

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this entire House and our Dallas community, I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and neighbors. May we honor his legacy by continuing his fight for equality and dignity for all.

#### TOXIC EXPOSURE AT CAMP LEJEUNE

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address a pressing issue that has affected countless families in our Nation, an issue that hits close to home. It is the heartbreaking reality faced by those who lived at Camp Lejeune, where, for decades, servicemembers and their families suffered exposure to toxic chemicals in their drinking water.

From the 1950s to the mid-1980s, the water at Camp Lejeune was contaminated with harmful substances. This we know.

For many of the brave men and women who served our country, this was a home, a place where they were supposed to feel safe and protected. Instead, they served our Nation while unknowingly putting their health and the health of their loved ones at risk.

Families have suffered in silence for far too long, often for years, as they have battled illnesses without understanding the root cause. Many have died.

It is time to raise our voices for these families, these veterans, these spouses, these children who have endured far too much for far too long.

Congress must act to assist those affected by the water contamination at Camp Lejeune. Morally, it is the right thing to do.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3838, STREAMLINING PROCUREMENT FOR EFFECTIVE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY AND NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3486, STOP ILLEGAL ENTRY ACT OF 2025

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 682 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 682

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3838) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for

such fiscal year, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Armed Services now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119-8 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived.

SEC. 2. (a) No further amendment to H.R. 3838, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution.

(b) Each further amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against further amendments printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 4. At the conclusion of consideration of H.R. 3838 for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 5. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3486) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase penalties for individuals who illegally enter and reenter the United States after being removed, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted.

The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this morning, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 682, providing for consideration of two measures.

The first measure is H.R. 3838, the Streamlining Procurement for Effective Execution and Delivery and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, under a structured rule.

The rule provides 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services or their respective designees, provides for one motion to recommit, and made 298 amendments in order.

Additionally, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 3486, the Stop Illegal Entry Act of 2025, under a closed rule.

The rule provides 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees, and provides for one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to debate a rule on two pieces of legislation. First, H.R. 3838, the Streamlining Procurement for Effective Execution and Delivery and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026.

Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of Chairman MIKE ROGERS and Ranking Member ADAM SMITH, one of the top priorities of the bipartisan fiscal year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act was to reform the defense acquisition system and equip our armed services with the technology they need to deter national security threats.

□ 1220

Mr. Speaker, as anyone who follows this process knows, it can take more than a decade before new capabilities are finally deployed. By then, the threat has changed, the technology is outdated, and the programs are over budget.

This bill cuts red tape and shifts the focus of the defense acquisition system from compliance to quickly and cost-effectively fielding new capabilities to ensure that our Armed Forces are the most lethal and effective fighting force in the world.

Implementing the Peace Through Strength agenda, the fiscal year 2026 NDAA codifies over 45 executive orders and legislative proposals from President Trump. It fully funds top defense priorities, revitalizes the defense industrial base, and grows manufacturing jobs in America, all while pressing our NATO and other allies to pay more for their own defense.

Building upon last year's NDAA, which focused on servicemember quality of life, this bill supports a 3.8 percent pay raise for all servicemembers, improves housing and DOD schools, and expands access to healthcare and childcare.

To deter our adversaries, the fiscal year '26 NDAA focuses on countering the threat from China, bolsters Taiwan's defense, and supports Indo-Pacific allies and partners. Additionally, this bill continues to focus on countering threats to our national security from Russia, North Korea, Iran, and other foreign terrorist organizations.

To counter emerging threats, the bill focuses on rapidly deploying new, innovative technologies to our warfighters while strengthening nuclear deterrence and missile defense.

To further secure our border and fight drug trafficking, the fiscal year '26 NDAA fully funds the establishment and enforcement of national defense areas along the southwest border of the United States, authorizes DOD to provide additional support to Customs and Border Protection, and authorizes President Trump's budget request of nearly \$1 billion to combat drug traffickers.

Finally, the fiscal year '26 NDAA reforms programs and saves taxpayer dollars. It saves over \$20 billion from DOGE cuts and DOD workforce reforms, limits funds available for senior leader travel until DOD makes progress toward fully passing an audit, and overhauls military construction to reduce costs and expedite project delivery.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues and House Armed Services committee staff for all the work that went into creating this strong, bipartisan legislation that should pass with overwhelming support.

