

group didn't exist or if they were more like the majority, then perhaps our country's challenges would be solved.

Let us remind ourselves that never have our Nation's problems been solved by creating a scapegoat. In light of Supreme Court cases and derogatory posts, we need to remind ourselves that these are real people whom we are talking about. Just because you may not understand someone's experience, Madam Speaker, does not make them any less valid.

A lack of understanding does not give anyone the liberty to attack someone's existence. Let us lead with empathy and strive to learn from our neighbors.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF MIKE VESTA

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of the chief information officer of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, FLETC, Mike Vesta.

Mr. Vesta was appointed as the assistant director and chief information officer of FLETC in August of 2016, and he will retire on December 31.

Mr. Vesta has an extensive background in providing training resources to State, local, campus, Tribal, and international law enforcement. He held a crucial role in Federal law enforcement training, as FLETC serves as a law enforcement training agency for over 90 Federal agencies and other partner organizations.

Mr. Vesta began his career in the Federal Government in 1986 where he spent 4 years enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He also held many roles within the National Weather Service beginning in 1991.

In 2002, Mr. Vesta became the CIO of the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center where he influenced change with information technology in the healthcare world before joining FLETC in 2006.

I celebrate Mr. Vesta's impressive knowledge and impactful career that has supported the U.S. Air Force and advancements in information technology and Federal law enforcement training.

I congratulate Mr. Vesta on his retirement.

BIPARTISAN SPENDING AGREEMENT

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

Mrs. LEE CARTER. Madam Speaker, I did not expect to be here today. We had a bipartisan agreement, and we were set to vote on Wednesday. It was bipartisan and bicameral, yet, at the eleventh hour it was pulled, doing injustice to the American people.

I call for that same agreement to come to the floor so that we can regain

the trust of the American people, keep our government open, and do what they have asked us to do, which is fund disaster relief and provide vast, important services across our Nation.

I also rise because this may be my last time in the well. It has been my honor to be a voice for the 18th Congressional District and bring an important vote back to this House in memory of my mother, the Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee, fighting for justice, freedom, access to healthcare, women's rights, human rights, and economic opportunity for all.

She always fought for it to be a more perfect union and for America to live up to her promise. I think that we should do well to remember that when we have these discussions today.

May her legacy live on in this body and live on in this Nation forever. It has been a true honor to be with my colleagues, but I ask that we do what is right in this season of giving for the American people and bring the bipartisan agreement back to the floor for a vote.

RECOGNIZING SLOAN McPHERSON

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Montana Grizzly defensive end Sloan McPherson from Glendive, Montana. While Sloan is a fantastic football player, I recognize him today for his lifesaving efforts off the gridiron.

Every spring, the Montana Griz football team walks the campus encouraging people to participate in the National Marrow Be the Match Program. Along with encouraging others to join the registry, many players selflessly add their own names to the list.

This past summer, Sloan got a call saying that his stem cells matched a patient with life-threatening leukemia and sickle cell anemia. Sloan made the decision to potentially pass up the opportunity to begin the season with his team and instead flew to Boise, Idaho, to donate his stem cells.

This selfless act resulted in a saved life. When Sloan is asked about his donation, he humbly says: When there is someone in need and you can help them, you have to do it. I have known Sloan since he was born. He lives next door to me. Like his parents, Craig and April, I am proud of the young man that he has grown to be.

The world can use more men like Sloan McPherson.

CELEBRATING THOMAS EYE GROUP'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary

of Thomas Eye Group. For one-half century, Thomas Eye Group has provided exceptional eye care for folks throughout the north Georgia region, becoming a cornerstone of Georgia's healthcare community.

Whether it is through pediatric care, advanced surgeries, or the everyday gift of clearer sight, Thomas Eye Group has embodied what it means to serve with purpose. Their skilled doctors and staff have not only improved their patients' vision but transformed lives, restoring hope and clarity to countless Georgians.

I applaud their unwavering commitment to their patients, their integrity in practice, and their drive to embrace innovation while never losing sight of their mission.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Thomas Eye Group on this incredible milestone. As we look ahead to the next 50 years, I am confident their top-notch team will continue leading the way in delivering exceptional eye care.

Wishes for a merry Christmas.

