947, and as defined in section 3(f) of the Act of June 25, 1938, and including in said definition employees engaged in the maintenance and operation of ditches, canals, reservoirs, and waterways when maintained or operated on a mutual, nonprofit basis and at least 95 percent of the water stored or supplied thereby is used for farming purposes.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 408. None of the funds provided by this Act or previous Acts making appropriations for the National Labor Relations Board may be used to issue any new administrative directive or regulation that would provide employees any means of voting through any electronic means in an election to determine a representative for the purposes of collective bargaining.

SEC. 409. No Federal funds may be made available to alter or affect the administration, implementation, or enforcement of the final rule entitled “Joint Employer Status Under the National Labor Relations Act” (86 Fed. Reg. 11184) and dated February 26, 2020.

NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of the Railway Labor Act, including emergency boards appointed by the President, \$15,113,000.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, \$15,449,000.

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For payment to the Dual Benefits Payments Account, authorized under section 15(d) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, \$8,000,000, which shall include amounts becoming available in fiscal year 2024 pursuant to section 224(c)(1)(B) of Public Law 98–76; and in addition, an amount, not to exceed 2 percent of the amount provided herein, shall be available proportional to the amount by which the product of recipients and the average benefit received exceeds the amount available for payment of vested dual benefits: Provided, That the total amount provided herein shall be credited in 12 approximately equal amounts on the first day of each month in the fiscal year.

FEDERAL PAYMENTS TO THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

For payment to the accounts established in the Treasury for the payment of benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act for interest earned on unnegotiated checks, \$150,000, to remain available through September 30, 2025, which shall be the maximum amount available for payment pursuant to section 417 of Public Law 98–76.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for the Railroad Retirement Board (“Board”) for administration of the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, \$103,000,000, to be derived in such amounts as determined by the Board from the railroad retirement accounts

and from moneys credited to the railroad unemployment insurance administration fund: Provided, That notwithstanding section 7(b)(9) of the Railroad Retirement Act this limitation may be used to hire attorneys only through the excepted service: Provided further, That the previous proviso shall not change the status under Federal employment laws of any attorney hired by the Railroad Retirement Board prior to January 1, 2013: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 7(b)(9) of the Railroad Retirement Act, this limitation may be used to hire students attending qualifying educational institutions or individuals who have recently completed qualifying educational programs using current excepted hiring authorities established by the Office of Personnel Management.

LIMITATION ON THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General for audit, investigatory and review activities, as authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, not more than \$14,000,000, to be derived from the railroad retirement accounts and railroad unemployment insurance account.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

PAYMENTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUNDS

For payment to the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, as provided under sections 201(m) and 1131(b)(2) of the Social Security Act, \$10,000,000.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAM

For carrying out titles XI and XVI of the Social Security Act, section 401 of Public Law 92-603, section 212 of Public Law 93-66, as amended, and section 405 of Public Law 95-216, including payment to the Social Security trust funds for administrative expenses incurred pursuant to section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act, \$45,455,426,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That any portion of the funds provided to a State in the current fiscal year and not obligated by the State during that year shall be returned to the Treasury: Provided further, That not more than \$97,000,000 shall be available for research and demonstrations under sections 1110, 1115, and 1144 of the Social Security Act, and remain available through September 30, 2026.

For making, after June 15 of the current fiscal year, benefit payments to individuals under title XVI of the Social Security Act, for unanticipated costs incurred for the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary.

For making benefit payments under title XVI of the Social Security Act for the first quarter of fiscal year 2025, \$21,700,000,000, to remain available until expended.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses, including the hire and purchase of two passenger motor vehicles, and not to exceed \$20,000 for official reception and representation expenses, not more than \$11,951,978,000 may be expended, as authorized by section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act, from any one or all of the trust funds referred to in such section: Provided, That not less than \$2,700,000 shall be for the Social Security Advisory Board: Provided further, That unobligated balances of funds provided under this paragraph at the end of fiscal year 2024 not needed for fiscal year 2024 shall remain available until expended to invest in the Social Security Administration information technology and telecommunications hardware and software infrastructure, including related equipment and non-payroll administrative expenses associated solely with this information technology and telecommunications infrastructure: Provided further, That the Commissioner of Social Security shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate

prior to making unobligated balances available under the authority in the previous proviso: Provided further, That reimbursement to the trust funds under this heading for expenditures for official time for employees of the Social Security Administration pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 7131, and for facilities or support services for labor organizations pursuant to policies, regulations, or procedures referred to in section 7135(b) of such title shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury, with interest, from amounts in the general fund not otherwise appropriated, as soon as possible after such expenditures are made.

In addition, \$1,851,000,000 may be expended, as authorized by section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act, from any one or all of the trust funds referred to in such section, to remain available through March 31, 2025, for the costs associated with continuing disability reviews under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act, including work-related continuing disability reviews to determine whether earnings derived from services demonstrate an individual's ability to engage in substantial gainful activity, for the costs associated with conducting redeterminations of eligibility under title XVI of the Social Security Act, for the costs of co-operative disability investigation units, and for the costs associated with the prosecution of fraud in the programs and operations of the Social Security Administration by Special Assistant United States Attorneys: Provided, That, of such amount, \$273,000,000 is provided to meet the terms of section 251(b)(2)(B)(ii)(III) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, and \$1,578,000,000 is additional new budget authority specified for purposes of section 251(b)(2)(B)(i)(XI) of such Act: Provided further, That, of the additional new budget authority described in the preceding proviso, \$18,000,000 may be transferred to the "Office of Inspector General", Social Security Administration, for the costs of jointly operated co-operative disability investigation units: Provided further, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: Provided further, That the Commissioner shall provide to the Congress (at the conclusion of the fiscal year) a report on the obligation and expenditure of these funds, similar to the reports that were required by section 103(d)(2) of Public Law 104-121 for fiscal years 1996 through 2002: Provided further, That none of the funds described in this paragraph shall be available for transfer or reprogramming except as specified in this paragraph.

In addition, \$150,000,000 to be derived from administration fees in excess of \$5.00 per supplementary payment collected pursuant to section 1616(d) of the Social Security Act or section 212(b)(3) of Public Law 93-66, which shall remain available until expended: Provided, That to the extent that the amounts collected pursuant to such sections in fiscal year 2024 exceed \$150,000,000, the amounts shall be available in fiscal year 2025 only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts.

In addition, up to \$1,000,000 to be derived from fees collected pursuant to section 303(c) of the Social Security Protection Act, which shall remain available until expended.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$32,000,000, together with not to exceed \$82,665,000, to be transferred and expended as authorized by section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act from the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund: Provided, That \$2,000,000 shall remain available until expended for information technology modernization, including related hardware and software infrastructure and equipment, and for administrative expenses directly associated with information technology modernization.

In addition, an amount not to exceed 3 percent of the total provided in this appropriation may be transferred from the "Limitation on Administrative Expenses", Social Security Administration, to be merged with this account, to be available for the time and purposes for which this account is available: Provided, That notice of such transfers shall be transmitted promptly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

TITLE V GENERAL PROVISIONS (TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 501. The Secretaries of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education are authorized to transfer unexpended balances of prior appropriations to accounts corresponding to current appropriations provided in this Act. Such transferred balances shall be used for the same purpose, and for the same periods of time, for which they were originally appropriated.

SEC. 502. 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. 503. (a) No part of any appropriation contained in this Act or transferred pursuant to section 4002 of Public Law 111-148 shall be used, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships, for publicity or propaganda purposes, for the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, electronic communication, radio, television, or video presentation designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before the Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body, except in presentation to the Congress or any State or local legislature itself, or designed to support or defeat any proposed or pending regulation, administrative action, or order issued by the executive branch of any State or local government, except in presentation to the executive branch of any State or local government itself.

(b) No part of any appropriation contained in this Act or transferred pursuant to section 4002 of Public Law 111-148 shall be used to pay the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment of legislation, appropriations, regulation, administrative action, or Executive order proposed or pending before the Congress or any State government, State legislature or local legislature or legislative body, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships or participation by an agency or officer of a State, local or tribal government in policymaking and administrative processes within the executive branch of that government.

(c) The prohibitions in subsections (a) and (b) shall include any activity to advocate or promote any proposed, pending or future Federal, State or local tax increase, or any proposed, pending, or future requirement or restriction on any legal consumer product, including its sale or marketing, including but not limited to the advocacy or promotion of gun control.

SEC. 504. The Secretaries of Labor and Education are authorized to make available not to exceed \$28,000 and \$20,000, respectively, from funds available for salaries and expenses under titles I and III, respectively, for official reception and representation expenses; the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service is authorized to make available for official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$5,000 from the funds available for "Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, Salaries and Expenses"; and the Chairman of the National Mediation Board is authorized to make available for official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$5,000 from funds available for "National Mediation Board, Salaries and Expenses".

SEC. 505. When issuing statements, press releases, requests for proposals, bid solicitations

and other documents describing projects or programs funded in whole or in part with Federal money, all grantees receiving Federal funds included in this Act, including but not limited to State and local governments and recipients of Federal research grants, shall clearly state—

(1) the percentage of the total costs of the program or project which will be financed with Federal money;

(2) the dollar amount of Federal funds for the project or program; and

(3) percentage and dollar amount of the total costs of the project or program that will be financed by non-governmental sources.

SEC. 506. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act, and none of the funds in any trust fund to which funds are appropriated in this Act, shall be expended for any abortion.

(b) None of the funds appropriated in this Act, and none of the funds in any trust fund to which funds are appropriated in this Act, shall be expended for health benefits coverage that includes coverage of abortion.

(c) The term “health benefits coverage” means the package of services covered by a managed care provider or organization pursuant to a contract or other arrangement.

SEC. 507. (a) The limitations established in the preceding section shall not apply to an abortion—

(1) if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or

(2) in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

(b) Nothing in the preceding section shall be construed as prohibiting the expenditure by a State, locality, entity, or private person of State, local, or private funds (other than a State's or locality's contribution of Medicaid matching funds).

(c) Nothing in the preceding section shall be construed as restricting the ability of any managed care provider from offering abortion coverage or the ability of a State or locality to contract separately with such a provider for such coverage with State funds (other than a State's or locality's contribution of Medicaid matching funds).

(d)(1) None of the funds made available in this Act may be made available to a Federal agency or program, or to a State or local government, if such agency, program, or government subjects any institutional or individual health care entity to discrimination on the basis that the health care entity does not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions.

(2) In this subsection, the term “health care entity” includes an individual physician or other health care professional, a hospital, a provider-sponsored organization, a health maintenance organization, a health insurance plan, or any other kind of health care facility, organization, or plan.

SEC. 508. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for—

(1) the creation of a human embryo or embryos for research purposes; or

(2) research in which a human embryo or embryos are destroyed, discarded, or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death greater than that allowed for research on fetuses in utero under 45 CFR 46.204(b) and section 498(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 289g(b)).

(b) For purposes of this section, the term “human embryo or embryos” includes any organism, not protected as a human subject under 45 CFR 46 as of the date of the enactment of this Act, that is derived by fertilization, parthenogenesis, cloning, or any other means from one or more human gametes or human diploid cells.

SEC. 509. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any activity that

promotes the legalization of any drug or other substance included in schedule I of the schedules of controlled substances established under section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act except for normal and recognized executive-congressional communications.

(b) The limitation in subsection (a) shall not apply when there is significant medical evidence of a therapeutic advantage to the use of such drug or other substance or that federally sponsored clinical trials are being conducted to determine therapeutic advantage.

SEC. 510. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to promulgate or adopt any final standard under section 1173(b) of the Social Security Act providing for, or providing for the assignment of, a unique health identifier for an individual (except in an individual's capacity as an employer or a health care provider), until legislation is enacted specifically approving the standard.

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated or expended to enter into or renew a contract with an entity if—

(1) such entity is otherwise a contractor with the United States and is subject to the requirement in 38 U.S.C. 4212(d) regarding submission of an annual report to the Secretary of Labor concerning employment of certain veterans; and

(2) such entity has not submitted a report as required by that section for the most recent year for which such requirement was applicable to such entity.

SEC. 512. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriation Act.

SEC. 513. None of the funds made available by this Act to carry out the Library Services and Technology Act may be made available to any library covered by paragraph (1) of section 224(f) of such Act, as amended by the Children's Internet Protection Act, unless such library has made the certifications required by paragraph (4) of such section.

SEC. 514. (a) None of the funds provided under this Act, or provided under previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2024, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates new programs;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted;

(4) relocates an office or employees;

(5) reorganizes or renames offices;

(6) reorganizes programs or activities; or

(7) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees;

unless the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are consulted 15 days in advance of such reprogramming or of an announcement of intent relating to such reprogramming, whichever occurs earlier, and are notified in writing 10 days in advance of such reprogramming.

(b) None of the funds provided under this Act, or provided under previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2024, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, that—

(1) augments existing programs, projects (including construction projects), or activities;

(2) reduces by 10 percent funding for any existing program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent as approved by Congress; or

(3) results from any general savings from a reduction in personnel which would result in a change in existing programs, activities, or projects as approved by Congress; unless the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are consulted 15 days in advance of such reprogramming or of an announcement of intent relating to such reprogramming, whichever occurs earlier, and are notified in writing 10 days in advance of such reprogramming.

SEC. 515. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to request that a candidate for appointment to a Federal scientific advisory committee disclose the political affiliation or voting history of the candidate or the position that the candidate holds with respect to political issues not directly related to and necessary for the work of the committee involved.

(b) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to disseminate information that is deliberately false or misleading.

SEC. 516. Within 45 days of enactment of this Act, each department and related agency funded through this Act shall submit an operating plan that details at the program, project, and activity level any funding allocations for fiscal year 2024 that are different than those specified in this Act, the accompanying detailed table in the Explanatory Materials, or the fiscal year 2024 budget request.

SEC. 517. The Secretaries of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education shall each prepare and submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the number and amount of contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements exceeding \$500,000, individually or in total for a particular project, activity, or programmatic initiative, in value and awarded by the Department on a non-competitive basis during each quarter of fiscal year 2024, but not to include grants awarded on a formula basis or directed by law. Such report shall include the name of the contractor or grantee, the amount of funding, the governmental purpose, including a justification for issuing the award on a non-competitive basis. Such report shall be transmitted to the Committees within 30 days after the end of the quarter for which the report is submitted.

SEC. 518. None of the funds appropriated in this Act shall be expended or obligated by the Commissioner of Social Security, for purposes of administering Social Security benefit payments under title II of the Social Security Act, to process any claim for credit for a quarter of coverage based on work performed under a social security account number that is not the claimant's number and the performance of such work under such number has formed the basis for a conviction of the claimant of a violation of section 208(a)(6) or (7) of the Social Security Act.

SEC. 519. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used by the Commissioner of Social Security or the Social Security Administration to pay the compensation of employees of the Social Security Administration to administer Social Security benefit payments, under any agreement between the United States and Mexico establishing totalization arrangements between the social security system established by title II of the Social Security Act and the social security system of Mexico, which would not otherwise be payable but for such agreement.

SEC. 520. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(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.

SEC. 521. For purposes of carrying out Executive Order 13589, Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-12-12 dated May 11, 2012, and requirements contained in the annual appropriations bills relating to conference attendance and expenditures:

(1) the operating divisions of HHS shall be considered independent agencies; and

(2) attendance at and support for scientific conferences shall be tabulated separately from and not included in agency totals.

SEC. 522. Federal agencies funded under this Act shall clearly state within the text, audio, or video used for advertising or educational purposes, including emails or Internet postings, that the communication is printed, published, or produced and disseminated at United States taxpayer expense. The funds used by a Federal agency to carry out this requirement shall be derived from amounts made available to the agency for advertising or other communications regarding the programs and activities of the agency.

SEC. 523. (a) Federal agencies may use Federal discretionary funds that are made available in this Act to carry out up to 10 Performance Partnership Pilots. Such Pilots shall be governed by the provisions of section 526 of division H of Public Law 113-76, except that in carrying out such Pilots section 526 shall be applied by substituting “Fiscal Year 2024” for “Fiscal Year 2014” in the title of subsection (b) and by substituting “September 30, 2028” for “September 30, 2018” each place it appears: Provided, That such pilots shall include communities that have experienced civil unrest.

(b) In addition, Federal agencies may use Federal discretionary funds that are made available in this Act to participate in Performance Partnership Pilots that are being carried out pursuant to the authority provided by section 526 of division H of Public Law 113-76, section 524 of division G of Public Law 113-235, section 525 of division H of Public Law 114-113, section 525 of division H of Public Law 115-31, section 525 of division H of Public Law 115-141, section 524 of division A of Public Law 116-94, section 524 of division H of Public Law 116-260, and section 523 of division H of Public Law 117-103.

(c) Pilot sites selected under authorities in this Act and prior appropriations Acts may be granted by relevant agencies up to an additional 5 years to operate under such authorities.

SEC. 524. Not later than 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter, beginning with the first month of fiscal year 2024 the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education and the Social Security Administration shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate a report on the status of balances of appropriations: Provided, That for balances that are unobligated and uncommitted, committed, and obligated but unexpended, the monthly reports shall separately identify the amounts attributable to each source year of appropriation (beginning with fiscal year 2012, or, to the extent feasible, earlier fiscal years) from which balances were derived.

SEC. 525. The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a comprehensive list of any new or competitive grant award notifications, including supplements, issued at the discretion of such Departments not less than 3 full business days before any entity selected to receive a grant award is announced by the Department or its offices (other than emergency response grants at any time of the year or for grant awards made during the last 10 business days of the fiscal year, or if applicable, of the program year).