Mr. Speaker, moving on, the rule also provides for the consideration of H.R. 3486, the Stop Illegal Entry Act of 2025. While existing law criminalizes both illegal entry and illegal reentry to our

country, often the punishments are not sufficient to deter aliens from illegally reentering the country after committing crimes or being removed from the United States.

In fact, of all the aliens charged with illegal reentry in 2023, more than 70 percent had criminal records, Mr. Speaker. H.R. 3486, if enacted, gives Federal officials more tools to prosecute aliens who illegally enter the United States.

It requires between 5 years of imprisonment to life imprisonment for an alien who illegally enters the United States and is later convicted of a felony. It requires between 10 years of imprisonment to life imprisonment for an alien who illegally reenters the United States after being removed following a felony conviction.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to consideration of these pieces of legislation, and I urge passage of this rule.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the rule. The fiscal year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act presented to us without amendment is, against all odds, a strong bipartisan compromise between Republicans and Democrats on the Armed Services Committee.

I have to admit that I was pleasantly surprised to see this year's NDAA come to the floor untouched by some of the rightwing extremist policy riders that in recent years have been attached to important bills like the NDAA.

However, this morning in the Rules Committee, Republicans green-lighted dozens of amendments containing controversial poison pills that may very well make their way into the bill. I hope that my Republican colleagues are able to demonstrate some restraint this week and vote down these bad policies. We cannot afford to politicize our national defense.

A good NDAA, like a good budget, is one that is probably perfect for no one. It is the result of compromise and negotiation. In the case of the NDAA, it is oriented around the shared goal of making sure that our Armed Forces continue to be the best in the world.

However, while the FY26 NDAA is strong in many ways, it also falls short in some crucial areas. Above all, it falls short in its lack of meaningful policy to rein in the Trump administration's reckless and illegal actions.

Out of fealty to their dear leader, Republicans have refused at every turn to perform meaningful oversight of this administration, to push back on Trump's worst impulses, and to exert Congress' Article I powers against the executive's repeated overreach. In the context of the NDAA, there hasn't been a single oversight hearing scheduled in the House or Senate to address the ongoing misuse of our military forces.

Of all Trump's abuses, his worst have been in the domain of national defense.

Empowered by a partisan Supreme Court and aided by complicit national security staff, Trump has repeatedly used the U.S. military to commit reckless and even illegal acts that imperil our security, weaken our status in the world, hurt our relationship with our closest allies, and endanger our own citizens.

The President claims to have broad, undefined, and unchecked executive power. He has installed corrupt and incompetent appointees who jeopardize our national security and economic stability. He has imposed Federal troops and the National Guard on civilians across America, despite fierce opposition from local residents and political leaders. He has sent armed and masked Federal law enforcement agents to terrorize immigrant communities. Those agents have harassed and detained U.S. citizens exercising their First Amendment rights.

The President has initiated multiple politically targeted criminal investigations against his opponents and unilaterally defunded programs that are important to our national defense and our security.

While Republicans gleefully cheer on military deployments in American cities, I bet they would lose their goddamn minds if those troops were sent to their home States which have substantially higher crime rates.

If the real rationale for these deployments is to address high crime rates, States like Arkansas, Missouri, and Louisiana would be at the top of the list. We all know this.

We all know this isn't really why the National Guard has been deployed to D.C. or L.A. or Chicago. As with so many acts by this White House, it is just pretext. It is pretext for an agenda based on fear, intimidation, performative violence, and retribution.

Trump's agenda is about power and self-dealing, not problem-solving. That is all it is. There are no solutions. There are no plans. Time and time again, we have seen this White House reject and defund proven solutions in favor of no-tolerance policies and flashy shows of force.

In the process, this administration has wasted millions in taxpayer dollars with stunts like sending Dr. Phil on an ICE raid with a camera crew.

They sent hundreds of people, many of whom had no criminal record, to a violent, inhumane prison in El Salvador and produced a video of their abuse and humiliation.

They sent uniformed military troops to the streets of American cities, damaging the relationship between our citizens and our Armed Forces.