OUR COUNTRY'S BEST

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the efforts of our chairman, G.T. THOMPSON, of the Ag Committee and many of our colleagues in making sure that this year-end agreement we have is going to also include the importance of agriculture.

Agriculture is in big trouble with the commodity prices and disasters they face around the country. Many of these amazing crops you see right here on this poster board, Madam Speaker, would not exist, and, without this aid that we have in this package here, they will be in big trouble and maybe not get the finances here.

Some of the finest quality crops anywhere come from California and the U.S.

Also, some of the finest quality staff we have, our Ella, a staff member who works on this floor, will be leaving us pretty soon and heading over to a different building to work in a new Member's office. We will still miss her and her high-quality work and her thumbs-up like an empress up there in front.

Madam Speaker, I wish Ella best wishes and good luck. God bless Ella.

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 9 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1653

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. MOLINARO) at 4 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.

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, December 20, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
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 December 20, 2024, at 1:55 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 623.
That the Senate passed S. 2020.
That the Senate passed S. 2160.
That the Senate passed S. 2784.
That the Senate passed S. 3617.
That the Senate passed S. 3790.
That the Senate passed S. 4404.
That the Senate passed S. 4451.
That the Senate passed S. 4640.
That the Senate passed S. 4634.
That the Senate passed S. 4803.
That the Senate passed S. 4851.
That the Senate passed S. 4974.
That the Senate passed S. 5062.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1555.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1823.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3354.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5867.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6116.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6162.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6188.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6244.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6492.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6633.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6750.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6810.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6983.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7158.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7180.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7365.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7385.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7417.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7507.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7508.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7606.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7607.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7893.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7938.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8057.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8641.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8717.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8909.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8841.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8868.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8919.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 8976.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9285.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9322.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9421.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9487.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9544.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9549.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9580.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9592.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9600.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9775.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 10065.

Appointment: United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

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.

AMERICAN RELIEF ACT, 2025

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 10545) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 10545

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 “American Relief Act, 2025”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

Sec. 3. References.

DIVISION A—FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

DIVISION B—DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

DIVISION C—HEALTH

Sec. 3001. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—PUBLIC HEALTH EXTENDERS

Sec. 3101. Extension for community health centers, National Health Service Corps, and teaching health centers that operate GME programs.

Sec. 3102. Extension of special diabetes programs.

Sec. 3103. National health security extensions.

TITLE II—MEDICARE

Sec. 3201. Extension of increased inpatient hospital payment adjustment for certain low-volume hospitals.

Sec. 3202. Extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program.

Sec. 3203. Extension of add-on payments for ambulance services.

Sec. 3204. Extension of funding for quality measure endorsement, input, and selection.

Sec. 3205. Extension of funding outreach and assistance for low-income programs.

Sec. 3206. Extension of the work geographic index floor.

Sec. 3207. Extension of certain telehealth flexibilities.

Sec. 3208. Extending acute hospital care at home waiver authorities.

Sec. 3209. Extension of temporary inclusion of authorized oral antiviral drugs as covered part D drugs.

Sec. 3210. Medicare improvement fund.

TITLE III—HUMAN SERVICES

Sec. 3301. Sexual risk avoidance education extension.

Sec. 3302. Personal responsibility education extension.

Sec. 3303. Extension of funding for family-to-family health information centers.

TITLE IV—MEDICAID

Sec. 3401. Eliminating certain disproportionate share hospital payment cuts.

DIVISION D—EXTENSION OF AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

Sec. 4101. Extension of agricultural programs.

DIVISION E—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 5101. Commodity futures trading commission whistleblower program.

Sec. 5102. Protection of certain facilities and assets from unmanned aircraft.

Sec. 5103. Additional special assessment.

Sec. 5104. National cybersecurity protection system authorization.

Sec. 5105. Extension of temporary order for fentanyl-related substances.

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

SEC. 101. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 118-83) is amended—

(1) by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting “March 14, 2025”;

(2) in section 126 to read as follows:

“SEC. 126. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘District of Columbia—Federal Payment for Emergency Planning and Security Costs in the District of Columbia’ at a rate for operations of \$90,000,000, of which not less than \$50,000,000 shall be for costs associated with the Presidential Inauguration to be held in January 2025: *Provided*, That such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain emergency planning and security activities.”; and