SEC. 526. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no funds appropriated in this Act shall be used to purchase sterile needles or syringes for the hypodermic injection of any ille-

gal drug: Provided, That such limitation does not apply to the use of funds for elements of a program other than making such purchases if the relevant State or local health department, in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, determines that the State or local jurisdiction, as applicable, is experiencing, or is at risk for, a significant increase in hepatitis infections or an HIV outbreak due to injection drug use, and such program is operating in accordance with State and local law.

SEC. 527. (a) Each department and related agency funded through this Act shall provide substantive answers to questions submitted for the record by members of any congressional committee within 45 business days after receipt.

(b) There is rescinded an amount equal to \$1,000 for each day of the noncompliance period described in subsection (c) from an account listed in subsection (d).

(c) The noncompliance period under subsection (b) means the period beginning on the first day following the failure to comply with the deadline described in subsection (a) and ending on the date on which the department or agency becomes compliant.

(d) Any rescission under subsection (b) shall be from the applicable following account of the noncompliant department or agency:

(1) “Department of Health and Human Services—Office of the Secretary—General Departmental Management”

(2) “Department of Labor—Departmental Management—Salaries and Expenses”

(3) “Department of Education—Departmental Management—Program Administration”

SEC. 528. Of amounts deposited in the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund under section 2104(n)(2) of the Social Security Act and the income derived from investment of those funds pursuant to section 2104(n)(2)(C) of that Act, \$13,493,000,000 shall not be available for obligation in this fiscal year.

SEC. 529. (a) This section applies to: (1) the Administration for Children and Families in the Department of Health and Human Services; and (2) the Chief Evaluation Office and the statistical-related cooperative and interagency agreements and contracting activities of the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the Department of Labor.

(b) Amounts made available under this Act which are either appropriated, allocated, advanced on a reimbursable basis, or transferred to the functions and organizations identified in subsection (a) for research, evaluation, or statistical purposes shall be available for obligation through September 30, 2028: Provided, That when an office referenced in subsection (a) receives research and evaluation funding from multiple appropriations, such offices may use a single Treasury account for such activities, with funding advanced on a reimbursable basis.

(c) Amounts referenced in subsection (b) that are unexpended at the time of completion of a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement may be deobligated and shall immediately become available and may be reobligated in that fiscal year or the subsequent fiscal year for the research, evaluation, or statistical purposes for which such amounts are available.

SEC. 530. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any program, project, or activity that promotes or advances Critical Race Theory or any concept associated with Critical Race Theory.

SEC. 531. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to implement, administer, apply, enforce, or carry out Executive Order 13985 of January 20, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 7009, relating to advancing racial equity and support for underserved 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), or Executive Order 14091 of February 16, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 10825 relating to further advancing racial equity and support for under-

served communities through the federal government).

SEC. 532. None of the funds made available by this Act may be made available 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 regime of Nicolás Maduro Moros, or any other country determined by the Secretary of State to be a foreign adversary.

SEC. 533. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used, either directly or indirectly, to conduct or support any gain-of-function research involving a potential pandemic pathogen by any country determined by the Secretary of State to be a foreign adversary including 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, or the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela under the regime of Nicolás Maduro Moros.

SEC. 534. 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. 535. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, apply, enforce, or carry out any diversity, equity, and inclusion office, program, or training.

SEC. 536. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce Executive Order 14076 (Protecting Access to Reproductive Healthcare Services) or Executive Order 14079 (Securing Access to Reproductive and Other Healthcare Services).

SEC. 537. (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 or an entitlement to Federal property, facilities, educational institutions, speech fora (including traditional, limited, and nonpublic 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).

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 538. Of the unobligated balances in the “Nonrecurring Expenses Fund” established in section 111(a) of division B of Public Law 116–93, \$11,000,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

(RESCISSION)

SEC. 539. Of the unobligated balances available in Public Law 117–169, \$9,774,000,000 available under section 10301(1)(A)(iii) as of the date of the enactment of this Act are permanently rescinded.

SEC. 540. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretaries of Labor, Health and Human Services, or Education, the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, or the head of any other agency funded in this Act to fly or display a flag over a federal facility other than the flag of the United States; the flag of a State, territory, or the District of Columbia; the flag of an Indian Tribal Government; the official flag of a U.S. Department or agency; or the POW/MIA flag.

SEC. 541. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act, and none of the funds in any trust fund to which funds are appropriated in this Act, shall be made available to a hospital or any other entity that administers any postgraduate physician training program, or any other program of training in the health professions, that provides training in the performance of, or assisting in the performance of, induced abortions, or in counseling or referrals for such abortions, if such program—

(1) provides or requires such training for any participant in such program without the participant first voluntarily electing to opt-in to undergo such training; or

(2) subjects any participant in such program to discrimination on the basis that the participant does not—

(A) voluntarily elect to opt-in to undergo such training; or

(B) perform, assist in the performance of, or provide counseling or referrals for, such abortions.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit training described in subsection (a) that is not otherwise allowed by law.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 542. This Act may be cited as the “Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024”.

The CHAIR. All points of order against provisions of the bill, as amended, are waived.

No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 118–272, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of House Resolution 864, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of House Resolution 864.

Each further amendment printed in part B of House Report 118–272 may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by the Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of

House Resolution 864, 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 part B of House Report 118–272 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 respective designees, shall not be subjected to amendment, except as provided by section 4 of House Resolution 864, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. ADERHOLT OF ALABAMA

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 864, I offer amendments en bloc.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 1 consisting of amendment Nos. 3, 5, 7, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 37, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 56, 57, 59, 60, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 79, and 141, printed in part B of House Report 118–272, offered by Mr. ADERHOLT of Alabama:

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL OF NEW JERSEY

Page 28, line 21, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 128, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 128, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 128, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. HARRIS OF MARYLAND

Page 49, line 5, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$9,500,000)”.

Page 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MS. CARAVEO OF COLORADO

Page 53, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$35,000,000) (increased by \$35,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 66, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

Page 56, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF WEST VIRGINIA

Page 57, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. PFLUGER OF TEXAS

Page 57, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,500,000) (increased by \$1,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 57, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL OF NEW JERSEY

Page 57, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. GALLAGHER OF WISCONSIN

Page 58, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 58, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 63, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000) (reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

Page 63, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000) (increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 64, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MS. PEREZ OF WASHINGTON

Page 64, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MS. CARAVEO OF COLORADO

Page 65, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 65, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MS. BARRAGÁN OF CALIFORNIA

Page 67, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MR. STEIL OF WISCONSIN

Page 68, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$19,000,000)”.

Page 71, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$18,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MS. BALINT OF VERMONT

Page 71, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,953,000) (increased by \$1,953,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 71, line 12, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000) (reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 42 OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 71, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 43 OFFERED BY MS. CARAVEO OF COLORADO

Page 71, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,000,000) (increased by \$7,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MR. BARR OF KENTUCKY

Page 73, line 4, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$8,000,000)”.

Page 74, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$8,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 45 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 73, line 4, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 46 OFFERED BY MS. PETTERSEN OF COLORADO

Page 73, line 4, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 47 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 73, line 21, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000) (reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 48 OFFERED BY MR. STEUBE OF FLORIDA

Page 79, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000) (increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 49 OFFERED BY MRS. RAMIREZ OF ILLINOIS

Page 81, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 50 OFFERED BY MR. CISCOMANI OF ARIZONA

Page 84, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$750,000,000) (increased by \$750,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 51 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

Page 84, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000) (increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 52 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 89, line 21, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000) (reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 53 OFFERED BY MR. DUNN OF FLORIDA

Page 93, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$400,000,000) (increased by \$400,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 56 OFFERED BY MR. HUDSON OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 96, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 57 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

Page 96, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$196,000,000) (increased by \$196,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 59 OFFERED BY MRS. HOUCIN OF INDIANA

Page 128, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 60 OFFERED BY MRS. HOUCIN OF INDIANA

Page 128, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 64 OFFERED BY MR. DAVID SCOTT OF GEORGIA

Page 132, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$15,000,000) (increased by \$15,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 65 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 134, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 66 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 134, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 67 OFFERED BY MR. STEIL OF WISCONSIN

Page 134, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 134, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 145, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 68 OFFERED BY MR. MCGARVEY OF KENTUCKY

Page 138, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000) (reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 72 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 142, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 73 OFFERED BY MS. MOORE OF WISCONSIN

Page 142, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 74 OFFERED BY MRS. RAMIREZ OF ILLINOIS

Page 142, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 75 OFFERED BY MRS. RAMIREZ OF ILLINOIS

Page 142, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 77 OFFERED BY MR. LAWLER OF NEW YORK

Page 145, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$105,000,000) (reduced by \$105,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 79 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 167, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000) (reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 141 OFFERED BY MR. SCHWEIKERT OF ARIZONA

Page 66, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) each will control 10 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan amendments

submitted by myself and my friend Congressman COSTA which would transfer \$1 million from the HHS Secretary's general department management account to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke to begin to design the infrastructure for the Pediatric-Onset Epilepsies Consortium.

The Consortium would enable cooperative research studies, accelerate the development of knowledge about the epilepsies, and rapidly advance therapeutic options and their implementation to improve treatments and healthcare outcomes.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Epilepsy Caucus, along with Congressman COSTA, I am proud to offer this bipartisan amendment to support millions of Americans with epilepsy.

Just to give you a few statistics. More than 3.4 million individuals and their families are affected by epilepsy in the U.S. today, with nearly 500,000 children having epilepsy in the United States. One in 26 individuals will be diagnosed with epilepsy during their lifetime.

As November is Epilepsy Awareness Month, we must continue to build awareness around epilepsy, reduce the stigma applied to it, and educate the public and physicians on epilepsy disorders.

I thank Representative COSTA for his support and co-leading this amendment. This is personal to me, as I have a child who has dealt with epilepsy now for close to 16 years and is doing well, but I want other individuals from across the country to do well also.

Mr. Chair, I encourage a “yes” vote on the amendment.

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

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the amendments en bloc, and in support of the amendment with regard to the CDC ALS registry, which increases the funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, ALS, Registry.

I cannot talk about ALS without acknowledging the remarkable Ady Barkan, who died earlier this month. ALS is a cruel disease. Ady and Brian Wallach, who continues his own battle against ALS, are two of the amazing advocates who are changing the face of medical advocacy in this country. I support this amendment in their honor.

The ALS Registry collects and analyzes information about persons with ALS in the United States. It advances our understanding of the disease. With approximately 30,000 participants, the ALS Registry has provided crucial information to guide future research.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS), the chair of Subcommittee on Agricultural and also a member of our Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer amendment No. 5 included in the en bloc, to increase our investment in the health workforce and to decrease spending for the Office of the Secretary of HHS, who has driven this historic health workforce shortage.

In December of 2020, Congress passed the No Surprises Act, which was the result of a yearslong effort to ban surprise medical bills in a way that both takes the patient out of the middle and sets up a fair process for the provider and payer to negotiate the resulting bill.

Unfortunately, the administration has implemented the policy in such a way that has tilted the scales in favor of the big insurance companies at every possible turn.

Historically, Medicare has reimbursed physicians for their services at a lower rate than private insurance, which is why many providers don't even accept Medicare. In fact, 42 percent of psychiatrists don't accept Medicare patients. Most providers rely on private insurance to keep their practices open.

Now, due to the botched implementation of the No Surprises Act, private insurance companies are paying the same or less than Medicare, which, as we unfortunately predicted, is forcing doctors to close their practices and decrease access to patient care.

Someone told me a long time ago, if you are losing money on every patient, you can't make up for it on volume. The fact of the matter is that the Secretary is not enforcing the No Surprises Act as written.

Once an out-of-network bill is generated, we set up a 30-30-30-day timeline. The doctor and insurance company have 30 days to agree on a payment amount, or else either side can initiate the arbitration process. The arbiter has 30 days to determine the appropriate payment, and then the insurance company has 30 days to pay the provider.

This timeline is simply not happening in a majority of cases. On average, it takes 236 days for a payment dispute to be resolved and paid. A recent survey found that after arbitration, 52 percent of the insurance companies aren't making payments at all.

Unfortunately, the Secretary has implemented this policy poorly and without serious enforcement. As a result, doctors are leaving the workforce in droves. Forcing doctors to provide care for which they may never receive payment is unsustainable.

Because the Secretary is perpetuating the healthcare workforce shortage, this amendment would decrease the Office of the Secretary of HHS and increase the top line of the HRSA Health Workforce accounts.

Mr. Chair, I urge all Members to support this amendment, which would penalize the Secretary for driving the health workforce shortage.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN).

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this bipartisan en bloc, which includes my amendment to increase funding for the Research Endowment Program at the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities.

This program has bipartisan support. Earlier this year, Democrats and Republicans called for an increase in funding through a letter I led to House Appropriations.

My colleague Representative BUDDY CARTER in the House and Senator CASSIDY in the Senate worked hard in the last Congress to pass my bill, the John Lewis NIMHD Research Endowment Revitalization Act. It was signed into law, but now we need to increase the funding to this program so schools like Charles R. Drew University, Moorehouse School of Medicine, and many others, can continue to conduct critical research into minority health disparities. Increased funding will support existing and new grantees.

Mr. Chair, I urge support for my amendment so we can fund research to reduce health disparities and save lives.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise to support another amendment in the en bloc.

This is the Congressman GOTTHEIMER's amendment with regard to safe school drinking water. I rise in support of the amendment, and I thank the Representative for sponsoring the amendment and allowing this time to talk about the importance of safe drinking water at schools.

Children are more susceptible to lead exposure because their bodies are still rapidly developing. Approximately 400,000 schools and childcare centers are served by a lead service line or pipes and other fixtures.

Let me be clear. There is no amount of lead that can be tolerated in the body. We know what happened in Flint, Michigan. Thousands of children were lead poisoned.

I met most recently with medical staff who was trying to work with these children, because of their brain, their slow development, et cetera, all as a result of a political decision allowing for the contamination of water with lead and lead poisoning so many thousands of children in Flint, Michigan.

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That is why clean and safe drinking water at schools is so critically important. That is our responsibility. The CDC funding allows health departments to develop partnerships with schools, daycare facilities, and early childhood education centers to strengthen blood lead testing reporting and link lead-exposed children to recommended services. The earlier they get their services, the more likely they are to be able to grow and thrive.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this en bloc amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 864, I rise in support of the En Bloc Amendment incorporating the Jackson Lee Amendments No. 24 and No. 51 to H.R. 5894—Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

I thank my colleagues on the Rules Committee for making in order Jackson Lee Amendment No. 24 and No. 51 and for including them in the bipartisan En Bloc Amendment.

The Jackson Lee Amendments No. 24 and No. 51 are potentially life altering amendments in an unfortunate and distracting appropriations bill.

The Jackson Lee Amendment No. 24 as incorporated into En Bloc Amendment is an important amendment that seeks to increase and decrease by \$2 million the National Cancer Institute in order to research triple negative breast cancer.

Breast cancer accounts for 12.5 percent of all new annual cancer cases worldwide, making it the most common cancer in the world.

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

There are few people in this country whose lives have not been touched by breast cancer.

Yet, there are persistent disparities in breast cancer incidence and death rates.

Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States for Black and Hispanic women.

Black women are more likely to die from breast cancer than women of any other racial or ethnic group.

Experts believe that it's partially because about 1 in 5 Black women is diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer, more than any other racial or ethnic group.

Compared with non-Hispanic white women, Black women are less likely to receive guideline adherent care and have an approximate 2-fold higher mortality incidence, resulting in a disproportionately higher risk of death from Triple Negative Breast Cancer.

Triple Negative Breast Cancer ("TNBC") is one of many forms of breast cancer and accounts for about 15 to 30 percent of all diagnosed invasive breast cancer cases in the United States.

Due to its aggressive behavior, TNBC grows quickly and is more likely to have spread at the time it is found and is more likely to come back after treatment than other types of breast cancer.

TNBC cells do not contain (are "negative for") three key receptors that medicines typically target in other types of breast cancers; therefore, there are limited treatment options that can be used to treat the cancer.

Patients with an early diagnosis can often be treated with chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery; however, the limited therapies available specifically addressing the management of TNBC has made treating this disease a challenge for clinicians.

Recent innovation in targeted therapies have fueled advances in the fight against TNBC.

Advances in breast cancer screening and treatment over the last few decades have reduced the overall breast cancer mortality rate, yet the disproportionate impact of TNBC on racial and ethnic minority communities raises considerations about the underlying determinants driving the disparities.

It is necessary to promote TNBC education, raise awareness about the disease-related disparities, and tackle inequities within the health care delivery such as inadequate access to screening, diagnostic testing, and care, to improve early detection and survival.

The Jackson Lee Amendment No. 24 would allow for more research so we can one day hopefully learn a way to reduce the number of Americans affected by breast cancer.

Additionally, I have introduced H.R. 225, the Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Research and Education Act of 2023, which focuses on expanding, intensifying, and coordinating programs for the conduct and support of research on triple-negative breast cancer, a type of breast cancer that is difficult to detect but disproportionately impacts African American and Hispanic women.

The Jackson Lee Amendment No. 51 as incorporated into En Bloc Amendment is an important amendment that seeks to increase and decrease by \$2 million the Head Start Act, including Head Start partnerships.

I think we can all agree children are our future and that we should invest to make our future better and brighter.