This past week may have seen the most egregious and violent misuse of military force yet that we know of. Last week, President Trump ordered the extrajudicial execution by the U.S. military of 11 men on a speedboat in international waters, thousands of miles away from the U.S. He then posted a snuff video of that act on social

media. We still have not seen credible evidence or legal justification for that strike.

That killing represents a sinister choice. The Navy and Coast Guard interdict drug smugglers on the high seas all the time. If we knew these men were smugglers and we knew where they were, an intentional decision was made not to stop the ship and, instead, to kill the people on it.

There is no congressional authorization for a President to kill drug dealers at home or abroad. This killing on the high seas is not authorized by international law.

The President cannot declare anyone he wants to be a criminal or an enemy combatant and then summarily kill them. This is the logic used by dictators and despots to disappear and kill dissenters and political opponents. A President who acts as judge, jury, and executioner is flat out un-American. If we allow such conduct, then we are no better than the terrorists and criminals we claim to fight.

Additionally, earlier this year the President approved air strikes against Iran, doing so without congressional authorization and in contravention of the Constitution.

□ 1230

No matter what one thinks about the merits of that attack, this was a flagrantly unconstitutional act.

Taken together with last week's assassinations on the high seas, we now have a President who claims to be able to kill whoever he wants, whenever he wants, and for whatever reason he wants, all without accountability under the law to Congress and to the American people.

Moreover, as we speak of the separation of powers enshrined in our Constitution, over the weekend, the President unilaterally decided to rename the Department of Defense as the Department of War in what can only be described as a PR stunt. It is a decision he doesn't have the authority to make.

Whether or not this gimmick will distract from the Epstein files and this administration's economic failures, it will certainly cost taxpayers a fortune, with estimates ranging over \$1 billion. Experts predict that our enemies will use the move to portray the United States not as a guarantor of peace but as a threat to international stability.

The NDAA is one of Congress' best opportunities to rein in these kinds of abuses of military power, specifically abuses by this President in his role as Commander in Chief. Unfortunately, this bill misses that mark. It lets the President get away with starting illegal wars and committing illegal killings.

Further, Pete Hegseth still has not faced any consequences for leaking confidential information to journalists and wasting taxpayer dollars on make-up mirrors. Tulsi Gabbard has not faced consequences for manipulating intelligence reports that contradicted

the President's claims about Venezuelan gangs. No one has been held accountable for firing intelligence officials who claimed falsely that his strikes on Iran had obliterated its nuclear capabilities.

I know that my Democratic colleagues on the Armed Services Committee fought hard for oversight in the NDAA. Unfortunately, the price of a bipartisan bill to support our troops was that Republicans would continue to enable this administration and many of its worst actions.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, House Republicans' efforts to turn a blind eye to the President's apparent misconduct are not limited only to matters of national security. For months, the President and most House Republicans have blocked the release of the Epstein files.

During the 2024 campaign, the President and his inner circle, particularly Pam Bondi, Kash Patel, and Dan Bongino, all repeatedly promised that they would release the Epstein files, but once they came into office and found the President to be frequently mentioned in those files, they changed their tune.

In the past few months, the President has gone to extraordinary lengths to prevent the release of the Epstein files. His DOJ approved the highly unusual transfer of Epstein's convicted co-conspirator, Ghislaine Maxwell, to a cushy minimum-security prison, apparently in exchange for her agreement to distance the President from Epstein's sex trafficking activities. The President has even threatened members of his own party with retribution if they vote to release those files.

These threats appear to be working because House Republicans continue to provide cover for the administration, repeatedly voting down amendments in the Rules Committee that would have forced the release of the Epstein files.

In fact, just this morning, Rules Committee Republicans once again blocked the release of those files, and we have not seen our Republican colleagues stepping up to sign the discharge petition that could lay this issue to rest once and for all.

The longer this goes on, the more it seems appropriate to ask: What are they trying to hide, and whom are they trying to protect? What is the "wonderful secret" that Trump and Epstein share?

Mr. Speaker, I bring all this up because the other bill in this resolution, H.R. 3486, the Stop Illegal Entry Act, is another distraction to divert attention from this White House's ongoing issues and the Epstein files. It is a messaging bill that is light on substance, bad on policy, and just something shiny for House Republicans to talk about other than the Epstein files.

