

strong farm bill for the products that come from California and all over the country.

In a week, the House Agriculture Committee will hold a vote on this year's farm bill. I can say from personal experience that the committee has spent countless hours going around the country listening to people and taking into account all the things it takes to make our domestic food supply strong.

It aligns our farm safety net with the needs of producers as well as folks in need, and an incentive for conservation and market access are all elements of that.

I also have the privilege of chairing the Subcommittee on Forestry. We are focused on making our forests safer from devastating fire, which we have experienced in northern California with the loss of many lives, as has my dear friend, Representative TOKUDA, with Lahaina in Hawaii.

We have to do much better on making our communities and our lands fire safe to prevent unnecessary loss of life and unnecessary damage. The farm bill is going to be a big element in going forward and improving upon that situation. I look forward to a positive vote and success next week.

CELEBRATING EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and welcome the leadership of the East Bay Park District to this Chamber and to celebrate its 90th anniversary.

The park district has grown to encompass 73 regional parks, spanning 126,000 acres of parklands and over 1,300 miles of trails across the East Bay of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Even in its creation during the Great Depression, residents recognized the importance of what the park district would provide. A ballot measure to establish the park district and subsequent tax for land preservation received an overwhelming 71 percent of the vote in 1934. The park district's commitment to providing positive experiences in nature is truly inspiring.

I am very proud and grateful that the constituents that I represent can benefit from the largest regional park district in the United States.

Please join me in congratulating and celebrating the East Bay Park District for nine decades of commitment to preserving open space, providing safe and welcoming parks, and enhancing the quality of life across the San Francisco Bay Area and the East Bay, in particular.

CELEBRATING MEN AND WOMEN IN BLUE

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, this is Police Week, when we celebrate and honor the men and women in blue who put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities and families safe.

I am reminded of the bravery of Sergeant Adrian Alejandro. While serving in south Texas, Sergeant Alejandro, a 6-year veteran of the Mission Police Department, encountered an individual on foot. While conducting an interview, the individual pulled out a gun and shot him once in the torso. Sergeant Alejandro was able to return fire, striking the suspect twice.

By the grace of God and his training, Sergeant Alejandro survived this incident, and I pray for his continued recovery.

I am proud to stand with our police officers across the Rio Grande Valley and the entire district, who come out day after day to protect our communities.

□ 1215

WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Speaker, every May is Wildfire Awareness Month in Hawaii and across the United States, but this year in the wake of last August's wildfires, fire prevention and preparedness are very personal and urgent for my constituents.

The National Interagency Fire Center predicts above average, significant potential for wildfires across Hawaii, especially in leeward communities. We must prepare for a drier and hotter summer ahead, and in just a few weeks, the Pacific hurricane season will begin, increasing the potential for gusty winds and dangerous climate conditions.

While we cannot predict every situation, we know a vast majority of wildfires are human caused, which means we each play a critical role in preventing fires from starting in the first place.

Local, State, and Federal agencies must also work closely with our communities to implement prevention and mitigation measures, prepare and enhance emergency preparedness and evacuation plans, and establish better methods to monitor and respond to fires.

This is essential work and planning that must be done now. Sadly, as Representative LAMALFA and I know all too well, the Maui and Paradise fires have shown us just how deadly and destructive these fires can be. Now it is up to all of us to make sure it doesn't happen again.

POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. FLOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute America's peace officers during Police Week.

Every day, the men and women in blue keep our communities safe. Even as respect for police has waned in some quarters, I am proud to report that Nebraska has doubled down on our support for law enforcement.

In fact, Nebraska is the best place in the Nation to serve as a peace officer, and we are making it even better.

Before I came to Congress, I was the proud cosponsor of the Law Enforcement Attraction and Retention Act in the Nebraska legislature 2 years ago. This bill provided a variety of cash incentives for officers to help agencies retain and recruit their workforce.

Last year, the legislature passed, and we became the first State in the Nation to provide free college tuition to police officers and firefighters and their immediate families.

Working in Nebraska just makes sense if you are a law enforcement officer. These are just two examples of how we are leading the Nation in recruiting and retaining the best peace officers in the Nation.

NATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT

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

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight my resolution recognizing today, May 16, as the National Day of Light.

Madam Speaker, 64 years ago Theodore Maiman, an American physicist, invented the first light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation, or LASER.

Since then, light-based technologies have grown to play a critical role in innovation. My community of Rochester, New York, is the proud home of one of the largest optics and photonics clusters in the Nation, companies employing thousands of individuals.

As co-chair of the Congressional Optics and Photonics Caucus, I am working to make certain that America capitalizes on the potential of light-based technologies, from photonic integrated circuits to quantum computing and communications which strengthens our economy and our national security.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting these important efforts.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to shed some light on this under-illuminated celebration.

RECOGNIZING JOEL KRETZ

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a newly retired public servant and good friend of

mine from the State of Washington, representative Joel Kretz.

Since 2005, Joel has been dutifully serving the people of Washington's 7th legislative district. As the largest and most rural district in the State, his dedication may be exemplified in just how long his commute is, over 600 miles round trip between Olympia and his ranch in central Washington.

He has been a champion of responsible land management, a crucial advocate in the fight for wildfire management, and a true defender of the western way of life.

His legislative accomplishments, though many, are not the most interesting thing about Joel. He is a true cowboy, world-class horse breeder, and the embodiment of what it means to be from rural America. Did I say that he is also a great friend of mine.

Now it is time for Joel to hang up his coat and tie, put on his cowboy hat and kerchief, and focus on the long honey-do list of his wife, Luska, that she has waiting for him.

I am delighted about Joel's retirement. He has more than earned it.

ISRAEL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SUPPORT ACT

Mr. McCAUL, Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1227, I call up the bill (H.R. 8369) to provide for the expeditious delivery of defense articles and defense services for Israel and other matters, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HINSON). Pursuant to House Resolution 1227, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8369

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 "Israel Security Assistance Support Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists launched a massive, unprovoked war on Israel, killing over 1,200 innocent people and taking over 240 hostages, including American citizens.

(2) Since October 7, Israel has faced attacks by Iran and its proxies including Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis, which have required significant military responses.

(3) Under the terms of a 2016 Memorandum of Understanding, the United States provides Israel with \$3.8 billion per year in security assistance and missile defense funding from fiscal years 2019 through 2028, which is subject to the approval of Congress.

(4) Thus far in fiscal year 2024, Congress has enacted regular and supplemental legislation appropriating \$12.5 billion in security assistance and missile defense for Israel without any additional conditions.

(5) Congress plays a vital role in oversight and approval of direct commercial sales and foreign military sales to security partners around the world, including Israel.

(6) In May 2024, it was reported that President Biden ordered a pause on certain defense articles ready for imminent delivery to

Israel, without having consulted with Congress.

(7) On May 8, 2024, President Biden stated regarding Israel, "We're not going to supply the weapons and artillery shells".

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

Congress—

(1) condemns the Biden Administration's decision to pause certain arms transfers to Israel as Israel faces unprecedented threats from Iran and its proxies, including Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis;

(2) calls on the Biden Administration to allow all previously approved arms transfers to Israel to proceed quickly to ensure that Israel can defend itself and defeat threats from Iran and its proxies, including Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis;

(3) calls on the Biden Administration to utilize all congressionally appropriated funds for security assistance for Israel as Congress intended;

(4) stands with Israel as it defends itself against the barbaric war launched by Hamas and other terrorists; and

(5) reaffirms Israel's right to self-defense.

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under any Act appropriating funds for the Department of Defense or the Department of State for fiscal year 2024 or any prior years may be made available—

(1) to withhold, halt, reverse, or cancel the delivery of defense articles or defense services from the United States to Israel; or

(2) to pay the salary or expenses of any officer or employee of the Department of Defense or the Department of State who takes any action to support or further the withholding, halting, reversal, or cancellation of the delivery of such defense articles or services.

SEC. 5. PROMPT DELIVERY.

(a) PROMPT DELIVERY OF DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall ensure prompt delivery of all defense articles and services for Israel which are expected to be delivered in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, including—

(1) those contracted through the Foreign Military Sales system;

(2) those supported by prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of Defense; and

(3) those provided pursuant to a declaration in section 506(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

(b) PROMPT DELIVERY OF DIRECT COMMERCIAL SALES.—The Secretary of State shall ensure prompt approval and delivery of all direct commercial sales of defense articles and services for Israel which are expected to be delivered in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, including those for the Ministry of Public Security.

(c) PROMPT DELIVERY OF WITHHELD ITEMS.—Any defense article and defense service described in subsection (a) or (b) of this section that were withheld from delivery as of the date of the enactment of this Act shall be delivered to Israel not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. WITHHOLDING OF FUNDS.

(a) WITHHOLDING OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FUNDS.—None of the unobligated balances of funds made available by prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of Defense under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide" for the immediate Office of the Secretary of Defense that are available as of the date of the enactment of this Act may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Defense certifies and reports to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Sen-

ate that the requirements of section 5(c) have been met.

(b) WITHHOLDING OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE FUNDS.—None of the unobligated balances of funds made available by prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs under the heading "Diplomatic Programs" for the Office of the Secretary that are available as of the date of the enactment of this Act may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of State certifies and reports to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the requirements of section 5(c) have been met.

(c) WITHHOLDING OF FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS.—None of the unobligated balances of funds made available by prior Acts making appropriations for Financial Services and General Government under the heading "Executive Office of the President and Funds Appropriated To the President—National Security Council and Homeland Security Council" that are available as of the date of the enactment of this Act may be obligated or expended until the President certifies and reports to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the requirements of section 5(c) have been met.

SEC. 7. OBLIGATION REQUIREMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall obligate any remaining unobligated balances of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for assistance for Israel not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. REPORTS.

(a) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspectors General of the Department of Defense and the Department of State shall jointly submit to Congress a report on any actions taken by executive branch officials before the date of the enactment of this Act to withhold, halt, reverse, or cancel the delivery of defense articles and defense services to Israel.

(b) MONTHLY SECURITY ASSISTANCE REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 30 days thereafter through fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall provide a written report to the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate describing United States security assistance provided to Israel since October 7, 2023, including a comprehensive list of the defense articles and services provided to Israel and the associated authority and funding used to provide such articles and services: *Provided*, That such report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may be accompanied by a classified annex.

(c) REPORT ON PRIORITY DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall provide a written report to the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate describing urgent and high priority defense articles and defense services for Israel and steps taken or planned to expedite the delivery of such articles and services.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally