

size fits all and the reason why we want to allow people to vote with their feet, whether it be on education issues, tax issues, or even public safety.

The choices are clear. Stay on the positive path of putting more money in your pocket, giving you the flexibility to lives in States that actually believe in freedom or regress to 4 years of failure.

It is not just, again, on money issues, but that issue of crime is so important today in understanding where we want to go.

They even want to change the number of people on the Supreme Court, pack the Court in order to get their way in the end. That is not the way to solutions. That is why I think people need to make sure they do not have amnesia moving forward or memory loss.

The best way to solve problems is to empower the individual, send less power to Washington and more power back home.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMUCKER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Eternal Lord, let Your favor rest upon these United States. For 250 years, You have been our shield and defender, our guardian, guide, and stay, and we pray You would abide with us now and always.

As we reflect on the noble history of this Republic, it is easy to boast in our accomplishments: the growth of our Nation's power, the resilience of its democratic principles, the bounty of our resources. All that we have and all that we are today are evidence of Your divine grace upon us.

Lest we base our pride in our own efforts, remind us again that You alone have established the work of our hands. We humbly acknowledge that the blessings we enjoy remain ours only as we remain faithful to You.

We rejoice in our freedoms, but we are not really free if we fail to protect and defend faithfully this sacred treasure You alone have bestowed on us.

In defending the great experiment in self-government, may our devotion to You, and not our own personal desires, shape the course of our country.

Lord, You are our dwelling place and have been throughout all generations. We offer to You ourselves, our trust, and our devotion that You would establish the work of our hands and continue to guide us in the years ahead.

In Your eternal name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONGRATULATING OREGON WHEAT GROWERS' LEAGUE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Oregon Wheat Growers' League on its 100-year anniversary.

Since its inception in 1926, the Wheat Growers' League has supported, encouraged, and promoted the production of wheat, one of the most important sources of nutrition in the world.

Over the past 100 years, the League has transformed the individual voices of wheat farmers into a formidable and effective political organization.

The League's advocacy is essential because Oregon's agricultural sector continues to face serious challenges, including skyrocketing fertilizer and energy costs, market uncertainty, severe drought, and misguided regulation.

Again, congratulations to the Oregon Wheat Growers' League on reaching its 100th year. I thank the generations of producers, families, and local leaders who helped build and maintain this successful and essential organization. I look forward to working with all of them as we build a brighter future for Oregon's wheat producers.

TRUMP IS KEEPING FAMILIES SAFE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President Donald Trump and

House Republicans are helping keep families safe.

Border provisions in the Working Families Tax Cut Act secured the addition of completing hundreds of miles of border wall with advanced border technology, hiring 10,000 new Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers, 3,000 new Border Patrol agents, and strengthening the Coast Guard operations targeting drug trafficking and human smuggling.

A secure border is the first defense for American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. President Trump is reinstituting peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump, providing targeting information to Iran to murder Americans and Israelis.

This weekend, South Carolina Republicans convened to celebrate the nearly 70 percent primary victory of Alan Wilson for Governor, with teammates Mike Reichenbach for Lieutenant Governor, David Stumbo for attorney general, Ellen Weaver for superintendent of education, and Cody Simpson for agriculture commissioner.

REMEMBERING ED SCOTT

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

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of one of our own, Mr. Ed Scott, whose life was taken by a senseless act of violence on June 12, 2026.

Ed graduated from Lake View High School in San Angelo, and he was a dedicated city of Midland employee, serving his community for many years.

He was well known throughout Midland and west Texas for his involvement in softball, where he spent over 30 years as an umpire, officiating recreational, high school, and collegiate games. Ed's impact extended far beyond the softball field. He devoted much of his time to mentoring young athletes and umpires, creating memories that will live on for generations.

The loss of Ed Scott leaves a void that cannot be filled. He was the kind of man who made his community stronger simply by being a part of it. His love for family and dedication to softball and so many other activities will continue to inspire all who knew him.

We continue to pray for his wife, Laura; his children; his grandchildren; and the entire community of Midland. May God grant them peace, and may his memory serve as a blessing to all who knew him.

HONORING DR. ASHLEY DAWSON

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

Mr. JACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ashley Dawson of

Coweta County, Georgia, for being named the 2026 National Schools to Watch Teacher of the Year.

Selected as the sole recipient of this honor, Dr. Dawson was chosen from an exceptionally competitive field of educators representing more than 750 Schools to Watch schools across 22 States.

For more than 14 years, Dr. Dawson has served students in Georgia's public schools. Before being named assistant principal of Blake Bass Middle School in Newnan, Dr. Dawson taught social studies and audio/video broadcast and film.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday, I met with Dr. Dawson at the Capitol. Her passion for education is inspiring, and her ideas about new educational opportunities will provide incredible experiences for the students at Blake Bass Middle School.

Beyond the classroom, Dr. Dawson sponsors Beta Club, leads the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Chick-fil-A Leader Academy, and serves as the school's yearbook adviser.

Mr. Speaker, all of us remember a teacher who shaped our lives and guided us onto a path toward success.

Dr. Ashley Dawson, the 2026 National Schools to Watch Teacher of the Year, is that type of teacher for which Coweta County and all of Georgia's Third Congressional District are very proud.

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 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1430

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FONG) at 2 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

RECOVER COVID UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD IN BANKS ACT

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8873) to recover unclaimed pandemic-era unemployment compensation funds held by financial institutions or escheated to State un-

claimed property administrators, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8873

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 "Recover COVID Unemployment Fraud in Banks Act".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL RECOVERY COORDINATOR AND TASK FORCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL RECOVERY COORDINATOR.—The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Inspector General of the Department of Labor, and the Attorney General, shall designate an official to serve as National Recovery Coordinator to oversee and coordinate the activities and responsibilities of the task force described in paragraph (2).

(2) TASK FORCE ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Recovery Coordinator shall convene a task force to be named the "Recover Pandemic Unemployment Funds in Banks Task Force" (in this section, the "Task Force").

(3) MEMBERS.—The Task Force shall include—

(A) the Attorney General, or their designee;

(B) the Secretary of Labor, or their designee;

(C) the Inspector General of the Department of Labor, or their designee;

(D) the Secretary of the Treasury, or their designee;

(E) the Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or their designee; and

(F) the Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, or their designee.

(b) TASK FORCE RESPONSIBILITIES.—It shall be the responsibility of the Task Force to—

(1) coordinate with applicable State agencies to identify Federal pandemic unemployment compensation payments issued on prepaid debit cards that—

(A) are held by financial institutions, and other entities identified by the Inspector General of the Department of Labor, contracted by a State agency to transfer such payments to unemployment claimants; or

(B) were transferred by such an entity to, and are currently held by, a State agency responsible for unclaimed property;

(2) coordinate with appropriate Federal agencies to develop model processes which comply with relevant Federal and State laws and result in cost-effective recovery of the payments identified under paragraph (1), including issuing guidance, in coordination with the Secretary of Labor, to administrators of State agencies responsible for administering Federal unemployment compensation payments or determining fraud in such programs, including—

(A) guidelines for—

(i) reviewing such payments and determining if such a payment was an improper payment;

(ii) determining whether cost-effective recovery of an improper payment is possible, including a threshold, or a methodology for calculating a dollar threshold, for cost-effective recovery; and

(iii) actions, consistent with State law, to be taken by the State agency if an improper payment is determined to be the result of fraud;

(B) assurances that, subject to section 303(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 503(g)), any action taken in relation to a determination that a payment identified under paragraph (1) is an improper payment shall be taken under State law;

(C) a model notice and information, developed in coordination with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, about resources available to individuals whose identity information is deter-

mined to have been fraudulently used to obtain Federal pandemic unemployment compensation;

(D) information on the legal pathways described under paragraphs (3) and (4) for recovery of payments that are improper payments held by financial institutions and agencies described in paragraph (1); and

(E) procedural requirements for State agencies to follow when funds are returned by such institutions that provides a standardized methodology to return funds to the Federal Government;

(3) issue guidance, in coordination with the Comptroller of the Currency and Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, to financial institutions described in paragraph (1) that are holding payments that are improper payments that provides information on a legal pathway, consistent with banking regulations and applicable contracts with State agencies, for returning such payments to the appropriate State agency; and

(4) issue guidance, in coordination with the Secretary of Treasury, to administrators of State agencies responsible for unclaimed property on the obligations of such agencies to review and return payments described in paragraph (1)(B) to the appropriate State agency.

(c) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In developing the guidance required to be issued under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (b), the Task Force shall consult with State agencies and incorporate best practices from previous attempts by any such States to recover payments determined to be improper payments from institutions described in paragraph (1)(A) of such subsection.

(d) STATE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary of Labor shall reimburse States for all administrative costs incurred as a result of coordination with the Task Force by reason of an agreement under section 2102, 2104, or 2107 of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9201; 9203; 9205).

(e) DEFINITIONS.—Except as otherwise specified, in this section:

(1) FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.—The term "Federal pandemic unemployment compensation" means a payment of—

(A) pandemic unemployment assistance under section 2102(b) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9021(b));

(B) Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation and Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation under section 2104(b)(1) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9023(b)(1)); and

(C) pandemic emergency unemployment compensation under section 2107(a)(2) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9025(a)(2)).

(2) IMPROPER PAYMENT.—The term "improper payment" means any amount of a pandemic unemployment payment to which the individual is not entitled.

(3) STATE; STATE AGENCY; STATE LAW.—The terms "State", "State agency", and "State law" have the meanings given those terms in section 205 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note).

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD BY INDIVIDUALS UNDER CERTAIN UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.

(a) PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.—Section 2102 of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9021) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

"(h) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to paragraph (2), any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1344, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3802 of title 31, United