The bill purports to be tough on undocumented immigrants, but it doesn't do a single thing to improve our broken immigration system. What it will do is siphon even more taxpayer dollars into the hands of for-profit prison com-

panies. Instead of deporting undocumented immigrants, this bill would require convicted immigrants to serve lengthy prison sentences here in the United States.

Guess who would benefit from that, Mr. Speaker? GEO and other private prison companies that have invested millions in the President's political campaigns.

It is already a crime to enter the country illegally. Despite the propaganda from the other side, prosecutions against unlawful entry are regularly the most prosecuted cases in the United States under Presidents of both parties. Those found in violation of these statutes are already subject to prison sentences and mandatory removal. However, Republicans are proposing to jail undocumented immigrants for up to 10 or 20 years, wasting billions of taxpayer dollars and limited Federal prison space.

American taxpayers are certainly justified in asking our Republican colleagues: Why should we imprison someone who is subject to deportation here in the United States and at that cost to the American taxpayer?

Every day, we are seeing a new atrocity committed by ICE and the Department of Homeland Security. All over America, masked ICE agents, often in unmarked cars, are taking parents from their children, arresting the elderly, arresting law-abiding immigrants, and even detaining citizens.

Trump says he is going after the worst of the worst, but over 70 percent of the immigrants his government has rounded up have no criminal record. In fact, the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security are reallocating resources away from investigating major crimes so they can terrorize undocumented immigrants who are just trying to work a job and provide for themselves and their families, including some who were legally present here and had legal status until this administration suddenly reversed it.

For all its bluster, this administration is not doing anything to combat gangs or serious criminals. They are not arresting the worst of the worst or gangs like MS-13 or Tren de Aragua. It is not doing anything about the smugglers and human traffickers at the border.

Instead, ICE agents are scrambling to meet Stephen Miller's quotas by arresting people at work or when they attend court hearings on their legal cases for asylum or citizenship, as they are required to do, and the hell with the impact on the local community, or, in the case of the disastrous raid on the Georgia battery plant last week, the hell with our allies and foreign investment in our country.

In the latest example of how this administration's disastrous immigration agenda is at odds with reality, last week, ICE was directed to make a flashy, high-profile raid at a Hyundai plant in Georgia, arresting over 400

South Korean nationals whom we had explicitly invited to invest in manufacturing here and bring jobs to the United States. This stunt has been a complete disaster. It caused a major diplomatic rift with one of our closest allies and biggest economic partners, and it has given the whole world reason to believe that it is a mistake to move manufacturing to the U.S.

In truth, the Stop Illegal Entry Act is just another shiny object that is supposed to divert attention from the Epstein files and the failures of this administration. Republicans don't actually care about reforming the immigration system. They have repeatedly rejected all attempts to do so. They just want to campaign on telling horror stories about immigrants, regardless of the truth.

All we see from this House majority is distraction after distraction, all to divert attention from the President's failure to deliver on promises to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President. Also, Members are reminded to refrain from using profanity in debate.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, if you don't like President Trump, that is fine. If you don't like the legislation, that is fine. However, for a Member of the House to walk down here and to intentionally take the name of the Lord in vain on the floor of the House of Representatives of the United States of America is just a new low for this institution, Mr. Speaker.

I think it is a sad day for our country, and it says a lot about how far society has fallen. While I know, and I actually read the Book of James yesterday, the tongue is hard to tame, that was an intentional use of language taking the name of our Lord in vain on the floor of this House. I am going to leave it at that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

□ 1240

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, as we debate the rule providing for consideration of amendments to this year's National Defense Authorization Act, I rise to highlight a critically important issue from my district and to offer an amendment that would solve the problem.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a vast district in southern California. Among the five military bases that I represent is the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms. This is a critically important national asset where large-scale training operations are conducted that are available nowhere else in the world.

Recently, the Marine Corps has proposed to expand the scale of operations and training at that base, which I fully support. To accomplish that expansion would require an expansion of the restricted airspace that is above those training operations.

We want to make sure the Marine Corps has access to all of the airspace they need to conduct their operations, but, Mr. Speaker, they are going about it in an extremely troubling way.

They are proposing to create a new restricted area over this airspace which would restrict the public's access to that effectively full time, despite the fact that the Marine Corps only proposes to make use of this airspace 60 or fewer days every year. That is less than 20 percent of the time, Mr. Speaker.

The problem with this is it is going to have a devastating impact on four local area airports, as well as operations in the adjacent Johnson Valley, which is home to the King of the Hammers, one of the largest off-road races in the world and one in which over 80,000 spectators enjoy every year in my district.

These operations will be in jeopardy if the public is restricted from accessing that airspace.

Mr. Speaker, the Marine Corps has other options for getting use of this airspace. For example, they could declare a temporary flight restriction on the days that they propose to use it, which would be communicated to all of the local users of the airspace, or, Mr. Speaker, they could better and more effectively communicate when they are using that airspace to other airspace users so the public would be aware when the military needed the airspace and when the public had access to that.

In fact, we have already directed them to do exactly that. In the National Defense Authorization Act in 2021, we directed the Department of Defense and the FAA to work together to develop a system to digitally inform the public when restricted airspace was activated and when the public was welcome to use deactivated airspace. They were given 6 months to do that. Mr. Speaker, this is not reinventing the wheel. This delivery already exists for temporary flight restrictions. This would just be extending it to the restricted areas.

Mr. Speaker, 4 years later now, the DOD and the FAA have still not acted on this.

My amendment simply conditions the Marine Corps' issuance of a new restricted area on compliance with the direction of Congress that we have already given them 4 years ago to create this new information sharing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of my amendment and that it be made in order to solve this problem.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. ANSARI).

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, this week I offered four commonsense amend-

ments, several with bipartisan support, that would have made the fiscal year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act stronger and more responsible.

I want to specifically highlight two of these important amendments for you all in the limited time that I have.

The first amendment would have included a penalty in law for using artificial intelligence to impersonate Federal officials. This provision is identical to a bipartisan bill I introduced early this year titled: the AI Impersonation Prevention Act. I introduced this bill to safeguard national security from the clear danger of the misuse of AI to impersonate Federal officials.

There have been multiple recent incidents of AI being used to falsely impersonate Federal officials, posing a very serious threat to our national security.

Recently, an imposter using AI attempted to contact high-level U.S. security personnel pretending to be Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

AI will only continue to be more powerful and accessible, so we must act now to establish strict guardrails and accountability. That is why we need this amendment.

As AI continues to become more widely adopted and more sophisticated, measures such as this amendment will ensure that we have critical trust in the messages and content we all receive on a daily basis and that there are penalties for the abuse of this very powerful technology.

The second amendment I want to highlight speaks to a deeply disturbing issue that we all, both Republicans and Democrats, should be horrified by. This is about the Trump administration's deportation of veterans and servicemembers, including an Iraq war veteran detained by ICE in my district, Arizona's Third.

Veterans are the best of us, our most patriotic Americans. This amendment to the NDAA would have required a study by the Defense Department and other relevant agencies on the procedures in place to assist noncitizen servicemembers with their citizenship applications.

Ultimately, this disregard for the welfare of veterans and servicemembers stems from the top. I am disappointed but not surprised that none of my important amendments were allowed to be considered on the floor by House Republicans.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. SCHMIDT).

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

I rise in support of the rule and urge this body to adopt it. It is the next necessary step for us to proceed to consideration and ultimately adoption of the National Defense Authorization Act for the 65th year in a row.

While this Congress has done this 65 years in a row, this is the first year I have had the privilege of being part of this debate and discussion. I am honored to be here. I am honored to be the

Representative of the Second District of Kansas where I represent, among others, those associated with Fort Leavenworth, with Fort Riley, with Forbes Field, the 190th Air Refueling Wing, and other important military assets.

I will highlight just a couple of provisions in this bill that are so critically important to the people that I represent.

Obviously, with the continued focus on servicemember and family quality of life, the 3.8 percent pay raise is vitally important to these folks who are serving our country. There is the \$350 million this bill authorizes for expanded childcare facilities for military families. There is the \$35 million that it authorizes for impact aid in support of the communities who support our fighting men and women. There is the provision that restricts and precludes the downsizing of certain military healthcare installations so we can continue to provide for the health and well-being of our servicemembers and their families.