As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am extremely passionate about the wellbeing and education of children.

One of the objectives of the Congressional Children's Caucus is to ensure that all the children in this country have an opportunity to receive an education, including early childhood development.

Head Start helps all children succeed, especially vulnerable children.

If we continue to underfund education in the United States our children will suffer, we will dismantle public education, and we will be weaker as a nation.

This legislation would kick teachers out of classrooms.

The United States is already in a teacher shortage and this bill would cut another 22,300 teachers from Texas schools due to cuts from Title 1.

This bill would severely impact teachers and students all over the state of Texas, where the Texas Education Agency has already decided to unnecessarily takeover Houston ISD.

Houston ISD is the largest school district in the state, with a student population of more than 200,000, according to a breakdown by the Texas Tribune.

A TEA takeover would have a negative impact on each Independent School District (ISD) because a board of managers are not elected, and they don't have to answer to the constituents in those districts.

State takeovers in other districts have led to school closures, layoffs, and no improvements in test scores.

The vast majority of school districts that have been taken over by state agencies (TEA included) have not improved but declined.

TEA has no experience managing a district of 200k plus scholars and we should not suffer as the guinea pigs.

Texas is behind the national average of how much the state spends per student in the classroom.

More specifically, data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that Texas spends \$3,000 less than the national average.

We have to stop the State from intermeddling and overstepping into our educational systems—causing further harm and damage to our communities.

This legislation will make cuts to schools and communities that are already suffering.

With the pandemic, burnout and the rise in the cost of living, teachers are already struggling, and this bill will only add to that.

Without the support of our teachers, students will be left behind.

I recognize that we are in the midst of austere budgetary and political times, however, we cannot continue to ignore the return on investment that advanced developments in health research and education will yield to the American public.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan En Bloc Amendment incorporating my amendment, the Jackson Lee Amendments No. 24 and No. 51.

While the negatives of this appropriations bill disappointingly outweigh my positive amendments, I respectfully ask my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment notwithstanding my strong opposition and encouragement to vote down the underlying bill.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF ILLINOIS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 118–272.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 23, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$536,922,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment to defund Joe Biden's radical Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Under Joe Biden, OSHA attempted to fire 84 million Americans if they didn't take an experimental vaccine or show their private medical documents to their employer.

The Supreme Court had to step in and tell Joe Biden he did not have the authority to force Big Pharma's experimental vaccine on the American people.

It shouldn't take the Supreme Court to stop OSHA from attempting to force an experimental vaccine on 84 million Americans.

I had the opportunity to question the OSHA Assistant Secretary during an Education and the Workforce Committee hearing. I asked him if he

agreed with the court decision and would commit to never attempting to force a vaccine mandate again. He refused.

We must rein in OSHA, which is exactly what this amendment does.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

For over 50 years, the mission of the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has been to assure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women by setting and enforcing standards by providing training, outreach, education, and assistance.

OSHA is responsible for making sure employers provide safe workplaces. Since OSHA was created in 1971, the number of workplace deaths and the rate of on-the-job injuries has declined by 65 percent—with a workforce twice as large.

During that time, OSHA issued life-saving standards for asbestos, lead, carcinogens, chemical exposure, and blood-borne pathogens. Do we not want standards for those illnesses and disasters?

The agency has enforced these standards and provided assistance to employers to keep American workers safe on the job.

Make no mistake, by eliminating all funding for OSHA, this amendment results in an unconscionable spike in workplace injury, illness, and death.

In the most recent Bureau of Labor Statistics report, there were 2.8 million nonfatal workplace injuries in 2022. This is up 7½ percent over 2021. In 2021, there were 5,190 workplace fatalities. That is up 8.9 percent.

This is a reckless amendment. This says we don't care what kind of conditions workers are working in and that we ought to go back to the industrial revolution. It should be clear. This is a reckless amendment, and I urge my colleagues to vote “no.”

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, what is reckless is trying to force 84 million American workers to take an experimental vaccine. OSHA needs to be reined in. It took the Supreme Court's action to stop them.

Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment to hold the Biden administration accountable, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. HIGGINS OF LOUISIANA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 26, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 32, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, over the past few months a salt mine in my district, Morton Salt's Weeks Island Mine, a salt mine that has been in operation for many, many years, has been unrighteously targeted by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, MSHA.

In particular, there is a singular MSHA inspector who appears to have a personal vendetta. These concerns have been brought to my attention and MSHA's leadership has also been advised. This has been an ongoing issue between MSHA and Morton Salt.

These are justified concerns, yet they have fallen on deaf ears at MSHA. MSHA's handling of this matter isn't just about one company or one mine, I would say to my colleague across the aisle. It is about the integrity of our regulatory institutions and the protection of due process rights.

In this case, the evidence has been brought to me that shows a concerning pattern where enforcement actions may have been influenced by conflicts of interest and retaliatory motives, specifically involving MSHA Inspector Brandon Olivier.

These allegations are not just troubling, they indicate a potential breach of trust. This trust is placed in Congress for the oversight role of our regulatory bodies.

Furthermore, when Morton Salt raised these valid concerns to MSHA's district manager, Mr. William O'Dell, their grievances were seemingly ignored, contributing to a breakdown in the fair and impartial resolution process that should be a cornerstone of our regulatory system.

I am sure my colleagues on both sides of the aisle would agree with that general premise. In response to these findings and to ensure accountability within MSHA, I am proposing several amendments.

These are not just punitive measures. They are essential steps toward restor-

ing trust and ensuring that such lapses in judgment and responsibility do not recur.

Amendment No. 2 that we are currently discussing will be reducing MSHA's salary and expense account and redirecting funds to the Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General account.

Mr. Chair, I rise in favor of amendment No. 2. With the cuts in salary that I have offered in amendments 112 and 113, this amendment would reduce MSHA's salary and expense account by \$1 million and reallocate it to the Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General, which reflects Congress' commitment to accountability, given issues that have arisen in the Morton Salt case.

Congress should demand ethical enforcement from our agencies. Failures, as in this case, must have oversight and consequences. This reallocation strengthens oversight, enhancing the Inspector General's capacity to investigate and ensure fair, unbiased regulatory actions.

This measure shows Congress' dedication to integrity in Federal institutions, ensuring regulatory bodies like MSHA maintain high standards of conduct.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, this amendment and the prior one are indicative of the majority's willingness to put workers' health and safety at risk.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. Public servants should be commended and not demonized.

Our Federal Government needs talented, intelligent, hardworking people who are willing to bring their skills to public service.

Proposing to eliminate the salaries of hardworking public servants is petty. It really is beneath the dignity of this body. It is not how we should solve differences of opinion on policy.

For 45 years, the mission of the Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration has been to ensure that miners can return home from work every day to their families and their communities safe and healthy.

When MSHA was created in 1977, the fatality rate in the mining industry was more than four times greater than the average for all industries in the United States. Since then, mining fatalities have dropped sharply as MSHA has established and enforced workplace safety standards and worked together with all stakeholders to prevent fatalities.

For fiscal year 2024, MSHA is prioritizing additional actions to reduce accidents, injuries, and fatalities involving customer and contract truck drivers, falls from heights, and lack of use of personal protective equipment.

Taking out the agency's top enforcement official, as this amendment seeks to do while MSHA completes this important work, would be reckless and irresponsible.

In addition, it is particularly shameful that this amendment targets a non-political Federal employee who is part of our Federal civil service.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this vindictive amendment, which I believe is small and is petty, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1230

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I respect the gentleman's opposition, but I take exception to the nature of the gentleman's opposition.

My amendment specifically addresses the health and safety of the American workers within that mine because the health and safety of every American family begins with economic security. To have their jobs threatened by the targeted and vindictive actions and the abused authority of one regulator, and for Congress not to act when this has been brought to our attention, would be truly shameful.

Mr. Chairman, I respectfully submit to the gentleman that I am using the mechanisms of Congress constitutionally, specifically to address the health and welfare of the American citizens whom I serve.

Mr. Chairman, I urge full support of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. CLOUD

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 45, line 9, strike “Treasure Island Job Corps Center” and insert “Gary Job Corps Center”.

Page 45, line 20, strike “Job Corps Program on Treasure Island” and insert “Job Corps Program in San Marcos, Texas”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Chair, my amendment makes a technical fix to what seems to be a copy and paste drafting

error in the bill, replacing “Treasure Island Job Corps” in section 114 of the bill, which was the language signed into last year’s bill, to “Gary Job Corps Center,” which was supposed to be in this year’s bill.

The Gary Job Corps facility in San Marcos, Texas, is one of the largest in the country and, as such, has a great deal of excess land. This land is located adjacent to the fast-growing San Marcos Regional Airport.

For several years now, the city of San Marcos has been working closely with the Gary Job Corps Center and the Department of Labor on ways for the city to make better use of that excess land to the benefit of its citizens. This area of San Marcos is a key cog in the regional growth plan for the city and region, and the use of such additional land will ensure that the trend continues as the area brings in more and more economic investment.

This amendment will simply allow the Department of Labor to negotiate directly with the city on dispersal of such land at fair market value without having to go through the yearlong GSA Federal land dispersal process. It replicates an effort that was done last year with the Treasure Island facility in California, so there is strong precedent.

By removing some bureaucratic red tape, the amendment, which has the blessing of the Department of Labor, will ensure that San Marcos, Texas, continues its efforts to be an economic engine for the region.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of my amendment, which provides a small technical fix to this bill.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. First of all, Mr. Chair, let me correct the record here. The Job Corps provision was not a drafting error.

I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

Treasure Island, a former naval installation island between Oakland and San Francisco, was closed in the 1990s and is undergoing a major redevelopment.

Treasure Island Job Corps is one of the best-performing sites in the country and serves over 430 students with outdated and crumbling buildings. It is located on a sizable piece of land in the middle of the island.

The Department of Labor and Treasure Island Development Authority, TIDA, are jointly examining the possibility of selling or exchanging land from the Department of Labor to the Treasure Island Development Authority to allow for additional housing development on the island in exchange for building a brand-new campus for Job Corps within a smaller portion of their current site.

Longstanding language on this matter has been included in appropriations

bill since 2018. This language waives potential barriers to an exchange, allowing the Department to retain the proceeds from a sale to rebuild a more compact Job Corps site within its current boundaries.

There is no cost—let me repeat—no cost to the Federal Government. For years, Congress has recognized this as a win-win: a new Job Corps facility without additional appropriations and badly needed additional housing in the area.

This amendment strikes the reference to Treasure Island in a general provision specific to that Job Corps site and inserts the name of a different Job Corps site from the author’s State of Texas.

This amendment is silly and nonsensical, and it breaks from years of precedent around this language.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Chair, I will repeat that Treasure Island Job Corps was in last year’s bill, and as the majority drafted this year’s bill, I think we know what needs to be in the bill. Let me also point out that President Biden’s Department of Labor supports this amendment.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I continue to oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. MEUSER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part B of House Report 118–272.

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 49, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 66, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$19,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment No. 6 to H.R. 5894.

My amendment would increase the health workforce account in the underlying bill by \$10 million. This increase is completely offset by a decrease in funding for the National Institute of Nursing Research by \$19 million. While the National Institute of Nursing Research provides funding for important research, the nursing workforce shortage is at a critical point, Mr. Chair, and must be addressed immediately.

The increase in funding for the health workforce account is intended

to provide additional funding to Nurse Corps programs, which would bring the total funding amount for this program to \$102 million for fiscal year 2024.

This critical HRSA workforce program provides scholarship and loan repayment opportunities for nurses working in either a hospital or a community-based setting located in a critical shortage facility. Increasing scholarship and loan repayment opportunities will help encourage nurses to serve at facilities that are facing nursing shortages.

As we all know, there is a shortage of healthcare professionals across our country, especially amongst the nursing workforce. The nursing workforce shortage is especially felt in rural communities, including those in my district.

This fact was recently reinforced when I visited the Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre last month. During this visit, I was able to see the great work that the hospital was doing to incorporate new technologies to combat some of this nursing shortage.

Nevertheless, the American people deserve this Congress to support such a critical profession, and we must keep in mind that this amendment, again, is fully offset and will aid in our efforts to resolve the nursing shortage workforce that exists.

Nurses are the backbone of our hospitals and our healthcare in general, Mr. Chair, and, again, we must support this crucial profession.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, the amendment would cut funding for the National Institute of Nursing Research by \$19 million. I support \$10 million for health workforce training, but I am in total opposition to a \$19 million cut to the National Institute of Nursing Research.

The National Institute of Nursing Research supports research that develops the scientific basis for nursing practice. For example, the NINR is supporting a research initiative to assess changes in organizational factors that could mitigate or prevent nurse burnout, which we know to be one of the primary causes of a nursing shortage and of people leaving the profession.

NINR also supports initiatives such as the AIM of care initiative to address high rates of maternal morbidity and mortality and to prevent adverse maternal health outcomes. Again, we know what a serious issue this is in our Nation with maternal morbidity and mortality. Women are dying. They look at these efforts to try to give us the best information and data possible.

The National Institute of Nursing Research supports training opportunities to develop doctorly trained nurse

scientists at schools of nursing throughout the United States.

By cutting funding for the National Institute of Nursing Research, this amendment would reduce funding for nursing faculty, which would result in schools of nursing turning away many qualified applicants. Let me just say that, in 2020, over 80,000 qualified applicants were not accepted at schools of nursing primarily due to a shortage of clinical sites, faculty, and resources.

This institute is already underfunded and underappreciated, which is true of all nursing professions. Maybe that is why HRSA estimates that the nursing shortage will grow from 56,000 to 78,000 by 2025.

More importantly, this amendment demonstrates, once again, that overall funding in this bill is grossly insufficient. I support \$10 million for training but not a \$19 million cut.

We need to properly fund health workforce training and the National Institute of Nursing Research. We should not be forced to choose between nurses and nursing research.

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Chair, with all due respect to my colleague, this amendment was developed and created with the assistance of the nursing community from rural hospitals as well as more urban.

We have in our country a finite level of resources. We cannot continue to do things the same way they have always been done. We need to properly dedicate resources where they will deliver the most good for the most people.

This bill, by reallocating and having such an offset, will improve, enhance, and augment the nursing pipeline for the critical needs and value that nurses bring to our hospitals, particularly in rural communities.

We have a win-win. We have a reduction in the excessive spending that takes place. This bill brings accountability, and it fortifies the all-important professional nursing pipeline now and for the next generation.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I continue to oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1245

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), the Democratic whip and former member of the Appropriations Committee and of the subcommittee, I might add.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman

from Connecticut, The Nutmeg State, The Constitution State, for all her work and for yielding this time.

Mr. Chair, a budget is a reflection of our values, and what a low value the majority places on women and children in these bills.

In the 2 minutes allotted to me, 40 Americans will be physically abused by a partner, but instead of standing with those survivors, MAGA Republicans are defunding the Violence Against Women Act and they are taking away survivors' access to legal counsel. Those are the GOP's values.

MAGA ideology is about controlling people—their health, their lives, their bodies, and in these bills, they are continuing their march toward a national abortion ban, defunding family planning programs, banning providers from talking to patients about abortion care, and banning medical students from even learning how to provide safe abortions. Those are their values.

Millions of parents sent their kids to school today not knowing if they will come home safe. The Republicans' response? Unleash more guns onto the streets, including untraceable ghost guns. Those are their values.

In these bills, they are gutting public education and childcare. They are even defunding programs for missing and exploited children.

We see the extreme values of the GOP in these bills. These values are not shared by the American people. We are here to serve people. These bills work against them.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote “no.”

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

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part B of House Report 118–272.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 54, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 54, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment that will transfer funds from government bureaucracy to the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Grant Program.

The rural hospital closure crisis continues to intensify. Unfortunately, over 138 rural hospitals have closed since 2010 and over 450 additional facilities are vulnerable to closure.

While recent innovations in healthcare, such as the implementa-

tion of telehealth technology, show promise to rural communities, rural America is facing crises that are leading to dwindling access to essential care.

Competitive grant programs like the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Grant Program play a large role in ensuring that Americans living in rural communities can access quality, cost-effective healthcare.

This program supports small rural hospitals in meeting value-based payment and care goals for their respective organizations through purchases of hardware, software, and training.

While current spending for rural health discretionary programs is relatively small in the largest discretionary spending bill, it plays a critical role in solidifying the fragile healthcare infrastructure and workforce in rural communities.

Americans, especially in rural communities, continue to struggle with affordable coverage, yet Joe Biden has done nothing to actually lower costs.

Let's empower our rural communities to keep providing high-quality healthcare and eliminate red tape and useless bureaucracy that is standing between doctors and patients. This amendment takes an important first step to accomplish both of these goals.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment that will transfer funds from the HHS bureaucracy to the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Grant Program. Again, I urge colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part B of House Report 118–272.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 54, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 55, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my straightforward amendment that seeks to provide more resources in the bill for telehealth services for veterans in rural areas.

Colorado's Third Congressional District has over 100,000 veterans who call our beautiful State home. I am committed to ensuring that our veterans receive the care and respect they have earned for their service and sacrifice.

That is why I am here today to talk about the importance of telehealth for veterans in rural areas. Telehealth is the use of technology to deliver healthcare services remotely, such as through video, phone, or online platforms.

Telehealth can help veterans access quality care from the comfort and convenience of their homes or nearby locations without having to travel long distances or face transportation barriers.

