

in our own families, yet we rejoice. In the face of trials, troubles that threaten our well-being, our security, our certainty, yet we give thanks.

As gold is proven pure when refined by fire, may our faith, which is so much more valuable than gold, also be proven genuine.

Though we have not seen You, may we demonstrate our love for You, even as we love our neighbor. Though we cannot see You, may we live out our belief in You, even as we approach the labor of this day.

With an unspeakable and wondrous joy for the steadfast, loving care You offer us, we offer ourselves to You.

To You be glory and honor now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MARKING 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF JULIE SU'S TENURE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 1-year anniversary of Julie Su's tenure as Acting Secretary of Labor.

Why 1 year as Acting Secretary? Su doesn't have the support or votes to be confirmed.

As California's Secretary of Labor, Ms. Su allowed fraudsters to steal \$32 billion in unemployment insurance, and she supported AB5, a State law she now wants to make Federal law that denies workers the freedom to choose their work.

Now, she is pursuing a radical agenda at the Department of Labor, writing 75 new regulations that will hurt workers and job creators.

Acting Secretary Su continues to thumb her nose at Congress and the American public. Under Ms. Su's leadership, the DOL has stonewalled congressional oversight. In fact, in December, she failed to comply with a duly served congressional subpoena.

The American people deserve better leadership at DOL. The President should withdraw Ms. Su's nomination.

MAUI MINUTE: DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR MAUI

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, the fires last August devastated our Maui "family," "ohana" in many ways. Adding to the unbearable weight of losing loved ones and homes, the tremendous economic loss from businesses destroyed and the steep drop in tourism compounded the suffering for thousands of families.

In the months after the fires, there were over 10,000 new claims for unemployment. Not everyone impacted qualified for regular unemployment insurance. Thankfully, under President Biden's major disaster declaration, disaster unemployment assistance, or DUA, filled the gap, providing \$7.8 million to thousands of Maui residents.

DUA benefits for Maui expired on February 10, but our people are still hurting. As of January, the unemployment rate for the island of Maui stood at 6.2 percent, an increase compared to 5.8 percent in December and well above our State average of 3.1 percent.

Last week, I led the Hawaii congressional delegation in introducing legislation to extend disaster unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 39 weeks for Maui residents impacted by the fires. My bill applies those benefits retroactively to qualified individuals.

Our people are focused on recovery, but we need the House to pass this bill now, continue this critical relief, and help our people get back on their feet again.

UTILIZING FEDERAL OFFICE SPACE EFFICIENTLY

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act, or the USE IT Act.

This legislation, which was introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), directs the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, and the General Service Administrations, GSA, to establish standard methodologies to measure occupancy in public buildings and federally leased space.

It also requires GSA and OMB to take steps to reduce or consolidate space if utilization falls below 60 percent. Currently, Federal office space utilization averages an unbelievably low 25 percent or less for most major agencies.

This bill, which I am proud to support, would ensure our Federal workers are utilizing the workspace taxpayers are paying for.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 4 years since the pandemic. It is past time Federal

workers return to the office where they are most efficient to ensure they remain accountable to the taxpayers.

FULL FUNDING FOR WIC

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight that last week, Congress came together to deliver full funding for WIC nutrition assistance.

Without this action, access to this critical program would have been put at risk for thousands of mothers, children, and families, including 1 million Californians.

As someone who knows the difference that Federal nutrition programs make in our communities, I was proud to see us reach a bipartisan solution to deliver funding needed to avoid a benefits cliff later this year.

WIC helps put food on the tables in central coast communities. It helps our children grow strong and do better in school. It helps expecting mothers by protecting their future children's development.

Every dollar we invest in WIC saves more than \$2 in other expenses. That is a win-win.

I advocated for full funding of WIC, and I am proud to see this common-sense win for families signed into law.

FAMILY FARMS ARE IN CRISIS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during President Biden's politically charged, factually inaccurate, and often confusing State of the Union speech, we heard a lot of excuses about the problems American families are facing.

One line from the President's speech stood out to me: Because of my investments, family farms are better able to stay in the family.

Well, this rosy picture painted by our President doesn't tell the whole story, and his own Department of Agriculture's data proves it.

Under President Biden, rural America and our family farms are in crisis. We are in the middle of the largest agricultural trade deficit on record. Farm input costs from fuel to fertilizer have skyrocketed. Interest rates are sky high. Grocery prices are up 21 percent since Biden took office.

The state of the Union is expensive. Rural America is struggling. Our family farms are in dire straits.

As the New York Post recently said: "Shrinkflation and many other problems are the bitter harvest of Bidenomics."

Thankfully, we have the opportunity to course correct, to revitalize rural America, and truly get our family farms back on track. We will do this

through the farm bill, one of the few remaining exercises in good governance left in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me and truly uplift our family farms.

PAYING TRIBUTE AND WELCOMING WEST COAST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to pay tribute to and welcome to Washington, D.C., a group of dedicated nursing and respiratory therapy students and professionals from West Coast University and American Career College.

West Coast University has been educating and preparing students for nursing and healthcare-related careers for more than 100 years. WCU is well known for its preeminent undergraduate, master's, and doctorate nursing programs.

WCU established a campus in Dallas in 2012. In 2021, after a decade of proven excellence in student outcomes, WCU opened a state-of-the-art nursing, occupational therapy, and physician assistants campus in Richardson. The school serves approximately 1,100 campus-based and 2,000 online students. WCU also has a campus in Florida that serves approximately 1,000 students.

Through its campuses in Texas, California, and Florida, West Coast University and American Career College are expanding access to nursing education and addressing workforce shortages among healthcare professionals across the United States. They are committed to preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals to meet our country's rising demand for care.

Please join me in welcoming these fine students to our Nation's Capitol as they share with Congress their experience, passion, and perspective on providing quality nursing and healthcare.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 8, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 8, 2024, at 7:43 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 3853

That the Senate agrees to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4366

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 94

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Friday, March 8, 2024:

H.R. 4366, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes;

S. 992, to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate the Texas and New Mexico portions of the future Interstate-designated segments of the Port-to-Plains Corridor as Interstate Route 27, and for other purposes.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 9, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 9, 2024, at 12:10 p.m., said to contain a message from the President regarding the designation of funding as an emergency requirement in H.R. 4366, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk of the House.

DESIGNATION OF FUNDING AS AN EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-117)

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

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 6 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (H.R. 4366; the "Act"), I hereby designate as emergency requirements all funding (including the transfer and repurposing of funds) so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum

from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 9, 2024.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1532

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. GREENE of Georgia) at 3 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

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.

FASTA REFORM ACT OF 2023

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6277) to amend the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 to improve such Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6277

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "FASTA Reform Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL ASSETS SALE AND TRANSFER ACT OF 2016.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in paragraph (9) by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in paragraph (10) by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(11) implementing innovative methods for the sale, redevelopment, consolidation, or lease of Federal buildings and facilities, including the use of no cost, nonappropriated contracts for expert real estate services to obtain the highest and best value for the taxpayer.";

(2) in section 3(5)(B)(viii) by inserting "other than office buildings and warehouses," after "Properties";

(3) in section 5(b) by striking "Five Board members" and inserting "Four Board members";

(4) in section 7 by adding at the end the following:

"(c) RETURN TO CIVIL SERVICE.—An Executive Director selected from the civil service (as such term is defined in section 2101 of