This bill focuses on acquisition reform and includes a provision to make it easier for small businesses to access what can be the complicated and sometimes frustrating process of being in the queue to provide support for our military men and women in our armed services.

It provides for a focus on additional training space and support for unmanned systems, which is vitally important. It is important to us in Kansas where we have a lot of assets clustered together to provide that type of next-generation support, both in the physical world and in the simulation world in terms of the National Simulation Center at Fort Leavenworth.

Of course, it provides some top-line critically important provisions that are important to the defense of our country, and that includes authorizing funding and support for our counterdrug efforts, which are vitally important to our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak on this legislation, and I encourage adoption of the rule.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. CONAWAY).

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on my amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act.

This administration has made their military plan clear: weaponize our troops against the people and use our military installations to advance their immigration agenda.

As plans to house undocumented immigrants on military bases continue, base leadership must be informed about everyone that is coming onto the base and if their treatment and detention meets well-established Federal standards.

My amendments would require the Department of Homeland Security to create a registry of all undocumented

immigrants held at DOD facilities and require a joint DOD-DHS report to the Congress on the use of force and compliance with Federal detention standards, standards designed to ensure humane treatment.

Unfortunately, these amendments aren't just needed but necessary given the reports of DHS violating the rights of undocumented immigrants and those with legal status at detention facilities all across our country. We must have accountability, and if this administration plans to use our military installations as detention facilities, then DOD must play a role in curbing DHS' inhumane tactics.

I ask all my colleagues to support these amendments.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Delaware (Ms. MCBRIDE).

Ms. MCBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I know a few Members of this Chamber can't seem to muster any maturity when they have a transgender colleague, but members of the U.S. Armed Forces can and have.

For years, transgender people have been serving in our military. There was no problem until Donald Trump decided to fire thousands of qualified, capable servicemembers simply because of their gender identity.

These servicemembers were proudly serving arm in arm with their peers: deploying, training, leading, and sacrificing. They met the same standards, passed the same tests, earned the same promotions, and they were praised by their commanding officers.

There was no problem until the Trump administration created a problem by removing thousands of loyal patriots from service, squandering investments made in their training and careers, and disrupting lives and units.

That is why I introduced an amendment to repeal this ban because this ban doesn't strengthen our military. It weakens it. It doesn't uphold our values. It betrays them. It sends the cruelest message to some of our most devoted patriots that one identity they hold matters more than their service.

□ 1250

My second amendment restores retirement benefits to transgender veterans who were forced out of the Armed Forces just shy of 20 years of service.

Under the law, they should qualify for early retirement benefits just like everyone else would. Many received approval only to have it revoked simply because of their gender identity. They wore the uniform. They kept their promise to us. It is time we keep our promise to them.

It is one thing for some of my colleagues to disrespect me, but it is another thing entirely to disrespect the people who lay down their lives for this country.

Unfortunately, the majority in this body refuses to let us vote on these amendments, but I will not stop standing up for every patriot who serves our country, which until now I thought was a noncontroversial and bipartisan idea.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), the Chairwoman of the Rules Committee and the toughest lady in Congress.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, Congress is charged with upholding the solemn constitutional mandate of providing for the common defense of the Nation. We must guarantee that the men and women of the Armed Forces are equipped with the capabilities and resources to remain the most resilient and lethal fighting force on the planet. If we do not make good upon that guarantee, our Nation's warfighters and defense apparatus will be ill-equipped to confront all manner of threats to the homeland.

The bipartisan FY26 NDAA is our answer, and it contains the necessary provisions needed to ensure that the Armed Forces can carry out their mission unimpeded.

From pay raises for servicemembers to furthering innovation, slashing bureaucratic red tape to doubling down on President Trump's America First posture by authorizing the collection of funds to offset the cost of U.S. forces in Eastern Europe, this legislation meets the mark and then some.

It also makes ironclad commitments to deter aggression from foreign adversaries that pose a serious threat to America's national security and our way of life.

Ensuring the safety and security of the homeland will always be the top priority of Republicans in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I support the rule, the underlying legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of H.R. 4849, the Protecting Health Care and Lowering Costs Act of 2025, introduced by Congressman GRAY.