Telehealth is especially important for veterans who live in rural or highly rural areas like many of the veterans in my district.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, there are 2.8 million rural veterans who are enrolled in and rely on VA healthcare systems. However, these veterans often face challenges in accessing timely and quality care due to provider shortages, limited facilities, and geographical isolation. These challenges can result in poor health outcomes, such as higher rates of chronic diseases, mental health issues, and, unfortunately, even suicide.

For instance, rural veterans are more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart conditions than veterans living in more urban areas. Rural veterans are also 65 percent more likely to die from suicide than those residing in urban areas.

These statistics are unacceptable. They are absolutely heartbreaking. Our veterans deserve better. They deserve to have access to the best care possible regardless of where they live.

I will continue to advocate for these programs and for the expansion of telehealth access for rural veterans. I believe that telehealth is not only a matter of convenience, but a matter of necessity. It is a matter of honoring our veterans and fulfilling our promises to them.

Let's pass my amendment so we can increase telehealth services for veterans in rural areas.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 54, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 55, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment that will transfer funds from the Federal bureaucracy to the Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance Program. Programs like the Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance Program play a large role in ensuring that Americans living in rural communities can access quality, cost-effective healthcare.

The program works to ensure rural hospitals and the communities they serve have the information and resources needed to make informed decisions as to whether rural emergency hospitals are the best model of care for their communities and facilitate a successful implementation of REH requirements for those hospitals converting to this new provider type.

This program provides hospitals and rural communities considering this new model assistance across a broad range of issues, including financial analysis, workforce or staffing planning, establishment of referral relationships and processes, determining REH service lines, community health needs, and impact on the community health system including emergency medical services.

I will keep working for responsible healthcare policies that respect the dignity of individuals, support rural communities, decrease healthcare costs, and restore free market competition to the healthcare industry.

Let's empower our rural communities to keep providing high-quality healthcare and eliminate red tape and useless bureaucracy that is standing between doctors and patients. This amendment takes an important step to accomplish both of these goals.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment that will transfer funds to the Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance Program, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 54, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 55, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 94, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment that will transfer funds from government bureaucracy to the Rural Residency Planning and Development Program to support physician workforce expansion in rural areas.

On top of closures, the healthcare workforce shortages continue to plague rural communities. Over 75 percent of rural counties are designated Health Professional Shortage Areas.

Programs like the Rural Residency Planning and Development Program support the development of new rural residency programs in family medicine, internal medicine, and psychiatry to address the physician workforce shortages and challenges faced by rural communities.

Rural residency programs are accredited medical residency training programs that train residents in rural settings for greater than 50 percent of their total time in residency and focus on producing physicians who will practice in rural communities.

This program also contributes jobs to rural economies, provides access to a range of medical services, and strengthens communities throughout rural America.

Competitive grant programs, like the Rural Residency Planning and Development Program, play a large role in ensuring that Americans living in rural communities can access quality, cost-effective healthcare.

Let's support our rural communities instead of handicapping them with one-size-fits-all mandates as the Biden administration has done.

In September, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services proposed a rule to mandate increased nursing home staff ratio which will put nursing homes, particularly in rural areas, in an impossible dilemma as they grapple with how to manage current occupancy levels with the insufficient workforce available to meet the requirements.

□ 1300

Rules like this fail to adequately balance the needs of both patients and healthcare staff in rural communities in the face of the current staffing shortage gripping our Nation.

This is why we should focus on giving our rural communities the resources and support that they need to provide low-cost, high-quality healthcare.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment that will transfer funds to the Rural Residency Planning and Development Program to support physician workforce expansion in rural areas.

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. FITZGERALD). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Ms. 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:

Page 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 96, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

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

I rise today to offer my amendment to redirect \$2 million in this bill to the Office of Inspector General to combat waste, fraud, and abuse.

As a proud member of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, I am a firm believer in holding our government accountable to the people we serve. Honest, hardworking American citizens should be able to trust that their tax dollars are being spent responsibly. To achieve this goal, the Office of Inspector General must have the funding they need to ensure that the Department of Health and Human Services is using our tax dollars efficiently and for their intended purpose.

Inspectors general across the Federal Government have saved taxpayers billions of dollars and exposed numerous instances of criminal wrongdoing. According to the most recent report from the HHS on healthcare fraud and abuse: “In FY 2021, investigations conducted by HHS’s Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG) resulted in 504 criminal actions against individuals or entities that engaged in crimes related to Medicare or Medicaid, and 669 civil actions, which include false claims and unjust enrichment lawsuits filed in the Federal district court, and civil monetary penalty (CMP) settlements. HHS-OIG also excluded 1,689 individuals and entities from participation in Medicare, Medicaid, and other Federal healthcare programs. Among these were exclusions based on criminal convictions for crimes related to Medicare and Medicaid or to other healthcare programs, for beneficiary abuse or neglect, and as a result of State healthcare licensure revocations.”

Mr. Chair, the American people believe the government is corrupt and rife with fraud. The only way to address these concerns is to promote accountability in the Federal Government and ensure that their tax dollars are used responsibly for their intended purpose.

My commonsense amendment will ensure that the HHS Office of Inspector General has the funding and resources they need to keep this agency in line. Two million dollars is a small sum to pay to restore faith in our institutions and to potentially uncover billions and billions in fraud.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment to promote accountability and oversight in the Department of Health and Human Services, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. MILLS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 19 printed in part B of House Report 118–272.

Mr. MILLS. 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 58, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$158,100,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

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

This amendment cuts back spending for the Office of Public Health Scientific Services by more than \$158 million to return us back to our FY19 funding levels. This reins back the irresponsible, ballooned spending that we have seen during the COVID–19 pandemic.

The House of Representatives has to hold itself accountable to fiscal responsibility. We cannot continue to spend money that we do not have, entrenching our country into more debt that future generations will be unable to pay back.

Our public health offices, particularly during COVID–19, have proven they do not effectively follow scientific method. In fact, I would argue that this body only follows political science, not medical science. While some of these offices certainly played roles in helping to research the effects of COVID, others like the Office of Public Health Scientific Services, were ineffective and do not serve their purpose.

We do not need another redundant public health office to advance the politicized work of the Federal Government’s public health operations. Furthermore, as a businessowner, I know the value of industry driving policy and not policy driving industry. These cuts encourage increased collaboration with the private sector to leverage external resources and expertise to support the public health initiatives.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, this amendment would reduce the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention Public Health Scientific Services account by \$158 million.

Bringing this account to the FY 2019 level, think about what it would eliminate: significant advancements in public health, negatively impacting the National Center for Health Statistics, laboratory science, and public health data modernization efforts.

I have personal propriety on data modernization. I championed the establishment of a public health data modernization initiative in fiscal year 2020, just prior to the pandemic, I might add. This massive undertaking is moving public health away from the fax machine and into the 21st century.

Think about what happened during the pandemic, with all of the laboratories around the country. I think about Connecticut, nearly shut down. It couldn’t do its work because it didn’t have the equipment, the modernization, the ability to collect data that makes it incredibly important for us to deal with a pandemic or any other disease.

I might add, this modernization initiative provides funding directly to 64 jurisdictions, including States, territories, large cities, and Tribes. Eliminating this funding impacts the entire country.

I suspect that my colleague on the other side of the aisle would agree with me that the local jurisdictions of public health need to have the capacity to do their job. This funding is critical to improving jurisdictions’ public health decisionmaking capabilities. Some have very highly rated and forward-thinking decisionmaking capabilities, and they have what they need, but we have a lot of communities with minimal capacity.

This is really pretty extraordinary. We have people entering records by hand. They are writing their records out by hand or using software not designed for tracking outbreak data, to being able to publish provisional national death data on a weekly basis. Some places have no capacity to do this, and they are not reporting the data so that we have no idea what is happening.

We all want to know the scope of a foodborne or infectious disease outbreak in our community. I suspect my colleague wants that information for himself, his family, and for his constituents. We all do. However, that does not happen without the data first identifying the cases. Our public health data systems, laboratory resources, and the National Center for Health Statistics are already far behind where we need them to be, and this amendment would only make matters worse.

We should have learned a very, very big lesson from the pandemic, where our public health infrastructure in many instances crashed because of the lack of technology, the lack of data collection, the lack of modernizing their ability to collect that data.

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

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentlewoman actually stepping up. She asked two key questions that I really liked. First off, what would it eliminate was one of the questions. Well, what it would eliminate is the wasteful and fraudulent spending that has gone to the NIH, as well as to those who have actually continued to pursue things like gain of function under Fauci, and we saw how that worked out.

The other thing she also questioned, what should we have learned. Well, what we have learned is that we are actually spinning ourselves into an economic abyss; the fact that we are actually leading the Nation when it comes to continually frivolous spending. I love how only in Washington can we call something emergency spending levels but then maintain it throughout the period in which we are going to move forward.

We have to acknowledge the fact that in 2019, pre-COVID spending levels, if you did a 3½ percent adjusted rate, that would get us to an actual spending cap of \$1.477 trillion today, not the \$1.586 trillion, not the \$1.786 trillion, and certainly not the \$2 trillion that the Democrats want to continue to spend.

The bottom line, Mr. Chair, is this: We are not saying that we will not have the necessary spending for our public health sectors and others to continue to do their job. What we are saying is that we should return our spending levels to pre-COVID, pre-emergency levels that would be in sync with what we have always done, at a 3½ percent adjusted rate.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I oppose the amendment. I think it is not just for the emergency. We need to have a very, very strong public health infrastructure.

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

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Chair, in closing, it is very clear that the only thing that D.C. continues to do successfully is spend American taxpayer funding. We did not do what was necessary to mitigate these risks. There was always this 2 weeks to slow the curve. I wish there were 2 weeks to slow our spending. We need to get back to where we were before so that we can get control, start looking at economic growth, start looking at what is best and having industry drive the actual policy, not policy drive the industry. We need to reduce and limit the government's reach into the public sector to ensure that they have what they need driven by them, for them.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1315

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. GROTHMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 22 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Mr. GROTHMAN. 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 62, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment, which is an increase/decrease in prioritized money for the CDC to do a study on the effectiveness of vitamin D against COVID-19.

Vitamin D has long been associated with a healthy immune system, particularly when combating viral and respiratory infections. It is evident that maintaining adequate vitamin D levels can dramatically improve outcomes for patients who are infected with COVID.

I was incredibly disappointed during the entire COVID scare, when over a million Americans died, that the public health establishment did very little to encourage people to take vitamin D.

There are many studies out there—they vary from one to the other—from Spain, from Harvard, from the University of Chicago. In some, they say that the chance of death can be reduced by 60 percent. In others, they say for people with adequate vitamin D levels, 2.3 percent pass away compared to 25.6 percent. In other words, you are 10 times better off with vitamin D.

In any event, the public health establishment did very little to push this. In my heart—I have read a lot of this stuff—I believe we could have cut the deaths by over 80 percent had they done it, which is why I want to require some sort of study out of the CDC to show this.

The other thing that should have been done during this COVID thing is if you went in for a checkup, you should have had your vitamin D checked. That should have been automatic. If you would have had levels, say, under 20, your doctor could have said that you are in much worse shape now and that you have to take vitamin D right away. They didn't do that, I think, because they couldn't make enough money on it and because, today, the medical establishment is too money driven.

Hopefully, if we do a study and something like this comes back, we can put our public health establishment a little bit more on the ball. I think it was an

identical thing to COVID. I think it would reduce the number of deaths by over 80 percent.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, let me just preface my comments by saying we are not scientists, and we are not doctors. Maybe some are. We may have one or two, but we are not in the business of scientific research or in the medical profession, for the most part.

This amendment calls for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct an exploratory study on the topic of a supplement, vitamin D deficiencies, and COVID mortality rates.

To make recommendations, Federal agencies leverage the results of multiple randomized control trials that form the same conclusion, which builds the scientific evidence for recommendations.

The National Institutes of Health and academic peers have consistently found that there is insufficient evidence for a recommendation either for or against the use of vitamin D for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19.

Supplements are not a replacement for preventive measures like a vaccination. Studies are being conducted on more effective linkages between COVID-19 infection and preventive measures, including vaccination and ventilation. The CDC should be receiving additional investments for these studies, not being told to conduct a study on this supplement.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, let me point out that there are many scientists in different countries who feel overwhelmingly that vitamin D would have reduced the number of deaths.

I believe, sadly, that both our research establishment and medical establishment kind of tilt toward something that will be more profitable.

If they would have gotten vitamin D out there in the almost year before vaccines were available, I think it would have saved a lot of lives, and it would have probably saved lives even after vaccines became available.

It is a mystery to me why the public health establishment does not get involved and, quite frankly, encourage people to take vitamin D well beyond the normal supplement level. You should probably take four or five times the amount of the supplement.

In any event, it is frustrating it wasn't done. It is frustrating we wouldn't check vitamin D levels when the cost to check them is, from what I could tell, if you go through a mail order thing, like, 50 bucks to check.

Nevertheless, it wasn't worthwhile for the medical establishment to do that. I don't see any harm in doing a

study, and it could result in a massive benefit.

Let me also point out that, disproportionately, people of color were dying from this disease, and a lot of people feel the reason they were dying far in excess of the population as a whole was because people with darker skin don't have as much vitamin D. In particular, it would have helped people of color.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS).

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member for recognizing me.

Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Republican Labor-HHS appropriations bill, which, among other cuts, would slash funding for DOL's Wage and Hour Division by nearly 30 percent.

Among other functions of the Wage and Hour Division, it enforces the Davis-Bacon Act, which ensures that workers are fairly compensated. It has been around since 1931.

Davis-Bacon requires that workers on Federal construction projects are paid a prevailing wage, which prevents workers from being undercut, not being paid the correct amount of money for their work.

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 amendment to increase funding for the Wage and Hour Division to improve the full force of Davis-Bacon.

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

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

Mr. Norcross moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5894 to the Committee on Appropriations with the following amendment:

Page 18, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$155,953,000)".

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I strongly oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I have nothing more to say other than that I hope the amendment passes, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 26 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MR. GOOD OF VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 28 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. 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 64, line 24, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

Page 195, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, today, I ask for my colleagues' support for my amendment to cut \$10 million from this appropriations bill and contribute those funds instead toward deficit reduction.

This particular \$10 million is set aside to increase diversity in biomedical research.

The Federal Government has an addiction to growth and expansion. Find a problem? Just create a new program and assign a few bureaucrats to handle it, and that will somehow allegedly fix the problem.

Under this administration, you don't have to set aside special money to support diversity. President Biden has made it very clear through nearly every executive action that he takes that every agency should look at every issue through a diversity lens.

The Biden administration makes everything about race anyway. We should not believe they need a few more million in taxpayer dollars just to make a difference in this aspect.

At some point, the Biden administration needs to stop dividing everyone based on the way they look and instead focus on actual health solutions for all Americans in need.

Americans are tired of everything being about race. When it comes to the future of biomedical research, we want to know that the best of the best are researching ways to cure cancer, fight heart disease, and help us lead longer and healthier lives. None of those are racial problems. They are human problems.

Throughout our history, American innovation has been at the top of the charts for finding breakthrough cures and therapeutics.

This year, through this bill, we are already set to invest in that research, and we can spare the \$10 million that focuses on diversity and instead spend it on something that helps every American—contributing to the spending reduction account that would actually decrease our deficit.

Mr. Chair, I hope my colleagues will join me in this simple cost-saving amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

Let me tell you a brief story. I arrived at Congress in 1990. At the time—and this is on a bipartisan basis, and

this had to do with women's health—what we discovered at the National Institutes of Health was that all the clinical trials on illnesses and diseases in the country, all the research, all science, and all of these diseases, the clinical trials had included only men—only men.

I don't think anyone would view that this is rocket science, that women are physiologically different than men.

On a bipartisan basis, the women—Nancy Johnson, Barbara Kennelly, NANCY PELOSI, Nita Lowey, and Marge Roukema—banded together and said this was crazy.

Women and minorities need to be included in clinical studies so that we do not just extrapolate data from clinical trials for men and apply it to women. Women and minorities deserved to be in those trials so that we could find out what was the best treatment, what was the best cure, and what was the best way to treat their health issues.

This is an amendment that would cut \$10 million to the National Institute of General Medical Sciences at the NIH. One of the basic missions of NIGMS is to support the next generation of scientists. This amendment would reduce support for scientific trainees across every stage of their career trajectories, from supporting undergraduate and community college students in research experiences, to Ph.D. and clinician-scientist training, to postdoctoral training and the transition to a first scientific position.

Eliminating an office of diversity in biomedical research takes us backward when we moved forward all those years ago to talk about how biomedical research and discovery to cure had to include in the scientific endeavor, yes, men but also women and minorities.

This amendment would limit early stage investigators, who are a pipeline to a next generation of researchers for future scientific discoveries.

Mr. Chair, with all deference and respect for my colleague, this amendment is shortsighted and counterproductive, and I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, we have made progress today. I am glad to hear the gentlewoman from the other side of the aisle recognizes there are differences between men and women. We may next actually be able to define what a woman is and what a man is. I am glad to hear that recognition from my friends on the other side of the aisle.

If President Biden were serious about helping people, he would cut our spending. He would renew American energy. He would secure the southern border. In fact, there are millions of illegals pouring across our border, costing taxpayers \$150 billion a year.

While every issue is not a racial issue, as the administration would have you think, and every issue is not a climate issue, as the administration

would have you think, today, every issue is a border issue and a spending issue. Yet, President Biden focused on woke initiatives like the Justice40 Initiative that promotes equity across the Federal Government.

□ 1330

Certainly today we would not criticize biomedical research. As a matter of fact, we recognize the value that it brings to our country, and I am thankful for those in the field who are doing their best to help all Americans.

We want the research done by the best researchers for all Americans, regardless of what any of them look like.

Mr. 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 gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

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

Ms. DELAURO. 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 Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. GOOD OF VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 32 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. 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 67, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$524,395,000)”.

Page 195, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$524,395,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, today I ask for my colleagues’ support for my amendment to transfer \$524.4 million from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to the spending reduction account that would reduce our national debt and our current deficit.

The way we throw around trillions of dollars and billions of dollars, I guess \$524 million doesn’t seem like a lot here in Washington, but to average Americans, that is real money.

Well, this office—formerly created by ObamaCare—brags about being a leader in the scientific community’s focus on socioeconomic, politics, discrimination, of course, culture, and environment in relation to health disparities.

I have heard enough there. Americans don’t want politicized science. We want scientific science. We don’t want health research that divides by race.

We want health research that unleashes American ingenuity on a horrific disease.

Let’s talk about some of the studies that are associated with this particular office: A report on how various racial groups have faced COVID-19 discrimination; a program to address how—COVID-19 discriminates, of course. Didn’t you know that?

Another program is a program to address how access to safe spaces—safe spaces—impacts health, and of course, a program on how climate change in and of itself is somehow racist.

I submit to my colleagues today that any actual scientific health innovations that come out of this office could develop in one of the other offices or projects that the \$43 billion—with a b—NIH budget supports.

We don’t need to set aside \$524 million to focus on race once again and publish more politically charged studies that do nothing to contribute to meaningful health outcomes.

I hope my colleagues will join me to reduce spending, reduce the size of government, and support the best possible health research that is not done on a racist basis.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I rise in vehement opposition to this amendment. This amendment would eliminate all funding to the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, which would eviscerate funding for research on minority health.

This is a lack of understanding of scientific discovery or discovery to cure. Frankly, it is appalling and disgusting. I will be calling for a roll call vote on this amendment. I want to know exactly which Members of the House of Representatives want to eliminate funding for research on minority health and health disparities.

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities supports research on diseases and conditions that disproportionately affect minority populations—minorities, writ large.

The United States continues to experience persistent and preventable adverse health effects with a disproportionate burden on minority communities.

To take one example, chronic diseases are among the leading causes of death in the United States. Some racial or ethnic minority groups experience a higher prevalence of multiple chronic conditions. We need to continue research on interventions to reduce mortality from multiple chronic diseases such as hypertension, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, sickle cell disease, maternal mortality, obesity, asthma, heart disease, cancer, which continues to disproportionately affect minority communities.

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities also supports researchers from backgrounds who are underrepresented in the biomedical research workforce.

I urge my colleagues to think about this amendment and how it lacks scientific understanding and the ability to use biomedical research as a discovery for a cure.

Oppose this amendment. I look forward to seeing the results of the recorded vote.

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, it continues to be clear that our friends on the other side just cannot tolerate or abide by the absence of racist initiatives or disparate treatment based on race, but Americans are done with the politicization of science, especially after the tyrannical government mandates that shut down the economy during the coronavirus.

President Biden promised a few years ago a return to normalcy, but his administration has only weaponized the government against the American people even more.

I wish the Biden administration would focus as much on cutting the reckless spending, securing our border, and putting Americans first as they do on dividing people along racial lines.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I can’t state strongly enough how much I oppose this amendment, which thwarts biomedical research to save people’s lives. That is what is done in this area. That is what the NIH does. That is what the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities reviews. It is about saving lives. We have no more noble cause in this institution than to help to save people’s lives, whoever they are.

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. GOOD).

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

Ms. DELAURO. 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 Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 33 OFFERED BY MR. ROSENDALE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 33 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

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:

Page 67, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$95,162,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, 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. 33 prohibits funding for the John E. Fogarty International Center saving approximately \$95 million.

Our Nation is over \$33 trillion in debt, with an expected annual deficit this year of nearly \$2 trillion. We need to find innovative ways to reduce spending. While many would consider this small potatoes, we must begin with the most blatant violations of the public trust, and that is what we consider this.

My amendment builds off of President Trump's first budget request, which called for eliminating the Fogarty International Center.

According to their website, the Fogarty International Center is dedicated to advancing the mission of the National Institutes of Health by supporting and facilitating global health research conducted by the U.S.

However, the center emphasizes a perverted view of "global health equity" and partners with the World Health Organization.

The World Health Organization is a corrupt organization that worked with the Chinese Communist Party to cover up the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fogarty Center should not be working with the World Health Organization.

Moreover, a large amount of the grants funded by the Fogarty International Center are counterproductive to our interests.

One such egregious project that received funds in the Philippines is titled: Stigma Reduction and Gender Affirmation to Promote HIV Prevention/Testing in Trans Women. That is what your tax dollars are being used for. The project is a joint partnership between Brown University and the University of the Philippines Manila.

There are biological women and biological males, as stressed by the other side of the aisle in the previous amendment. They have finally recognized that. I find it ironic that we are funding projects in the name of science that ignores basic biology.

Funding these woke, ridiculous projects hurt our standing in the Philippines and globally.

Christianity is the dominant faith in the Philippines, making up approximately 90 percent of the population. This project is a slap in the face to anyone in the Philippines who holds traditional Christian beliefs.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment. This amendment would eliminate funding

for the Fogarty International Center at the National Institutes of Health.

This amendment is shortsighted. It would undermine our ability to prevent and mitigate disease outbreaks around the world.

The Fogarty International Center has supported research training programs which have been vital to fighting emerging infectious diseases including Ebola and Zika.

Now, we dealt with Ebola in 2014, and we dealt with the Zika crisis in 2016. I know that the gentleman was not here at that time and really didn't experience what was happening both here in the U.S. and also internationally. The very fact is that Fogarty helped to train the people who were involved with on-the-ground responders to the Ebola and to the Zika crisis.

Moreover, Fogarty supports training programs for scientists in the United States and abroad who are engaged in prevention and treatment of diseases, such as malaria, dengue fever, and tuberculosis, all of which now have affected parts of the United States.

Fogarty programs have provided research training to 6,000 scientists worldwide. It contributes to biomedical innovation. It supports the next generation of researchers across the globe.

In addition, health innovations developed with foreign partners can be adapted to help solve health issues in the United States.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1345

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Chair, if we are going to send funds overseas, they should project our values. I agree with the overwhelming majority of Americans and Montanans stating this center doesn't project our values.

A grant that received funds through the Fogarty International Center in Uganda is titled: "HIV Self Testing to Empower Prevention Choices in Sex Workers." If you want to protect men and women from drug abuse and sex crimes, my colleagues should begin by helping me and my colleagues on this side of the aisle by securing the southern border and helping us to locate the approximately 100,000 children who have been released into our country and most likely condemned to a life of sex slavery.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, in my continued opposition to this amendment, I suspect that my colleague is not interested in saving lives in West Africa, in Brazil, or in Haiti.

Once again, with prior amendments that were listed here today, the issue of the work of science and research in the pursuit of saving lives is what this institution should be about. We are not talking about helicopters, roads, bridges, or anything else. Fundamentally, we are addressing the issue of using the biomedical research which we

have scientists engaged and involved in both for the United States and internationally. If it happens internationally, it happens in the United States. That is our job. There is no higher calling than to save lives here and abroad.

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Montana has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Chair, again, if we are going to invest funds overseas and here domestically, we should make sure that it projects our values.

Another grant that received funds through the Fogarty International Center in Ukraine, where we have seen billions of dollars squandered, was titled: "Using latent class analysis to understand the role of layered stigma on engagement in care among HIV positive women who use drugs in Ukraine."

They have a battle going on. They have a war in Ukraine. We hear about it daily. Yet, the Fogarty International Center is not going to try to figure out a way to bring those parties to the table to achieve peace. They want to find out about drugs being used by women who participate in the sex trade.

Mr. Chair, again, for this and many reasons, I hope my colleagues can support this amendment. We need to protect our values overseas, and the Fogarty International Center does not do so.

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

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

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

Ms. DELAURO. 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 Montana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MR. PFLUGER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 34 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Mr. PFLUGER. 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 68, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,748,715)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Chair, I rise today to present an amendment that

holds the key to accountability and transparency in the aftermath of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic.

The amendment I am proposing to the fiscal year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill targets a critical issue within the National Institutes of Health, NIH, Office of the Director. Specifically, it aims to reduce funding by \$3,748,715. That is an amount equivalent to the grant awarded to EcoHealth Alliance, Incorporated, for their research on “Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence” at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

The gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be overstated. Lives were lost, businesses shuttered, and families torn apart. It is a collective responsibility to address the origins of this crisis, and my proposed amendment aligns with three fundamental principles that I have consistently emphasized while being in Congress.

First, we must uncover the truth of the pandemic’s origins. This shouldn’t be a Republican or Democrat thing. This is an American thing. Second, we must hold those involved responsible and accountable. Last, we must provide the American people with full transparency.

After nearly 4 years of investigation, substantial evidence now points to the Wuhan Institute of Virology as the source of the COVID-19 virus. Disturbingly, it has come to light that the Wuhan lab conducted this research funded by the United States Government. While the Department of Health and Human Services has taken action against the institution, it is evident that more must be done.

The HHS Office of Inspector General released a report in January of this year, January of 2023, revealing that the NIH failed to effectively monitor or address EcoHealth’s compliance with certain requirements. Shockingly, the NIH only began investigating the Wuhan Institute’s role in the pandemic at the outset of the crisis. This lack of foresight is unacceptable, especially considering the potential consequences of such research.

Moreover, the investigation brought to light EcoHealth’s delayed submission of a critical report containing evidence of a virus with enhanced growth, a report that should have been reported immediately. This is just one instance of the NIH’s failure to exercise proper oversight.

In light of these findings, it is imperative that we hold the NIH accountable for its shortcomings. The American people deserve an assurance that our agencies are performing their duties diligently and responsibly, especially when the consequences are as far-reaching as the global pandemic was.

The HHS’s report highlights a series of lapses in NIH’s monitoring and oversight. Given these documented failures, I strongly believe that the NIH should face consequences for its role in the mishandling of funds and lack of over-

sight. Our amendment sends a clear message that we, as representatives of the American people, will not tolerate negligence that results in such catastrophic outcomes.

In conclusion, let us come together to pass this crucial amendment, demonstrating our commitment to accountability, transparency, and the well-being of the American people. It is time to act decisively and ensure that our agencies fulfill their responsibilities to prevent future crises of this magnitude.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

Unfortunately, this amendment is nothing more than a political stunt. It would cut funding to the National Institutes of Health’s Office of the Director as a penalty for a research grant awarded years ago.

The grant awarded by NIH was subject to rigorous peer review and judged by reviewers to be a high priority due to the previous emergence of SARS-CoV in a bat population.

The grant application did not propose research to enhance coronaviruses to be more transmissible or virulent in humans. The NIH determined that the award did not involve research with enhanced potential pandemic pathogens.

The bat coronavirus sequences under this grant award showed that the viruses studied at the Wuhan Institute of Virology under the NIH-funded grant were evolutionary, distant from SARS-CoV-2, and could not have been the source of SARS-CoV-2.

Essentially, this is a cut of \$3.7 million as a penalty for funding research and thereby taking funds away from the NIH as well, which are sorely needed.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Chair, I disagree with my colleague from Connecticut. The American people want the NIH to succeed. We need the NIH to succeed, but the American people are also saying, show us transparency. Tell us what is going on.

When the government is trusted, then we can actually get results and do good things for the American people. This is about trust. In fact, \$3.7 million, I think that is a small price to pay when it comes to the price that Americans paid.

Yes, I urge this to be a bipartisan amendment, that we have transparency. If you are on the side of the American people, who deserve better from government agencies, this should be an easy amendment.

Mr. Chair, I urge a “yes” vote, 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. PFLUGER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MR. MILLS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 35 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Mr. MILLS. 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 68, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$160,384,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Chair, my amendment is pretty simple. This would cut back on the spending for the office of the NIH Director by more than \$160 million to return us back to the fiscal year 2019 funding level. This amendment ensures appropriate accountability for the NIH’s recent failures while also advancing the urgent need for better fiscal responsibility of the House.

When the Republicans took over the majority, we promised to rein in inflation and government spending. We must do more than talk. We must start to act.

The NIH resoundingly failed to do its due diligence to prevent gain-of-function research at Chinese labs, and this failure was fundamental to the existence of the virus that caused the pandemic.

To date, there has been absolutely no accountability for these failures and others, and Congress would be failing its duty to ensure accountability by doing nothing and continuing this irresponsible funding to the NIH.

We must stop Fauci’s experimental process, start holding accountability, get research into finding out exactly what the leading cause was, and make sure we have the necessary prevention.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, this amendment would cut funding by \$160 million to the Office of the Director of the National Institutes of Health.

During the time that I had the opportunity, for the 4 years that I served as chair of this subcommittee, we increased funding for NIH research by \$8.4 billion, an increase of 21 percent above the 2019 level, and I might add, something I am really extremely proud of.

As chair and with Ranking Member COLE, we agreed on a bipartisan basis

for the increases to the NIH. I, again, feel very, very proud of the role that I was able to play with my colleague in providing additional funding for life-saving research at the NIH, including research to develop cures or treatments for cancer, Alzheimer's, ALS, diabetes, the funding to develop a universal flu vaccine, and the funding to ensure that women are represented in clinical trials.

This amendment would undermine the progress that we made on a bipartisan basis over the last 4 years, and I urge my colleagues to please oppose this amendment.

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

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentlewoman for her acknowledgment that we have increased spending by \$8.4 billion, of which some of that funding led to additional trillions of dollars in spending and thousands of lives lost, as we funded things like the gain of function under Fauci, which led to the spread of COVID.

□ 1400

Now, when you talk about the cut of \$160 million, the only response that I can think of is you are welcome. You are welcome to the American people for us saving money and for us actually doing our job to be fiscally responsible once again.

You are welcome that we won't allow continuation of funding for gain of function that would lead to another pandemic, as we saw across the world. You are welcome that we are actually, in the Republican Party as the majority, taking a stand to stop the out-of-control and runaway spending that has been irresponsible and driving generations and generations into future debt.

Mr. Chairman, this is pretty simple. Without that funding there probably would have been no pandemic. Unless we are going to get accountability and do the necessary research, I cannot continue to sponsor Fauci and NIH and their efforts to go ahead and spread and lead to another COVID.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I don't know if the gentleman knows this but, as another point, I will extol the virtues of Dr. Anthony Fauci and his scientific background and experience of what he has done to resolve issues of disease and cures in the United States of America and overseas.

Maybe the gentleman doesn't know, Dr. Fauci is no longer at the NIH. It is unbelievably stunning to me that we are listening to someone talk about how COVID came out of the NIH. What happened to all your other theories?

Mr. Chairman, this is really a conspiracy theory that we are generating here. For that reason, and probably for many, many other reasons that have no basis in science or in reality, I continue to oppose this amendment.

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

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Chairman, I love how our colleagues on the left refer to every conspiracy as a conspiracy until it is found to be factual, which is 99 percent of the time.

I am also aware that Mr. Fauci is no longer there and we are very thankful for that. His accountability on what he had done with helping to fund gain of function, which was actually something that led to spreading the Wuhan virus, which was also in partnership with China—this is something that still needs accountability research and the necessary review within Congress.

I am aware that we are continuing to spend at emergency COVID levels and we need to get back to where we were before. This is simple mathematics. If emergency-level spending is meant to be only during a time of emergency, then why do we continue to make that the new benchmark of spending moving forward.

The whole point is, is that we would bring it back to the pre-COVID spending levels, which is what the American people are looking at. They are looking for us to stop the irresponsible spending and actually get to what the root cause is, which is the U.S. Congress.

I hate to say it in this way, but the bottom line is that I will not continue to fund these types of things.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support me in this, 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. MILLS).

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

Ms. DELAURO. 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 Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 36 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 36 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise as the designee of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE), and 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 63, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$710,415,900)”.

Page 63, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$398,234,500)”.

Page 64, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$52,016,300)”.

Page 64, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$230,072,100)”.

Page 64, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$258,892,500)”.

Page 64, line 24, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$315,467,900)”.

Page 65, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$174,907,800)”.

Page 65, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$89,654,900)”.

Page 65, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$91,397,900)”.

Page 65, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$440,762,300)”.

Page 65, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$68,546,500)”.

Page 66, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$53,433,000)”.

Page 66, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$19,769,300)”.

Page 66, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$59,531,800)”.

Page 66, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$166,269,500)”.

Page 66, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$211,284,300)”.

Page 66, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$66,320,000)”.

Page 67, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$44,062,700)”.

Page 67, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$17,038,400)”.

Page 67, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$49,754,800)”.

Page 68, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$92,332,300)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise to urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment, which would provide for additional funding reductions for NIH.

If we have learned nothing else from the executive branch's involvement and handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, at the very least, we learned just how corrupt and money hungry the NIH as an organization truly is.

It has been over 3½ years since the initial COVID lockdowns and the NIH continues to cover up and downplay its gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Earlier this year, the Inspector General's report found that between 2014 and 2021, the NIH did not adequately follow its policies with respect to three grants totaling about \$8 million to the EcoHealth Alliance.

The EcoHealth Alliance had a relationship with the Wuhan Institute of Virology in which it subawarded \$600,000 to research coronaviruses in the years leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NIH terminated the EcoHealth grant in April of 2020, then later reinstated it, only to suspend it again after setting conditions for resumption that EcoHealth claimed it could not meet.

The NIH permanently terminated the award in August 2022 for compliance issues, including the Wuhan Institute of Virology's failure to provide NIH with laboratory notebooks related to the funded experiments.

Then again, in May of this year, the NIH reinstated grants to renew its “collaborative research to understand the risk of bat coronavirus spillover emergence.” Seriously?

In late last year, the NIH issued a new grant to EcoHealth Alliance for a project titled: “Analyzing the Potential for Future Bat Coronavirus Emergence in Myanmar, Vietnam, and

Laos.” The grant provides EcoHealth Alliance with \$653,392 covering a period until August 31, 2027.

Why is an organization that failed to comply with reporting requirements continuing to receive more and more American tax dollars?

Even more disturbing, earlier this year, the acting director of NIH, Dr. Tabak, testified before the House Appropriations Committee. I asked him whether gain-of-function research was conducted at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and he responded “no.”

In an October 20, 2021, letter to then-Oversight and Reform Committee Ranking Member JAMES COMER, the NIH admitted to funding gain-of-function research on bat coronaviruses at the WIV. Ironically, Mr. Tabak authored this letter in which he stated that the limited experiment tested whether spike proteins from naturally occurring bat coronaviruses circulating in China were capable of binding to the human ACE2 receptor in a mouse model. This is classic gain of function and this is unacceptable.

Americans deserve to know the truth, especially when their tax dollars are funding these dangerous practices.

As if that were not enough evidence to justify a budget cut, the Biden administration has also inappropriately used the NIH as an extension of the President’s radical, unethical policies. For instance, in April of 2021, the NIH reversed restrictions governing Federal-funded research to allow the use of fetal tissue obtained from elective abortions.

I am grateful the underlying bill includes several guardrails for fiscal year 2024, such as prohibiting funding for unethical human embryo and aborted fetal tissue research, prohibiting any support to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and prohibiting gain-of-function research in an adversarial country. These are good provisions, but they are simply not enough.

I recognize that the underlying bill has reduced the NIH’s funding by about 12½ percent, but I strongly believe a larger cut is warranted if we want the NIH to realign its priorities with congressional intent.

Not only would a larger budget cut force the NIH to eliminate irresponsible spending and research, but it would also send a strong message to the Biden administration that Congress does not approve the NIH’s actions.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I am having trouble listening to a series of science deniers here this afternoon. That is really troubling.

The amendment would cut funding to the National Institutes of Health by an additional \$3.6 billion.

The base bill already cuts NIH funding by \$2.8 billion below what we are talking about in 2023. That is 2.8 and another 3.6. I think there was another amendment that took additional money, which means that this amendment would bring the overall funding cut to the NIH of \$6.4 billion at the current funding levels.

That would mean drastic cuts to life-saving research on cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, ALS, diabetes, infectious diseases, and the list goes on and on and on.

This amendment would cut funding to the National Cancer Institute by an additional \$710 million.

I am a 36-year survivor of ovarian cancer. I had the benefit of biomedical research. Why shouldn’t other women have the benefit of biomedical research to save their lives with ovarian cancer, one of the biggest killers of women in the Nation?

This bill would also cut funding to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development by \$175 million.

It would cut funding to the National Institute on Aging by \$441 million. Let’s tell that to all of our elder Americans with the issues that they have as they age. Let’s cut back that research.

It would cut funding to the National Institute on Drug Abuse by \$166 million. I continue to hear from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle about how upset they are about addiction and drug abuse and the increase of that. What are we doing about it? This research addresses that issue.

It would cut funding to the National Institute of Mental Health by \$200 million. Do we not understand that we had a crisis in mental health in this country before the pandemic, and we are in a serious crisis with mental health at all ages post-pandemic?

We want to cut the money for the research for mental health?

Put simply, this amendment would mean a drastic cut to scientific breakthroughs, cures to diseases, and life-saving treatments.

Did you know that the United States has been the leader in the world in health and advancement. We have the NIH, the CDC, and the FDA. These are crown jewels in what health is about in the United States and the cures here and abroad. Why would we want to roll back our advancements in health, science, and medical achievements?

This does go backwards. Like I have said in prior amendments, our job with these bills is to save lives, not to be engaged in political diatribes.

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

□ 1415

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MR. HARRIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 38 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Mr. HARRIS. 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 70, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$59,000,000)”.

Page 92, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$50,000,000)”.

Page 93, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$50,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to increase funding for Project BioShield from \$820 million to \$870 million, with the funds coming from taking money from the recurring expense fund for buildings and facilities at HHS.

Mr. Chairman, medical countermeasures are important. We know that the chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats are real in this world and that there is no natural market incentive for private industry to invest in developing countermeasures despite their critical importance to national security. That is exactly why Congress authorized Project BioShield almost 20 years ago, in 2004, which incentivizes industry to invest in these products despite the fact that there is no natural market incentive.

The program provides multiyear funding to support advanced research, clinical development, manufacturing, and procurement. BioShield responds to national security threats identified by the Department of Homeland Security’s material threat determination process.

According to the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise, or PHEMCE, their multiyear budget, BARDA’s Project BioShield would need \$1.7 billion in fiscal year 2024 to develop and support the candidates in the smallpox, radiological, nuclear, broad-spectrum antimicrobials, Ebola, and chemical countermeasure portfolios. That is in contrast to the \$820 million that is in the underlying bill. Again, the experts have said we need \$1.7 billion.

Additionally, last year, the House included report language in the fiscal year 2023 omnibus that asked BARDA to compile a procurement strategy for novel antimicrobials. BARDA then included this objective in their 5-year strategic plan, but it was, of course, way underfunded. This amendment would allow them to move forward with these activities to provide additional funding, which could be used for the procurement of new antimicrobials.

Mr. Chair, I urge all Members to support this amendment, which would increase funding for Project BioShield to \$870 million, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, let me say a couple of things because I am a strong supporter of BioShield.

Within the 2023 budget, I might add, there is \$850 million. I am for emergency preparedness. The gentleman every year puts in requests for increases, and we put in increases every year for Project BioShield. However, what I am concerned about, which I will address, is the \$59 million cut. I think we should continue to increase money every year for Project BioShield, but the amendment cuts funding for the buildings and facilities at the NIH by \$59 million.

NIH currently has a backlog of nearly \$4 billion in needed repairs, and during the 4 years that I served as chair of the subcommittee, we increased funding for the NIH buildings and facilities account from \$200 million in 2019 to \$350 million in 2023 to begin to address the long-term backlog in a responsible way. This amendment would undermine the progress we have made.

I might add, once again, this was on a bipartisan basis over the last 4 years that we agreed to the increases in the NIH buildings and facilities account as well as the increases in Project BioShield.

Cutting funding for NIH's buildings and facilities would exacerbate the backlog of repairs, potentially affecting NIH's intramural research projects if laboratories and facilities are degraded.

More importantly, this amendment demonstrates, once again, that overall funding in this bill is grossly insufficient. That is one of my biggest concerns about this bill. We need to properly fund Project BioShield and the National Institutes of Health. We should not be forced to choose between research facilities and emergency preparedness.

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, to pay for this, we take money from the NIH buildings and facilities. That is true. However, Mr. Chairman, you know that the way CBO works is that we had to take it from that fund because we expect that money to be replaced from the nonrecurring expense fund at HHS. The CBO won't score it as a savings, but they will score it as a savings if you take it from NIH.

Mr. Chair, I get it. Nobody understands how CBO works. It makes no sense. Nevertheless, that money could be backfilled easily because, Mr. Chair, that nonrecurring expense fund at HHS is a slush fund with \$1.8 billion in it unspent with moneys each year authorized in the bills to be rolled over to the next year, so there is \$1.8 billion sitting at HHS.

Mr. Chair, that money would be much better spent on countermeasures.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I continue to oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, the dangers in the world are immense. China and North Korea both, obviously, are nuclear and nonconventional weapons threats. We are looking at a war in Israel right now with the possibility that Iran could make a dirty bomb. There are nuclear threats. We need countermeasures. We need to spend money on countermeasures.

Just as we are spending \$880 billion on what I call kinetic defense, we need to spend money on nonkinetic defense. One of the things we need to do is fund Project BioShield because that is where we develop these countermeasures.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of this amendment. It would take \$59 million that HHS would transfer out of a \$1.8 billion fund that they have unspent and use that money for countermeasures.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. HARRIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 39 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chairman, 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 70, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$119,000,000)".

Page 92, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$100,000,000)".

Page 93, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$100,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is similar to the last one. It takes money from the NIH buildings and facilities funds, which, under authorization of law, can be transferred back from HHS' nonrecurring expense fund and transfers \$100 million of that to the Strategic National Stockpile.

The Strategic National Stockpile is the only program dedicated to having civilian medical countermeasures on hand to respond to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats that may occur on U.S. soil.

From what we are seeing in Israel now to the current Marburg virus out-

break in Equatorial Guinea, these threats are real and growing.

Again, according to the PHEMCE multiyear budget, in fiscal year 2024, the stockpile would need \$1.96 billion, almost \$2 billion, to meet current stockpiling needs. Yet, in the bill is less than \$1 billion.

The sharp increase that they feel is necessary—again, these are the experts in these countermeasures—is largely due to needed investment in the anthrax, Ebola, and smallpox portfolios. When we underfund that stockpile, then risky decisions have to be made. A prior annual review proposed reducing anthrax vaccine and antibiotic holdings. This amendment provides funds that will help meet the goals that have been identified by these experts.

I appreciate the Appropriations Committee including my requested report language directing the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Readiness in coordination with the intelligence community to provide annual classified threat briefings to Members of Congress.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all Members to support this amendment, which is vital to our national security, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. PERRY). The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. As with the prior amendment, Mr. Chair, I support the National Strategic Stockpile very strongly, and I might say I strongly support it, so I don't oppose it.

As the chair of the subcommittee in the past, I have increased funding on a yearly basis for the stockpile. I know that the gentleman has made requests for increases, and we have met those increases with regard to the stockpile.

The question, once again, for me is cutting the buildings and facilities at the NIH by \$119 million. I will repeat this: NIH has a backlog of nearly \$4 billion in needed repairs. In the 4 years that I served on the subcommittee as chair, we increased the NIH building and facilities account from \$200 million in 2019 to \$350 million in 2023 to begin to address the backlog and build up in a responsible way.

I might add that I am particularly proud that we did this on a bipartisan basis, and we have done that over the last 4 years while recognizing the gentleman's concerns in this area and responding in a positive way to the increases that have been requested.

Cutting the funding for NIH buildings and facilities exacerbates the backlog of repairs. It affects their intramural research projects if the laboratory and the facilities are in disrepair.

More importantly, as I said just a few moments ago, the amendment demonstrates that overall funding in this bill is grossly insufficient. I know that there are some who want to cut it even further, so we begin to deal with robbing Peter to pay Paul here.

Nonetheless, we need to properly fund the Strategic National Stockpile. That is in our national interest and the interest of the National Institutes of Health.

However, it is my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who are always telling me that we have hard choices to make and that we do have to make choices—and we do—but we should not be forced to choose between research facilities and emergency preparedness.

Nevertheless, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle believe that we should starve the bill and then, for the issues that may be critically important, take money from another critically important bill or program.

Let us fund this bill where it should be to meet the needs of the National Strategic Stockpile as well as allowing the NIH to be able to have laboratories and buildings in good repair so that our scientists can perform in an environment that allows them to be more creative, more innovative, and do more about the discovery to cure.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1430

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I agree with the gentlewoman from Connecticut when she said we need to fund the SNS. That is the bottom line. Mr. Chair, you read the Constitution like I read it. National Defense is one of the things outlined for Congress in the Constitution.

We don't have adequate defense stockpiles in the Strategic National Stockpile.

Let's talk smallpox, for example. We had 200 million doses back in 2018. A lot of those have expired. The bottom line is that anthrax has a 30 percent mortality rate. We need a vaccine for every American, everyone living in the United States.

It is that simple, because anthrax, Mr. Chair, is not something you have to develop in the Wuhan Institute of Virology. God knows they can develop dangerous weaponry. It can be stolen from somewhere and duplicated. It doesn't take a First World country to be an anthrax threat.

Now with regard to the buildings at NIH, as I explained before, Mr. Chair, there is a \$1.8 billion building slush fund over at HHS. They have accumulated \$1.8 billion in what they call their nonrecurring expense fund.

Mr. Chair, I will remind you, because of Bidenomics and a 5 percent interest rate, that is \$90 million a year we are paying on interest on their slush fund.

Mr. Chair, what I am proposing is we take the money out of NIH—and I will join with the gentlewoman from Connecticut in writing a letter to Secretary Becerra asking him to backfill that money from his slush fund.

Enough with slush funds—\$22 billion in Commerce, the Commodity Credit Corp, in USDA; \$1.8 billion slush fund, nonrecurring expense fund in HHS.

Mr. Chair, we can't afford it. We also can't afford to be without a Strategic

National Stockpile. We need to make sure that we have the antimicrobials, that we have the vaccines in there that are necessary to protect against the next threat from China, North Korea, Russia, or Iran.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 54 OFFERED BY MR. CARTER OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 54 printed in part B of House Report 118–272.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. 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 93, line 9, before the semicolon insert the following: “: *Provided*, That \$15,000,000 of the funds made available under this paragraph shall be used to carry out section 2409 of division FF of Public Law 117–328”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise today to speak in support of my amendment, which will allow States to build or maintain their own medical stockpiles and encourage regional coordination of those stockpiles.

Over the past few years, the COVID–19 pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in our Strategic National Stockpile, leading to a shortage of critical drugs, vaccines, and medical supplies. We all remember the scramble among States and the Federal Government for limited supplies of diagnostics, PPE, treatments, and other critical medical countermeasures.

Each State had different priorities and needs: while one needed ventilators, another needed masks. In my home State of Georgia, healthcare providers and patients struggled to access critical medical supplies and personal protective equipment. That is why it is important to not only ensure that the Strategic National Stockpile is robust, but also to provide ways for States to stockpile treatments and products for their specific needs. To be clear, this amendment would supplement, not replace, the Federal Strategic National Stockpile.

This amendment would empower States to build and maintain their own medical stockpiles so they can respond quickly to emerging infectious diseases in the future. That is why I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment before us here today.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, this amendment would direct \$15 million from the Strategic National Stockpile to allow States to build or maintain their own medical stockpile.

The 2023 appropriation bill authorized a demonstration program for State Strategic National Stockpiles but did not include funding. This amendment would reduce funding for the Federal Strategic National Stockpile to support State efforts. You have one amendment that wants to go to \$100 million, one who wants to take \$15 million away from the national stockpile.

It is important to note that the authorization specifically stated that authorized funds were intended to supplement rather than supplant the maintenance and use of the Federal Strategic National Stockpile. Redirecting SNS funds as this amendment does is in conflict with the intended purpose of the law. We are not adding on to, we are taking away from and moving someplace else.

I would suggest that with regard to our public health and our national security, that through these efforts what we should do is to focus in on dealing with public health infrastructure in the strongest possible way, and that means making the investments in data modernization and data collection.

There ought to be the authority to report data that the CDC should have to get this information, so we know what is happening in real time. We ought to take a look at the State laboratories and look at how we are supporting State laboratories, which many crashed, the whole infrastructure during COVID, the public health infrastructure nearly crashed.

This amendment is in conflict with the intended purpose of the law. Once again, it takes money rather than adding to. It is intended to supplement, but what it does is it supplants.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Chair, in response I would just say that this is simply to supplement the National Strategic Stockpiles. It is not to replace them. It is not to do anything but give the States the opportunity to have their own stockpiles. This is not a cookie-cutter-type situation that you have here. Different States have different needs. We all understand that, and this is what that addresses.

Mr. Chair, this is a commonsense bill and commonsense amendment, and I would ask and encourage my colleagues to vote in favor.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I stand in continued opposition to the amendment. It is hard to fathom the logic of supplanting versus supplementing. If you are taking money from the stockpile, you are taking away the funds

that are there, but you are not adding funds to what they already have so, in fact, you are taking money from the SNS for this other effort which is contrary to what the law states.

I agree different States have different needs, et cetera. That is why I think that what you ought to do is to buttress what we are doing in State laboratories, dealing with data modernization, to make our public health infrastructure as strong as possible. This really takes money away from the SNS.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 55 OFFERED BY MR. GOOD OF VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 55 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. 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 94, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$28,000,000)”.

Page 195, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$28,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, today, I ask for my colleagues’ support for my amendment to cut \$28 million from this bill and contribute that money to paying down our deficit.

My amendment takes the funds from the allocation to minority AIDS prevention. The targeted \$28 million is actually a small fraction of what Americans pay in research and prevention of AIDS.

According to HIV.gov, we spent \$28 billion—1,000 times this targeted amount—on the domestic response to HIV/AIDS this year.

The government approach to tackling HIV/AIDS encompasses five agencies and countless offices within those agencies. Our Housing and Urban Development Department, our Justice Department, our Defense Department, all of them spent money to combat AIDS last year. In fact, there are at least a dozen programs focused on AIDS, and the more you look into it, the more it represents the typical, bloated, ineffective government spending.

My amendment targets, again, one-tenth of a percent of those funds that are racially focused because, once again, we are dividing people and our research based on race, which does nothing to help all Americans. Race can be a contributing factor in health outcomes, but that doesn’t mean it needs special funding.

If a disease disproportionately impacts a certain group, that will come out in the research and that group will benefit more from the program. The funds themselves should not be allocated based on race but allocated based on need.

I hope my colleagues will join me in reducing a small amount of spending for an issue that our government already spends billions upon.

If Members are bold enough to cut spending, we can contribute to reducing our deficit, and that is an issue that actually helps all Americans regardless of race.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. This amendment would cut \$28 million from the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of eliminating the Minority HIV/AIDS Prevention Initiative.

How far my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have come from the vision of George Bush and his PEPFAR Initiative. The underlying bill already cuts funding for the Minority HIV/AIDS Prevention Initiative by more than 50 percent. We have cut it already in this bill by 50 percent from its current funding level of \$60 million to a proposed funding level of only \$28 million. That is unacceptable.

In the explanatory materials the Republican majority posted online to accompany the Labor, HHS, Education appropriations bill, the majority acknowledges “the critical role that the Minority AIDS Initiative plays in our longstanding efforts to eliminate HIV and address the disproportionate disease burden that racial minority communities face.” That is in the explanatory materials, and that is true.

□ 1445

The minority HIV/AIDS prevention initiative supports HIV prevention, as well as treatment in minority communities to help address that disparity.

While we have made significant advances in recent decades against the HIV epidemic, it continues to be a crisis in many racial and ethnic minority communities. Almost three out of four new HIV diagnoses are among racial and ethnic minorities.

This amendment to eliminate funding for the minority HIV/AIDS prevention initiative would take us back to a time when the Federal Government turned a blind eye to the spread of HIV, especially in minority communities.

Let me be clear: Not only is this amendment unacceptable, but the funding cut of more than 50 percent in the base bill is unacceptable. When we go to conference with the Senate, after this House bill goes up in flames, I will ensure that these disastrous funding cuts are not included in the final bill.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I reiterate, there are over a dozen agencies that focus on this issue, and this amendment reduces by one-tenth of 1 percent the amount that is allocated toward AIDS research and prevention in our country today. This is the portion which is race based, which of course my friends across the aisle cannot tolerate any reduction or elimination of any program that is race based because their policies seek to divide the country.

This \$28 million may seem like a drop in the bucket of what does need to be cut from our Federal spending, but this is a start.

I urge my colleagues to support ensuring funding allocation that is based on need and not based on race and to vote in favor of this amendment.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I continue to oppose this amendment. I also might add, if you take the base bill which my Republican colleagues have come forward with, which is really unacceptable, the base bill ends the HIV initiative. These are programs that have been eliminated. It eliminates the HIV initiative here.

This amendment would further cut the opportunity for treating AIDS in the minority community. What is going on here that we are not moving toward ending the HIV epidemic? We are close to it, which is why we dealt with this initiative on a bipartisan basis over the last 4 years.

This, once again, is my colleagues turning their backs on saving people’s lives. What more important effort should we be involved in in this Congress?

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, we have the opportunity today to stop treating people differently based on race and to cut our spending together in one amendment. I support it, and I urge passage of it.

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. GOOD).

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

Ms. DELAURO. 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 Virginia will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 58, printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 61 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Ms. 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:

Page 132, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 132, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 145, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment that transfers funds from government bureaucracy to charter school grants.

As a mom raising four boys, I understand that families across this country want the best education possible for their children. One size does not fit all when it comes to education and our Nation's youth, and education matters are best handled at the State, local, and especially family levels.

Charter schools are an important part of the public education landscape because they empower parents to choose a high-quality educational environment for their child regardless of income or ZIP Code. The unique educational experience of attending charter schools ensures more children have a chance to achieve the American Dream.

During the first two full school years of COVID, nearly 240,000 additional students enrolled in public charter schools. Charter schools were the only sector of public education to grow during the COVID lockdowns. They also serve our Nation's marginalized children.

A 2021 analysis of research on charter school effects and competitive influence by the National Bureau of Economic Research highlighted trends from three decades of research on charter schools. They found that charter schools boost student test scores, particularly for Black, Hispanic, and low-income students, and that attending charter schools increases college enrollment and civic engagement.

The competitive impact of charter schools on traditional public schools suggests a beneficial influence on neighboring schools' student achievement.

The Charter Schools Program is the only program at the Department of Education that supports school choice and allows parents to place their children in a school that works for their unique needs. Parents know how to raise their children better than government bureaucrats and teachers' unions.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment that transfers funds from the government bureaucracy to charter school grants, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment because for me this amendment continues that road that has been laid out in this Labor-HHS bill where the majority is moving to really eliminate public education in the United States.

This bill decimates public education by cutting the Department of Education by \$22.5 billion, 28 percent. It seeks to plus-up one of the only education programs that received an increase, the Charter Schools Program. They cut everything else in public education but increased the charter schools in this bill.

We have had some spirited discussions about charter schools on the Labor-HHS subcommittee, and there are certainly some differences of opinion around the role that they should play in our public education system and whether they have historically received appropriate oversight by the Department of Education.

The Charter Schools Program provides seed money to open new charter schools around the country. We should be in agreement on one point: This program has far more money than the Department of Education knows what to do with.

In 2019, months after Secretary DeVos pleaded with our subcommittee for a \$60 million increase to the Charter Schools Program, the Department approached us with warnings that demand for funding was low. Sure enough, before the end of the year, the Department was unable to use the full appropriation and transferred \$12 million to other education accounts. That was almost 3 percent of the program's appropriation.

In addition, over the years, our committee discussed issues raised by the inspector general, including findings that States have mismanaged charter school closures and that the Department failed to provide any adequate guidance or oversight on the issue. I know my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want oversight, and that is why we need to continue our oversight of the Charter Schools Program with respect to accountability, transparency, and success. Many open, many close. Many take people, and then they disgorge people.

I support charter schools, but not at the risk of eliminating public education in this country, which is one of the issues that is on the agenda of the Republican majority in this Labor-HHS bill. This amendment provides a wasteful increase that would be better directed at restoring some of the underlying bill's disastrous cuts.

Let's take a look at those cuts that are disastrous in education. Let's make sure that we are supporting title I. Let's make sure that we are supporting the development of teachers. Let's

make sure that we are looking at Promise Neighborhoods. Let's make sure that we are dealing with the social and emotional learning of our kids instead of plussing-up a program that has enough money to make it and has not had the kind of oversight it needs in order to make sure that it is doing its job.

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

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I also have an amendment to add funding to the IG's account, and this amendment takes no funds from public schools. This is simply giving more choice to families throughout our Nation.

Transparency is good, and the argument that we just heard was not so good. Parents know how to raise their children better than government bureaucrats and politicians. We certainly experienced that during the COVID lockdowns. The restrictions that we saw to our children's education and the educational experiences that were lost during those 2 years or more of COVID lockdowns were a travesty.

I cannot reiterate enough that parents know how to raise their children better than politicians, better than bureaucrats, better than teachers' unions. We want to strengthen the Charter Schools Program, and that is what this amendment does.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I continue my opposition of this amendment. As I understand it, this is an increase for the inspector general. As I mentioned a few moments ago, the inspector general has done intensive investigation of the charter school movement. They have findings that the States mismanaged charter school closures, and the Department failed to provide adequate guidance or oversight on this issue.

Mr. Chair, I oppose 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 Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

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Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

This bill perhaps will pass this House. It certainly will not pass the Senate, and it will not see the light of day on the President's desk.

We spend our time here arguing a bill that violates the agreement made by

314 of us in this body, 165 Democrats and 149 Republicans. A majority of both parties said that we are going to have a funding level, otherwise known in our jargon as a 302(a) number; we will mark to that number; the Senate will mark to that number; and we will be able to get a bill.

We have not done that, nor is there any intention to do that because compromise is out of the question and confrontation is the order of the day.

I do not rise solely to talk about this Labor-HHS bill. I rise because I just came from a rally. It was an American rally on behalf of Israel, on behalf of the people of Israel, and in opposition to terror, murder, genocide, and the willingness of some to claim the destruction of Israel and its people as their objective.

Yet, what do we do here in the House of Representatives? We sound an uncertain trumpet. If Speaker JOHNSON, who spoke at the rally today in support of Israel, would bring that bill to the floor to help fund that effort, it would pass with over 400 votes. Yet, it lies slumbering somewhere between the House and the Senate, and the Senate won't consider it.

In addition, we are here disagreeing but disagreeing peacefully. Unfortunately, the citizens of Ukraine do not have that luxury. They stand. They fight for freedom, for democracy, against a Russian criminal attack on a free and sovereign nation.

What do we do? We argue about a bill that is going nowhere, another uncertain trumpet of our conviction that the defense of democracy and freedom is worthy of our votes.

Mr. Chair, 400 votes for Israel, over 300 votes for Ukraine, and it does not come to the floor.

How strong a voice does America send to not only our enemies but to our allies as to our commitment to democracy, to freedom, and to international law? How muddled our voice seems to be on the international scene.

Mr. Chair, I hope you bring those two bills to the floor, not as a political deal, not as a tit for tat, but as a statement of America that we stand for those who fight for freedom and democracy and a world of law.

Bring those bills to the floor. We have already voted eight or nine times on Ukraine, 300 votes every vote, and Israel, over 400 votes.

Please do that, Mr. Chair. Please do it for our own ideals. Do it for the defense of democracy and freedom and survival in Israel and freedom and democracy and sovereignty in Ukraine. America ought to do no less.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 62 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. VAN DREW). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 62 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Ms. 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:

On page 130, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

On page 131, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

On page 145, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. Boebert) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment that transfers funds from the Department of Education bureaucracy to support the Rural Education Achievement Program, REAP.

Most of the country's poorest counties are rural and are often disconnected from the nonprofits and social service agencies that fill the gaps in urban and suburban schools.

After decades of population loss and divestment by State governments, many rural communities are struggling to keep up when it comes to educating our children and are being forced to close. When these schools close, children are forced to travel additional hours to get to school. Closures and consolidations also force teachers, administrators, and educators out of their jobs.

Yet, America has continued to turn a blind eye, leaving our rural communities helpless. More than 9.3 million children attend rural schools. This makes up nearly one-fifth of public school students across the country.

Rural children had an especially hard time keeping up when Democrats shut down our schools for 2 years and required students to learn via Zoom. Many of our children in rural communities don't have access to the internet, and some don't even have cell phone service. They deserve better than this.

The Rural Education Achievement Program initiatives are designed to help rural districts that may lack the personnel and resources to compete effectively for competitive Federal grants.

There are two dedicated programs funded by this account that aim to assist rural school districts with improving teaching and learning in their schools. The Small, Rural School Achievement Program provides funds to rural districts that serve a small number of students. The Rural and Low-Income School Program provides funds to rural districts that serve concentrations of poor students regardless of the number of students served by the district.

Our children deserve a proper education no matter what their ZIP Code is, and it is our duty to build a better future for them.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment that transfers funds from the Department of Edu-

cation bureaucracy to the Rural Education Achievement Program.

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 (Ms. BOEBERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 63 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 63 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

Ms. 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:

On page 132, line 4, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

On page 145, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment on behalf of the thousands of Native Americans who deserve a quality education that respects their culture, history, and identity. These students face unique challenges and opportunities in their communities, and they need our support to achieve their full potential.

The Federal Government has a trust responsibility to provide educational services to Tribes and their members as established by treaties, statutes, and court decisions. However, for far too long, this responsibility has been neglected and underfunded, resulting in poor outcomes and inequities for Native students.

According to the Office of Indian Education, there are 183 bureau-funded elementary and secondary schools located on 64 reservations in 23 States, serving approximately 42,000 Native students. These schools are often in remote and rural areas with limited access to resources, technology, and qualified teachers. Many of these schools are also in dire need of repair and renovation, posing health and safety risks to students and staff.

Mr. Chair, I believe that education is the key to empowering opportunity and prosperity for all Americans. I also believe that we have a moral and legal obligation to honor our commitments to Tribes and their members and to respect their sovereignty and self-determination.

By redirecting wasteful spending in this bill to Native Americans' education, we can make a difference in the lives of Native students and in the strength and resilience of Tribal communities.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment to transfer funds from the Department of Education bureaucracy to the Indian Education account.

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 (Ms. BOEBERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 69 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 69 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

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 140, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$9,250,000,000)”.

Page 195, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$9,250,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, 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. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment that would cut funding for the student financial assistance account by \$9.25 billion.

The student financial assistance account is being funded at \$22 billion for fiscal year 2024. This account provides funding for grants, loans, and other financial assistance to students who choose to pursue higher education, but the Federal Government’s subsidization of higher education costs for individuals has actually created perverse incentives for higher education institutions to raise prices for all students and prospective students.

This is a spiral and cycle that has been going on for decades. A 2017 study from the Federal Reserve found the average tuition increase associated with expansion of student loans is as much as 60 cents per dollar.

Federal student loan subsidies don’t help students with the cost of higher education. These subsidies actually result in increased costs for higher education, tuition, fees, and expenses.

With the Federal Government bearing the brunt of student loans, colleges are guaranteed to get the funding they ask for at the expense of the American taxpayer. This is a cycle that only leads to higher spending each fiscal year.

Cutting funding for this program would claw back billions that could be diverted to lowering the national debt and the financial burden on the taxpayer.

The Federal Government should not have a place in the monetary affairs of its private citizens. That is a matter for private banks, colleges, and students.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. Make no mistake, this amendment will result in fewer students receiving Pell grants and will cut the maximum Pell grant award for 6.4 million students who use Federal student aid to pay to get a college education.

A cut of \$9.25 billion will leave the program with a shortfall of \$875 million in 2024. Under special scoring rules for the Pell Grant Program passed by Congress nearly two decades ago, Congress cannot provide less funding than required under current estimates by the Congressional Budget Office.

□ 1515

This cuts a Pell grant to every single Pell recipient. If this amendment passes, the Pell grant program would have less funding than required to sustain the current maximum award and existing eligibility parameters.

Faced with this reality, House Republicans will have two choices—cut the Pell grant maximum award or kick students out of the Pell Grant Program.

At a time when students and families are struggling to cover rising college costs, it was already unconscionable that House Republicans would eliminate Federal Work-Study for 660,000 students and eliminate the Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants for another 1.7 million students nationwide. It was already cruel when House Republicans offered no relief to rising college costs by freezing the maximum Pell grant for the first time in 12 years.

If this amendment passes, House Republicans will go one step further by cutting the maximum Pell grant or kicking students out of the program. This is truly a new low.

Does anyone in this Chamber remember Senator Claiborne Pell? I remember him. Claiborne Pell was from Rhode Island to the manner born, affluent, but he had a vision. He understood that the sons and daughters of working men and women of middle-class families, of vulnerable families, had a right to an education just as every rich person in this country does, and therefore, he created this program, the Pell Grant Program.

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle pass this amendment, then, in fact, they are on that road that I have said over and over and over again is eliminating public education in the United States of America, eliminating opportunity for people to succeed in this country.

Why would you want a legacy or a legend that follows you with that kind of effort?

The United States is the land of opportunity. It should be, particularly where it comes to education for our children. It is the way to the future.

I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this misguided amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, as it stands today, Americans owe over \$1.7 trillion

in student loan debt, more than 5 percent of the Nation’s total \$33 trillion debt.

The annual cost of attendance for students living on campus at a public 4-year State institution is 26 grand, or over \$104,000 for a 4-year degree. Out-of-State students pay \$27,000, or over \$108,000. Private nonprofit university students pay 55 grand, or more than \$225,000.

Do you know what is a new low? Do you know what is cruel? Do you know what is unconscionable? It is sending kids out with worthless degrees with debt that they can never sustain.

It is a new low to oppose something like this because you know what is driving this? It is the exponential growth of children and kids who are coming up who cannot afford education because your grants, your continued giving of taxpayer funding to the universities has actually increased the number of people who have to get assistance.

Why? Because tuition has spiked. It is growing multiples of the inflation rate. That is what is cruel. That is what is unconscionable.

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

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the distinguished ranking member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment and the underlying bill. House Republicans’ partisan bill is an attack on students, workers, and families.

For 2024, the bill would cut close to \$64 billion, roughly 28 percent from the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. The last time it was this low was in 2008.

Inequity in America’s education system persists. Significant funding disparities among neighboring schools continue to rob students of equal access to quality education, and this bill cuts title I significantly.

Moreover, the bill cuts other programs like completely eliminating the Federal Work-Study that allows students to work their way through college; the Teacher Quality Partnership; the Job Corps, completely eliminated.

There are essential programs that workers in our districts rely on, and if this becomes law, those programs would be eliminated. This amendment would cut Federal student aid, making it more likely that they would have to take out student loans.

The underlying bill is bad enough. It is the first time in over a decade that the Pell grant wouldn’t increase.

Also, our Nation is facing disturbing child labor law violations, and House Republicans are slashing the OSHA budget. Despite actively negotiating bipartisan reauthorization for the

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, we are proposing cuts in adult and youth job training programs.

Finally, the bill is an insult to families. It cuts Head Start programs so drastically, if this bill were to become law, 50,000 children would lose access to childcare.

Mr. Chair, I would ask that we oppose the amendment and the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, what is driving the increased costs of tuition? Well, most of that is because the bureaucratization of academia. That drives costs higher every year.

Let's go back to that 2017 study from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The average tuition increase associated with expansion of student loans is 60 cents for every dollar. So when your tuition is going up a buck, 60 cents of it is because of expansion of student loan programs.

The Biden administration's efforts to eliminate student loan debt is wrong—wrong because they force everyday Americans to pay for the student loans taken out by others and wrong because they doubled down on a failed public policy that incentivizes price increases. You incentivize tuition to go up. Why would a university ever reduce its tuition or its costs? They know that they have the Federal Government to backstop every student who wants to go in.

The way to curb the rise in both college tuition and student debt is to get the Federal Government out of the student loan business. The result will bring about more fiscally responsible citizens and a more fiscally responsible Federal Government. This would make the loan market more responsible and cause colleges to rein in their costs and reduce tuition so fewer students would need Pell grants or private aid.

Private lending would also limit taxpayers' exposure to billions of dollars in student loan defaults. Did I say billions? I meant to say trillions because that is where we sit.

Now, I want to respond in the time I have left to the cynical statement by the previous speaker who was talking about aid to Israel. We passed aid to Israel by a 226–196 vote. How did that happen? Mr. Chair, 196 of my friends across the aisle did not want to provide aid to Israel in that circumstance.

Mr. Chair, I urge people to adopt 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 Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 70 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 70 printed in part B of House Report 118–272.

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 140, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,769,207,000)”.

Page 195, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,769,207,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, 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 would strike funding for the Student Aid Administration.

The Student Aid Administration provides funding for the government to administer student financial assistance programs, including funding for the office responsible for ensuring accountability for higher education institutions who receive Federal dollars.

Unfortunately, under this administration, this regime, the Department of Education has developed a pattern of attacking large, higher education institutions that have a religious affiliation.

I will give you two of these today.

The Department of Education has repeatedly gone after Grand Canyon University, the largest private Christian university in the country. The Department of Education levied a \$37.7 million fine. This is the largest fine in the Department's history.

GCU was a nonprofit from its inception in 1949 until 2004 when they partnered with private investors in order to avoid closing.

In 2018, GCU returned to its nonprofit status and is recognized by the IRS, the Higher Learning Commission, the State of Arizona, Arizona Private Postsecondary Board, and the NCAA. However, despite all this, the Department of Education has refused to acknowledge GCU's nonprofit status for purposes of Federal student financial aid.

By not acknowledging GCU's nonprofit status, the Department of Education is able to target GCU and others as “bad actors due to the disproportionate number of Americans who attend those schools and then default on Federal student loans.”

However, GCU provides much higher levels of transparency than are legally required, and it is considered a leader in education transparency. The Department of Education, for instance, only requires universities to provide cost estimates for the first year in college—for first-year, first-time students, and only for undergraduate programs, but GCU goes beyond these requirements by providing cost estimates for each year of the program study and for all of

its degree programs, including the doctoral level.

Rather than apply what GCU has done, the Department has attacked them, making this fine all the more troubling. The Department of Education is trying to make the claim that GCU lied to students about the cost to attend doctorate programs, but that is inaccurate.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, this is one more amendment on the road to eliminating public education in the United States of America.

I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. I am shocked by this amendment's intent to eliminate all funding to the Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid. What will this mean for the 17.5 million students who need to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the FAFSA? What will this mean for the 6.4 million students who rely on Pell grants to pay for college? What will this mean for nearly 43 million individuals, one in six adult Americans who are working to repay their Federal student loans?

Make no mistake, this amendment signals an intent to destroy postsecondary education in this country. The House Republican Labor, HHS, Education bill already follows through on the other side's intent to break and dismantle public and postsecondary education for American students and families. This amendment just takes that destruction to another level.

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, GCU's degree program calculator provides the total estimated cost for a 60-credit doctoral program the exact same way it does for other degree programs. That is not required under the Department of Education, but the Department of Education still goes after them.

GCU in its effort for clear transparency in red print above the calculator makes clear both the average number of continuation courses and cost for continuation courses that students may need to complete a doctoral dissertation.

The Department of Ed even acknowledges that GCU provides this disclosure, but nonetheless, continues to go after them. GCU graduates are incurring less debt than the national average due to its affordable tuition rates, and still, the Department of Ed goes after them.

A GAO report found that 91 percent of American colleges have misleading information in their financial aid offers, but GCU is the only nonprofit university being attacked from the Department of Education.

At the same time, Liberty University is being threatened with a similar \$37 million fine by the Department of Education, alleging Clery Act violations based on a preliminary report in May of this year.

Liberty University has fully cooperated with the Department's investigation and found the Department made significant errors, misstatements, and unsupported conclusions in their findings.

Why is Liberty University getting threatened with what would be another \$37 million fine from the Department of Education when they are fully cooperating?

□ 1530

These two big universities are two of the largest Christian universities in America. Is that why they are being attacked by this Department of Education? It certainly seems to be the case.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the distinguished ranking member of the Education and Workforce Committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, we know that the most effective way for young people to get into the middle class is with an education. Those without an education are going to have challenges. Whatever station of life you come from, if you get a good education, you have got a good shot at the American Dream.

When President Johnson signed the Higher Education Act back in 1965, he said that essentially any student in any State could apply to any college or university and not be turned away because their family is poor. This amendment essentially eliminates that powerful promise.

What is the vision for administering the opportunity to get an education? How are you going to get a Pell grant if you don't have anywhere to apply? How are you going to administer student loans?

This just eliminates the opportunity for young people to get the education they deserve. I would hope that we would not adopt this amendment and, in fact, not even adopt the underlying bill. We need to make sure those opportunities are there.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, I ask my friends: Do you support a tax on private Christian universities by the Department of Education, the very Department that I am trying to defund?

When you talk about the American Dream, student loan debt is crushing graduates, which is why when you look at polling, it indicates very clearly that young graduates do not believe they will attain the American Dream that their parents had access to. They are coming out with crushing student debt at the same time that that same Department is trying to crush very fine universities.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut has 2¼ minutes remaining.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, the gentleman wants to cut and wants to privatize higher education. He wants to send students to the for-profit colleges where there is a raft of information about how they are harming college students, and he wants to provide funding for the for-profit online program management companies, profiteers. That is who these folks are. It is everywhere. We know it.

The data is rife with how they have created terrible situations for young people, and even those who are older, by shutting down, leaving these people with a bill, about not providing a credential so that people can get jobs. They are a menace on our education system.

The gentleman here, as I understand it, will cut the Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid in order—

Mr. BIGGS. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. DELAURO. No, I am sorry, I won't.—in order to be able to support an online, for-profit industry that is bilking America's students and, in many instances, America's veterans. It is really pretty incredible the direction that the majority will go in destroying public education in this country.

Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut has 15 seconds remaining.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, with that 15 seconds, I will repeat what I said. We are looking at something that is scurrilous, supporting institutions that have been putting our students and our veterans at great risk.

Mr. Chair, I oppose 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 Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

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

Ms. DELAURO. 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 71 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 71 printed in part B of House Report 118-272.

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 142, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,767,239,000)”.

Page 142, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 195, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,767,239,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, 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 am going to respond to the “scurrilous” comments made in the last statement. Nothing in my amendment addressed online, for-profit private colleges, postsecondary. That was a deliberate mischaracterization of what I said, because the two universities I talked about are both nonprofit universities, recognized as postsecondary education institutions.

GCU is recognized by the IRS as nonprofit, Higher Learning Commission, State of Arizona, and the Arizona Private Postsecondary Board. Liberty University is equal in their classification.

To say what was said for 2½ minutes, to actually misdirect and try to misattribute my purpose, was an ascribing of motivations which should have been taken down.

Mr. Chair, I rise now to speak in support of my amendment, which would strike funding for the higher education account. It appropriates over \$2.7 billion. This account provides appropriations for grant programs that provide direct taxpayer support to higher education institutions.

The effect of government subsidy and control has been more damaging than anyone has yet realized. Coupled with student assistance programs, direct government assistance to institutions has led to increased education costs and administrative costs.

Let's think of it. College costs are out of control. Harvard, the total cost of attending for 4 years is now around \$300 grand. College costs have risen to this level because D.C. is heavily subsidizing tuition through Federal grants and loans, leaving colleges and universities free to increase their prices because they know the Federal Government is going to pick up the tab in between.

In FY 2023, we enacted a level of \$2.994 billion, \$600 million more than fiscal year 2019.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, just as a point of reference, Grand Canyon is online and nonprofit in name only.

I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. I am shocked by this amendment's intent. To eliminate all Federal education funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities,

HBCUs, and minority-serving institutions, it is staggering, truly staggering. \$400 million for HBCUs, eliminated. \$228 million for Hispanic-serving institutions, eliminated. \$100 for historically Black graduate institutions, eliminated. \$52 million for Tribal colleges and universities, eliminated. Public education, eliminated.

This colossal cut also eliminates countless other programs that help students access a postsecondary education and receive expanded economic opportunities.

\$1.2 trillion for the Federal TRIO program, eliminated. How far we have come. I have been on this Appropriations Committee for almost 28 years and been on the Labor-HHS subcommittee, and I can remember my Republican colleague Ralph Regula. Some of my colleagues on the other side will remember Ralph. There was no bigger supporter of the TRIO program or for the GEAR UP program. He understood the relevance of these economic and educational opportunities for youngsters.

It was not just Ralph Regula. I can go down the line in a bipartisan way of individuals who have supported the TRIO program. It is eliminated. \$388 million for the Federal GEAR UP program, eliminated.

Once again, the House Republican goal in this bill is crystal clear: Destroy postsecondary education opportunity for students and for families nationwide. This amendment makes that goal explicit.

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, it is a shame that people make aspersions on the floor when they don't know anything about a subject.

I think of Grand Canyon University and the 35,000 students on campus, on a physical plant, in Phoenix, Arizona. I just heard that they are an online school. Go tell those people who commute or live in the dorms at one of the fastest growing physical plant campuses in the country.

It is like saying the University of Arizona is an online school, with their 35,000 students, because they have an online program where you can get a bachelor's degree without ever setting foot on campus, or ASU or BYU, or any of the hundreds of other campuses.

How can you misdirect and try to attack an amendment when you simply don't know what is going on with what you are saying? It is astounding. It is astounding.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I just had a quick look. At Grand Canyon, 86,000 students are online, so let's put that aside.

The essential point of this amendment is what it would do to education and educational opportunities. As I mentioned, for the historically Black colleges, eliminated; Hispanic-serving

institutions, eliminated; historically Black graduate institutions, eliminated; Tribal colleges—where else do you want to go to revoke education for youngsters in this country?

I go back to an unbelievable man of vision, Claiborne Pell, who said, let's make postsecondary education available to all, not just the rich.

□ 1545

I said it before on this floor. I am the daughter of an immigrant family who shared the dream that I would be here someday. The road for me was education—tough. My mother worked as a garment worker in the old sweatshops in the city of New Haven. My father was an insurance agent. They pieced together what they could to give me the best education that I could have so I could have success. I am successful. I am here and grateful for it.

All those young people out there who are going to be denied a chance to get a college education because somewhere deep inside the psyche of the Republican majority now—this hasn't been in the past; there has been bipartisan support on these issues—but right now deep in that psyche is that we have to rid ourselves of public education.

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, nobody wants to revoke postsecondary education. What we want to do is acknowledge what the Federal Government has done to distort the cost of education.

The New York Fed itself has said it is eating it up, and 60 percent of every tuition increase is coming because of this aid. We want to get it down so it is affordable again. We want nobody leaving college crushed by the student debt that they have. That is what is going on here.

The fiscal year 2023 enacted level was \$3 billion. That is \$600 million more than just a few years before in 2019. The 2024 number is slightly less, but it doesn't do enough to cut spending when we are \$35.5 trillion in debt.

Let's talk about what is happening. Universities are discriminating against conservative-leaning students. We see that. We had a hearing on that just last week. A recent University of North Carolina study found that conservative students within the UNC system face distinctive challenges when it comes to free speech and expression.

Nearly 68 percent of conservative students are at least slightly concerned about possible social consequences that may come from voicing one's true opinion in class. It is a massive problem that higher education fosters.

It is time that we move the Federal Government out of this business because they don't have any constitutional authority to be there in the first place.

Mr. Chairman, 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.

Mr. ADERHOLT. 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 76 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 76 printed part B of House Report 118–272.

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 144, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$707,372,000)”.

Page 195, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$707,372,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 864, 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. Chairman, I rise to speak in support of my amendment, which strikes funding for the Institute of Education Sciences.

The current funding in the fiscal year 2024 bill is \$707 million. The institute puts this funding toward programs such as governing boards of institutions of higher education, which is interested in the disclosure of gender, racial, and ethnic composition of governing boards of higher education to promote DEI institutions, which is a pointless use of information and resources.

This institute puts funding toward programs such as cross-sectional studies. This is a program launched to provide real-time data about the impact of COVID-19 on public K-12 education. The content focuses on how COVID-19 is affecting the delivery of education and how schools are navigating recovery efforts from that epidemic.

The Department of Education requested \$4 million initially to further expand the survey across districts nationally. It is not a mission that the American taxpayer needs to fund, and it is a direct waste of our budget.

It is offices such as this that contribute to the rapid wasteful spending that has become so commonplace in our country under our Federal Government.

As far as the grant programs under the Institute of Education Sciences, they go toward post-COVID-19 research. This is research to accelerate pandemic recovery in special education grant programs and improve pandemic recovery efforts in education agencies' grant programs.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

This amendment highlights the extreme lengths that House Republicans will go in order to dismantle public education for students and families nationwide.

The Institute of Education Sciences', IES', mission is to provide scientific evidence on which to ground education practice and policy and to share this information and make it accessible to educators, parents, policymakers, researchers, and the public.

IES is independent. IES is non-partisan. They are the statistics research and evaluation arm of the U.S. Department of Education.

What would happen if this amendment is successful? Well, it would mean the end of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, NAEP. That is the assessment of what students in the United States are able to do in various subjects. That has been administered since 1969.

It would mean the end of regional educational laboratories, which provide evidence-based technical assistance to school districts and States across the country.

It would mean the end of new advances in education research and development, including exciting initiatives to expand high-risk, high-reward transformational research.

This amendment would be the death of our Federal investment in education research.

We just saw a little while ago that we were going to end our investment in biomedical research. Now, we are ending our investment in educational research. Simply, I cannot accept that outcome.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, under the Institute of Education Sciences, they will establish two research networks, the pre-kindergarten through grade 12 recovery research network and the community college recovery research network to study pandemic events. It is a grant that pertains to gender-integrated classrooms to see if boys and girls are better equipped to learn together or separately in the classroom.

The fiscal year 2019 enacted level was over \$615 million, but 2024 is currently set at over \$707 million. That is a \$90 million increase in just 5 years. This rate of growth is not sustainable.

This program is part of what we could safely call the educational-industrial complex. Over the years, our predecessors created a constituency and expanded on it every year by giving more money. They justify it by putting more mandates and doing more studies that don't mean anything. They come back and do it again and again.

Thus, we are well over \$33 trillion in national debt. Our structural deficit

last year was over \$2 trillion. Fiscal year 2024 looks like it is going to be about the same, except we are going to be north of \$35 trillion, \$36 trillion in national debt. That is crushing.

Mr. Chair, I take my colleagues back to the New York Fed and its study. Of every dollar of tuition that increased, 60 percent of that, 60 cents of that, goes to the fact that the Federal Government is meddling in postsecondary education. That is what is happening here. That is the educational-industrial complex.

In December 2020, the Trump administration nominated Steve Hanke and John Yoo, both professors, to the advisory board for the IES. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona refused to acknowledge the appointments, deliver their credentials, or facilitate statutorily required board meetings.

That is the educational-industrial complex that we are facing today. It is crushing. It is crushing our students who want an education.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I continue to oppose this amendment, but I want to provide a framework here for a moment.

I was looking through the various amendments over the last little while. Amendment No. 69 from Mr. BIGGS slashes the Pell grant funding. Amendment No. 70 from Mr. BIGGS eliminates funding to give out Pell grants and to be able to collect student loans. Amendment No. 71 from Mr. BIGGS eliminates funds for HBCUs, MSIs, TRIO, GEAR UP, and Tribal colleges. Amendment No. 76 from Mr. BIGGS eliminates education, research, and funding. The most recent one is eliminating the funding by the Department of Education for the Institute of Education Sciences.

There are two others, amendment No. 104 that eliminates the salary of the Department of Education Secretary, and amendment No. 92 from Mr. CRANE that cuts education staff by \$38 million.

This is the litany of this battery of amendments where I make my point that the Republican majority is really in the business, within this bill, of eliminating public education. These amendments come on top of the underlying bill, which makes a 28 percent cut in education.

Do we think we have a reasonable understanding of where the Republican majority wants to go with public education? Let's do it in.

Mr. Chairman, I say to Mr. BIGGS that he has the lion's share of taking education and public education to the graveyard. Is that what we are to do?

The greater strength of this institution is its potential to help make a difference in people's lives and to provide opportunity. That is what we are supposed to do in the United States Congress and in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Chair, this battery of amendments would destroy educational op-

portunity, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, the greatest strength of this body is that we represent constituents who send us here knowing that we are constrained in protecting their rights because we are limited by what we can and cannot do by that great document, the Constitution.

I stand here willing to learn and find out where in the Constitution there is any specific authority for this body to meddle in postsecondary educational choices of the American people. That is the educational-industrial complex at work, for what we are seeing in the arguments against my amendments today.

I support postsecondary education. I do not support the Federal Government meddling in the choices of individuals to get that education and how they are going to get it and the institutions that are providing it—the harassment that some of those institutions are receiving from this administration.

Mr. Chair, I urge the adoption of my amendment, and 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. DELAURO. 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.

□ 1600

Mr. ADERHOLT. 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. VAN DREW) having assumed the chair, Mr. CALVERT, 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. 5894) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.