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No. 12

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, on this first full day of a new administration, we offer our heartfelt prayers for the leaders of this country and for the future of our Nation. May they and we humble ourselves before You and call upon Your name. May they and each of us seek Your face in our midst as we lift up our hearts to You. As a people, we confess the malice of our ways.

Hear us in Your Heaven, forgive our sin, and heal our land. Consecrate this House that Your name may abide with us forever. Open Your eyes to us, and may Your ears be attentive to our prayer, for we pray in the strength of Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCGOVERN 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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF COVID-19

The SPEAKER. The Chair asks all Members in the Chamber, as well as

Members and staff throughout the Capitol, to rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of more than 400,000 Americans who have passed away from the COVID-19 virus.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 335, PROVIDING FOR EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider H.R. 335 in the House if called up by the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee; that all points of order against consideration of the bill be waived; that the bill be considered as read; that all points of order against provisions in the bill be waived; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 19, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 19, 2021, at 1:10 p.m.:

That the Senate is ready to receive Managers appointed by the House.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. REEVES,
Deputy Clerk.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1412

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 2021, I call up the bill (H.R. 335) to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces, and ask

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 335

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

SECTION 1. EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY AS REGULAR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the second sentence of section 113(a) of title 10, United States Code, the first person appointed, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, as Secretary of Defense in an appointment made on or after January 20, 2021, may be a person who is, on the date of appointment, within seven years after relief, but not within four years after relief, from active duty as a commissioned officer of a regular component of the Armed Forces.

(b) LIMITED EXCEPTION.—This section applies only to the first person nominated after 12 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on January 20, 2021, and appointed as Secretary of Defense as described in subsection (a), and to no other person.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services.

The gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 335.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, this is the bill that will grant a waiver, an exemption, to Lloyd Austin to be nominated and confirmed as the Secretary of Defense. This is required because there is a law on the books that says that you must be 7 years separated from military service in order to serve as Secretary of Defense.

Mr. Austin has been out for almost 5 years, but does not meet the 7-year requirement. So we need to pass this law to give him that exemption.

Now, this is not an easy question. Civilian control of the military is enormously important. That is why this law was put in place. But in looking at this, I feel there are three basic questions:

Number one, does the nominee in question understand and reassure us in the House—for the purposes of our vote

on this portion of the waiver—that he understands and is committed to civilian control of the military?

□ 1415

Second, is there something about this particular nominee that makes it important to grant this exclusion, to grant this waiver?

And, third, is the individual qualified for the job? Because I do believe that that is important, and the details of their history is important in deciding that.

And I have, after a lot of thought and a lot of conversations with Mr. Austin and others, concluded that all three of those criteria are met in this instance.

Taking the last one first, Lloyd Austin is unquestionably highly qualified to be the Secretary of Defense. He had a distinguished career in the military, serving in multiple different command posts, including the commanding general in Iraq, the head of CENTCOM, and the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. It is beyond question that Lloyd Austin is qualified for this job.

He just finished a 2-hour presentation before the Armed Services Committee, taking our questions, in which he made it absolutely clear that he has a keen understanding of the issues that are going to face the Secretary of Defense and the experience and the intelligence necessary to deal with them. He is highly qualified.

On the first question of civilian control of the military, he has assured us over and over again of how important that is, and, more importantly, his actions reflect that.

He has come before the House, which you do not typically have to do in order to be confirmed to a Secretary-level position, but he has called us and he has reached out to us in a way that, frankly, 4 years ago, the Trump administration did not permit then-Secretary-nominee Jim Mattis to do.

He has called countless members of the committee; he has met with us. He has showed us that he respects what is really one of the cornerstones of civilian control of the military, and that is the House and the Senate. We are the ones who have oversight over the Pentagon. He has shown that he respects that.

So I can tell you and all Members voting, without a shadow of a doubt, I have no concern whatsoever about Lloyd Austin upholding civilian control of the military.

And then there is the second issue: Why this person, in this instance? Mr. Austin will be the first African American nominated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Washington has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 1 minute.

Mr. Austin will be the first African American nominated to be Secretary of Defense, which is enormously important in and of itself.

The military has a problem with diversity. They have an insufficient number of people of color who have been advanced to high positions, to general and general flag officers. It is enormously important that they address that.

In addition, in this country, we have an enormous problem right now with White supremacy. We also have a problem within our military ranks.

Now, let me be perfectly clear: I have 100 percent confidence in our military. But this is an issue that they do need to address, the rise of White supremacy and White nationalism within their ranks. Having a highly qualified African American be Secretary of Defense will be an enormous step toward addressing that problem.

So I believe 100 percent Mr. Austin has met the criteria to be granted this exclusion.

Lastly, I want to say, this law still matters because without this law we wouldn't have this process. We would not have the opportunity to question Mr. Austin in advance of his confirmation in the Senate. So the law has upheld its meaning and its role, to maintain civilian control of the military, by forcing this conversation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote in favor of the waiver for Lloyd Austin, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I want to take a minute to thank the men and women of the National Guard for the service they have provided in protecting this Capitol over the last 2 weeks.

I especially want to thank the 750 men and women from the State of Alabama who came here to the call of duty.

Once again, these citizen soldiers left their homes and their jobs to respond to this call, and, although it is unfortunate they were needed, it is certainly appreciated by all of us that they were here.

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that each President deserves the opportunity to fill their Cabinet as they see fit. And I agree that it is important to confirm President Biden's national security team as soon as possible, especially given the grave threats that we face.

Four years ago, this House provided a process to consider a waiver for General Mattis. We were all disappointed when General Mattis did not appear before the Armed Services Committee. Yet the Armed Services Committee still convened and held a public mark-up of the waiver, which passed without a single vote from any Democrat. Then the full House debated and voted on the waiver.

This time around, the Armed Services Committee was excluded from the process by the Democrat leadership of this House. This was not a decision

made by Chairman SMITH, who wanted a public hearing as much as I did. There has been no public hearing, no markup of a waiver, no opportunity for amendments.

Just 4 years ago, Democrat leadership told us how important it was to follow regular order and allow the Armed Services Committee to consider the Mattis waiver.

Speaker PELOSI said, "The American people are entitled to regular order and thoughtful scrutiny of nominees and any potential waivers."

Majority Leader HOYER said, "The committee has a right and a responsibility to inquire of General Mattis why he thinks he ought to be given a waiver."

I guess this time around they don't feel the same way.

Mr. Speaker, civilian control of the military is a fundamental tenet of our Republic. It is rooted in our Constitution. The law prohibiting recently retired military from serving as Secretary of Defense was enacted shortly after World War II to uphold this principle.

In nearly 75 years, the law has only been waived twice, for General Marshall and General Mattis. This will be the third time.

But Biden didn't have to do it this way. There was a strong pool of diverse civilians and former military leaders with qualifications and experience to serve as Secretary. President Biden could have selected from this talent pool, but he chose not to.

I voted for the waiver for General Mattis, and I will vote for the waiver for General Austin. For me, it is just fair—a waiver for a Republican President and a waiver for a Democrat President.

But I stand here frustrated by this dysfunctional process. President Trump and President Biden forced this Congress into situations made worse, this time around, by the Speaker's decision to ignore regular order.

Congress should not have to entertain these waivers. Presidents need to follow the law as written. They need to stop asking Congress to waive a statute. And we certainly shouldn't be forced to do so outside of regular order. If Presidents don't think the law matters, then they need to address this waiver issue in this year's NDAA.

Mr. Speaker, America faces extraordinary threats from strategic competitors like China and Russia, rogue nations like Iran and North Korea, as well as terrorists and other transnational enemies. It is more critical now than ever to strengthen our military, address mounting readiness problems, and modernize our conventional and nuclear forces to defeat these threats.

I believe General Austin understands the threats that we face. I believe he respects the principle of civilian control. I believe he will stand up to the efforts of many of the Democrat majority who seek to slash defense spending and rewrite our defense strategy.

I hope the rest of the Biden administration shares his commitment for providing for our men and women in uniform the resources they need to successfully defend our Nation.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to have process arguments all year long in this House, but what was just said is really disingenuous. The only reason that we didn't go through regular order, the only reason we didn't have a public hearing, and the only reason we didn't have a vote in our committee is because the Republicans, as we stand here right now, have not appointed their members to the Armed Services Committee. So, therefore, we don't have a committee.

It is the day after Mr. Biden has become President. He needs his Secretary of Defense. I have begged the Republicans for the better part of a month to appoint their members so we could do our job.

So for them to choose not to appoint their members and then come to the floor crying about process, that is not really fair. We tried to do the process right. They stopped us from doing the process right. I want the record to reflect that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN), a soon-to-be member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, Lloyd Austin, as we have heard, would be our country's first African-American Secretary of Defense. His confirmation is more than a symbolic milestone towards genuine integration of the Department of Defense; it is a substantive answer to many of the challenges that the military faces.

What are those challenges, Mr. Speaker? White supremacy and extremism. There is a dramatic rise in White supremacists and racist hate groups within our military. They actively recruit from our uniformed ranks. A Military Times survey found an alarming rise in White supremacist and racist ideology in the military.

What are those challenges, Mr. Speaker? The lack of diversity inclusion at our highest ranks and in our coveted career fields. Racial and ethnic groups make up more than 40 percent of the Nation's military, but there is a significant lack of diversity in civilian and military leadership at the most senior levels, due in large part to systemic racial bias in promotion and assignment boards. This hurts the military, our readiness and our effectiveness.

Who are those challenges, Mr. Speaker? The military isn't immune from the racial injustice that we see in the broader criminal justice system. Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice today, a Black servicemember is two times more likely to be court-martialed or punished.

These are real challenges that erode the effectiveness of our military. That is why we need a leader like Lloyd Austin. He understands the complexities of the military and the challenges our country faces. His lived experience and his professional record cry out for a waiver to lead the Department of Defense.

President Biden is committed to civilian control of the military, protecting our men and women in uniform, and restoring American leadership. President Biden has confidence in Lloyd Austin, and so should we. He is the right man for this moment for our military.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the waiver of soon-to-be Secretary Lloyd Austin at the Department of Defense.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to address my friend, the chairman's remarks about the establishment of the Armed Services Committee.

We did not establish our members from our steering committee because we didn't get our ratio from the Democrat leadership until last week. It was physically not possible.

Had we gotten our ratio a month ago or even 2 weeks ago, we would have sat our members, and we would have had a sitting committee.

The reason we didn't have a public hearing today, the chairman is right, we didn't have a sitting committee. That is the fault of the Democrat leadership, not the minority.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER), my friend and colleague.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Alabama for his strong leadership as our new ranking member, and I look forward to working with him and the chairman on what is truly still, I think, the most bipartisan committee in Congress.

I want to make clear that I have enormous respect for General Austin's service. I don't think anyone can look at his record and not come away very impressed.

But I also strongly oppose this bill. There is no waiver; we are actually changing the underlying law. This was one of the biggest talking points 4 years ago. And we should not do so lightly.

Much has been made about the historic nature of Mr. Austin's nomination, which is true but in more ways than one. If we change the law today, we will now have done so twice within 4 years, effectively destroying the historical precedent against such exemptions.

We will also invert the congressional intent in the underlying National Security Act by setting the precedent that the presumption is for approval, not the disapproval, of recently retired officers.

So the law and the norm of civil-military relations that it is meant to buttress is on life support right now.

And, as in 2017, we will be granting this exemption without a public hearing of the Armed Services Committee, which is the bare minimum of our constitutional obligations. We will be getting rolled over, to borrow a phrase that was used 4 years ago.

And I don't know, I am not in the room where these ratios are discussed, and this and that, but it seems to me that it is worth waiting a few days in order to have such a public hearing, but it is my understanding that our entire workweek next week has been canceled.

So I don't think it withstands basic scrutiny to suggest that we couldn't have had a public hearing to discuss this very, very important issue.

Now, 4 years ago, I voted in favor of the exemption for Secretary Mattis. I think it was my first vote. It was certainly my first speech on the House floor. So it is fair to ask what has changed. Well, a lot has changed.

First and perhaps most importantly, the threat from China is far greater, and we need a Secretary with INDOPACOM experience. The nominee has admitted that he is not uniquely qualified in that regard, and I don't think there is a more important aspect of his experience that we could analyze in considering whether to change the underlying law.

Second, budgetary pressures on the Department are much bigger. Particularly in the post-pandemic world, it is going to be far more difficult to build off of the success that we have had in giving the Department the resources it needs, and we will need a Secretary with political experience who can fight and win interagency battles for a higher top line.