Mr. Speaker, in July, Republicans jammed through their big, ugly bill. This 870-page monstrosity includes the largest cuts to healthcare in American history. It takes healthcare coverage away from more than 15 million Americans, American citizens, including 10 million who would lose their care due to the \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act and another \$5 million because Republicans failed to extend the tax credits that help make ACA plans more affordable.

These cuts will throw millions of Americans off coverage entirely, bury families in medical debt, and result in hospitals and nursing homes closing, especially in rural America.

In my district, 21,000 people are likely to lose their healthcare. In the gentleman from Georgia's district, 36,000 people are estimated to lose their healthcare.

Mr. GRAY's bill would reverse those disastrous cuts, as well as permanently extend the tax credits that help make ACA plans more affordable for millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD, along with any extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. McDONALD RIVET) to discuss our proposal further.

Ms. McDONALD RIVET. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the hard-working men and women not just in Michigan but across the country.

Working families in Michigan and across the country are really struggling. There are 200,000 people in my district alone who rely on Medicaid.

While the Republican tax scheme gives huge giveaways to billionaires and breaks to the wealthy, it neglects the ACA tax credits working families in my district depend on to cover their insurance premiums. It cuts Medicaid by \$1.1 trillion, kicking tens of thousands of my constituents off their healthcare, and it raises costs for everybody.

Our Protecting Health Care and Lowering Costs Act reverses all of that, and we should pass it today. We aren't just making a point. We are fighting for the retired teacher from Mount Morris who needs Medicaid because her insurance isn't cutting it. We are standing up for the pregnant woman whose rural hospital is at risk of being shut down because of the Republican tax giveaway.

We are raising our voices for the family from Bay City who will have to sit down at the kitchen table to figure out if they should pay for rent or their child's visit to the doctor.

We know that as a result of the billionaire tax giveaway we are going to see premiums rise for working people across our country. The ACA tax credits need to be reestablished now.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely nothing that can make Affordable Care Act plans affordable. It was a gift to the insurance industry from the Democratic Party.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, once again, Republicans on

the Rules Committee blocked a vote on the bipartisan Massie-Khanna bill to release the Epstein files. Covering up the files just protects the criminal activity of pedophiles and the people who participated in those heinous acts.

Epstein told the young girls and women: I have the banks and I have the government. You have no power.

Let's prove him wrong. I am asking that just two more of my Republican colleagues sign the petition to expose the rich and powerful monsters that were part of the Epstein sex circle.

Trump is engaged in a cover-up. He is forcing Republicans to ignore their own moral conscience when he blocks the Massie-Khanna bill.

What is he hiding? Well, just in the last 24 hours, the card that Trump said didn't exist was released. It is a disgusting, degrading birthday card that Trump sent to Epstein calling him a pal and stating that they shared a wonderful secret.

Mr. Speaker, if that is not enough, Trump had the audacity to imply that domestic violence is not a crime. He said: "If a man has a little fight with the wife, they say this was a crime." Consistent with that, he has cut Federal funds that support victims of sexual crimes, including domestic violence.

Trump was found liable in court for sexually abusing E. Jean Carroll. Yesterday, a court upheld an \$83.3 million defamation jury award against President Trump.

Women are not safe in Trump's America. So, yes, Americans deserve a vote on the Massie-Khanna bill to know what else Trump is hiding.

The survivors' painful stories brought many to tears last week. Their pain made us cry, but we cannot stop at tears. We owe them the justice they asked us for.

Release the damn files.

□ 1300

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President. Members are also reminded that profanity is not part of the debate.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I commend Chairman COMER for the work that is being done in the Oversight Committee. I commend the courage of the victims who came forward. I should have commended the courage of the victims that came forward to Congress last week and met with Members, including the Speaker of the House of Representatives, before I even commended Chairman COMER for his work on the Epstein files.

The key to the Epstein files is the flight logs and the tax records, neither of which is mentioned in the Khanna-Massie language. We are pushing forward.

Chairman COMER is doing a good job. I commend him and the bipartisan

work that is being done on the Oversight Committee. I commend the victims for coming to Washington and doing this.

I apologize to the victims for the gamesmanship that is being played at their expense by the other side of the aisle in the Democratic Party. I think they support, from what I understand, what is being done in a bipartisan manner in the Oversight Committee. We are going to continue to push forward that way.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to discuss what should be disclosed with these Epstein files, all the more reason to bring this bill forward. We can amend it in Rules and carry on from there, but that is not what we are seeing from our colleagues across the aisle. They are trying to bury it, and I assume they will continue to do so.

This House and this Congress cannot afford to continue allowing an unrestrained and reckless President to trample on the Constitution and Congress' powers and responsibilities. Every day brings a new crisis with this White House, and they are all of its own making.

Since Trump announced his tariffs, the U.S. has lost 42,000 manufacturing jobs, tourism is tanking, and unemployment is on the rise. Costs for everything from electricity to groceries to health insurance are up, not down.

In fact, we are facing the biggest increase in health insurance costs in 15 years, even as the cuts in this big, bad bill threaten to bring more hospital closures.

Trump's attacks on the Federal Reserve could cause another financial crisis. Masked agents are roaming our streets, and reports of human rights abuses at ICE detention facilities are growing. Far from ending the wars in Gaza and Ukraine, Trump has amassed naval forces off the coast of Venezuela and could provoke another unauthorized war.

This administration is out of control and Congress must act. Republicans can't keep their heads in the sand. They have already failed to protect core Article I spending authorities, the power to make appropriations and the power to declare war. Continued inaction will only allow more power grabs by this White House to occur.

At every turn, Republicans have fought Democratic efforts to place oversight and enforcement riders in legislation that we are passing. With this NDAA, our Republican colleagues are, again, blocking policies to restrain this President and prevent him from using the Armed Forces as political weapons. This cannot be allowed to continue. We must reject this rule and the Republicans' failed agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the PQ and the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.



The SPEAKER pro tempore. For the third time, Members are reminded not to engage in personalities toward the President.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, it wasn't a speedboat. It was a panga full of drugs. I would rather that so-called speedboat, as they call it—I call it a panga full of drugs—be at the bottom of the ocean than another American be at the bottom of a six-foot hole because of drug overdoses.

I personally think the President and the Secretary of Defense made the right choice, and I hope they will do it again. In fact, I challenge them to do it again.

Mr. Speaker, this week the House can advance two pieces of legislation under this rule. H.R. 3838, the Streamlining Procurement for Effective Execution and Delivery and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, significantly improves the defense acquisition system. The act implements the Peace Through Strength agenda and restores lethality to our Armed Forces. It secures America's borders and improves the quality of life of our servicemembers.

The fiscal year '26 NDAA reforms key programs and saves taxpayer dollars, resulting in a ready, capable, and lethal fighting force. This legislation will deter China, defend Israel, and counter Russia, North Korea, Iran, and other foreign terrorist organizations, including the drug dealers riding around the oceans with pangas full of dope.

Finally, this act strengthens our nuclear deterrence, builds the Golden Dome, and grows our Nation's strategic space capabilities. This is bipartisan, must-pass legislation that every one of my colleagues should support.

Additionally, H.R. 3486, the Stop Illegal Entry Act of 2025, simply strengthens current law to deter criminal aliens from entering and reentering again and again the United States and gives Federal officials more tools to prosecute aliens who have illegally entered the country and are convicted of a felony or who try to reenter the country after removal following a felony conviction.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on the previous question and "yes" on the rule.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SCANLON is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 682 OFFERED BY  
MS. SCANLON OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 6. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 4849) to repeal health-related portions of An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The

previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 7. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 4849.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO COMMIT, THREATEN TO COMMIT, OR SUPPORT TERRORISM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-93)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

##### *To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, as amended, is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2025.

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in New York and Pennsylvania and against the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. This crisis continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of

the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224, as amended, with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 8, 2025.

#### CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO ETHIOPIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-94)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

##### *To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Ethiopia declared in Executive Order 14046 of September 17, 2021, is to continue in effect beyond September 17, 2025.

The situation in and in relation to northern Ethiopia, which has been marked by activities that threaten the peace, security, and stability of Ethiopia and the greater Horn of Africa region, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14046 with respect to Ethiopia.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 8, 2025.

#### 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 1 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings