

Hooser Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

FLOYD B. OLSON POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 8841) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 114 Center Street East in Roseau, Minnesota, as the “Floyd B. Olson Post Office” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CHIEF MICHAEL MALONEY POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 8868) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 609 Portsmouth Avenue in Greenland, New Hampshire, as the “Chief Michael Maloney Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ARMY 1ST LT. JOHN KUULEI KAUHAIHAO POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 8909) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 82-6110 Mamalahoa Highway in Captain Cook, Hawaii, as the “Army 1st Lt. John Kuulei Kauhiahao Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SFC SHAWN McCLOSKEY POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 8919) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 Highway 74 South in Peachtree City, Georgia, as the “SFC Shawn McCloskey Post Office” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CORPORAL MATTHEW A. WYATT POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 8976) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 West White Street in Millstadt, Illinois, as the “Corporal Matthew A. Wyatt Post Office” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CAPTAIN MIGUEL JUSTIN NAVA POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 9285) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3913 Leland Avenue Northwest in Comstock Park, Michigan, as the “Captain Miguel Justin Nava Post Office” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JUDGE JAMES R. WILLIAMS POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 9322) to designate the facility of the United States Postal

Service located at 675 Wolf Ledges Parkway in Akron, Ohio, as the “Judge James R. Williams Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MAYOR ROB GORDON POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 9421) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 108 North Main Street in Bucoda, Washington, as the “Mayor Rob Gordon Post Office” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 9544) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the “United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ELIZABETH FURSE POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 9549) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 South 1st Avenue in Hillsboro, Oregon, as the “Elizabeth Furse Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MILLIE DUNN VEASEY POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 9580) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2777 Brentwood Road in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the “Millie Dunn Veasey Post Office” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JIMMY AND ROSALYNN CARTER POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 9600) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 Main Street in Plains, Georgia, as the “Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Post Office” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

OFFICER NOAH JACOB SHAHNAVAZ POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 9775) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 North Anderson Street in Elwood, Indiana, as the “Officer Noah Jacob Shahnavaz Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CAPTAIN ROBERT E. ‘BOB’ BATTERSON POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 10065) to designate the facility of the United States Postal

Service located at 802 North Tanchua Street in Corpus Christi, Texas, as the “Captain Robert E. ‘Bob’ Batterson Post Office” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

1ST LIEUTENANT ANDRES ZERMENO POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 6244) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1535 East Los Ebanos Boulevard in Brownsville, Texas, as the “1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeño Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

TRIBUTE TO JON TESTER

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I have served on the House and now Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee since I came to Congress, so about 14 years in the U.S. House of Representatives and about 15 years in the U.S. Senate. It has been a privilege to serve as a member and, from time to time, a leader of the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and, preceding that, the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

For the last 4, almost 5 years, Senator JON TESTER and I have led the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

Not only did JON and I both raise daughters and grow up in rural America, but we both share the same sentiment that there is no one we hold in higher regard than our Nation’s veterans. This shared sentiment has allowed us to work together for those we respect so much.

I will certainly miss the starting of our hearings in which Senator TESTER always said, “Hello, JERRY.” And you could hear that from time to time as we met going down the Senate halls.

I have worked with JON on the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs since 2013, and we have introduced and sponsored and cosponsored many, many pieces of legislation together. His leadership on the committee in recent years has resulted in major pieces of legislation that have now become law, that provide support and opportunities for veterans, their loved ones, and their caregivers.

Some of those landmark and historic pieces of legislation include, in the 115th Congress, VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018—a lot of words that really boil down to what we call the MISSION Act—designed to help make certain that services for veterans, wherever they live and whatever kind of services they need from the VA, are available to them.

In later Congresses, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020; Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019, implemented and designed to make certain that we

reduce and eliminate the number of veterans who commit suicide; Fairness for Korean DMZ Veterans Act of 2019; a COVID fix for GI bill benefits to make sure our veterans, during COVID, were able to maintain their educational benefits while their schools were shut down.

