

Virginia's 10th District but also to be a caring, focused peer and mentor to so many of us.

I am wearing this scarf today because while I met her many years ago when she was in the State senate, where we really became friends was when we were both running for Congress in 2018. This scarf shows so many of us who were on the ballot that year. There is a picture of JENNIFER right here with her gorgeous, long hair and bright smile that shows her as I know her to be right focused, thoughtful, and peering straight forward even in this drawing that is on a silk scarf. Her stare and her focus is clear.

Since the first day that we all arrived here, so many in our class didn't come from state legislatures, they came from a variety of backgrounds bringing different expertise, different types of passion to our work in the Halls of Congress, and at times it was JENNIFER who chose to kind of herd the cats of the class of 2018, making sure that we were getting some of the procedural language correct, making sure that we were kind of seeing the forest through the trees.

For me as a mother with three young daughters, our friendship grew as I have watched her navigate being a mother to two teenage boys, as we talked about the types of television commercials to do along the way. I saw her, I would say, essential minivan commercial which is like everything you ever want to see or need to see about moms and politics just getting it all done. I have been grateful for her friendship. It has been amazing to see you lead by example.

It has been amazing to see you fight for what you believe in. It has been amazing to see you live every single day full of vim, full of vigor and with deep, deep humility and a focus on serving others.

I want to continue focusing on all of your extraordinary bright spots, but I do think it is important to note that so many other people in your shoes, so many other people were they facing any type of challenge, let alone the health challenge that you face, would have made different decisions, would have stepped away. The fact that while you are in the fight of your life you have continued to fight for others, you have continued to be here day in and day out, you have continued to vote for your constituents, to work for your constituents, and lead by your extraordinary example, it means a lot to all of us. I know it means a lot to your constituents. I think you are teaching us all a lesson every single day that you show up and that you do the good work.

The team you have built and the extraordinary people who spend their days learning from you and learning with you will continue forward to do right hopefully by the Commonwealth of Virginia or in whatever other paths of public service they may pursue.

JENNIFER, as a friend, I am grateful for you. As a colleague, I have learned

so much from you. As a woman in politics and as a mom you have been an extraordinary example for so many of us. I love you so, so very much. I look forward to continuing to celebrate you into the future, and I hope that by the end of this week we actually get a CR done on time so you can begin enjoying your retirement, my darling friend.

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Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SPANBERGER very much for speaking from the heart, as she always does.

I want to put just a little more context into Ms. WEXTON also because Congressman SCOTT mentioned that she had been a prosecutor. She was actually deputy Commonwealth attorney for 4 or 5 years in the early 2000s, with a number of major cases to her credit that she had prosecuted.

When she got to the Virginia Senate, she was one of the real champions for the Medicaid expansion because we had made that possible, but it had to be adopted State by State. It was JENNIFER's leadership in the State Senate that made that huge difference. She especially fought for people with disabilities.

Interestingly, when she was elected in 2018, we are very proud that was the day that JENNIFER WEXTON, ABIGAIL SPANBERGER, and Ms. Luria, three Virginia women, took back the U.S. House.

She was the first Member ever to put a transgender flag on the door of her office. This is a difficult thing even today, but then it was spectacular.

Most of us here have been involved in suicide prevention for a long time. When you realize that perhaps 75 to 80 percent of transgender teenagers have major suicide ideation, this was a bold and very loving thing to do.

I am particularly impressed because JENNIFER came with Abby, her chief of staff, the only chief of staff. This is an office famous for very low turnover because they all are dedicated and devoted to JENNIFER. JENNIFER even graciously has given Abby to her successor. She will be here to keep the 10th District running well.

Most people don't know this, but she is a proud citizen, an American of Italian heritage. She was born Jennifer Tosini. In a place run by NANCY PELOSI for all those decades, this was a very smart thing to be an Italian American here.

Her birthday is May 27, which means probably once every 6 years, her birthday is on Memorial Day, which is a very good thing, a time when we memorialize everyone who sacrificed for our country.

JENNIFER, I don't want to give away your birth year.

She was born in those tragic weeks between the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Bobby Kennedy.

I know that you were just a baby, but I sometimes think that, on some level, that notion of being born into the her-

itage of two of the great public servants, the great martyrs, the great people who lived their lives to serve others became part of who you are all your life.

I think that BOBBY SCOTT probably said it best. You are a woman of strength, character, and grace. I think I speak for all Virginians, maybe all Americans, in thanking you for your wonderful, grateful years of service for the people of Virginia and for all Americans.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, before yielding back, I would like to point out that JENNIFER WEXTON did an eloquent, beautiful speech today in the Virginia House. It is available on her Twitter account or her X account, @RepWexton.

To all of you watching, please look at this speech. That will be so much better than anything that we would have said tonight.

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

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT ON THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025, SUBMITTED BY MR. TURNER, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The following is the Explanatory Statement to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 ("the Act"), which has been included as Division F of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025. The Explanatory Statement reflects the result of negotiations between the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (together, "the Committees"). The Explanatory Statement shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of the Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a conference committee.

The classified nature of U.S. intelligence activities prevents the Committees from publicly disclosing many details concerning their final decisions regarding funding levels and policy direction. Therefore, the Committees have prepared a classified annex—referred to here and within the annex itself as "the Agreement"—that contains a classified Schedule of Authorizations and describes in detail the scope and intent of the Committees' actions.

The Agreement authorizes the Intelligence Community to obligate and expend funds as requested in the President's budget and as modified by the classified Schedule of Authorizations, subject to applicable reprogramming procedures.

The classified Schedule of Authorizations is incorporated into the Act pursuant to Section 6102 of the Act. It has the status of law. The Agreement supplements and adds detail to clarify the authorization levels found in the Act and in the classified Schedule of Authorizations.

This Explanatory Statement incorporates by reference, and the Executive Branch shall comply with, all direction contained in the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Report to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (S. Rept. 118-181) and in the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Report to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal

Year 2025 (H. Rept. 118-662). The Agreement supersedes all classified direction in the classified annexes to accompany S. Rept. 118-181 and H. Rept. 118-662 related to programs and activities authorized by the Schedule of Authorization.

The Executive Branch is further directed as follows:

STUDY ON THREATS POSED BY CITIZENSHIP-BY-INVESTMENT PROGRAMS

The Committees are concerned with the threats to the United States posed by citizenship-by-investment programs operated by foreign governments. A recent Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) report highlighted the ease of identity laundering, bribery and corruption that result from these programs, as well as the freedom of movement offered to malign actors, sanctioned individuals, weapons and human traffickers, and terrorists. The FATF and OECD report noted that these programs “make it challenging for compliance professionals at [financial institutions] or other businesses to engage in accurate due diligence,” undermine visa controls and sanctions enforcement, and facilitate the movement of individuals who have violated the law to other jurisdictions to avoid arrest.

The Committees therefore direct the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the heads of any other elements of the Intelligence Community the Director considers appropriate, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to submit to the Committees a study on the threat posed to the United States by foreign citizenship-by-investment programs and the investments allowed under such programs; and provide to the committees a briefing on the results of the study.

The study shall include the following:

1. A detailed description of the threats posed to the national security of the United States by citizenship-by-investment programs;

2. The types of investments or contributions which an individual may make in exchange for citizenship under a foreign government's citizenship-by-investment program, including investments in, or donations or transfers to, the government of a foreign country or any person, business, or entity in such foreign country, or for the benefit of a foreign country;

3. The use of such programs to evade sanctions or taxes, facilitate or finance crimes related to national security, including terrorism, weapons trafficking or proliferation, cybercrime, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and espionage, or any other activity which furthers the interests of a foreign adversary or undermines the integrity of the immigration laws or security of the United States, or undermines the United States and its interests through any other means identified by the Director;

4. The foreign countries whose citizenship-by-investment programs pose the greatest threat to the national security of the United States;

5. Recommendations for any additional resources or authorities necessary to counter such threats; and

6. A description of opportunities to counter such threats.

STUDY ON THREAT POSED BY FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL LAND

The Committees note that foreign ownership and investment in U.S. agricultural land—which includes farmland, pastures, and forest land—has grown almost 50% since 2017, according to the U.S. Department of Agri-

culture (USDA). While foreign investors in U.S. agricultural land are required to submit forms describing their transactions to USDA by the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. §3501) (AFIDA), AFIDA was not designed to identify potential national security concerns.

The Committees therefore direct the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in coordination with the elements of the Intelligence Community the Director considers appropriate, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to (1) submit to the Committees a study on the threat posed to the United States by foreign investment in agricultural land in the United States, and (2) provide to the committees a briefing on the results of the study.

The study shall include the following:

1. Data and an analysis of agricultural land holdings, including current and previous uses of the land disaggregated by sector and industry, held by a foreign person from a country identified as a country that poses a risk to the national security of the United States in the most recent annual report on worldwide threats issued by the Director pursuant to section 108B of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. §3043b) (commonly known as the “Annual Threat Assessment”), a non-market economy country, or any other country that the Director determines to be appropriate;

2. An analysis of the proximity of the agricultural land holdings to critical infrastructure and military installations;

3. An assessment of the threats posed to the national security of the United States by malign actors that use foreign investment in agricultural land in the United States;

4. An assessment of warning indicators and methods by which to detect potential threats from the use by foreign adversaries of agricultural products for nefarious ends; and

5. An assessment of additional resources or authorities necessary to counter threats identified during the study.

INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMIC COERCION BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

The Committees direct that, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research shall submit a classified intelligence assessment to the Committees that (1) outlines economic coercion efforts by the People's Republic of China in the Indo-Pacific region, and (2) describes measures that have been, or could be, taken to enhance the resilience of countries in the region to such coercion.

CLASSIFIED ANNEX TO REPORT ON MISSION EFFECT OF CIVILIAN HARM

Section 6323 of the Act requires the DNI, acting through the National Intelligence Council, to submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report examining the extent to which civilian harm that occurs during counterterrorism operations informs analyses of the Intelligence Community on the mission success of campaigns to degrade, disrupt, or defeat foreign terrorist organizations.

The Committees direct that this report include a classified annex, to be submitted to the Committees, that provides an inventory of (1) collection gaps and challenges that may affect the analysis of the success or failure of campaigns against terrorist groups, and (2) actions taken by the DNI to mitigate such gaps and challenges.

REPORT ON ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER DEDICATED TO STRATEGIC COMPETITION

Section 6307 of the Act, among other things, codifies the National Intelligence

Management Council and expresses the sense of Congress that the DNI should create a role in the Council for a National Intelligence Manager dedicated to the People's Republic of China.

The Committees direct the DNI, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and in consultation with the heads of elements of the Intelligence Community determined appropriate by the Director, to submit to the Committees a report that examines the potential effects of establishing a new national intelligence center dedicated to strategic competition, which would:

1. Integrate all-source intelligence on the plans and intentions of strategic competitors;

2. Synchronize intelligence collection efforts among the elements of the Intelligence Community;

3. Optimize resource investments made by elements of the Intelligence Community in support of strategic competition;

4. Integrate the work of other national intelligence centers that is relevant to strategic competition; and

5. Inform the President, Congress, and other policymakers as they craft and execute the United States' approach to strategic competition.

The report shall seek to incorporate lessons learned from previous Intelligence Community reorganizations, including those undertaken pursuant to the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-458). The report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE WORKFORCE

The Committees find that—

1. From its inception, the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) has met joint warfighter requirements because of a workforce that includes Intelligence Community and Department of Defense civilians and uniformed service members;

2. The NRO has achieved success, in part, because the Department of Defense has consistently fulfilled its longstanding commitment to assign Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Guardians to positions at the NRO;

3. The NRO is negatively affected—and its ability to meet warfighter requirements diminished—when the United States Space Force does not assign Guardians to the NRO at a rate that meets the NRO requirements;

4. The NRO and the Space Force jointly benefit from Guardian assignments at the NRO; and

5. The NRO and Space Force are negatively affected by the Space Force's uneven emphasis on developing space operators without similar emphasis on developing Guardians with space acquisition and engineering expertise.

Therefore, the Committees direct the DNI and the heads of any other departments and agencies the Director deems relevant to provide quarterly updates to the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the Department of Defense fulfilling its commitment to assign uniformed personnel to the NRO.

INCREASED EFFORT AND RESOURCES IN THE FIELD OF GEOMATICS

The Committees find that—

1. The Intelligence Community and the broader United States Government require professionals with advanced training in geomatics and geodesy, and the preservation of these skillsets is crucial to advancing geospatial intelligence tradecraft for the United States for national security and military operations;

2. The Intelligence Community should use existing authorities to engage in novel ways

with academic and industry partners to ensure the Intelligence Community's demand signal for geomatics and geodesy professionals is received by the largest possible number of United States citizens while also seeking to foster a culture of academic excellence and research to propel the field of geomatics forward at the pace of innovation;

3. By engaging with academic and industry partners, the Intelligence Community can help speed the reversal of the current trend wherein the United States not only produces fewer geomatics scientists and engineers compared to its global competitors and potential adversaries, but such competitors and adversaries also provide them with training and expertise that could be used against the United States;

4. There is abundant opportunity for the Intelligence Community to advance its growing need for geomatics and geodesy professionals by partnering with American universities and researchers with proven experience in diverse fields who can lead the way to solving the United States most vexing geomatics challenges; and

5. The Intelligence Community must balance the increasing demand for recruiting the best geomatics and geodesy talent while still ensuring a dedicated and patriotic workforce with allegiance to the Constitution and the United States Government.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1097. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation.

H.R. 3254. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a process to review applications for certain grants to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3797. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an alternative manner of furnishing certain health insurance coverage statements to individuals.

H.R. 3801. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to streamline and improve the employer reporting process relating to health insurance coverage and to protect dependent privacy.

H.R. 5301. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6829. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize and support the creation and dissemination of cardiomyopathy education, awareness, and risk assessment materials and resources to identify more at-risk families, to authorize research and surveillance activities relating to cardiomyopathy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6960. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program.

H.R. 7872. An act to amend the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 4199.—An act to authorize additional district judges for the district courts and convert temporary judgeships.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

U.S. CONGRESS, OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS,

Washington, DC, December 17, 2024.

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

Re Biennial Report from the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Section 102(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA) requires the Board of Directors of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) to biennially submit a report containing recommendations regarding the applicability of Federal workplace rights, safety and health, and public access laws and regulations to the legislative branch. The purpose of this report is to ensure that the rights afforded by the CAA to legislative branch employees and visitors to Capitol Hill and district and state offices remain equivalent to those in the private sector and the executive branch of the Federal Government. As such, these recommendations support the intent of Congress to keep pace with advances in workplace rights and public access laws.

Accompanying this letter is a copy of the Board's Section 102(b) report for the 119th Congress. The Board welcomes discussion on these issues and urges that Congress act on these important recommendations. As required by the CAA, we request that this publication be printed in the Congressional Record and referred to the Committee on House Administration as the committee of the U.S. House of Representatives with jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

MARTIN J. CRANE,
Executive Director,

Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

Attachment.

BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Required by Section 102(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act

Issued at the Conclusion of the 118th Congress for Consideration by the 119th Congress

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) Board of Directors submits this report to Congress pursuant to section 102(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA). In accordance with the CAA, the Board is to provide each Congress with recommendations regarding the applicability to the legislative branch of federal workplace

rights, safety and health, and public access laws and regulations. The Board's fulfillment of this requirement provides Congress with information and recommendations necessary to ensure parity between the rights and protections applied to the legislative branch and those applied to the executive branch and the private sector.

Currently executive branch and private employees have protections and rights that legislative branch employees do not have. In this report, the Board addresses and recommends changes to the CAA's substantive protections and obligations and to the necessary implementing procedures and regulations. Adoption of these recommendations would ensure that Congress meets the goal that it set for itself: to apply to the legislative branch those workplace rights and obligations that it has applied to the executive branch and the private sector. The following is a summary of the Board's recommendations:

Create Parity with the Executive Branch and the Private Sector

Require legislative branch offices to maintain records of workplace injuries and illnesses.

Provide comparable parental bereavement leave for legislative branch employees.

Provide comparable nursing protections for legislative branch employees.

Provide comparable religious compensatory time for all legislative branch employees.

Provide comparable whistleblower protections to legislative branch employees.

Provide comparable protections from retaliation for non-employees under the CAA's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) public access provisions.

Provide comparable protections for legislative branch employees who serve on jury duty, declare bankruptcy, or have their wages garnished.

Require legislative branch offices to maintain records required under other federal workplace rights laws.

Improve Implementation of Existing Rights to Ensure Parity

Empower the OCWR General Counsel to seek a court order to temporarily enjoin unfair labor practices.

Allow disclosure of proceedings involving disability-related public access and labor-management issues.

Approve pending OCWR regulations in the legislative branch, including:

Fair Labor Standards Act regulations related to overtime pay.

Family and Medical Leave Act regulations related to paid parental leave and leave benefits for servicemembers and their families.

Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute regulations related to collective bargaining in the legislative branch.

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act regulations related to workplace protections for servicemembers.

Americans with Disabilities Act regulations related to public access to facilities.

Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act regulations related to protections for job applicants in the legislative branch.

More information about the Board's recommendations can be found on OCWR's website at www.ocwr.gov.

STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2025, the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) celebrates the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA), which was enacted by Congress in 1995 with nearly unanimous approval. This milestone anniversary