

The Agreement contains all of the provisions required by subsection 123 a. of the Act. It provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation with the Republic of the Philippines based on a mutual commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. It would permit the transfer of material, equipment (including reactors), components, and information for peaceful nuclear purposes. It would not permit the transfer of Restricted Data or sensitive nuclear technology. Any special fissionable material transferred could only be in the form of low enriched uranium, with the exception of small quantities of material for use as samples, standards, detectors, or targets, or for such other purposes as the parties may agree.

Through the Agreement, the Republic of the Philippines would affirm its intent to rely on existing international markets for nuclear fuel services rather than acquiring sensitive nuclear technology (i.e., for enrichment and reprocessing), and the United States would affirm its intent to support the supply of reactors, material, and equipment in order to ensure a reliable supply of low enriched uranium fuel to the Republic of the Philippines.

The Agreement has a term of 30 years, although it can be terminated by either party upon providing 1 year's advance written notice. In the event of termination or expiration of the Agreement, key nonproliferation conditions and controls will continue in effect as long as any material, equipment, or components subject to the Agreement remain in the territory of the party concerned or under its jurisdiction or control anywhere, or until such time as the parties agree that such material, equipment, or components are no longer usable for any nuclear activity relevant from the point of view of safeguards.

The Republic of the Philippines has an excellent track record on nonproliferation and has consistently reiterated its commitment to nonproliferation. Through its constitution, the Republic of the Philippines has adopted and pursued a policy of freedom from nuclear weapons in its territory. It is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and has concluded a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Republic of the Philippines was also among the early sponsors of and is a State Party to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. A more detailed discussion of the Republic of the Philippines' domestic civil nuclear activities and its nuclear nonproliferation policies and practices is provided in the NPAS and its classified annex.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested departments and agencies in reviewing the Agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to,

the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the Agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee, as provided in subsection 123 b. Upon completion of the 30 days of continuous session review provided for in subsection 123 b., the 60 days of continuous session review provided for in subsection 123 d. shall commence.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 30, 2023.

#### CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SHERIFF CULLEN TALTON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of Cullen Talton, the longest-serving active sheriff in the State of Georgia.

After 51 years of serving his community, Mr. Talton has decided to complete his final term serving Houston County before retiring.

Sheriff Cullen Talton was elected in 1972, where he served as a commissioner before becoming a sheriff. He is known for being a trusted, respectable, and devoted servant of his community.

To honor his many years of service and dedication, local leaders, community members, and his family gathered at the Houston County Annex before the commissioners meeting to celebrate the longtime sheriff.

I congratulate Sheriff Talton on his remarkable achievements and well-deserved retirement. His dedication and years of service are admirable and greatly appreciated.

#### CELEBRATING HUDSON RIVER TUNNEL GROUNDBREAKING

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the groundbreaking of the country's most important infrastructure project, the Hudson River Tunnel.

Officials are about to start construction of a new Tonnelles Avenue Bridge. It will help connect New Jersey to a new Hudson River Tunnel.

The benefits of the Hudson River Tunnel project are numerous. It will create more than 72,000 jobs, generate more than \$87 million per month for local communities, and utilize American suppliers and manufacturers through the Buy America requirement.

It will increase opportunities for minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses on the project. In addition, it will create a faster, more effective means of transportation for 200,000 daily commuters.

I fought to include \$66 billion for projects such as this one in the bipartisan infrastructure law, and I am proud that my work will finally result in a new Hudson River Tunnel.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CHIEF BRADLEY HAAS

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and bravery of New Hampshire's own Bradley Haas, who was killed in the line of duty while protecting the staff and patients at New Hampshire Hospital on November 17, preventing what likely would have been a tragic mass shooting in our psychiatric hospital.

There is no doubt that Chief Haas' courage saved countless lives. Our community, our State, and our country owe him and his family a debt that can never be repaid.

Throughout his life of service, Chief Haas always devoted himself to working for others. He will be remembered as many things: a hero, a patriot, a community leader, and, most of all, a friend. May he rest in peace.

#### CONGRATULATING BARB ICKES ON HER RETIREMENT

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

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a journalist who, through hard work and determination, brought the news to the people of Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Barb Ickes has been in newspaper storytelling for more than 30 years. She has broken countless news stories, exposed corruption, and helped Quad-City Times readers through record floods, tough economic times, and monumental political events.

She helped us navigate crossing the Mississippi River with her "bridge beat" and took us to her "off-limits places." Barb has seen it all, and she has shared it with our community.

As Barb retires from her position as managing editor with the Quad-City Times, we recognize her accomplishments and the legacy that she leaves for the next generation of news reporters.

I am honored to wish her the best as she turns the page to her next chapter.

#### TYING ASYLUM CHANGES TO AID FOR ALLIES

(Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, when I helped clients win asylum cases as a young law student, I heard the tragic stories of how they fled their countries, carrying with them fear and pain but little else.

It is already very hard to win asylum. You must first show that you have a credible fear of being persecuted in your home country. Asylum seekers must later prove their claims in an administrative or court process.

There are many things wrong with our immigration system, but showing credible fear is the right first step. Now, we are seeing major permanent proposed changes to our asylum law as a condition for emergency funding for Ukraine, Israel, and the Indo-Pacific.

I stand in strong support of this emergency aid. It is essential, but just as it was wrong to tie Israeli aid to gutting the IRS' ability to go after tax cheats, it is wrong to tie harmful, significant, and permanent changes to asylum law to passing essential aid for our allies.

Instead, we need comprehensive immigration reform. We need to protect our Dreamers, and we need to support our allies. Our Latino communities, our asylum seekers, and our allies abroad deserve better.

#### CELEBRATING THE BLESSING OF OSCAR ORTIZ IN OUR LIVES

(Mrs. RAMIREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend and constituent, Oscar Ortiz, a devoted champion for educational equity.

Oscar was a visionary. He believed that education was a powerful tool to realize our collective potential and dreams. As a teacher, "el maestro," "teacher," Ortiz helped the students find their power and joy in learning. As an organizer with the Chicago Teachers Union, he energized our community to advance social justice and equity through education.

Oscar committed his time on Earth to building a future for everyone. His passion and optimism were infectious. I am going to miss him dearly, and I know countless others will, too.

To his family and loved ones, know you are in my heart and prayers. Together, let's celebrate the blessing he was in our lives and the mark he has left in our city of Chicago. A bullhorn will never be the same after Oscar Ortiz. May his passion for change and love of community always guide us.

Rest in power, Oscar Ortiz. We love you.

#### LOURDES UNIVERSITY LEADS THE WAY

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lourdes University of Sylvania, Ohio, and its new president, William Bisset, who held a vital convening last week as part of the university's Courage Conversations Town Hall series. It focused on the Israel-Palestine conflict, with dozens of students, staff, and faculty taking part.

University President Bisset and Professor Mary Robinson, who chairs the history, geography, and political science departments at Lourdes, said their goal was to offer a historical perspective to develop an understanding of the past history of Israel and Palestine to help people grasp the full scope of what is taking place in that war-torn region. They hope the conversations will help provide a better understanding of a longstanding conflict in which world leaders have long sought a true path toward a lasting peace and a two-state solution.

Thoughtful discussions in which history is examined, as was done at Lourdes University last week, is the way a breakthrough for peace and reconciliation will come about. May other organizations follow the lead of Lourdes University.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a copy of an editorial from the Toledo Blade that recognizes this event and its important contribution to human understanding.

[From The Blade, Nov. 25, 2023]

EDITORIAL: LOURDES LEADS

(By The Blade Editorial Board)

Kudos to Lourdes University for showing us the way forward on the future of Palestine and Israel.

Not afraid to tackle probably the most emotionally fraught topic of our day, the university last week offered a "town hall" on the topic of the Israeli-Hamas War.

Would that others who have taken to the streets shouting chants and waving signs and issuing orders to U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D., Toledo) would show some of the same awareness of how complicated this problem is.

The university in Sylvania devoted its Courageous Conversations Town Hall to the topic.

Conscious of the ethnic and religious tensions, there was security stationed at the door, but it wasn't needed.

About 40, including administration staff, faculty members, and students, attended.

"My goal was to offer this from a historical perspective because I think the more people understand the past and the history, the better understanding they will have of the subject and be able to better understand both sides of the story," said Mary Robinson, associate professor of history and department chairman of history, geography, and political science at Lourdes.

President William Bisset said, "We needed to start with a conversation that explained that this has been a very, very complicated part of the world for many, many years, that leaders throughout the world have tried to figure out.

"We felt that it was important, especially for our students, but also for our community members to start the conversation [about Israel and Palestine] with a historical perspective," Mr. Bisset said.

Israel and the Palestinian people, and the armed guerilla groups, Hamas and Hezbollah,

who nurture the bitterness of the Palestinians over their displacement from the land that officially became Israel in 1948, are at an impasse, with both sides claiming ownership of the land between Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

But yet, there have been instances under at least two U.S. presidents, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, that the Palestinian people came close to securing a Palestinian state.

Among the Arab states of the Middle East, there appears to be a willingness to once again take up the possibility of a so-called two-state solution.

It's not going to happen, though, if Hamas remains in power in the Gaza Strip. Whether by Israel's current invasion of Gaza or through the diplomatic intervention of Arab leaders in the neighboring Islamic countries, Hamas and Hezbollah have to be neutralized.

Calm discussion in which the history is examined, as was done in Lourdes University's Courageous Conversations Town Hall last week, is the way a breakthrough will come about.

□ 1730

#### PROGRESS IN NORTH CAROLINA

(Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties and just want to report back on some bipartisan progress we have had lately.

We have a huge problem with fentanyl across the State, as we do across the country, but we have new funding both to prevent overdoses and to crack down on the organized crime that is trafficking fentanyl into our communities.

We also got bipartisan support to close the weather radar gap which exists in Charlotte. We have the largest weather radar gap in the country. We are working on new technology to make sure we have more accurate forecasts to keep people safe.

We are also working on the Junk Fee Prevention Act to save your family money and prevent all of those fees that attach as we make purchases online. It is a solid bipartisan start with more work to do. I will keep you posted.

#### REMEMBERING TRINIDAD "TRINI" GARZA

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the extraordinary life of Trinidad Garza, better known in our community as "Trini."

Trini was just a tremendous individual, a great person. I cannot say enough about this man. He loved trying to help kids when it came to education in the community. He was an incredible businessman. He served our country in the U.S. Navy. He did so much for the city of Dallas. I love the Oak Cliff neighborhood that he lived in.

He was just such a tremendous leader. He was part of the city's first Mexican-American Leadership Conference.