Later in the 117th, the Joseph Maxwell Cleland and Robert Joseph Dole Memorial Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act; the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022—what we refer to as the PACT Act—designed to make sure those who encounter toxic substances in Southeast Asia and in Iraq and Afghanistan were eligible for benefits and healthcare; the Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021.

Just within the last few days—in fact, within the last week—the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, an additional veterans' benefits improvement act.

I rise today here at my seat on the Senate floor to express my gratitude for the time that JON has spent in his career in improving the lives of veterans and reforming the VA system that millions of veterans rely upon.

JON TESTER has made a lasting impact on thousands of individuals, their families, and their caregivers, those who serve veterans, and those who are veterans, and their family members. He has made a lasting impact upon their lives and well-being and helped us keep our commitment to our promises that have been made to those who serve in our military.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Senator TESTER's team for their extraordinary work. We all know in the Senate the importance of having a strong staff that researches well, that is intentional with our constituents and values what we do.

I would like to thank: Tony McClain, who is from Salina, KS, and who has led this committee for many years; Dahlia Melendrez; Carlos Fuentes; Elizabeth Mackenzie; Janko Mitric; Faye Fernandes; Bill Van Saun; Tess Wrzesinski; Abby Roubal; Weston Haycock; Liz Timmons; Cameron Kroetz; Katie Adams; and Jackson Haney.

Your work—each of you—your work on this committee didn't go unnoticed. Thank you for your kindness that you extended to me while you were serving the chairman of the committee. Thank you for your kindness to me when I was the chairman of the committee and you were serving the ranking member. We know that without your help, without your willingness to work with our staff and our team, we would not have been able to provide the benefits and critical resources that our veterans deserve and earned.

Finally, JON TESTER, certainly I say this on my behalf, but I say it also on behalf of the other Members of the Sen-

ate, certainly the other members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and especially on behalf of our Nation's veterans, thank you. Thank you for your leadership, your friendship, and your dedication. Thank you for serving, as you did so well, our Nation's heroes.

KANSAS AVIATION

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, last month, we celebrated National Aviation History Month. We celebrated that across America, and I want to make certain that we recognize the air capital of the world and the State of Kansas and their contributions to the aviation industry both historically and still today.

My home State of Kansas is an aviation hub. It has a rich history in aviation manufacturing. This tradition dates back to a gentleman named Albin Longren, who developed Kansas's first aircraft, the Longren Flyer, which was fully designed, produced, and successfully tested in Topeka in 1911, less than a decade after the Wright Brothers' first historic flight.

Clyde Cessna went on to develop his pioneering aircraft, the Silverwing, in 1911, which was designed and built in Kingman County, KS. Clyde Cessna, Lloyd Stearman, and Walter Beech partnered to found the Travel Air Manufacturing Company, which would later be spun off into three companies with global recognition—the Cessna Aircraft Company, Stearman Aircraft, and the Beech Aircraft Company, all of Wichita, where they were headquartered.

Cessna, Stearman, Beech, and over a dozen other aviation entrepreneurs in Wichita produced 120 airplanes each week at the outset of Wichita's aviation dominance in the late twenties. It was then that Wichita earned its title as "Air Capital of the World."

During World War II, tens of thousands of Kansans contributed to the war effort by working in aircraft plants, making nearly 26,000 planes, including over 1,600 B-29 Superfortress heavy bombers.

Following the war, the Boeing Company started testing midflight refueling using the B-29 Superfortress and eventually delivered the KC-135 Stratotanker to the U.S. Air Force in the fifties—still one of the premier midflight refueling aircraft for the U.S. Armed Forces. Many of these tankers are stationed at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita and some at Forbes Field in Topeka.

Other than agriculture, the aviation and aerospace industries in Kansas support more jobs than any other sector, including more than 65,000 aerospace and defense jobs across more than 450 world-class suppliers.

Kansas is the global leader in general aviation, producing 35 percent of all general aviation aircraft in America and supplying 75 percent of all general aviation aircraft since the Wright Brothers' first flight at Kitty Hawk in 1903.

