

and forced to face skyrocketing health insurance premiums, or better yet, left without coverage all together.

We can pursue meaningful reforms. Let me say it again. We can pursue meaningful reforms without sacrificing access to affordable care, and that is exactly what the people sent us here to do.

UNAFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE COSTS

(Ms. MORRISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MORRISON. Madam Speaker, thousands of Minnesotans and millions of Americans are facing unaffordable healthcare costs. Because of their cruelly named One Big Beautiful Bill Act and Speaker Johnson's refusal to act, the Republican majority is creating a healthcare crisis that will literally dismantle American public health.

Americans are being forced into crushing medical debt, are in danger of losing their closest hospital, clinic, or emergency room.

As a doctor, I worry for the patients delaying their care and for clinics and hospitals already struggling to meet the needs of their community.

As a Minnesotan, I am heartbroken for my State. Minnesotans have suffered immeasurable loss following the tragedies of recent months.

The Trump administration's reckless actions and deliberate inaction from Republicans in Congress jeopardize the operation and availability of facilities that are the first site of care in the most tragic circumstances.

I have a responsibility to be abundantly clear, Madam Speaker. The consequences of inaction and ignoring hospitals, doctors, patients, and your own constituents will be catastrophic. The price of failing to deliver affordable healthcare isn't losing elections. It is real human suffering and American lives.

CELEBRATING WESTCHESTER JEWISH COUNCIL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, this year the Westchester Jewish Council is celebrating their 50-year anniversary, advancing a vision to serve the Jewish community of Westchester County: 130,000 people and 126 member organizations. Led by president Michael Mittelman, the board of directors, and the talented professional staff headed by CEO Elliot Forchheimer, the WJC has sponsored and organized public programs from Holocaust remembrance to Passover celebrations and gatherings. They have ensured greater synagogue security, programs to combat hatred and anti-Semitism, and the connection to Israel.

At the upcoming 50th Anniversary Gala, two outstanding individuals will be honored: board member Stu Seltzer and Pam Goldstein.

Pam is the chief operating officer of WJC. Stu, a Mamaroneck resident, is a professional in brand licensing and partnership marketing, president of a firm dominant in that field. Along with serving as a NYU adjunct professor, he is active in his local community and of the Westchester Jewish Center.

Pam has a long record of activism and volunteerism as a member of Temple Israel Center, active PTO leader and parent at what is now the Leffell School, and important nonprofits such as the Breast Cancer Foundation and the Pediatric Cancer Foundation. Friends and colleagues of Stu and Pam will join in the celebration of their accomplishments and the 50-year accomplishments of the WJC.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, we salute the Westchester Jewish Council.

CELEBRATING DON STEVENS

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

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Don Stevens, the legendary voice of the Rochester Americans, as he calls his final season behind the microphone.

For four decades, Don has called over 3,300 games for the Amerks and became the longest tenured play-by-play broadcaster in the American Hockey League.

From Calder Cup honky to cold weeknights downtown, he has been the soundtrack of winter in Rochester calling games from a press box at the Blue Cross Arena that now proudly bears his name.

Known as the dean of AHL broadcasters, a member of the Rochester Americans Hall of Fame, and a two-time winner of the James H. Ellery Memorial Award for media excellence, Don has served in roles from public relations director to TV host, and founded the AHL Broadcasters and Writers Association.

We thank Don for the memories, the excitement, and for making Amerks hockey sound like home. I wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND SMALL BUSINESSES STRUGGLING TO AFFORD HEALTH CARE

(Mr. PAPPAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today because the House has a critical opportunity to support families and small businesses who are struggling to afford healthcare for 2026.

I am thinking of the parents I have talked to who will drop coverage for

their families because their premiums are doubling and tripling, the non-profits who won't be able to cover employees anymore, the manufacturer that is now paying more for health insurance than most of their raw materials.

The impacts of this healthcare debate are real and they are immediate.

This week Congress can solve the problem and actually make people's lives better.

Everywhere I go across New Hampshire, I hear the same thing: Money is tight, and people are worried about their futures.

The millions of families who rely on the Affordable Care Act tax credits for health insurance have waited long enough for Congress to do the right thing.

I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation to ensure that hard-working Americans can maintain their coverage and have the health and financial security that they deserve.

FIREFIGHTER PROTECTIONS

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

Mr. WHITESIDES. Madam Speaker, this week marks the first anniversary of the southern California wildfires that took lives, devastated communities, and left families across our region displaced.

We are lucky that the damage was not worse, and that is only because of the wildland firefighters who run toward danger and risk their lives for all of us.

For decades, these heroes were prohibited from wearing respiratory protection, even as the science made clear that wildfire smoke causes lasting lung damage and is linked to more than a dozen cancers.

Firefighters' life expectancy is now nearly 10 years shorter than the average American. That is unacceptable.

The Healthy Lungs for Heroes Act changes that. It directs our Federal land agencies to develop and require respiratory protection when smoke exposure becomes dangerous.

Protecting our firefighters' lungs should not be controversial. This bill ensures that those who protect us are finally protected themselves.

PERMISSION TO POSTPONE PROCEEDINGS ON RETAINING A PORTION OF H.R. 6938, COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE; ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT; AND INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the question of retaining a portion of the bill on H.R. 6938 may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1230

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE; ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT; AND INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, Pursuant to House Resolution 977, I call up the bill (H.R. 6938) making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 977, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6938

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.
- Sec. 4. Explanatory statement.
- Sec. 5. Statement of appropriations.

DIVISION A—COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

- Title I—Department of Commerce
- Title II—Department of Justice
- Title III—Science
- Title IV—Related Agencies
- Title V—General Provisions

DIVISION B—ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

- Title I—Corps of Engineers—Civil
- Title II—Department of the Interior
- Title III—Department of Energy
- Title IV—Independent Agencies
- Title V—General Provisions

DIVISION C—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

- Title I—Department of the Interior
- Title II—Environmental Protection Agency
- Title III—Related Agencies
- Title IV—General Provisions

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

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

SEC. 4. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.

The explanatory statement regarding this Act, printed in the House section of the Congressional Record on or about January 7, 2026, and submitted by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations of the House, shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of divisions A through C of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

SEC. 5. STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The following sums in this Act are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026.

DIVISION A—COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for international trade activities of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, to carry out activities associated with facilitating, attracting, and retaining business investment in the United States, to carry out activities associated with title VI of division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), and for engaging in trade promotional activities abroad, including expenses of grants and cooperative agreements for the purpose of promoting exports of United States firms, without regard to sections 3702 and 3703 of title 44, United States Code; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas and employees temporarily posted overseas; travel and transportation of employees of the International Trade Administration between two points abroad, without regard to section 40118 of title 49, United States Code; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services; recognizing contributions to export expansion pursuant to Executive Order 10978; rental of space abroad for periods not exceeding 10 years, and expenses of alteration, repair, or improvement; purchase or construction of temporary demountable exhibition structures for use abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to exceed \$294,300 for official representation expenses abroad; purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use abroad, not to exceed \$65,000 per vehicle; not to exceed \$350,000 for purchase of armored vehicles without regard to the general purchase price limitations; obtaining insurance on official motor vehicles; and rental of tie lines, \$582,000,000, of which \$94,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That \$20,000,000 is to be derived from fees to be retained and used by the International Trade Administration, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That, of amounts provided under this heading, not less than \$16,400,000 shall be for China antidumping and countervailing duty enforcement and compliance activities: *Provided further*, That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities; and that for the purpose of this Act, contributions under the provisions of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 shall include payment for assessments for services provided as part of these activities.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce, including costs associated with the performance of export administration field activities both domestically and abroad; full medical coverage for dependent members of immediate families of employees stationed overseas; employment of citizens of the United States and aliens by contract for services abroad; payment of tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in foreign countries; not to ex-

ceed \$13,500 for official representation expenses abroad; awards of compensation to informers under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (subtitle B of title XVII of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019; Public Law 115-232; 132 Stat. 2208; 50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.), and as authorized by section 1(b) of the Act of June 15, 1917 (40 Stat. 223; 22 U.S.C. 401(b)); and purchase of passenger motor vehicles for official use and motor vehicles for law enforcement use with special requirement vehicles eligible for purchase without regard to any price limitation otherwise established by law, \$235,000,000, of which \$94,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the provisions of the first sentence of section 105(f) and all of section 108(c) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2455(f) and 2458(c)) shall apply in carrying out these activities: *Provided further*, That payments and contributions collected and accepted for materials or services provided as part of such activities may be retained for use in covering the cost of such activities, and for providing information to the public with respect to the export administration and national security activities of the Department of Commerce and other export control programs of the United States and other governments.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

For economic development assistance as provided by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, including provision of assistance under section 207(b) of such Act, for trade adjustment assistance, and for programs authorized by the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980, as amended, \$400,000,000 to remain available until expended, which shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the table titled “Economic Development Assistance Programs” in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of administering the economic development assistance programs as provided for by law, \$66,000,000: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading may be used to monitor projects approved pursuant to title I of the Public Works Employment Act of 1976; title II of the Trade Act of 1974; sections 27 through 30 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722-3723), as amended; and the Community Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1977.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Minority Business Development Agency in fostering, promoting, and developing minority business enterprises, as authorized by law, \$50,000,000.

ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as authorized by law, of economic and statistical analysis programs of the Department of Commerce, \$118,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

CURRENT SURVEYS AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing, and publishing statistics, provided for by law, \$318,500,000: *Provided*, That, from amounts provided herein, funds may be used for promotion, outreach, and marketing activities.

PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing, and publishing