



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023

No. 195

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
November 28, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARIANNE MILLER-MEEKS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate insist upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2670) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes," disagreed to by the House of Representatives and agrees to the conference asked by the House on the dis-

agreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINES, Mr. KING, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCOTT (FL), Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. SCHMITT, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate, with instructions.

### SANCTIONED FUNDS TO BE ACCESSED BY THE IRANIAN REGIME IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RETURN OF AMERICAN HOSTAGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this September, the Biden administration paved the way for \$6 billion in sanctioned funds to be accessed by the Iranian regime in exchange for the return of American hostages.

Authorizing this transfer puts us in an incredibly dangerous position and will only encourage Iran and other state sponsors of terrorism to kidnap more hostages in the future.

What we saw in the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan and what we are seeing, once again, is that President Biden has failed to manage our Nation's foreign policy.

This deal gives Iran access to more money to fund more terrorist activities, including support for regional proxies like Hamas and Hezbollah.

We know that the Iranian regime is highly skilled in sanctions evasion, and they will do everything they can to hide the true use of these funds.

One thing is for certain, this money would not be used for humanitarian purposes, as the Biden administration has claimed.

It is time to pass the No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act and freeze this money in Qatari banks where it is currently being held.

We cannot allow the Iranian regime to enrich itself and continue to funnel money into the hands of known terrorists.

PUBLIC LANDS SHOULDN'T BE USED TO HOUSE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, in the past week, the Tucson, Arizona, sector of our southern border has encountered over 2,000 illegal immigrants each and every day.

This crisis has pulled in Border Patrol resources, including highly trained BORTAC units to confront the surge of illegal immigrants from across the southwest.

This has left dangerous gaps in our border security for cartels to exploit, smuggling deadly drugs like cocaine, heroin, and fentanyl into the United States.

Now, after repealing Trump's remain in Mexico policy, the Biden administration is attempting to use public lands and national parks to house illegal immigrants.

This policy shift is a failure, and it is a failure that will continue to have immediate and negative consequences for so many American communities.

Places like the Gateway National Recreational area in New Jersey should not be used to house illegal immigrants who have been allowed by President Biden to remain in America for far too long.

Our communities cannot afford to continue down this treacherous path.

It is time for Congress to pass legislation that prevents our public lands from being used to support the crisis that President Biden has failed to address with our failed ability to maintain the sovereignty of our country by making sure that all of our borders are secure.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g.,  1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H5907

CONGRESS NEEDS TO REGULATE  
THE SALE OF AMMUNITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, it is undeniable that we have a gun problem in our country and that too many people lose their lives to gun violence every single day.

We can't take on the issue of gun violence without also addressing ammunition access for criminals and for those who are choosing to harm others across our country.

This means holding people and institutions accountable for their role in the public commercial ammunition sales that can get into the wrong hands.

Just a few weeks ago, The New York Times released a report indicating that ammunition produced at the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant has also been sold widely in the civilian marketplace. Ammo from Lake City has been seized from drug dealers, violent felons, and even rioters from January 6.

Ammo from the plant has been tied to at least a dozen mass shootings, including at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde.

Let me be clear: This is completely unacceptable.

We are demanding oversight, not just over this plant, but the commercial sales of ammunition that is subsidized by the U.S. Government and then is turned around and used in mass shootings across the country.

We also need to pass my bill, along with Senator ELIZABETH WARREN's bill, the AMMO Act to regulate ammunition sales across the country. This is a serious challenge. People are losing their lives.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE WON  
FIRST PLACE IN THE ACI EXCELLENCE  
IN CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION AWARDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, the American Concrete Institute recognizes and awards construction projects across the world every year.

During the 2023 ACI Excellence in Concrete Construction Awards, the I-74 Mississippi River Bridge, located in Bettendorf, Iowa, took home first place in the infrastructure category.

This regional project was started with the intention of improving access across the Mississippi River. The bridge was recently updated to include interchange ramp reconfigurations and interstate and local roadways improvements.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the architects, engineers, contractors, and suppliers that worked so diligently to improve this vital link within the Quad Cities across the Mississippi River.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SAM RAYMOND, CARSON  
GUZMAN, AND RYAN PETERS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize three very impressive Norwalk High School students and their recent achievements.

I congratulate Sam Raymond, Carson Guzman, and Ryan Peters for receiving the National Speech and Debate Association's 2022-2023 Speaking and Service Award.

Every year the National Speech and Debate Association recognizes students who go above and beyond in their service to their teams, schools, and communities with the Speaking and Debate Service Award.

From more than 140,000 members, fewer than 140 students receive this recognition and reached the maximum number of service points in the student honor society.

These three individuals earned distinction through their impressive record for speech and debate competition, as well as community service, public speaking, and leadership activities.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I congratulate Sam Raymond, Carson Guzman, and Ryan Peters for their award.

RECOGNIZING ZACH GRAHAM, THE 2023 PAT  
TILLMAN SCHOLAR

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Zach Graham, the 2023 Pat Tillman Scholar.

This award is inspired by the legacy of Pat Tillman who left the NFL to serve as a U.S. Army Ranger and ultimately gave his life in service.

Zach Graham is a dedicated Army veteran and a third-year graduate student at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.

In 2014, Zach graduated from Iowa State University with a double major in anthropology and international studies and a minor in military science. Zach commissioned as an intelligence officer in the Army and he was stationed in Germany as the lead intelligence officer for the Army's aviation unit in Europe.

Zach transitioned from the military to dentistry when he found his calling, a profession that allows him to make a tangible impact with precision and artistry.

Zach Graham's dedication to service above self is truly commendable, and we eagerly anticipate the remarkable contributions he will continue to make.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Zach on receiving this incredible honor and award.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. SUZI JONES AS  
THEATRE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate a passionate and impressive educator from Iowa's very own Pella High School, Mrs. Suzi Jones.

Mrs. Jones was recently recognized by the Iowa High School Speech Association as their Theatre Educator of the Year.

Every year, IHSSA selects the winner for this award based on community and

statewide impact. Mrs. Jones was surprised with this award in front of the entire Pella High School student body.

As a parent, I am grateful to all educators and teachers dedicated to shaping the lives of our future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them for their exceptional effort and, once again, I congratulate Mrs. Jones for her award.

## LET'S DO THE RIGHT THING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, how often do we have a chance to do the right thing, defeat Communism, grow the economy, create jobs, reduce the deficit, and secure the southern border all at the same time?

It would be all good for America. It would be all good no matter what party you are from and no matter what part of the country you are from. This is a rare thing indeed.

I suggest we support the Make Putin Pay Act. I suggest we combine it with securing the southern border. How many opportunities are we going to have to do the right thing and use the right assets to do the mission?

We can right now use over \$100 billion in frozen assets from Russia to pay for the military support required to defeat an invading Communist country into Europe.

We can secure 70 percent of Europe's grain stores so it is not sold to a foreign national government that is unfriendly, but to sustain a bigger, stronger, more friendly Europe. Meanwhile, that money is going to be spent back in the United States to support our defense industry, to create jobs, and through taxes, created by those jobs, to reduce the deficit, all while defeating our biggest adversary in the European theater.

If we can combine that with H.R. 2 and secure our southern border, even better. Let's just get this straight: We win for the economy; we win for reducing debt; we win for defeating Communism; and we win by securing our southern border. This is what we are working with right now with the Senate.

How many opportunities do we have to combine a Senate and a House resolution to actually do these things? We win, win, win, and win some more.

Mr. Speaker, I highly suggest that my comrades here in the House support the Make Putin Pay Act. It will use over \$100 billion in frozen assets from Russia to support our economy, pay down debt, and secure our southern border.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.