If you fly on a private plane, you are flying on a plane that was either built

in Kansas or the parts were manufactured in Kansas.

At the end of November, Bombardier, which has its defense headquarters in Wichita, KS, delivered its first Global 6500 to the U.S. Army in support of its next generation of intelligences surveillance, and reconnaissance, the ISR platform. One week later, Wichita State University's National Institute for Aviation Research received a Boeing 747-8i as part of a strategic partnership with Sierra Nevada Corporation on the Air Force's "doomsday" program. I would also like to highlight that NIAR, the National Institute for Aviation Research, a component headquartered on the campus of Wichita State University, was recently ranked by the National Science Foundation as the number one research and development expenditure university in the country for aerospace engineering.

Our State is also diversifying its aviation and aerospace work with companies like General Atomics and now has 17 Kansas manufacturers working on NASA's Artemis program.

We are also developing essential components for commercial space providers such as SpaceX, United Launch Alliance, Sierra Space, Rocket Lab, and Blue Origin.

Additionally, Kansas is home to Crew-9 astronaut Nick Hague of Hoxie, who is currently stationed at the International Space Station.

Museums across our State highlight our history, highlight our future. They include the Kansas Aviation Museum in Wichita, the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum in Atchison. I also should highlight the importance of Amelia Earhart being one of the Kansans who is a significant component of our aviation history and whose statue now resides here in the U.S. Capitol. There is a B-29 Museum in Pratt; the Mid-America Museum in Liberal; and the Cosmosphere—world renown.

Incidentally, when I talked to the Artemis astronauts, they brought up the topic and said: "Do you know that you have the best space museum in the world in Kansas?" And they were talking about the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson. It showcases the rich aviation history. They point to the continued legacy of excellence in aviation and aerospace in Kansas and represents a bright spot for our entire nation.

I wouldn't want to talk about aviation without talking about Kansas. Kansas has played a key role in cultivating America's leadership in aviation and is home to thousands of engineers and manufacturers who have supported America's aviation heritage now for more than a century. We are, and we will continue to be, air capital of the world not only because we build airplanes, but because we have leaders and students driving the industry forward with innovation, ingenuity, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

We will continue to be the air capital of the world because we have the educational institutions across our State

to train and educate engineers, flight mechanics, the whole array of the people necessary for the industries that are located in our State and that will soon locate in our State to have a highly trained, educated, motivated workforce for aviation today and in the future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Louisiana.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, the holiday season is upon us and should be a time filled with family, friends, and joy. But this year, it is filled with financial anxiety for many Americans. They are struggling to pay for their groceries, to heat their homes, struggling with property and casualty insurance.

But I am here to speak to those who are struggling to afford flood insurance. For over 50 years, Americans have relied on the National Flood Insurance Program, or NFIP, to be a safety net in case of disaster. The program covers 4.7 million homes, but the program has become unaffordable, unaccountable, and unsustainable. And without congressional approval, FEMA worsened this by implementing a new risk assessment program called Risk Rating 2.0.

This program dramatically increased premiums, even for those who had never flooded, and the skyrocketing prices brought on by Risk Rating 2.0 has left many Louisiana families and families in other States struggling with a financial burden.

This financial strain has caused 52,000 Louisianans to drop their coverage in just 1 year, leaving them with no way to protect their homes. About half a million Americans nationwide have dropped their coverage. And this was anticipated by this Risk Rating 2.0. When the National Flood Insurance Program put it in place, they, again, anticipated that up to 20 percent of the people would drop their coverage.

Now, during this holiday season, the financial burden of this program will only increase as Mom tries to give her kids a wonderful Christmas. That is why this month I introduced the Flood Insurance Affordability Tax Credit Act to give relief to Americans enrolled in NFIP. This legislation gives low- and middle-income households a real-time 33-percent refundable tax credit to combat the out-of-control flood insurance premium. It is not a permanent solution. We need serious reform. But cutting flood insurance bills by a third is a good place to start.

I am working on a comprehensive NFIP program that protects families from excessive premium hikes, strengthens flood mitigation efforts, simplifies the claims process by cutting redtape. While we work to fix the broken system—and believe me to say I am working hard to do this—this tax credit provides relief for current policy holders, and it provides a path for Americans who have been forced to

drop their coverage due to unaffordable premiums to reenroll at an affordable price.

It directs the Treasury Secretary to establish a program where premiums can be paid in advance. This benefits families when they need it the most, like now during the holiday season after a period of years of financial distress.

Parents shouldn't have to pick between putting food on the table, wrapping presents under the Christmas tree, or paying for flood insurance. And with a tax credit taking a third off of her flood insurance bill, the mother trying to keep this together won't have to make these sacrifices. She will be able to give her kids the merry Christmas that they deserve and protect the home they sleep in.

By the way, I am from Louisiana, but this isn't just true for families living in my State. It is true for families across the Nation. This year's hurricane season showed us flooding is possible in areas that don't typically make you think of flooding. Just think of the homes devastated by flooding in North Carolina.

Americans need relief from Risk Rating 2.0. That is not the question. And America needs to pass massive reform. However, perhaps most importantly, Americans expect us to guarantee that the National Flood Insurance Program will still be here come the new year. If nothing happens, this program expires at the end of this week.

I should correct that. For those who think that the government shutdown does not affect them, if the Government shuts down, the NFIP program will have a lapse. During that period, the program cannot sell or renew flood insurance policies or borrow from the Treasury to pay claims for existing policies. So my hope is that we can find this debt deal. I support Speaker Johnson in his attempts to do so, not the least of which is it preserves the National Flood Insurance Program for anyone that may call upon it during this intervening period.

So just frankly speaking, letting the program lapse, temporarily or long-term, should not be an option. It is often the only flood insurance option for many communities. And without it, we leave millions vulnerable. That is why I am working with the entire Louisiana delegation on legislation to reauthorize the program.

Today, I urge colleagues to support this reauthorization, giving their constituents peace of mind and protection this holiday season.

Finally, I urge colleagues to look to the future. Passing the flood insurance affordability tax credit would give relief to policyholders and reauthorizing the program are only the first steps, but they are critical steps this body must take. And unless we want to do a disservice to the American people and NFIP, we should not stop here.

When we come back in the new year, we should commit to reforming the

program to make flood insurance affordable again.

Every single one of my colleagues have constituents who rely upon the NFIP. If you look to this chart, every State in the union is shaded representing the number of NFIP claims each State has. Those in dark yellow have been hit hardest and have relied on NFIP the most. They all have at least \$1 billion in NFIP claims since 1978; and 44 States have had over \$50 million in claims over this time period.

It is clear Americans rely on the program. But if we continue down this path, the program goes bankrupt.

So my message to my colleagues representing States that rely on the National Flood Insurance Program—which is, frankly, all of us—let's find a way forward. My team has worked on a bipartisan permanent solution that rolls back Risk Rating 2.0, makes flood insurance affordable and accountable again. I encourage my colleagues to join me in the new year to get this done.

In the meantime, let our Christmas gift to Americans enrolled in NFIP be a lower flood insurance bill and peace of mind by reauthorizing the program.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Nevada.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to confirm a bipartisan group of four nominees—two Republicans and two Democrats—to serve on the United States Postal Service Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors is an independent, bipartisan body that provides leadership, strategic vision, and oversight of the U.S. Postal Service.

Confirming these four nominees—VAL DEMINGS, Gordon Hartogensis, Bill Zollars, and Anton Hajjar—will give the board a full complement of nine Senate-confirmed governors.

The bipartisan board is most effective when fully staffed with individuals who bring a diverse range of perspective and experiences and all who understand the critical mission of the Postal Service.

These individuals each have strong leadership and management experience, and they have demonstrated their commitment to the Postal Service as workers and its customers.

As we know all too well in my State of Nevada, the Postal Service has been considering operational changes that will have severe impacts on service to communities not just in Nevada but across this Nation.

I was proud to lead the charge against Postmaster DeJoy's misguided effort to send Nevadans' letter mail out of State to be processed. But without sufficient oversight from a full Board of Governors, the Postmaster General will be able to pursue his agenda for the whole country unchecked.

I want to repeat that. Without a full Board of Governors, the Postmaster

General will be able to pursue his agenda for the whole country without oversight.

So it is more important than ever that we have a Board of Governors that is committed to ensuring reliable, timely mail delivery and that it will provide the necessary oversight of Postal Service leadership. That is why I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to confirm these four highly qualified nominees to the Postal Board of Governors.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that, as in executive session, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of PN2289 and that the Senate proceed to the consideration of this nomination and Calendar Nos. 836, 837, and 840; that the Senate vote on the nominations in the order listed; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table without intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the Record; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The junior Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, in reserving the right to object, the U.S. Post Office faces drastic financial losses. Last year, they lost \$6.5 billion. They are on target this year to lose \$9.5 billion. We should return these nominees and give President Trump the opportunity to review the Postal Service, to review the postal picks, to review the current situation, and allow him to determine who is best fit to fix the Postal Service.

For that reason, I will be objecting to each of these nominees.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, may I just say to the Senator from Kentucky that these nominees are bipartisan—two Democrat and two Republican. I believe it is far past the time that we allow our Postal Board of Governors to be filled.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Massachusetts.

CHILDREN AND TEENS' ONLINE PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I rise today with deep disappointment and frustration at the House of Representatives' failure to take up my bipartisan, bicameral legislation with Senator BILL CASSIDY—the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act, COPPA 2.0.

Just a few months ago, the Senate passed COPPA 2.0 by a resounding vote of 91 to 3 as part of the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act. It was a remarkable moment for a Chamber that has too often succumbed to partisanship on key technology issues. Young

people and families across the country finally had a moment to celebrate that their government was actually coming to their aid on a critical issue and that lawmakers from across the aisle could hold hands and recognize that the youth mental health crisis was raging in red and blue States alike.

This crisis demanded action, and the U.S. Senate was meeting the need and the moment with a popular children's and teens' privacy bill. Help, it seemed, was finally on the way. It was long overdue. For more than a decade, I have been fighting to strengthen online protections for our young people. In fact, if COPPA 2.0 were a person, it would have just turned 13 and would have aged out of our current privacy protections for children, which I first authored 26 years ago.

Over those 26 years, that law—the original Children's Online Privacy Protection Act—has been critical to protecting children online, but when I wrote COPPA, only birds tweeted, and "TikTok" was a sound that a clock made. Today, our children and teens confront a far more complicated and privacy-invasive online world—one that, according to medical experts and the Surgeon General, is contributing to a youth mental health crisis.

The stats are devastating. The stats are overwhelming. Listen to these stats. Listen to the problem we have in our country: More than one in four high school girls in the United States seriously considered suicide in 2023—one in four teenaged girls—and at least one in eight high school girls attempted suicide in 2023. Let me repeat it again. One in eight teenaged high school girls attempted suicide in 2023. Amongst LGBTQ+ youth, the number is more like one in five attempted suicide in 2023.

COPPA 2.0 cuts to the heart of the emergency. COPPA 2.0 bans targeted advertising to young people, ensuring that teenage girls stop being targeted with weight loss pills and other harmful ads.

It empowers parents and teens by giving them an eraser button to delete an ill-advised post, and it prevents companies from burying their heads in the sand and ignoring the children and teens on their platforms.

These policies specifically target Big Tech's financial incentives—profitable targeted ads—that keep kids and teens clicking, swiping, and scrolling on social media, even to their ill health. In fact, in 2022, the major Big Tech platforms earned nearly \$11 billion from U.S. users under the age of 18—\$11 billion—and those are 11 billion reasons to oppose any opposition to COPPA 2.0. But the tech companies—they want to monetize the young people in our country, and we know they are doing so at the expense of their mental health.

Who said it? The Surgeon General of the United States. Who said it? The pediatricians of the United States who are the experts on children and teenagers in our country—a mental health

crisis largely created by online social media.

So this is an incredible moment for us because, with that \$11 billion which the media companies and the big tech companies make, there are 11 billion reasons to turn their lobbying power on the House Republican leadership and concoct farfetched theories for why a bill that passed 91 to 3 on the floor of the U.S. Senate should not even receive a vote—at the height of a mental health crisis for young people in our country—on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Unfortunately, House Republican leadership capitulated to the pressure of Big Tech, with grave consequences for young people. The House had a rare opportunity to show families across the country that it cared about their children, about their teenagers; that money in politics didn't drive their decision making; and that our youngest and our most vulnerable came first and not Big Tech. House Republican leadership—they failed that test. They sat for months on the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act and then refused to even consider it for passage at the end of the year. They want to wait until next year and next year. We brought this bill out for three Congresses in a row.

This is not a new issue. It is a crisis. Everyone knows it is a crisis. Everyone knows that teenagers are getting addicted because of deliberate strategies by Big Tech to absolutely harm them. We know that, right now, if a teenaged girl has bulimia and she goes online to get information about it because she has only told her mother and father, that girl can be bombarded with ads from companies and from others because that information is now out there that she Google-searched.

Well, the impact on her psyche is dramatic if that happens, and it is happening every single day because Big Tech monetizes that girl's bulimia or anorexia problem. This is the bill that says you can't do that. If the parents want all of that information erased or they don't want the girl to be targeted with ads, you can't do it—91 to 3 on the Senate floor, no vote in the House for three Congresses in a row.

They always want to wait until next year for a Republican Congress or for a Republican President, yes, but what about right now? And are they actually going to do it next year? And while they wait, our young people will continue to suffer. Every day that this does not pass is another day where platforms can serve dangerous, targeted ads to children and teens. Every day that it does not pass is another day when parents and teens don't have the tools they need to protect themselves online.

Every day that COPPA 2.0 does not pass is another day when children and teens are suffering from suicide, from anxiety, from depression. This is the heart of the issue. This is the sinister side of cyberspace. This is the harmful side of it.

Are we going to do anything about it? Is it the Keynesian quality to the internet? It is the best of technologies and the worst of technologies simultaneously. It can enable. It can ennoble. It can degrade. It can debase.

Yes, these companies tout all the wonderful things that they are going to do, and they actually want to put it on steroids: AI. They are going to find a cure for cancer. They are going to do all these other wonderful things. We will see.

But at the same time, we don't have the safeguards built around the harm they are doing right now—the mental health harm to teenagers and children in our country. And it is only going to get worse—much worse—as AI injects itself into the system more and more: more suicide, more anxiety, more depression.

So it is a sad day for an institution that had a historic opportunity. And I commend the Senate leadership for making a decision in prioritizing the mental health of kids and teens. But I am deeply disappointed in the House of Representatives, where I proudly served for 36 years.

For decades, the House has lamented that the Senate's rules have prevented us from taking action on important issues. And I have made those arguments myself as a House Member years ago. But when the Senate did act on an issue critical to families and to parents across the country and when it acted decisively, House Republican leadership decided to play politics with the lives of teenage children in our country.

So to the kids and the parents and the advocates who have fought courageously for stronger online privacy rights for children and for teens, thank you. Don't go away. Keep your energy up. If you are knocked down, you are hurting, just come right back. Come back the same way the abolitionists came back, the same way the suffragettes came back, the same way the anti-Vietnam movement came back, the same way the same-sex marriage movement came back. Just get up again. We are right; they are wrong. We have to get this passed.

So I have been honored to be with you. It is a very disheartening moment—very disheartening. This is an ongoing, preventable crisis in our country. And if we don't act and act soon, we are going to have teenagers and children 20 years from now writing books about what their Congressmen, their Senators—an older generation—inflicted upon them, with no protections whatsoever. They will be talking about it. They will be writing about it.

Let me finish, again, by giving you the numbers. These are, without question, some of the most staggering numbers I have ever seen attached to one single preventable issue. One in four high school girls in the United States seriously considered suicide in 2023. Let me just say that. One in four seriously considered it. One in eight high school

girls in the United States in 2023 actually attempted suicide—one in eight. And one in five LGBTQ attempted suicide in 2023. And the Surgeon General, the pediatricians of our country implicate—point the finger at—social media, the self-image of these kids, as one of the leading causes. And we are not going to pass this legislation.

And the actions of the House and now from Elon Musk and others who are preventing this whole institution from working are going to ultimately expose all of these young people to images, ideas, that are, in fact, avoidable.

I thank you for giving me the time. And to all of those who worked so hard on this legislation over the last 2 years, please get up and get ready to come back again next year because this is a crisis in our country. This is something that these young people do not deserve, and their privacy cannot be monetized. It is just absolutely wrong and preventable.

With that, I yield back the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, West by God Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Blessed be West Virginia.

EXPANDING PUBLIC LANDS OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPERIENCES ACT

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, in a moment, I am going to be asking for unanimous consent to pass the EXPLORE Act, a package of outdoor recreation legislation.

Let me just say this to you. This is something that we all agree on, both sides of this wonderful institution of Congress, because the House and the Senate are in agreement, there were changes that need to be made. We all agreed to get that done, but the bill we have before us is the House's version without—without—the changes that we have agreed to. And the reason for that, the House has already passed theirs.

And I understand my dear friend is going to be speaking on this, too, in the objection part of it. But I just would like for everyone to understand we have a chance, truly a chance. And I have, as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee—we have made a focus of supporting our public lands and the outdoor recreation economy, which is the fastest growing element of our economy in every State.

We all have beautiful venues in our States. We have all been able to take advantage of that, starting with the John Dingell Act and working all the way up to the Outdoor Recreation Act, and now the EXPLORE Act. It gives a chance for the vendors in those parks to be able to offer a true experience, and that is really what it is all about. I have no objections around all 50 States.

One of the first things we did was pass, as I said, the Dingell Act. We did

the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Just a year later, we passed the Great American Outdoors Act, which permanently funded the Land and Water Conservation Fund and provided nearly \$2 billion per year for 5 years to address the deferred maintenance backlog on our Federal recreational lands—most of our parks, our wonderful, beautiful parks.

The same year we passed the Great American Outdoors Act, Senator CAPITO and I passed legislation designating New River Gorge National Park and Preserve in our home State, which, on the east coast, is now one of the most visited parks that we have. It is close to most of the population in the country. Since the designation 4 years ago, visitation has jumped more than 40 percent. People want to get out and enjoy this beautiful country that we all own.

A year later, in 2021, Senator BARRASSO and I introduced the America's Outdoor Recreation Act, which is the basis of the EXPLORE Act. It basically gives you the ability now to really do it. We reported that bill out of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee on a bipartisan basis. We tried very hard to pass that bill by the end of 2022, but ultimately we had some disagreements with the House. However, Senator BARRASSO and I were not ready to give up. We reintroduced the bill and were again able to report it out with a bipartisan voice vote.

Congressman WESTERMAN, who is with us today in the Chamber—and we appreciate having him over here—to his credit, introduced the EXPLORE Act last year, which includes nearly every provision of my bill and Senator BARRASSO's bill, along with some additional House priorities.

My and Senator BARRASSO's staff immediately got to work with the House to iron out the differences between the two bills, and we have had bipartisan, bicameral agreement on the negotiated text for more than 6 months. We have tried for months to get that passed, but it has been blocked along the way. This late in December, we are simply out of runway. Time is running out on us.

I am willing to pass the House version without those negotiated changes so it can be sent straight to the President's desk because we are accepting what has already been passed in the House, with the agreement with the House that every one of those changes will be done—every one of them. It is the only path we have available to us. This is our last shot to get this important legislation.

So, Mr. President, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6492, which was received from the House and is at the desk; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill (H.R. 6492) to improve