

the First Congressional District of the State of Illinois. When I think of the life of a young child who was kidnapped from West Africa by the name of Phillis Wheatley in 1753, who was manumitted from slavery in 1773, our Nation has come a long way, but let us never forget that a child had been kidnapped who was 8 years of age. They approximated her age because of the size of her teeth. She had to go up and talk to John Hancock and others and had to recite poetry that we later came to find out were anagrams. She was an absolutely brilliant child, and she was the first person of African ancestry from 1619 to 1753 to have been manumitted from slavery.

I want us to know that Black families are more valuable simply because they have been through so much. Black families don't have their value just because they have been through so much. It is because of the compassion they have had to grow. Not one family is more valuable than the others. We all have different experiences, and sometimes they have had a long-lasting and devastating legacy of neglect that has too often resulted in outright violence.

We rise tonight to reflect on the role of this tragic system and how we might strengthen bonds and not just perpetuate historical problems and systemic norms in the child welfare system that is tearing so many families apart.

I am convinced now more than ever that we must do whatever we can to reduce the need for foster care and strengthen families in whichever configuration they are formed.

Until the system of child welfare can see the value in keeping families together, we must hold the system accountable for what we know to be right. What we do, we also have to know is the right thing. We know that, yes, every child should be protected, and they still need their mothers and their fathers no matter the frailty and the conditions that they suffer from.

Yes, children should have their basic needs met, too, but they still need their grandmothers and grandfathers.

Our child welfare system should not separate children. Our child fostering system that is supposed to help feed and nourish children should not separate children in any case.

Every child who has a brother or a sister deserves to have a relationship with their brother or sister they possess. As much as children should be protected from whatever seeks to threaten the integrity of their lives, it is also the case that no child should be erroneously or permanently separated from people who love them.

We must change the economic conditions and political factors that make it even possible for Black children to end up not being cared for by their relatives because of a lack of capacity and their resources.

There is a reason Black families are more likely to be investigated by child protective services and to have their children removed and placed in out-of-

home care. There is a reason more than 50 percent of Black children in the U.S. will experience a child welfare investigation before their 18th birthday and 10 percent of Black children will be placed into foster care.

These are not accidental occurrences. Rather, they are the manifestation of a deep and pervasive systemic bias. Black children spend more time in foster care; Black children have more placements; and, yes, Black children are less likely to be reunified with their families.

Somebody needs to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. Since the children of our community cannot speak on the floor of this Chamber tonight, we dare to speak for them. Tonight, we pick up the standard for their cause and declare emphatically on their behalf: Let these children return home to loving families. Let them be treated with respect. Let's give them the presumption of innocence and virtue that they deserve. Let them be reunited with the kindred spirit that produced them and continues to love them in spite of the challenges that they face.

This pattern of unjustified investigation and prolonged separation must be brought to an end, not just for the sake of the children but also for the sake of this Nation's future.

Unless the children of our community are returned to the loving arms of their families, no child in this country is safe. No child can sleep easy tonight, and we will not rest until the circle is restored and until the village can, once again, decide for itself what is best for our children.

As we work to keep them safe, let us live to make them free because the light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it alone.

We thank God for the life, the living, and the legacy of the Honorable Phillis Wheatley, a child who was separated and was the first to be manumitted to be free in America, a child who was kidnapped that God had borne free and who had to have her rights restored as a human being.

Madam Speaker, I thank the Honorable SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK from the great State of Florida for her continued service.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative JACKSON for his passionate speech.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss how historical trauma and systemic racism have perpetuated cycles of intergenerational poverty and have disproportionately impacted the welfare of Black children in America.

We must acknowledge a painful truth: By the age of 18, one out of every 100 children in America will experience the court-ordered termination of their parents' rights. This stark statistic is even more alarming for Black children nationwide, who are 2.4 times more likely than their White counterparts to endure the devastating loss of parental rights. In my home State of Florida,

Black children are 1.3 times more likely to experience this.

These numbers represent the lives of children torn from their families, often due to circumstances rooted in historical and structural inequities. Historical trauma, rooted in centuries of enslavement, segregation, and discrimination, continues to echo through generations.

Structural racism further exacerbates these challenges, manifesting in biased policies and practices that disproportionately affect Black families in the child welfare system.

Intergenerational poverty is both a cause and a consequence of child welfare involvement. Families trapped in cycles of poverty face challenges in providing the necessary resources and support for their children. This economic instability often leads to increased scrutiny and intervention from child welfare services, perpetuating a cycle of disruption and disadvantage.

Children have better outcomes in life when they are nurtured and cared for by their own families. We need to reimagine and reform our approach to child welfare to ensure it is fair, equitable, and supportive of family unity.

Our children's futures and the future of our Nation depend on what we do here today in Congress to redirect and make sure that most children get to stay with their families while protecting the children who need it.

Madam Speaker, you have heard from my distinguished colleagues about the foster care system and the issues facing the Black community, all issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, our constituents, Congress, and all Americans tonight.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 9 a.m.

#### OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;

that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.”

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 118th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

VINCE FONG, Twentieth District of California.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-4401. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Availability of Funds and Collection of Checks [Regulation CC; Docket No.: R-1832] (RIN: 7100-AG76) received May 24, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-4402. A letter from the Program Analyst, OBPA, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's request for grant applications — Fiscal Year 2024 Request for Applications (RFA) received May 21, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-4403. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Loan Programs Office, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's Major interim rule — Loan Guarantees for Clean Energy Projects (RIN: 1901-AB59) received May 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4404. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final safety evaluation — Guidance for Monitoring of Fixed Neutron Absorbers in Spent Fuel Pools [Project No. 689; Docket No.: 99902028; EPID L-2022-NTR-0002] received May 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4405. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination under Sec. 506(a)(1) and Sec. 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4406. A letter from the Secretary of State, Department of State, transmitting a letter to clarify the impact of the Leahy Law determinations connected to the supplemental appropriations bill to provide urgent aid to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4407. A letter from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations received May 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4408. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting

the semiannual report of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4409. A letter from the Acting Director, Healthcare and Insurance, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's Major final rule — Postal Service Reform Act; Establishment of the Postal Service Health Benefits Program (RIN: 3206-AO43) received May 28, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4410. A letter from the Management Analyst, JAO, PERMA, Policy and Regulations Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Western Distinct Population Segment of the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo [Docket No.: FWS-R8-ES-2013-0011; FF09E21000 FXES11110900000 212] (RIN: 1018-BE29) received May 29, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4411. A letter from the Management Analyst, JAO, PERMA, Policy and Regulations Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Georgetown and Salado Salamanders [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2020-0048; FF09E21000 FXES11110900000 212] (RIN: 1018-BE78) received May 29, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4412. A letter from the Management Analyst, JAO, PERMA, Policy and Regulations Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status With Section 4(d) Rule for Neuse River Waterdog, Endangered Species Status for Carolina Madtom, and Designations of Critical Habitat [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2018-0092; FF09E21000 FXES11110900000 212] (RIN: 1018-BC28) received May 29, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4413. A letter from the Management Analyst, JAO, PERMA, Policy and Regulations Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for Bartram's Stonecrop With a Section 4(d) Rule [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2018-0104; FF09E21000 FXES11110900000 212] (RIN: 1018-BD35) received May 29, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4414. A letter from the Management Analyst, JAO, PERMA, Policy and Regulations Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for the Sierra Nevada Distinct Population Segment of the Sierra Nevada Red Fox [Docket No.: FWS-R8-ES-2019-0006; FF09E21000 FXES11110900000 212] (RIN: 1018-BC62) received May 29, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4415. A letter from the Management Analyst, JAO, PERMA, Policy and Regulations Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and

Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Slenderclaw Crayfish and Designation of Critical Habitat [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2018-0069; FF09E21000 FXES11110900000 212] (RIN: 1018-BD36) received May 29, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4416. A letter from the Management Analyst, JAO, PERMA, Policy and Regulations Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for the Missouri Distinct Population Segment of Eastern Hellbender [Docket No.: FWS-R3-ES-2018-0056; FF09E21000 FXES11110900000 212] (RIN: 1018-BD26) received May 29, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4417. A letter from the Management Analyst, JAO, PERMA, Policy and Regulations Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status with Section 4(d) Rule for Hermes Copper Butterfly and Designation of Critical Habitat [Docket No.: FWS-R8-ES-2017-0053; FF09E21000 FXES11110900FEDR 223] (RIN: 1018-BC57) received May 29, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4418. A letter from the Management Analyst, JAO, PERMA, Policy and Regulations Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Franklin's Bumble Bee [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2018-0044; FF09E21000 FXES11110900000 212] (RIN: 1018-BD25) received May 29, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4419. A letter from the Management Analyst, JAO, PERMA, Policy and Regulations Branch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for the Beardless Chinchweed and Designation of Critical Habitat [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2018-0104; FF09E21000 FXES11110900000 212] (RIN: 1018-BD35) received May 29, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4420. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Sabine River, Orange, TX [Docket No.: USCG-2024-0224] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 21, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4421. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX [Docket No.: USCG-2024-0314] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 21, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4422. A letter from the Legal Tech, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Security