And, third, we also have more data. Four years ago, we ran this experiment for the first time in 67 years, and we learned that recently retired general officers face unique challenges when leading the Department—specifically, the need to publicly advocate for a higher top line, which requires some political experience. And the nominee has made much of the apolitical nature of his prior experience.

Now, I know in politics we are not supposed to change our minds, but if we are unwilling to learn from recent experience or change our minds in response to new information, then we are doomed to repeat the exact same mistakes.

□ 1430

This is why I am voting “no,” among other reasons.

But I want to be clear. I want Mr. Austin, soon-to-be Secretary Austin, to be successful in this job. Nothing would make me happier than to look back on his time at DOD and be able to say he was the most successful Secretary of Defense in our Nation's history because that will mean that we as a committee were successful in working with him to do what is right for our men and women in uniform and do what is right for the rest of the country.

Though I will oppose changing the law again for the second time in 4 years, I very much look forward to working with my colleagues, both Republican and Democratic. I genuinely appreciate the honest exchange of views we had 4 years ago and 4 years later. I can only say that 4 years from now, I hope we are not having the same debate because it will prove we have learned nothing from this.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his extraordinary leadership as chair of the Armed Services Committee.

He brings us to the floor today for a very special privilege. We in the House really most of the time do not have too much say as to who will be a member of the Cabinet. That is, advise and consent responsibility lies with the Senate. But today, because of the special nature of the appointee, we are here to talk about a waiver.

As a Member of Congress, again, there is no more serious responsibility. It is the oath we take to protect and defend. Our responsibility is to protect the American people. That responsibility is why we must waste no time ensuring that President Joe Biden's national defense and national security team is confirmed, ready and able to keep our country and our people safe.

President Biden selected a highly qualified and widely respected leader in nominating General Lloyd Austin for Secretary of Defense. General Austin has led with honor and served with dignity. With over 40 years of decorated Army service, Secretary-designate Austin brings a great understanding of the challenges facing our Nation's defense and a deep appreciation for the sacrifice of our military and their families.

The historical circumstances of this nomination, in light of the deadly insurrection assault on the Capitol, the coronavirus pandemic, the undermining of the Pentagon by the previous President, and more, necessitate the expeditious confirmation of this extremely qualified leader.

I do want to say as a constitutional officer—the Speaker of the House is a constitutional officer, written into the Constitution—and as a former leader of the Intelligence Committee, a Democratic leader of the Intelligence Committee, my commitment to a strong civilian control of our military, as required by the Constitution, is strong.

It is not an issue with us, Mr. Speaker. It is a value, civilian control of the military. The Congress' power to grant or withhold an exemption for recent Active Duty military servicemembers to be the Secretary of Defense must be treated with gravity and extreme diligence.

That is why I am so glad that President Biden and General Austin insisted

and met our request to come to speak to Armed Services Committee members. That did not happen under General Mattis. I am a big fan of General Mattis, but President Trump said he could not come speak to the Congress, and that is a big difference. That is a big difference.

Again, with gratitude to President Biden in recognizing the important role that the House of Representatives plays in this, I had the privilege, as have other Members, of hearing from General Austin as well as the committee today.

By the way, in case you didn't notice, when we are talking about timetables relating to committee ratios, 2 weeks ago, there was an insurrection in this Chamber. It was disruptive of the normal pattern unfolding. We all had to adjust our schedules and address the needs of our caucuses and this Congress accordingly, in case you didn't notice.

Again, my conversations with the Secretary-designate have assured me that he understands, respects, and will uphold the critical priority of civilian control of the military. He has spoken several times to the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and members of the committee and has given similar assurances.

The Secretary-designate has further demonstrated his commitment to transparency with the Congress, respecting the weight of the decision that we now make by, as I mentioned, meeting with members of the Armed Services Committee to discuss this issue earlier today.

In the face of the many threats, both foreign and domestic, confronting our Nation, it is essential that Secretary-designate Austin be immediately confirmed. Blocking this waiver would be a mistake that, among other dangers, would delay the urgent work to be done to restore the independence and capabilities of the Defense Department, which we must do as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a strong bipartisan vote to grant this waiver for Secretary-designate Lloyd Austin to serve as Secretary of Defense. I salute him for his patriotism, thank him for his heroism, and look forward to calling him Mr. Secretary.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JACOBS).

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the waiver allowing General Lloyd Austin to serve as Secretary of Defense.

Civilian leadership at the top of the Pentagon is desirable and necessary. I believe this should only be reserved for unique circumstances. Regularly nominated candidates who require waivers is not a precedent we should set.

However, examining General Austin's credentials and the circumstances facing our Nation lead me to believe the approval of this specific waiver is warranted.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing. China is growing bolder and more

aggressive, using espionage, cyber warfare, and manipulation to undermine U.S. and global security. Iran remains an ever-present threat to the Middle East and the world. North Korea continues to pursue an ambitious nuclear weapons development program.

These issues and others require the steady hand of an experienced and qualified Secretary of Defense. General Austin meets these requirements and is more than qualified to oversee our Nation's military.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the support of this waiver. I look forward to working with Secretary Austin to confront these very real threats to our national security.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA).

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, in history, there are many generals who are celebrated for logistical feats to win a war. Rare is a general who is celebrated for logistical feats to end a war.

General Austin presided over the most significant withdrawal of troops and equipment, over 150,000 troops from Iraq, successfully. He helped bring that conflict to an end.

General Austin helped us prevent getting into a catastrophic conflict in Syria.

Now, I don't think the American people are concerned about process arguments, about whether someone wore a uniform or didn't wear a uniform. What they want to know is the outcome. Is the leader going to help start new wars or end wars? General Austin, with Secretary Blinken and Jake Sullivan, is going to help end the war in Yemen.

They want to know: Is a leader going to turn a blind eye to White supremacy, or are they going to stand up for equality? General Austin will stand up for equality in our military.

Most importantly, they want to know: Is a leader going to circumvent the President of the United States, as certain civilian leaders have, or is the leader going to defer to the duly elected President of the United States? General Austin deferred to President Obama, and he will absolutely defer to President Biden.

The last point I hear my colleagues say is, well, he doesn't have expertise in China or India. Well, first of all, no one has expertise in every region of the world. No one is going to have a Ph.D. thesis about every country.

The important thing is that we do not need another leader who is going to saber rattle and get us into another cold war with China. We need someone who is going to be tough but who is going to have the wisdom and the judgment to defer to the national security team and the President and help create a constructive relationship. General Austin will do that.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly support his nomination for Secretary of Defense.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman

from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), my friend and colleague.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this waiver.

General Lloyd Austin grew up in south Georgia, where he was raised by his parents in Thomasville. A graduate of West Point, he would go on to a career that spanned numerous units, responsibilities, and engagements. His first assignment was to the 3rd Infantry Division, now stationed in my district at Fort Stewart.

In the early 2000s, he served as assistant division commander for the 3rd Infantry Division during the invasion of Iraq. He would later go on to serve as a division commander and the chief of staff of the United States Central Command, CENTCOM; the commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps; the Army vice chief of staff; and, finally, the commander of CENTCOM.

He has been described as a private individual who is committed to carrying out his duties.

I, like others, have my reservations about continuing down a path of waivers for former military leaders to serve in civilian positions. What first started with a waiver for General Marshall in 1950 and then again for General Mattis in 2017, we have now seen several requests for what many see as a once-in-a-generation issue. However, General Austin's service and assignments are a reflection of his success in his military career.

If confirmed, it is my hope that General Austin will carry out his commitment to civilian control of the Department of Defense and advocate for the priorities central to national security, such as the modernizing of the triad.

In a time when our adversaries seek to capitalize on any weaknesses, we need strong leadership. General Lloyd Austin will provide us with that.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and Mr. ROGERS from Alabama, the ranking member, for bringing this forward as a bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, I rise as one of those who opposed the waiver for General Mattis. People ask me, well, what is the difference? Mr. GALLAGHER raised this. You change your mind.

Let me tell you what makes the difference for me, Mr. Speaker. I think this law is a very relevant law. It is a very important law. It anticipated, when the Congress passed it, that there would be reasons for waiver, or it would not have included it. It would have made a preclusion. It did not do that.

It said under circumstances that the Congress considers, it may be well be in order to have a waiver. This, I think, is one of those times.

Very frankly, one of the reasons I voted "no" on Mr. Mattis is because Mr. Trump did not know Mr. Mattis, his outstanding military service.

□ 1445

General Mattis really didn't know Mr. Trump; and that relationship did not go well, unfortunately. In my view, General Mattis was a great tower of strength and independence in leading the Department of Defense. So I congratulate him for his service, although I participated in a meeting in the White House in which President Trump was very harsh in his analysis of General Mattis, which I thought was unfortunate. But this difference that I see today is a very important one.

What is that difference?

The President of the United States—the Commander in Chief, the civilian leader—knows General Austin, has worked with General Austin, and has taken the measure of General Austin, and they have a relationship, a positive relationship.

In addition to that, of course, the son of the President, Beau Biden, serving in the military, served with General Austin and took the measure of the man and his commitment to civilian leadership in the Armed Forces—a critically important concept for the Secretary of Defense.

One problem that dictates the speediest possible passage of this bill is the security situation in which we find ourselves. Always in a transition the enemy can think you are weak and not able to respond in an effective way. That is why, traditionally, Mr. Speaker, the Congresses do, in fact, confirm the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State.

Ms. Avril Haines was just confirmed as the head of the DNI. It is because we do not want a long period of time between having somebody in charge in the Defense Department and, in this case, somebody in charge who obviously knows and agrees with the principles of the President of the United States.

I am sure he will give good advice and sometimes he will disagree, but we have a confidence relationship. So very, very important.

This is not a moment for our country to be without a Secretary of Defense. Secretary-designate Austin is a highly qualified nominee, spoken to by the bipartisan support that this waiver will garner this day in the Congress of the United States. Mr. Speaker, he would make history, of course, as has been pointed out, and not an insubstantial mark on history.

Secretary-designate Austin is the first African American who will be Secretary of Defense. At this time, our country is fighting to overcome the legacy of slavery, segregation, and prejudice, as has been pointed out by my friend, Mr. BROWN, who served as a lieutenant colonel in the Armed Forces.

Secretary-designate Austin served in Iraq. Forty percent minorities. What a symbol and a bridge between those of the majority and those of the minority in our services, which will coalesce and bind together better the units, which is extraordinarily important.

Secretary-designate Austin served our Nation admirably in uniform and oversaw the safe and successful draw-down of our troops in Iraq, as has been pointed out by Representative KHANNA. In doing so, he earned the trust of then-Vice President Biden and Beau Biden.

Because of Secretary-designate Austin's recent military service, he requires a waiver. But, again, the waiver is included so that the Congress can make a determination as to whether this is appropriate. I can't think of a more appropriate Secretary of Defense than somebody who has great knowledge and confidence of the Commander in Chief. We ought to take that action without delay.

Mr. Speaker, we must always have a clear delineation between the military and civilian authorities in this country. I have a picture hanging on my wall, which is also in the rotunda. I have it in my office because it is in the Maryland State Senate, the Old Chamber. It is still in existence, still in the capitol in Annapolis, of George Washington resigning his commission as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. And I always point out to people who come into my office that the Members of the Continental Congress are seated notwithstanding their inclination in the presence of this great, iconic figure was to stand and pay reverence to him. And George Washington said, "No, you sit," because the civilian government is superior to the military. What a great lesson George Washington taught us at that time, which, thank God, has been revered until this time.

I think this appointment is the right appointment. I think it will be good for America. I think it will be good for the Armed Forces of the United States of America. I think the President has chosen well.

I urge my colleagues to grant this waiver. This, I would add, is not confirmation. Our brothers and sisters in the United States Senate will still have to judge and give advice and consent to this appointment, but this waiver is a precondition to their considering it on the merits. I hope that we will give them that.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), who is the ranking member of Readiness Subcommittee.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding to me.

I have heard from people today who voted "yes" on Mattis and now they are "no;" or they voted "no" on Mattis and now they are a "yes." I guess that makes me a model of consistency because I am a "yes" and a "yes."

Mr. Speaker, we should vote "yes" to give this waiver because, as Mr. HOYER has just said, the security needs are pressing upon us. We can't take weeks and weeks to get this person installed. So we need to act quickly and we need

to have a waiver rather than starting all over again in this process.

The other thing is Mr. Austin has been out of the military for almost 5 years. Under the law, there is a 7-year cooling off period. Five years, in my mind, is almost as good as 7 years.

I mean, what is magic about 7 years?

Is 6 years and 10 months not good enough, but 7 years and 1 month is good enough?

There is a little arbitrariness involved here when choosing 7 years in the first place. I believe that 5 years—almost 5 years is sufficient for Mr. Austin to have cooled off.

We had a roundtable today in committee. I thank the chairman for having that roundtable. We heard from Mr. Austin. He very eloquently stated, yeah, he could stand up to people who were in the military. He can tell them what is good for the civilian control of our country. I trust him. He is the right man for the job.

Our security needs are too pressing to keep dilly-dallying on this. Let's vote "yes" on this issue and supply the waiver today.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the other gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CROW).

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, this waiver vote is about our long history of civilian control of the military, a critical safeguard of our democracy.

But let's be really clear what this vote is not about. It is not about the rise of China or artificial intelligence or autonomous warfare or any of the other issues that I have heard people talk about that are really the purview of the Senate at this point in the process and President Biden. It is also not about changing the law, because the law remains in effect and the limitation remains in effect.

The question before this body is whether there are specific extenuating circumstances in this moment in time to grant a waiver and whether the heart and mind of the nominee is consistent with the spirit of the law.

In the aftermath of January 6, we are reminded how deeply rooted racism exists in our country. Among those who stormed the Capitol were current and former military, a fact that highlights the national and domestic security threat of extremism in our military.

Secretary-designate Austin is uniquely qualified with his experience and his background to address this threat. He understands in a deeply personal way how to deal with it. He is a man who understands that our military is more than a formation of tanks, planes, and troops; that it is actually a standard bearer of our values, and we are stronger when we lead with our values and we channel the full strength of our diversity to meet our threats.

In addition to that, nobody can stand up here and say, as we are still under cyber attack by Russia and meeting so many other threats, that the extenuating circumstances of the time do not merit getting a nominee into this role

immediately. That is why I rise in strong support of Lloyd Austin's nomination and waiver, and I will be working very hard to support him as our next Secretary of Defense.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I have two more speakers who aren't here yet. So I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of the waiver for General Lloyd Austin, to grant President Biden his historic nomination for Secretary of Defense.

The concern of civilian control of the military and Department of Defense should not be lost in this waiver. There are valid concerns in granting second waivers so soon. The missed opportunity for the House—the Chamber closest to the American citizens to hear from General Austin directly—is disappointing, but these are not normal times. The layers of security currently protecting the Capitol is a stark reminder that President Biden, our servicemembers, and our Nation need top defense leadership in place expeditiously.

There is no question General Austin is a devoutly patriotic man. He has served our country with utter distinction and honor. His qualifications, experience, and perspective are what our Nation needs today. His service to our country extends over 4 decades. His talent and dedication to America's security shines in roles few Americans can fully comprehend. Yet again and again he stands before us, hat in hand, willing to serve the Stars and Stripes today.

The question is: Can he disconnect a potentially unconscious bias toward a military mindset?

As he assured the Senate and the American people throughout his confirmation hearing, there is no doubt he will. He has been honed in decision-making in the most difficult situations. In a matter of weeks, both the House Armed Services Committee and our Defense Appropriations Subcommittee will welcome a newly minted Secretary of Defense Austin.

Members can hear even more from him directly as to how he will lead as a civilian. Over my years as a defense appropriator, I have come to realize our military personnel are phenomenal at filling the roles they are assigned.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, our military personnel are continuously placed in nontraditional positions and time and again perform flawlessly. There is no doubt General Austin understands being a member of the President's Cabinet requires a different perspective. He will fill this role and perform admirably.

For these reasons, I encourage all my colleagues to support this waiver.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 335 because there is a consistency 4 years ago when I rose in support of a previous general. But when I look at General Lloyd Austin, I see a qualified individual, in my opinion, and I see somebody worthy of the Senate considering. But I also see that, in fact, we are setting a precedent. Sixty-seven years, we didn't. Two administrations in a row, we have.

I strongly recommend today that the Armed Services Committees in both bodies begin the process of looking at what the true length of time should be and what exceptions and exemptions need to be there.

Although General Austin is a very qualified individual, he still will have subordinates whom he helped promote. He still will have people whom he is extremely close to. And that creates a question of civilian leadership.

So although I am not here today to speak in any way against the general or any way against his predecessor, General Mattis, I am saying that it is time for this body, after this vote, to move to a deliberative process and regular order and begin asking: Is 10 years right? Is 7 years right?

If 1 year is right, what will be the requirements for that individual before we again face that with some future highly qualified former military person?

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 335, legislation to allow President Biden to appoint General Lloyd J. Austin, III, as our next Secretary of Defense. Throughout my tenure on the National Security Subcommittee, I have had the personal opportunity to meet with and interact with General Austin on numerous occasions in the field during the course of several of our oversight investigations.

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Beginning in the early stages of Operation Enduring Freedom, we met in Kabul, Afghanistan, during his deployment as commander of Combined Joint Task Force 180. I dealt with General Austin again in the midst of Operation Iraqi Freedom as well as during Operation New Dawn. We also met in Baghdad during his multiple deployments as commander of the Multinational Corps and commander of United States Forces-Iraq.

And I have personally received multiple intelligence briefings from General Austin in his capacity as commander of U.S. Central Command. By the way, he was the first African Amer-

ican to lead that critically important combat command.

Throughout the congressional investigations into the progress of U.S. military diplomatic and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and other regional conflicts, General Austin has never failed to provide us with direct access to the battlefield and the straight and honest and hard facts as he saw them on the ground.

His assessment proved to be critical to our oversight mission and the development of legislation concerning U.S. defense, national security, and counterterrorism policies.

He always demonstrated a maximum respect for the constitutional oversight role of the United States Congress and clearly held the highest regard for the civilian leadership of the Department of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, General Austin is especially qualified and deserving of a congressional exemption that will allow President Biden his appointment as Secretary of Defense. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 335.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I think I would like to raise the question, what would Abraham Lincoln do, a man who faced the turmoil of a divided Nation. I think he would look for an individual like General Mr. Lloyd Austin, someone who had had the balance of seeing life as a civilian but being an impeccable leader of the United States military.

Mr. Speaker, before I came to this floor, I walked down Independence Avenue to greet the young men and women in the National Guard who had come here from Texas. I wanted to let them know how important it was for them to be here to defend the citadel of democracy and how grateful we were that we had a peaceful transition of power yesterday.

What I see in Mr. Austin is a recognition that civilian control of the military has been a bedrock principle of our democracy since the founding of our Republic. Yet, at the same time, in the backdrop of the last 4 years, I think he is needed for two reasons.

One, the military has faced an enormous amount of instability. They were called "suckers" and "losers." Generals were criticized. So you need someone who is a military person's military person, someone they know is part of the team.

Then you need someone who can build that morale. Yes, we had morale in the previous administration of President Barack Obama, having respected them. Now, I believe we must give President Joe Biden the opportunity for his Secretary of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle

who will support this concept, knowing that we believe that civilian control of the military is a bedrock.

I do think that we cannot call this a precedent. One and two is not a precedent. I do think we can look at maybe some other definitions of what it means.

But a man who is able to end a war of 150,000 soldiers coming home is a man who can lead the United States military in a spirit of lifting the morale, providing stability, and calling them the brave men and women that they are.

Let's support the waiver. Vote "yes" on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary and on Homeland Security, I rise in support of H.R. 335, which provides an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces so that President Biden can nominate retired four-star Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III to serve as the next Secretary of Defense.

Gen. Austin retired from active duty in 2016, which under current law (10 U.S.C. § 113(a)), makes him ineligible for appointment as Secretary of Defense.

Civilian control of the military has been a bedrock principle of our democracy since the founding of the Republic.

That principle has served the nation well and we should depart from it only where there is compelling reason to do so.

Indeed, in the history of the Department of Defense, the only Defense Secretary ever given a waiver was then-Secretary of State, General George Marshall—who was provided an individual waiver in 1950 at the height of the Korean War in a stand-alone bill approved by the Congress.

That is why I did not support granting waiver for General Mattis to be nominated as Secretary of Defense in the last administration. Even General Mattis is a great general and a great American and served well as Secretary of Defense.

But the experience of the last four years leads me to a different result today.

For four years, the Department of Defense has had to deal with attempts by the last President and his staff to undermine the independence and capability of the Department of Defense, going so far as to refer to the men and women who risk their lives to keep us free as "suckers" and "losers" and appointing unqualified persons as Acting Secretary of Defense and to other senior positions.

The Pentagon needs—the United States needs—an experienced, Senate-confirmed Secretary of Defense to restore morale and regularity as soon as possible.

I agree with President Biden that Gen. Austin's many strengths and intimate knowledge of the Department of Defense and our government are uniquely matched to the challenges and crises we face.

The next Secretary of Defense will need to immediately quarterback an enormous logistics operation to help distribute COVID-19 vaccines widely and equitably.

General Austin oversaw the largest logistical operation undertaken by the Army in six decades—the Iraq drawdown of 150,000 service personnel.

The next Secretary of Defense will need to ensure the well-being and resilience of our servicemembers and their families, strained by almost two decades of war.

General Austin knows the incredible cost of war and the hardships experienced by the families that pay it.

The next Secretary of Defense will have to make sure that our armed forces reflect and promote the full diversity of our nation.

General Austin is uniquely qualified to lead and oversee this effort to ensure that every member of the armed forces is treated with dignity and respect, including Black, Latino, Asian American, Native American, women, and LGBTQ+ service members.

General Austin, who was born in Mobile, Alabama and raised in Thomasville, Georgia, graduated from the United States Military Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1975 and rose through the Army's ranks during his distinguished and trailblazing career, becoming only the sixth African American to attain the rank of an Army four-star general, and over his nearly four-decade military career, challenged his beloved institution to grow more inclusive and more diverse at every step.

General Austin was the first African American general officer to lead an Army corps in combat and the first African American to command an entire theater of war, and if confirmed, will be the first African American to helm the Defense Department, which will signal to every American and every member of the Armed Forces that the country they pledge the last full measure of devotion is one of endless possibilities.

Any lingering concerns I may have about injuring the sacred principle of civilian control over the military have been laid to rest by the Armed Services Committee Chairman SMITH's representations that General Austin has assured him that he understands this crucial principle and that he is completely committed to upholding it.

In addition, Chairman SMITH represents that General Austin has agreed to appear before the members of the House Armed Services Committee to address the issue, and he has already spoken to numerous House members and made it clear that he will ensure that civilian control of the military is maintained.

Finally, President Biden has also already expressed his intent to nominate civilians with strong backgrounds and expertise to fill the roles of Deputy Secretary of Defense, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, and Chief of Staff to the Secretary of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, we also cannot overlook the impact of January 6, 2021 on the decision we are called upon to make.

On that day, the U.S. Capitol, was attacked and breached by angry mob of insurrectionists, comprised of an inordinate number of white supremacists and white nationalists, intent on preventing the Congress from carrying out its constitutionally imposed responsibility of counting electoral votes and announcing the election of the President and Vice-President.

This represent a dangerous escalation in the activities of what FBI Director Wray testified to Congress is the greatest domestic terror threat facing the nation.

Equally disturbing is that troubling evidence continues to emerge that the military itself has servicemembers sympathetic to extreme views and white supremacist causes.

The appointment of the first African American to lead the Department of Defense in the nation's history will send a powerful signal that racism, anti-Semitism, misogyny, homophobia, and other divisive, anti-social, and anti-American attitudes and actions have no place in the Armed Forces and will not be tolerated.

For all of these reasons, I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 335, granting the waiver needed to pave the way for Secretary-designate Lloyd J. Austin III to serve as Secretary of Defense.

[From the Hill, Jan. 19, 2021]

LLOYD AUSTIN IS THE RIGHT NOMINEE FOR DEFENSE SECRETARY AND THE RIGHT LEADER FOR THIS MOMENT

(By Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Opinion Contributor)

As a senior member of Congress and a senior member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I know the importance of domestic security and the defense of our nation. Retired General Austin, I believe, can bring that balance and that is why he deserves a congressional waiver to become President-elect Biden's secretary of Defense. I am going to support President-elect Joe Biden's nomination of retired General Lloyd Austin as the 28th U.S. secretary of Defense.

First, let me acknowledge that I did not support giving a waiver to General James Mattis to become the secretary of Defense nominated by President Donald J. Trump in 2017. My opposition was not because I did not have respect for General Mattis who might have warranted such a waiver, but it was rather because of the view that I had of the United States military at that time. President Barack Obama handed off to the Trump administration a military that was strong in morale and a stable organization. After all, the military under his command was able to capture our greatest enemy—Osama bin Laden. His capture was an enormous boost to the Pentagon and to the overall military rank and file. Military personnel and families were treated with dignity and their needs were responded to expeditiously. Certainly, improvement could have been made, but generally the United States military was in very good shape. On the other hand, in 2020, my concern is that throughout the last four years the military has been under attack by negative comments on generals and by a succession of secretaries of Defense. There is a great need to bring in a person who can first of all boost the morale of our men and women in uniform who sacrifice their lives on behalf of the people of this nation, and their families every day. Secondly, now we need stability and a firm hand that shows the balance between the needs of the military and guidance as a civilian leader. I believe after listening to Mr. Austin in our conversation, it is clear that his view of the role of the secretary of Defense is solidly based on the fact that the Commander in Chief is his boss and will be the guiding force on the policies and on the vision for action. This is a time for impeccable leadership to bring about a morality boost and stability to our men and women in uniform. And for that reason, I truly believe this is a distinct and different time, and that General Austin who has been a civilian for a good period of time knows the role of a civilian leader and will act accordingly. I believe more that this is the right decision at the right time.

Lloyd Austin, a retired General, is an accomplished and respected trailblazer in the United States Army. He is a trusted and crisis-tested leader who has broken barriers in his historic ascent to the highest ranks of the military. With more than 40 years of service, Retired General Lloyd Austin is a

deeply experienced and highly decorated commander who has served with distinction in several of the Pentagon's most crucial roles. He is a son of the South born in Mobile, Ala., and grew up in Thomasville, Ga. He graduated from West Point United States Military Academy and later earned degrees from Auburn University, Webster University, the Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College.

Mr. Lloyd Austin was promoted to Lieutenant General in 2006 and assumed command of the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg. And in 2009 he handed over his command to become the Director of the Joint Staff. He retired from the U.S. Army in 2016 as the first African American to serve as Commander of CENTCOM, the U.S. Central Command, where he oversaw America's military strategy and joint operations throughout the Middle East and in Afghanistan.

He was the chief architect of the military campaign to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria and became the second highest ranking commander in Iraq, taking command of the Multi-National Corps—Iraq.

Mr. Lloyd Austin is highly decorated with many awards and decorations including medals for Defense Distinguished Service Medals, Army Distinguished Service Medals, a Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medals, and a Legion of Merit medal.

If confirmed, Lloyd Austin will become the first African American secretary of Defense which culminates a barrier-breaking career as the first African American general officer to command an Army Division in combat, to lead a Corps in combat, to command an entire theater of war, and to serve as Commander of U.S. Central Command.

Secretary-designate Austin has proven and demonstrated extraordinary leadership across a lifetime of distinguished service and is well prepared to lead our nation's military as a strong and dedicated civilian leader.

The nation needs a leader over the Pentagon that respects civilian control, to build up morale of our armed forces, and bring consistency, stability, and leadership at the highest level to the Department of Defense. That is Lloyd Austin, retired General. Further, as an African American woman, I believe this historic moment will further heal and unify the nation.

Secretary-designate Lloyd Austin has previously been confirmed by the Senate because of his impeccable commitment to duty and his reputation. As a proud American who loves his country just as much out of uniform as in uniform, he deserves a waiver by the Congress and deserves to be confirmed for this critical role of overseeing our military forces and protecting our great nation. Retired General Lloyd Austin is an example of why America is still that "shining city on the hill" and why he should be confirmed by the United States Senate for secretary of Defense. Retired General Lloyd Austin is the right person for this right and momentous time in our nation's history.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD).

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of granting a waiver for retired Army General Lloyd Austin and this historic nomination to serve as the 28th Secretary of Defense, the first African American in U.S. history.

For four decades, Secretary-designate Austin served our Nation valiantly in the United States Army. Before retiring, he led one of the most important commands in the military, CENTCOM, or Central Command, where he oversaw America's military strategy and joint operations throughout the Middle East.

During his service in the Middle East, he oversaw the safe return of 150,000 brave American troops, working closely with our allies as a statesman and a diplomat.

As our Commander in Chief, I support President Biden in his selection of Lloyd Austin to protect our national security, strengthen our global alliances, depoliticize the Defense Department, and be a leader and role model for our brave servicemembers.

I had the opportunity to speak directly with Secretary-designate Austin about the needs of servicemembers and their families in Nevada's Fourth District. He committed to work with me on issues important to those servicemembers and their families stationed at Nellis and Creech Air Force Bases and the Nevada Test Site, including issues dealing with housing, mental health, childcare, and education.

His leadership, his experience, and his commitment to civil control of the military will ensure our country meets its national security needs.

As our Secretary of Defense, he will also send a powerful message of belonging to all servicemembers but particularly to members of color, who represent more than 40 percent of our armed services today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this historic nomination, approve the waiver required today, and confirm Secretary-designate Austin's nomination.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of the requested waiver of the Secretary of Defense nominee, retired four-star General Lloyd S. Austin, III.

President Biden recognizes the need to have the most qualified individuals in his Cabinet to right the ship from day one. The issues of instability of our Department of Defense, morale, and a desire to engage more vigorously with the world require that a nominee be one who has the type of career that General Austin does.

General Austin's distinguished career and experience as a commander of the U.S. Central Command and Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army have prepared him to be ideal for the task at hand.

We agree that the separation of Active Duty military and civilian is important. Moreover, I have full confidence, however, that the Secretary-designate shares these values, in that

he came to the House, reaching out to this body in a way that shows reverence for the continued promotion and defense of civilian control of the military.

Lastly, having an African-American Secretary of Defense is highly important at this time, as the military must address the growing evidence of sympathy towards dangerous conspiracies and White supremacist causes amongst servicemembers—evidence made exponentially troubling due to the fact that a large percentage of servicemembers are people of color.

General Lloyd Austin is the right person for the job at the time at hand, and Congress must allow him to get through and get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for the waiver for General Austin.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I want to thank my friend and colleague Chairman SMITH, and I look forward to working with him over this 2-year cycle.

The debate we have had today is a serious one. The executive branch is asking the legislative branch to waive a law for its benefit. President Biden knew this law when he selected General Austin. He could have made another selection.

But, as I said earlier, President Trump got a waiver with General Mattis, and I believe it is only right that I supported one waiver for General Austin.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that the President has his national security team in place as soon as possible. I look forward to working with General Austin if he is confirmed, and I urge a favorable vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, from this debate, it is clear that Mr. Austin is highly qualified to be Secretary of Defense. It is also clear that he has a full appreciation of the importance of civilian control of the military.

And, finally, it is clear that he is unique to this moment. His experiences as an African-American man coming up through the military puts him in a unique position to address the problems of White supremacy and a lack of diversity across the military in addition to all of the other challenges that we have heard from speakers today.

There is no question that he is qualified for this job and that he should be given the waiver so that he can serve in this position.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close by speaking to the urgency of why we need to do this today and how we got to this point.

When I first heard that Secretary Austin was going to be the selection, I will confess that I was not thrilled

about it, not because of Secretary Austin—I know him, I have worked with him, and I think he will do an outstanding job—but because I realized the responsibility that it put on this House.

By and large—not “by and large”—entirely, nominees are the business of the Senate. They confirm; the President picks. But because he picked someone who would require a waiver, we had to engage.

And I understood the urgency of getting that done, even while the Committee on Armed Services was still in the midst of dealing with the President's veto of the defense bill and trying to get the override done. But I knew the urgency. We had to find a way to get it done.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to make perfectly clear that Mr. ROGERS has been an outstanding partner in working towards the urgency of moving this forward. The process arguments get lost in the weeds. There were a whole bunch of things we had to do to be organized as a committee, to be ready to meet the requirements that we had, and we tried our best to do it.

Now, it is my humble opinion that we met those requirements even if we didn't have a public hearing. As has been stated by many Members, right before this vote we had 2 hours with Mr. Austin over in committee, in which members, Republican and Democratic members alike, were able to ask him questions and get his answers.

And I will tell you, I feel even stronger about the need to confirm him after that conversation. Not only was he intelligent, not only was he on point, not only did he understand the issues, but he had something, frankly, not everybody in the Pentagon has: He seemed to genuinely respect us. He seemed to genuinely want to answer our questions, want to deal with us as a coequal branch of government. That is enormously important.

But the urgency is why we are here today and why we didn't wait the extra week or 10 days. Joe Biden is President. He doesn't have a Secretary of Defense. Every day that goes past that he doesn't have a Secretary of Defense is a huge problem for a variety of reasons.

Let's start with the fact that much has been made that this waiver is problematic because we did it 4 years ago and now we are doing it again; the exception has become the rule.

Well, if it makes anybody feel better, there have actually been four separate Secretaries, people in the Secretary of Defense position, in between Mattis and Austin. So it is really just, sort of, two out of six.

That many people have churned through the leadership role in the Pentagon. And while the people at the Pentagon have done an amazing job fighting through that, it is still problematic to have to have that much turnover. The disruption that President Trump brought to the Pentagon cannot be underestimated.

I will never forget being in the meeting in the White House when we were talking about the pullout from Syria when someone dared to bring up Secretary Mattis's opinion—recently departed Secretary Mattis from the Department of Defense—and President Trump just lit in to Secretary Mattis, called him weak, called him a terrible human being.

Meanwhile, sitting right next to him was the incoming Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mark Milley, who had worked with Jim Mattis. And this is his new boss.

Mr. Speaker, the disruption at the Pentagon has been enormous. They need a fully confirmed Secretary of Defense immediately to begin to thoroughly clean up that mess and get the Pentagon back to being as effective as it needs to be.

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Also, and I will not belabor this point at all, we have a complex threat environment, right? Let's just say that. We heard about it on the committee today, about China, Russia, Iran, the Middle East, North Korea, not to mention the domestic insurrection that we all witnessed here just a couple of weeks ago. There is an urgency to this.

If there wasn't an urgency to this, I would have waited a week and said, okay, let's take however much time. People can figure out their ratios, and pick their members, and whatever.

There is an urgency. So instead of having the public hearing, we had a very, very successful briefing.

The House this time has done its job in a way that it didn't 4 years ago when we simply took Mattis, didn't hear from him, and voted on it.

There is a minor point of whether or not we mark this up in committee. This is not a complicated bill. Either Austin gets the waiver and he serves, or he doesn't.

There is really nothing to mark up. It is a question for the House. That is why we came to the full House.

This House, with the cooperation, I may say, of Mr. ROGERS and all the Members has done its due diligence, above and beyond. We have concluded, without question, that the waiver is appropriate. Lloyd Austin will be an outstanding Secretary of Defense. He deserves this waiver, and our country deserves a fully confirmed Secretary of Defense as soon as we can possibly get that done, which, for the purposes of the House, is now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 335, which would provide a waiver to allow for full Senate consideration of General Lloyd Austin's nomination as Secretary of Defense. While I have great concerns over use of this process to appoint former military leaders to senior civilian positions at the Department of Defense, and I believe that civilian control of the military is critical to our democracy, I support this waiver for General Austin for several reasons.

The first is the need for clear and effective leadership at the Pentagon. The previous administration drastically politicized the Department of Defense and hollowed out existing leadership to put in place less experienced political allies to do former President Trump's bidding. This has left our nation even more vulnerable during a number of national and international crises, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the recent cyber attack on our government systems by Russia, and rising tensions with Iran and throughout the Middle East. General Austin brings a distinguished career in military leadership, an unwavering commitment to our nation's security, and the respect of our men and women in uniform and will provide a needed steady hand at the Department of Defense.

Second, Lloyd Austin possess the skills and temperament to address the challenges our country faces. President Biden noted when discussing his selection of General Austin that he played a vital role in bringing American forces home from Iraq using diplomatic skill and an ability to work cooperatively with his Iraqi counterparts, further noting that Austin had met every challenge in his career with "extraordinary skill and profound personal decency." These qualities will be necessary as America works to regain its leadership on the world stage, rebuild alliances, and address the many challenges our country faces.

Third, General Austin understands the importance of civilian control of the military to our democracy and has expressed his commitment to this principle. Unlike the last time a waiver was sought when Secretary Mattis was prevented from testifying before Congress by President Trump and was unable to reassure American people about the importance of maintaining civilian control of the Department of Defense, General Austin did testify. During his confirmation hearing, General Austin expressed full understanding of the concerns over his appointment given he has been retired from active service for only four years. He highlighted his experience implementing civilian directives, and his understanding of the need for a different perspective as a civilian leader. I am confident that under the leadership of Lloyd Austin and President Biden, that principle will be preserved and protected.

Finally, General Austin's confirmation as Secretary of Defense would be a watershed moment as the first African American to hold that office in our nation's history. In a period where racial tensions have led to resentment among Americans, a rise in white nationalist extremism, and peaceful demonstrations in U.S. cities often turning violent, General Austin's appointment would demonstrate that America embraces the diversity of our country, and that representation in all facets of our government and national security structures matters.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the waiver for General Lloyd J. Austin, III to become our next Secretary of Defense. However, I want to be clear that this vote should not be seen as supporting a precedent for routine granting of waivers for future noncivilian nominees to lead the Department of Defense. We must keep the waiver requirement in place, and waivers should be reserved for the most extreme circumstances.

I strongly support civilian leadership of the military, and the waiver requirement was created to protect this important principle. That

being said, our country is facing the simultaneous threats of a global pandemic, unprecedented cyberattacks on our government, and the recent departure of a president who attempted to enlist military personnel to disrupt civilian protest. Considering these extraordinary circumstances, we need a qualified Secretary of Defense in place immediately.

Under normal circumstances, a public hearing before the House Armed Services Committee would be an important part of the waiver process. Unfortunately, because the House Armed Services Committee is not fully set up, the committee cannot hold public hearings on the waiver yet. However, unlike the Trump Administration, the Biden Administration has made General Austin readily available to Congress, and he has demonstrated that he understands the importance of civilian leadership of the Pentagon.

With these assurances, I express my support for General Austin's waiver to move forward in this confirmation process. However, I reiterate to my colleagues that this vote cannot be seen to support a precedent to grant future waivers of the cooling-off period for non-civilian Secretaries of Defense.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 335, a bill to provide Ret. General Lloyd Austin an exception to a limitation against appointments of persons as United States Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

It is incumbent upon Congress to consider a waiver for such persons who are deemed not far enough removed from active duty to head the Department of Defense. Previous exemptions through a waiver have only been granted twice in our nation's history, most recently in 2017. However, my colleagues and I in the Congressional Black Caucus find it altogether fitting and proper that Ret. General Lloyd Austin is the recipient of the third.

Ret. General Austin is an experienced leader, a brilliant strategist, and a decorated hero. He has seen war from the frontlines as a soldier, and from afar as a commander. He is not one that seeks the spotlight or controversy, but one who quietly, but confidently gets the job done—earning him the nickname of "invisible general."

Mr. Speaker, as the first African American to hold the title of Secretary of Defense, I am confident that Ret. General Austin would carry out the mission of the Department of Defense with the utmost sense of professionalism and civility. That is why I am proud to support his waiver today and look forward to his swift confirmation in the Senate.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for President Biden's nomination of the uniquely qualified General Lloyd J. Austin III (U.S. Army, Ret.) to serve as Secretary of Defense. Today, we are debating whether in the case of Gen. Austin's confirmation there should be a waiver of the requirement that former military officers be separated from active service for seven years before serving as Defense Secretary. Civilian control of the military is foundational to our democratic republic, and any action that could be perceived as affecting that principle must be carefully considered.

I do have reservations. If such an exception becomes a pattern, it may become a routine practice. Yet we find ourselves in times that

are anything but routine, and I am convinced that current circumstances warrant this waiver.

On January 6, 2021, violent insurrectionists stormed and attacked the U.S. Capitol attempting to overturn the will of the voters and impede the peaceful transfer of power to a new, democratically-elected administration. The current state of heightened security risks, the lack of cooperation by former President Trump for a successful transition, the emboldening of white supremacists and serious threat of domestic terrorism, and numerous other unprecedented challenges make it imperative that President Biden's national security team be in place as expeditiously as possible. This certainly includes a Secretary of Defense, a role that is also critical to vaccine distribution and other elements of our response to the coronavirus pandemic.

President Biden has been elected by the people to serve as our Commander in Chief, and I respect his decision to nominate General Austin, a well-respected, experienced, and barrier-breaking nominee, to meet the many challenges our nation faces.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 326, nays 78, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 18]

YEAS—326

Adams	Bustos	Davids (KS)
Aderholt	Butterfield	Davis, Danny K.
Aguilar	Carbajal	Dean
Allen	Cárdenas	DeFazio
Allred	Carl	DeGette
Amodei	Carson	DeLauro
Auchincloss	Carter (GA)	DeBene
Axne	Carter (TX)	Delgado
Bacon	Cartwright	Demings
Barragán	Case	DeSaulnier
Bass	Castor (FL)	DesJarlais
Beatty	Castro (TX)	Deutch
Bentz	Chabot	Diaz-Balart
Bera	Chu	Dingell
Beyer	Cicilline	Doggett
Bice (OK)	Clark (MA)	Donalds
Bilirakis	Clarke (NY)	Doyle, Michael
Bishop (GA)	Cleaver	F.
Bishop (NC)	Clyburn	Dunn
Blumenauer	Cohen	Escobar
Blunt Rochester	Cole	Eshoo
Bonamici	Comer	Espallat
Bost	Connolly	Evans
Bourdeaux	Cooper	Fallon
Boyle, Brendan	Correa	Feenstra
F.	Costa	Ferguson
Brooks	Courtney	Fitzgerald
Brown	Craig	Fitzpatrick
Brownley	Crenshaw	Fleischmann
Buchanan	Crist	Fletcher
Buck	Crow	Fortenberry
Bucshon	Cuellar	Foster
Burgess	Curtis	Fox

Frankel, Lois	Lieu	Sánchez
Fudge	Lofgren	Sarbanes
Fulcher	Long	Scalise
Gaetz	Lowenthal	Scanlon
Gallego	Lucas	Schakowsky
Garamendi	Luetkemeyer	Schiff
Garbarino	Luria	Schneider
Garcia (CA)	Lynch	Schrader
Garcia (IL)	Mace	Schrier
Garcia (TX)	Malliotakis	Schweikert
Jimenez	Maloney,	Scott (VA)
Gomez	Carolyn B.	Scott, Austin
Gonzales, Tony	Maloney, Sean	Scott, David
Gonzalez,	Manning	Sessions
Vicente	Mast	Sewell
Gottheimer	Matsui	Sherman
Green (TN)	McBath	Sherrill
Green, Al (TX)	McCarthy	Sires
Griffith	McCaul	Slotkin
Grijalva	McClain	Smith (NE)
Grothman	McCollum	Smith (NJ)
Guest	McEachin	Smith (WA)
Guthrie	McGovern	Smucker
Haaland	McHenry	Soto
Harder (CA)	McKinley	Spanberger
Hastings	McNerney	Speier
Herrera Beutler	Meeks	Stanton
Higgins (NY)	Meng	Steel
Himes	Meuser	Stefanik
Hinson	Mfume	Stevens
Horsford	Miller (WV)	Stivers
Houlahan	Miller-Meeks	Strickland
Hoyer	Moolenaar	Suozzi
Hudson	Mooney	Swalwell
Huffman	Moore (AL)	Takano
Huizenga	Moore (UT)	Taylor
Issa	Morelle	Thompson (CA)
Jackson	Mrvan	Thompson (MS)
Jackson Lee	Murphy (FL)	Thompson (PA)
Jacobs (CA)	Nadler	Tiffany
Jacobs (NY)	Napolitano	Timmons
Jeffries	Neal	Titus
Johnson (GA)	Neguse	Tonko
Johnson (OH)	Nehls	Torres (CA)
Johnson (TX)	Newman	Torres (NY)
Jones	Norcross	Trahan
Jordan	O'Halloran	Trone
Joyce (OH)	Obernolte	Turner
Kahele	Owens	Underwood
Kaptur	Palazzo	Upton
Katko	Pallone	Valadao
Keating	Palmer	Van Drew
Kelly (IL)	Panetta	Van Dwyne
Kelly (MS)	Pappas	Vargas
Kelly (PA)	Pascrell	Veasey
Khanna	Payne	Vela
Kildee	Perlmutter	Velázquez
Kilmer	Peters	Wagner
Kim (CA)	Pfluger	Walberg
Kim (NJ)	Phillips	Wasserman
Kinzinger	Pingree	Schultz
Kirkpatrick	Pocan	Waters
Krishnamoorthi	Price (NC)	Watson Coleman
Kuster	Quigley	Welch
Kustoff	Raskin	Westerman
LaHood	Reed	Wexton
Lamb	Rice (NY)	Wild
Langevin	Rice (SC)	Williams (GA)
Larsen (WA)	Rodgers (WA)	Williams (TX)
Larson (CT)	Rogers (AL)	Wilson (FL)
Latta	Rogers (KY)	Wilson (SC)
Lawrence	Ross	Wittman
Lawson (FL)	Roybal-Allard	Womack
Lee (CA)	Ruiz	Yarmuth
Lee (NV)	Ruppersberger	Young
Leger Fernandez	Rush	Zeldin
Levin (CA)	Ryan	
Levin (MI)	Salazar	

NAYS—78

Babin	Davidson
Baird	Emmer
Balderson	Estes
Banks	Fischbach
Bergman	Franklin, C.
Biggs	Scott
Boebert	Gallagher
Bowman	Gohmert
Budd	Golden
Burchett	Gonzalez (OH)
Bush	Good (VA)
Cammack	Gooden (TX)
Casten	Gosar
Cawthorn	Greene (GA)
Cheney	Harris
Cline	Harshbarger
Cloud	Hayes
Clyde	Herrell
Crawford	Hice (GA)

Hill
Hollingsworth
Jayapal
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kind
Lamborn
LaTurner
Malinowski
Mann
Massie
McClintock
Meijer
Miller (IL)
Moore (WI)
Moulton
Mullin

Murphy (NC)
Newhouse
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Perry
Porter
Pressley
Reschenthaler

Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Smith (MO)
Spartz
Staubert
Steil
Steube

Stewart
Tlaib
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup

NOT VOTING—27

Armstrong	Graves (LA)	Norman
Arrington	Graves (MO)	Nunes
Barr	Hagedorn	Pence
Brady	Hartzler	Posey
Calvert	Hern	Roy
Davis, Rodney	Higgins (LA)	Rutherford
Duncan	LaMalfa	Simpson
Gibbs	Lesko	Webster (FL)
Granger	Loudermilk	Wright

□ 1607

Ms. SHERRILL changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 18.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes due to circumstances beyond my control. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 18.

Stated against:

Mr. HAGEDORN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote on final passage of H.R. 335, I would have voted “nay.”

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, out of an abundance of caution, I decided to remain home due to several days of persistent symptoms. I could not get on a plane to vote on H.R. 335. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 18.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei (Kelly (PA))	Higgins (NY) (Sánchez)	Payne (Wasserman Schultz)
Baird (Bucshon)	Jackson Lee (Butterfield)	Perlmutter (Neguse)
Blumenauer (Beyer)	Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)	Pingree (Kuster)
Bowman (Clark (MA))	Kind (Beyer)	Pocan (Raskin)
Buchanan (Cammack)	Kinzinger (Herrera)	Porter (Wexton)
Cárdenas (Gallego)	Beutler	Pressley (García (IL))
Carter (TX) (Nehls)	Kirkpatrick (Gallego)	Price (NC) (Butterfield)
Cooper (Himes)	Krishnamoorthi (Brown)	Rogers (KY) (Fleischmann)
Correa (Carbajal)	Kustoff (Fleischmann)	Roybal-Allard (Cuellar)
Davis, Danny K. (Underwood)	Larson (CT) (Courtney)	Ruiz (Aguilar)
DeFazio (Davids (KS))	Lawson (FL) (Evans)	Rush (Underwood)
DeSaulnier (Matsui)	Leger Fernandez (Jacobs (CA))	Schneider (Sherrill)
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)	Lieu (Beyer)	Schrier (Spanberger)
Doyle, Michael F. (Cartwright)	Lofgren (Jeffries)	Steel (Kim (CA))
Dunn (Bilirakis)	Lowenthal (Beyer)	Stefanik (Katko)
Espallat (Jeffries)	Luetkemeyer (Kelly (PA))	Thompson (MS) (Butterfield)
Fortenberry	McHenry (Banks)	Timmons (Katko)
(Bilirakis)	Meng (Clark (MA))	Tlaib (Kildee)
Frankel, Lois (Clark (MA))	Moore (WI) (Beyer)	Tonko (Pallone)
Gaetz (Cammack)	Nadler (Jeffries)	Vela (Gomez)
Gosar	Napolitano (Torres (CA))	Wagner (Walberg)
(Schweikert)	Neal (Lynch)	Walorski (Banks)
Gottheimer	Ocasio-Cortez	Waltz (Donalds)
(Panetta)	(García (IL))	Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Hastings	Pascrell	Wilson (FL)
(Wasserman Schultz)	(Pallone)	(Hayes)

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUTTERFIELD). Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(B) of House Resolution 8, the House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2021.

Thereupon (at 4 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, January 25, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-6. A letter from the President, transmitting a notification that the National Emergency concerning the southern border of the United States, originally declared on February 15, 2019, by Proclamation 9844, is to continue in effect beyond February 15, 2021, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 117—10); to the Committee on Armed Services and ordered to be printed.

EC-7. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's consolidated budget justification display of the combating terrorism program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 229(a); Added by Public Law 106-65, div. A, title IX, Sec. 932(b)(1), Oct. 5, 1999; (133 Stat. 727); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-8. A letter from the President, transmitting the Economic Report of the President together with the Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1022(a); February 20, 1946, ch. 33, Sec. 3(a) (as amended by Public Law 101-508; 13112(e)); (104 Stat. 1388-609) (H. Doc. No. 117—2); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and ordered to be printed.

EC-9. A letter from the President, transmitting additional steps to address the national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities as declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(b); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(b); (91 Stat. 1627) and 50 U.S.C. 1641(b); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(b); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 117—11); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself, Mr. BERA, and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 373. A bill to treat certain face coverings and disinfectants as medical expenses for purposes of certain Federal tax benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BOEBERT (for herself, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BUDD, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 374. A bill to prohibit the availability of United States contributions to the World Health Organization until Congress receives a full report on China and the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. BOEBERT:

H.R. 375. A bill to provide that no person may be required to wear a face covering on

Federal property or while traveling in interstate commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BOEBERT (for herself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. BUDD, Mr. MOONEY, Ms. HERRELL, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. CLINE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 376. A bill to require the advice and consent to ratification of the Paris Agreement by the United States Senate before any action may be taken to carry out the goals of the Paris Agreement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ESTES, and Mr. BANKS):

H.R. 377. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase certain penalties for assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers or employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ESTES, and Mr. BANKS):

H.R. 378. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the maximum term of imprisonment for rioting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BLUNT ROCHSTER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. SABLÁN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. PORTER, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas):

H.R. 379. A bill to authorize the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to carry out a Social Determinants of Health Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ROY, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. BANKS, Mr. KELLER, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. JACKSON):

H.R. 380. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that amounts paid for an abortion are not taken into account for purposes of the deduction for medical expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ROY, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. KELLER, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 381. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain abortion procedures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 382. A bill to amend titles 23 and 49, United States Code, with respect to

bikeshare projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 383. A bill to include certain eligibility requirements in the surface transportation system funding alternatives program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 384. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify employer-provided fringe benefits for bicycle commuting; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 385. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for the operation of a clearinghouse to collect, conduct, and fund research on the influences of highly automated vehicles on land use, urban design, transportation, real estate, and municipal budgets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. TITUS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 386. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to funding for certain safety projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. GARCIA of California):

H.R. 387. A bill to prevent doses of vaccines for COVID-19 from being wasted, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASE (for himself and Mr. KAHELE):

H.R. 388. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by requiring preclearance quarantine inspections for all movement to or from the State of Hawaii by either domestic or international travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CASE (for himself, Mr. SIRE, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. NADLER, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 389. A bill to impose safety requirements on commercial air tour flights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. ROSE, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, and Mr. DESJARLAIS):

H.R. 390. A bill to redesignate the Federal building located at 167 North Main Street in Memphis, Tennessee as the "Odell Horton Federal Building"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BERA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHSTER, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COLE, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COSTA, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LANGEVIN,

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SIREs, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Ms. SANCHEZ):

H.R. 391. A bill to authorize a comprehensive, strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to strengthen global health security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. BEYER, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 392. A bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3.2 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 393. A bill to provide for the more accurate computation of retirement benefits for certain firefighters employed by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. KILMER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. WELCH, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 394. A bill to expand loan relief to all Federal student loan borrowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. FOXX (for herself and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana):

H.R. 395. A bill to ensure transparency with Congress and the American people by requiring that the President report to Congress on a nationally determined contribution to the Paris Agreement prior to the submission of the nationally determined contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat and to provide that nothing in the Paris Agreement may be used to establish or demonstrate the existence of a violation of United States law or an offense against the law of nations in United States courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARBARINO (for himself and Mr. KATKO):

H.R. 396. A bill to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to clarify certain allowable uses of funds for public transportation security assistance grants and establish periods of performance for such grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GIMENEZ (for himself and Mr. KATKO):

H.R. 397. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish chemical, bio-

logical, radiological, and nuclear intelligence and information sharing functions of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security and to require dissemination of information analyzed by the Department to entities with responsibilities relating to homeland security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. RICE of South Carolina):

H.R. 398. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that an alien who has been convicted of a crime is ineligible for asylum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 399. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a forgivable economic injury disaster loan program for small business concerns located near the United States border, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CRIST, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIMES, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SIREs, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILD, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H.R. 400. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to increase civics education programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 401. A bill to amend the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 to provide for the inclusion of certain workers in the exemption from numerical limitations on H-2B workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KEATING (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 402. A bill to promote international efforts in combating corruption, kleptocracy, and illicit finance by foreign officials and other foreign persons, including through a new anti-corruption action fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan (for himself, Mr. CASE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GALLEG0, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 403. A bill to repeal a restriction on the use of funds by the Securities and Exchange Commission to ensure shareholders of corporations have knowledge of corporate

political activity; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MAST, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. CASE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 404. A bill to improve the management of driftnet fishing; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 405. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to prohibit the use of lead ammunition on United States Fish and Wildlife Service lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 406. A bill to prohibit the sale of shark parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Mr. BURCHETT, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 407. A bill to require a notification relating to the nationally determined contribution of the United States prior to any submission with respect to such contribution under article 4 of the Paris Agreement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. McEACHIN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. TAYLOR):

H.R. 408. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a mentor-protégé program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 409. A bill to provide relief for multi-employer and single employer pension plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself, Mr. LYNCH, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 410. A bill to establish the National Commission on the Insurrectionist Attack Upon the United States Capitol; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 411. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to eliminate Congressional review of newly-passed District laws; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 412. A bill to prohibit the payment of death gratuities to the surviving heirs of deceased Members of Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 413. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the diversity immigrant program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 414. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a uniform 5-year post-employment ban on all lobbying by former Members of Congress, to establish a

uniform 2-year post-employment ban on all lobbying by former officers and employees of Congress, to lower the income threshold for applying such ban to former officers and employees of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 415. A bill to amend chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that in the case of an agency that appeals the ruling of a court under that chapter, and does not prevail on appeal, the court shall award the prevailing party reasonable attorney's fees and costs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 416. A bill to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to accept public donations to fund the construction of a barrier on the border between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 417. A bill to provide that a former Member of Congress or former senior Congressional employee who receives compensation as a lobbyist shall not be eligible for retirement benefits or certain other Federal benefits; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 418. A bill to sunset new Federal regulatory rules after 3 years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. BUDD, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 419. A bill to prohibit United States assessed and voluntary contributions to the World Health Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mr. CRENshaw, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. CLOUD, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. BUDD, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BUCK, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. BROOKS, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CLINE, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 420. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to provide for the United States to become a party to the Paris Agreement; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SABLAN (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. MENG, Ms. CHU, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 421. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to treat the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the same manner as Guam is treated; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. SCANLON:

H.R. 422. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit certain donations to Inaugural Committees, to establish limitations on donations to Inaugural Committees, to require certain reporting by Inaugural Committees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WILD, and Mr. SABLAN):

H.R. 423. A bill to provide relief for multi-employer and single employer pension plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SIREs:

H.R. 424. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the unsafe use of electric scooters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. STANTON (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 425. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to reauthorize the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BANKS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HERN, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.R. 426. A bill to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 427. A bill to transfer the administration of the H-2A program from the Secretary of Labor to the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 428. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to prohibit the payment of bonuses to highly compensated individuals employed by the debtor and insiders of the debtor to perform services during the bankruptcy case, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 429. A bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 430. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from denying a veteran benefits administered by the Secretary by reason of the veteran participating in a State-approved marijuana program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 431. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself and Mr. KATKO):

H.R. 432. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself and Mr. MEUSER):

H.R. 433. A bill to establish a grant program for family community organizations that provide support for individuals struggling with substance use disorder and their families; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself and Mr. WOMACK):

H.R. 434. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to convene a task force to advise the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use on a national strategy for preventing mental health and substance use crises during a public health emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. TLAI, Ms. WILD, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MENG, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 435. A bill to exclude from tax certain payments of Federal pandemic unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 436. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain interests in land in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 437. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to Alaska Native elders for determining eligibility for certain programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CASE, and Mr. KAHELE):

H.R. 438. A bill to amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CASE, and Mr. KAHELE):

H.R. 439. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a demonstration program to adapt the successful practices of providing foreign aid to underdeveloped economies to the provision of Federal economic development assistance to Native communities in similarly situated remote areas in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 440. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Alexander Creek, Alaska, is and shall be recognized as an eligible Native village under that

Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 441. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 442. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium located in Sitka, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 443. A bill to convey land in Anchorage, Alaska, to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 444. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. REED, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHSTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CHU, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CROW, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELGADO, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. OMAR, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. KIND, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN

of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. LURIA, Ms. MANNING, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAROWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SIREs, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VELA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. RYAN, Mr. PASCARELL, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CORREA, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. ROSS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. PORTER, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. BOWMAN, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, and Ms. WATERS):

H.J. Res. 17. A joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. BACON, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. MASSIE, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, and Mr. CICILLINE):

H. Con. Res. 7. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol to honor the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient of the Second World War upon death; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CASE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan):

H. Res. 54. A resolution reaffirming the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States must lead the world in preventing further nuclear proliferation,

while also reducing and eventually eliminating all nuclear weapons; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself and Mr. STEUBE):

H. Res. 55. A resolution recognizing the importance of access to comprehensive, high-quality, life-affirming medical care for women of all ages; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H. Res. 56. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the amount of the Members' Representational Allowance should be increased in response to increasing threats against Members of the House; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mrs. GREENE of Georgia:

H. Res. 57. A resolution impeaching Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States, for abuse of power by enabling bribery and other high crimes and misdemeanors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GOHMBERT, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HERN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LATTI, Mr. LONG, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MAST, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ROSE, Mr. CARL, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. ESTES, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BANKS, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. JACKSON):

H. Res. 58. A resolution memorializing the unborn by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the 22d day of January each year; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. COMER, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. LATTI, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BARR, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BANKS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H. Res. 59. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Paris Agreement shall have no effect in the United States until it is renegotiated to ensure the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and receives the advice and consent to ratification of the United States Senate; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. BANKS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. GAETZ, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. ROSE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. CARL, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. MANN, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. ESTES, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr.

WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. LATTA, and Ms. HERRELL):

H. Res. 60. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that January 22, 2021, be formally acknowledged as "National Sanctity of Life Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN introduced a bill (H.R. 445) for the relief of Yazmin Fabiola Juarez Coyoy; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 373.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. BOEBERT:

H.R. 374.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (Commerce Clause) of the Constitution of the United States which grants Congress the power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes"; and

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 (Appropriations Clause) of the Constitution of the United States which grants Congress the power of the purse and ensures "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law."

By Mrs. BOEBERT:

H.R. 375.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (The Property Clause) of the Constitution of the United States which grants Congress the power "To dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States"; and

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (Commerce Clause) of the Constitution of the United States which grants Congress the power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mrs. BOEBERT:

H.R. 376.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 (Treaty Clause) of the Constitution of the United States which grants the President the power "to make treaties, so long as two-thirds of the Senate give advice and consent in order to ratify said treaty(s)";

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (Commerce Clause) of the Constitution of the United States which grants Congress the power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes"; and

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 (Appropriations Clause) of the Constitution of the

United States which grants Congress the power of the purse and ensures "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law."

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 377.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 378.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Ms. BARRAGAN:

H.R. 379.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 380.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 381.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 382.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 383.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 384.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 385.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. BROWN:

H.R. 386.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 387.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CASE:

H.R. 388.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CASE:

H.R. 389.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8, Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 390.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 391.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Pow-

ers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 392.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 393.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 394.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 395.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3, and 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 396.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. Art. I section 8 clause 18

By Mr. GIMENEZ:

H.R. 397.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 398.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 399.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Mr. HASTINGS:

H.R. 400.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 401.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3, 4 and 11-16.

By Mr. KEATING:

H.R. 402.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan:

H.R. 403.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 404.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 405.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 406.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 407.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. McEACHIN:

H.R. 408.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 409.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Sections 7 & 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 410.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 411.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 412.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the authority "To make all Laws, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof"

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 413.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 414.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the authority "To make all Laws, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof"

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 415.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the authority "To make all Laws, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof"

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 416.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution which grants Congress the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 417.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the authority "To make all Laws, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof"

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 418.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the authority "To make all Laws, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof"

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 419.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 420.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution—to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof

By Mr. SABLON:

H.R. 421.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Ms. SCANLON:

H.R. 422.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 423.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. SIRES:

H.R. 424.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds the authority for this legislation in article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. STANTON:

H.R. 425.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 426.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court; and Offenses against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 427.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court; and Offenses against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 428.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court; and Offenses against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not ex-

ceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 429.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court; and Offenses against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 430.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court; and Offenses against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 431.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 432.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. TRONE:

H.R. 433.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. TRONE:

H.R. 434.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 435.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 436.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 437.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 438.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 439.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 440.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 441.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 442.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 443.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 444.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 445.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.J. Res. 17.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 28: Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. PALMER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mrs. MCCLAIN.

H.R. 38: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, and Ms. HERRELL.

H.R. 40: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 51: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ and Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 55: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. OMAR, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COSTA, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LURIA, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SIREs, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 79: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

H.R. 97: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 148: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 151: Ms. SHERRILL and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 217: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mrs. MCCLAIN.

H.R. 223: Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TRONE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 237: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 239: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 256: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 263: Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CROW, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. CHU, Mr. EVANS, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. WILD, Mr. UPTON, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. SIREs.

H.R. 265: Mr. VARGAS, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 285: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 286: Mr. STEIL.

H.R. 289: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 301: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 305: Mr. KILMER, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mrs. TORRES of California, Miss RICE of New York, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. BEYER, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. CORREA, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. CHU, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. RUPERSBERGER.

H.R. 322: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 334: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 338: Mr. JONES and Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 343: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. HERRELL, and Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 354: Mrs. MCCLAIN.

H.R. 369: Mr. LEVIN of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Ms. STEVENS.

H.J. Res. 1: Mr. SARBANES, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. GOMEZ, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. CASE, Ms. ROSS, Mr. HIMES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. WELCH, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. COOPER, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Ms. NEWMAN.

H.J. Res. 11: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. MANN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Ms. FOXX, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. ROUZER.

H.J. Res. 15: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KEATING, Ms. JACOBS of California, and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.J. Res. 16: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KEATING, Ms. JACOBS of California, and Mr. CICILLINE.

H. Con. Res. 4: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. SOTO.

H. Res. 27: Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. RUIZ.

H. Res. 31: Mr. TRONE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. CHU, Mr. SIREs, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H. Res. 33: Mrs. AXNE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H. Res. 39: Mr. KINZINGER, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. PFLUGER, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. KELLER, Mr. BOST, and Mr. TAYLOR.

H. Res. 49: Mr. O'HALLERAN.

H. Res. 50: Ms. CHU, Mr. SWALWELL, and Ms. WILD.

H. Res. 51: Ms. CHU, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. COSTA.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. SMITH

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Armed Services in H.R. 335 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.



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No. 12

Senate

The Senate met at noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You are our shelter from the storm. Keep us from shame.

Lord, You often answer prayers in mysterious ways. As the Heavens are higher than the Earth, so are Your thoughts higher than our contemplation.

Inspire our Senators to be so sensitive to Your Spirit that they can recognize Your gentle nudge. Make them glad that You are near.

Lord, equip our lawmakers with wisdom and foresight for these challenging times. May Your peace go with them as they seek to do Your will.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it is nice to see you back in that position.

Yesterday, Mr. President, we began a new chapter in the history of our Nation. On the same steps stormed by domestic terrorists 2 weeks ago, we held a ceremony to the enduring power of our democracy. It was a symbol to the world that America is back and a mes-

sage to those domestic terrorists that they will never prevail.

Even as the festivities were in full swing, our new President and this new Senate commenced the work of rebuilding our country and healing its wounds. With the stroke of a pen, President Biden started the process of rejoining the United States to the Paris accords. He extended the pause on student loan payments, put an end to the Muslim travel ban, reinstalled safeguards for our Nation's Dreamers, and put a halt on the ineffective border wall.

Crucially, President Biden signed a number of orders to refocus the Federal Government's efforts on fighting the coronavirus pandemic. The United States has rejoined the World Health Organization. A mask mandate has been issued for all Federal properties. And President Biden has named a new coronavirus response coordinator to manage vaccine distribution, which is so desperately needed and was such a failure under the Trump administration.

Our country has suffered deeply from the chaotic, lackluster, and incompetent Federal response to COVID-19. As we cross the grim milestone of 400,000—American fatalities from COVID, the Biden administration is wasting no time in marshaling the resources of the Federal Government into action and today released a national strategy to defeat the pandemic.

What a concept—a President who actually takes the defining crisis of our time seriously. What a change—and how great is the need.

Here in the Senate, the first order of business is to fulfill our constitutional duty to advise and consent on the President's appointments to his Cabinet. Last night, the Senate confirmed the President's selection for the Director of National Intelligence, Avril Haines. We appreciate the bipartisan cooperation to get her confirmation done yesterday, and we should continue in that spirit today.

Traditionally, the Senate has confirmed several national security nominees for an incoming administration during their first few days. Even as power changes hands from one administration to the other, the work of keeping our Nation safe must not be paused or be disrupted. Foreign adversaries will seek to exploit this period of transition, and we cannot allow America's military, intelligence, and national security policy to be disrupted by staffing delays.

In 2017, President Trump had his Defense Secretary and Secretary of Homeland Security in place on Inauguration Day. President Biden deserves his national security team in place as soon as possible, as well as key officials in charge of responding to the current health and economic crises. With the cooperation of our Republican colleagues, we can and should confirm the Secretaries of Defense, State, Homeland Security, and Treasury without much delay.

While national security is paramount, I would remind my colleagues that we are in the middle of an economic crisis. The sooner we confirm a Treasury Secretary, the better.

And so, as we begin the process of bringing our country back together, let the first week of this Congress be a collaboration between our two parties to confirm President Biden's Cabinet.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Inaugural Ceremony proceedings be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the proceedings of the Inaugural Ceremony were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

Inauguration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., January 20, 2021, 10:33 a.m.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark A. Milley, assembled on the President's platform.

Leadership of the United States House of Representatives: Republican whip, the Honorable Stephen Scalise; and majority whip, the Honorable James E. Clyburn, assembled on the President's platform.

Leadership of the United States Senate: President pro tempore emeritus, the Honorable Patrick Leahy, and Mrs. Marcelle Leahy; Democratic whip, the Honorable Dick Durbin, and Ms. Reema Dodin; majority whip, the Honorable John Thune, and Mrs. Kimberley Thune; Democratic leader, the Honorable Charles Schumer, and Mrs. Iris Weinshall Schumer; President pro tempore of the Senate, the Honorable Chuck Grassley, and Ms. Jennifer Heins assembled on the President's platform.

Former Vice President, the Honorable Dan Quayle, assembled on the President's platform.

The 42nd President of the United States, the Honorable William J. Clinton, and the Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton assembled on the President's platform.

The 43rd President of the United States, the Honorable George W. Bush, and Mrs. Laura Bush assembled on the President's platform.

The 44th President of the United States, the Honorable Barack H. Obama, and Mrs. Michelle Obama assembled on the President's platform.

The Chief Justice of the United States, the Honorable John G. Roberts, Jr., and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court assembled on the President's platform.

The children of Vice President-Elect Harris and Mr. Douglas Emhoff, Cole Mackin Emhoff and Ella Rose Emhoff, assembled on the President's platform.

The children of President-Elect Biden, Robert Hunter Biden II and Ashley Blazer Biden and the grandchildren of the President-elect, assembled on the President's platform.

Accompanying the Vice President: The Secretary of the Senate, the Honorable Julie Adams; and Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, Catherine Szpindor, assembled on the President's platform.

The Vice President of the United States, the Honorable Michael R. Pence, and Mrs. Karen Pence assembled on the President's platform.

Accompanying the Vice President-elect: the Chief of Inaugural Ceremonies, Maria Miller Lohmeyer; the Acting Deputy House Sergeant at Arms, Kevin Grubbs; and the Acting Deputy Senate Sergeant at Arms, U.S. Capitol Police Officer, PFC Eugene O. Goodman, assembled on the President's platform.

The Vice President-elect of the United States, Kamala Devi Harris, and Mr. Douglas Emhoff assembled on the President's platform.

The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: staff representative Alexandra Gourdikian Diccio, accompanying the House Republican leader, the Honorable Kevin McCarthy; staff representative Bridget Brennan, accompanying House majority leader, the Honorable Steny Hoyer, and Ms. Yvette Lewis; staff representative Kate Knudsen, accompanying Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, and Mr. Paul Pelosi; staff representative Lindsey Kerr, accompanying the Honorable Amy Klobuchar and Mr. John Bessler; staff representative Stefanie Hagar Muchow, accompanying Senate majority leader, the Honorable Mitch McConnell, and the Honorable Elaine L. Chao; and staff representative Rachelle Graves Schroeder, ac-

companying the chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, the Honorable Roy Blunt, and Mrs. Abigail Blunt, assembled on the President's platform.

Accompanying the President-elect, the staff director of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, Fitzhugh Elder IV; the Acting House Sergeant at Arms, Tim Blodgett; and the Acting Senate Sergeant at Arms, Jennifer Hemmingway, assembled on the President's platform.

The President-elect of the United States, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and Dr. Jill Biden assembled on the President's platform.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Vice President Pence, Mr. President-elect, Madam Vice President-elect, Members of Congress and the judicial branch, former Presidents and First Ladies, Vice Presidents, leaders from abroad, and a whole bunch of Bidens, America, welcome to the 59th Presidential Inauguration, where in just a few moments Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will take their solemn oaths.

This ceremony is the culmination of 244 years of a democracy. It is a moment when leaders, brought to this stage by the will of the people, promise to be faithful to our Constitution, to cherish it, and defend it. It is a moment when they become, as we all should be, guardians of our country.

Have we become too jaded, too accustomed to the ritual of the passing of the torch of democracy to truly appreciate what a blessing and a privilege it is to witness this moment? I think not.

Two weeks ago, when an angry, violent mob staged an insurrection and desecrated this temple of our democracy, it awakened us to our responsibilities as Americans. This is the day when our democracy picks itself up, brushes off the dust, and does what America always does: It goes forward as a nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

(Applause.)

This conveyance of a sacred trust between our leaders and our people takes place in front of this shining Capitol dome for a reason. When Abraham Lincoln gave his first inaugural address in front of this Capitol, the dome was only partially constructed, braced by ropes of steel. He promised he would finish it. He was criticized for spending funds on it during the Civil War. To those critics, he replied, "If the people see the Capitol going on, it is a sign we intend the Union shall go on." And it did, and it will.

Generations of Americans gave their lives to preserve our Republic in this place. Great legislation to protect civil rights and economic security and lead the world was debated and crafted under this dome. Now, it falls on all of us—not just the two leaders we are inaugurating today—to take up the torch of our democracy, not as a weapon of political arson but as an instrument for good.

We pledge today never to take our democracy for granted as we celebrate its remarkable strength. We celebrate its resilience, its grit. We celebrate the ordinary people doing extraordinary things for our Nation, the doctors and nurses on the frontline of this pandemic, the officers in the Capitol, a new generation never giving up hope for justice.

We celebrate a new President, Joe Biden, who vows to restore the soul of America and cross the river of our divides to a higher plane.

We celebrate our first African-American, first Asian-American, and first woman Vice President, Kamala Harris, who stands on the shoulders of so many on this platform who have forged the way to this day. When she takes the oath of office, little girls and boys across the world will know that anything and everything is possible.

In the end, that is America: our democracy, a country of so much good. Today, on these Capitol steps and before this glorious field of flags, we rededicate ourselves to its cause.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

It is now my honor to introduce to you the Senator who has worked with me and so many others to make this ceremony possible, my friend and the chair of the Inaugural Committee, Missouri Senator Roy Blunt.

(Applause.)

Mr. BLUNT. Well, I should have known when Senator Klobuchar got involved, at least, there would be a touch of snow up here this morning. Of all the things we had considered, I don't think snow was on my agenda until I walked out the door a moment ago.

But thank you, Senator Klobuchar, and thanks to the other members of the Joint Congressional Committee on the Inauguration as we officially begin the 59th inaugural ceremony. I also want to thank the joint committee staff and our partners, particularly our security partners, for the way they have dealt with unprecedented circumstances.

When I chaired the inauguration 4 years ago, I shared President Reagan's 1981 description of this event as "commonplace" and "miraculous." It is "commonplace" because we have done it every 4 years since 1789; it is miraculous because we have done it every 4 years since 1789. Americans have celebrated this moment during war, during depression, and now during pandemic.

Once again, all three branches of our government come together as the Constitution envisions. Once again, we renew our commitment to our determined democracy, forging a more perfect union.

The theme for this inauguration, "Our Determined Democracy: Forging a more perfect union," was announced by the joint committee before the election with the belief that the United States can only fulfill its promise and set an example for others if we are always working to be better than we have been.

The Constitution established that determined democracy with its first three words, declaring the people as the source of the government. The Articles of Confederation hadn't done that. The Magna Carta hadn't done that. Only the Constitution says the government exists because the people are the source of the reason it exists.

They immediately followed those first three words with the words "to form a more perfect union." The Founders did not say to form a perfect union; they did not claim that in our new country nothing would need to be improved. Fortunately, they understood that always working to be better would be the hallmark of a great democracy.

The freedoms we have today and the Nation we have today is not here just because it happened, and they aren't complete. A great democracy is working through the successes and failures of our history, striving to be better than it had been. We are more than we have been, and we are less than we hope to be. The assault on our Capitol at this very place just 2 weeks ago reminds us that a government designed to balance and check itself is both fragile and resilient.

During the last year, the pandemic challenged our free and open society and called for extraordinary determination and sacrifice and still challenges us today. Meeting that challenge head on have been and are our healthcare workers, scientists, first responders, essential frontline workers, and so many others we depend on in so many ways.

Today, we come to this moment; people all over the world, as we are here, are watching

and will watch what we do here. Our government comes together. The Congress and the courts join the transition of Executive responsibility. One political party is more pleased today and on every inaugural day than the other. But this is not a moment of division; it is a moment of unification. A new administration begins and brings with it a new beginning; and with that, our great national debate goes forward, and a determined democracy will continue to be essential in pursuit of a more perfect union and a better future for all Americans. What a privilege for me to join you today.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

I am pleased to call to the podium a longtime friend of the President-elect and his family, Father Leo O'Donovan, to lead us in an invocation.

Please stand if you are able and remain standing for the national anthem and the pledge to our flag.

Father O'DONOVAN. Gracious and merciful God, at this sacred time, we come before you in need, indeed on our knees. But we come still more with hope and with our eyes raised anew to the vision of a more perfect union in our land, a union of all our citizens to promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

We are a people of many races, creeds, and colors, national backgrounds, cultures, and styles, now far more numerous and on land much vaster than when Archbishop John Carroll wrote his prayer for the inauguration of George Washington 232 years ago.

Archbishop Carroll prayed that You, a Creator of all, would "assist with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness and be eminently useful to Your people."

Today, we confess our past failures to live according to our vision of equality, inclusion, and freedom for all; yet we resolutely commit still more now to renewing the vision, to caring for one another in word and deed, especially the least fortunate among us, and so becoming a light for the world.

There is a power in each and every one of us that lives by turning to every other one of us, a trust of the spirit to cherish and care and stand by others and, above all, those most in need. It is called love, and its path is to give ever more of itself. Today, it is called American patriotism, borne not of power and privilege, but of care for the common good, with malice toward none and with charity for all.

For our new President, we beg of you the wisdom Solomon sought when he knelt before you and prayed for an understanding heart so that "I can govern your people . . . and know the difference between right and wrong."

We trust in the counsel of the letter of James:

In any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Pope Francis has reminded us how important it is to dream together. "By ourselves," he wrote, "we risk seeing mirages, things that are not there. Dreams, on the other hand, are built together."

Be with us, Holy Mystery of Love, as we dream together. Help us under our new President to reconcile the people of our land, restore our dream, and invest it with peace and justice and the joy that is the overflow of love.

To the glory of Your name forever. Amen.
(Performance of the National Anthem by Lady Gaga, accompanied by the U.S. Marine Band.)

(Fire Captain Andrea M. Hall, of the South Fulton Georgia Fire and Rescue Department,

president of the International Association of Firefighters Local 3920 recited the Pledge of Allegiance.)

(Applause.)

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. What you are all about to be part of, America, is a historic moment of firsts.

To administer the oath to our first African-American, our first Asian-American, and our first woman Vice President, Kamala Harris, it is my great privilege to welcome to the inaugural stage the first Latina to ever serve on the Supreme Court of the United States of America: Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

The Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, SONIA SOTOMAYOR, administered to the Vice President-elect the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution, which she repeated as follows:

I, KAMALA DEVI HARRIS, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

(Applause.)

(Jennifer Lopez performed "This Land Is Your Land" and "America the Beautiful" accompanied by the U.S. Marine Band.)

(Applause.)

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Well, that was great.

The Sun is shining and, Mr. President-elect, this is the first inauguration in the history of America where J-Lo was the warmup act for Chief Justice Roberts.

With that, it is now my distinct honor to introduce the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, John Roberts, to administer the Presidential oath to the next President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden.

(Applause.)

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR., administered to the President-elect the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution, which he repeated, as follows:

I, JOSEPH ROBINETTE BIDEN, JR., do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. So help me God.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. Congratulations, Mr. President.

(Applause.)

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. My fellow Americans—a moment we have all been waiting for—it is now my great privilege and high honor to be the first person to officially introduce the 46th President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Chief Justice Roberts, Vice President Harris, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Vice President Pence, and my distinguished guests, my fellow Americans, this is America's day. This is democracy's day—a day of history and hope, of renewal and resolve.

Through a crucible for the ages, America has been tested anew, and America has risen to the challenge. Today, we celebrate the triumph not of a candidate but of a cause, the cause of democracy. The people—the will of the people—has been heard, and the will of the people has been heeded.

We have learned again that democracy is precious, democracy is fragile, and at this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed.

(Applause.)

Now, on this hallowed ground, where just a few days ago violence sought to shake the Capitol's very foundation, we come together

as one Nation under God, indivisible, to carry out the peaceful transfer of power as we have for more than two centuries.

As we look ahead in our uniquely American way—restless, bold, optimistic—and set our sights on a nation we know we can and we must be, I thank my predecessors of both parties for their presence here today. I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

(Applause.)

I know the resilience of our Constitution and the strength—the strength of our Nation—as does President Carter, who I spoke with last night, who cannot be with us today, but whom we salute for his lifetime in service.

I have just taken the sacred oath each of those patriots have taken, the oath first sworn by George Washington. But the American story depends not on any one of us, not on some of us, but on all of us—on we, the people, who seek a more perfect union. This is a great nation. We are good people. Over the centuries, through storm and strife, in peace and at war, we have come so far, but we still have far to go.

We will press forward with speed and urgency for we have much to do in this winter of peril and significant possibilities—much to repair, much to restore, much to heal, much to build, and much to gain. Few people in our Nation's history have been more challenged or found a time more challenging or difficult than the time we are in now. A once-in-a-century virus that silently stalks the country has taken as many lives in 1 year as America lost in all of World War II.

Millions of jobs have been lost, and hundreds of thousands of businesses closed. A cry for racial justice, some 400 years in the making, moves us. The dream of justice for all will be deferred no longer.

(Applause.)

A cry for survival comes from the planet itself, a cry that can't be any more desperate or any more clear now—the rise of political extremism, White supremacy, domestic terrorism that we must confront and we will defeat.

(Applause.)

To overcome these challenges, to restore the soul and secure the future of America requires so much more than words; it requires the most elusive of all things in a democracy: unity. Unity.

In another January on New Year's Day in 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. When he put pen to paper, the President said:

If my name ever goes down in history, it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it.

My whole soul is in it today, on this January day. My whole soul is in this: bringing America together, uniting our people, uniting our Nation. I ask every American to join me in this cause.

(Applause.)

Uniting to fight the foes we face—anger, resentment and hatred, extremism, lawlessness, violence, disease, joblessness, and hopelessness—with unity, we can do great things, important things. We can right wrongs. We can put people to work in good jobs. We can teach our children in safe schools. We can overcome the deadly virus. We can reward work and rebuild the middle class and make healthcare secure for all. We can deliver racial justice, and we can make America, once again, the leading force for good in the world.

I know, speaking of unity, it can sound to some like a foolish fantasy these days. I know the forces that divide us are deep and they are real, but I also know they are not new. Our history has been a constant struggle between the American ideal, that we all are created equal, and the harsh ugly reality

that racism, nativism, fear, and demonization have long torn us apart. The battle is perennial, and victory is never assured.

Through Civil War, the Great Depression, World War, 9/11, and through struggle, sacrifice, and setbacks, our better angels have always prevailed. In each of these moments, enough of us—enough of us—have come together to carry all of us forward, and we can do that now.

History, faith, and reason show the way, the way of unity. We can see each other not as adversaries, but as neighbors. We can treat each other with dignity and respect. We can join forces, stop the shouting, and lower the temperature. For without unity, there is no peace, only bitterness and fury; no progress, only exhausting outrage; and no nation, only a state of chaos. This is our historic moment of crisis and challenge, and unity is the path forward, and we must meet this moment as the United States of America.

If we do that, I guarantee you we will not fail. We have never, ever, ever, ever failed in America when we have acted together. So, today, at this time, in this place, let's start afresh—all of us. Let's begin to listen to one another again, hear one another, see one another, and show respect to one another. Politics doesn't have to be a raging fire destroying everything in its path. Every disagreement doesn't have to be a cause for total war, and we must reject the culture in which facts themselves are manipulated and even manufactured.

(Applause.)

My fellow Americans, we have to be different than this. America has to be better than this, and I believe America is so much better than this. Just look around. Here we stand in the shadow of the Capitol dome, as was mentioned earlier, completed amid the Civil War when the Union itself was literally hanging in the balance; yet we endured. We prevailed.

Here we stand, looking out on the great Mall where Dr. King spoke of his dream. Here we stand, where 108 years ago, at another inaugural, thousands of protesters tried to block brave women marching for the right to vote. Today, we mark the swearing in of the first woman in American history elected to national office, Vice President Kamala Harris. Don't tell me things can't change.

(Applause.)

Here we stand, across the Potomac from Arlington Cemetery, where heroes who gave the last full measure of devotion rest in eternal peace. Here we stand, just days after a riotous mob thought they could use violence to silence the will of the people, to stop the work of our democracy, and to drive us from this sacred ground. It did not happen. It will never happen, not today, not tomorrow, not ever—not ever.

(Applause.)

To all those who supported our campaign, I am humbled by the faith you placed in us. To all those who did not support us, let me say this: Hear me out as we move forward. Take a measure of me and my heart. If you still disagree, so be it. That is democracy. That is America. The right to dissent peaceably within the guardrails of our Republic is perhaps this Nation's greatest strength; yet hear me clearly. Disagreement must not lead to disunion, and I pledge this to you: I will be a President for all Americans—all Americans.

(Applause.)

I promise you, I will fight as hard for those who did not support me as for those who did.

(Applause.)

Many centuries ago, St. Augustine, a saint in my church, wrote that a people was a multitude defined by the common action of their

love, defined by the common objects of their love. What are the common objects we, as Americans, love that define us as Americans? I think we know: opportunity, security, liberty, dignity, respect, honor, and, yes, the truth.

Recent weeks and months have taught us a painful lesson. There is truth, and there are lies, lies told for power and for profit. Each of us has a duty and a responsibility as citizens, as Americans, and especially as leaders—leaders who have pledged to honor our Constitution and protect our Nation—to defend the truth and defeat the lies.

(Applause.)

Look, I understand that many of my fellow Americans view the future with fear and trepidation. I understand they worry about their jobs. I understand, like my dad, they lay in bed at night staring at the ceiling, wondering: Can I keep my healthcare? Can I pay my mortgage? Thinking about their families and about what comes next. I promise you, I get it.

But the answer is not to turn inward and to retreat into competing factions, distrusting those who don't look like you or worship the way you do or don't get their news from the same sources you do. We must end this uncivil war that pits red against blue, rural versus urban, conservative versus liberal. We can do this if we open our souls instead of hardening our hearts, if we show a little tolerance and humility, and if we are willing to stand in the other person's shoes, as my mom would say. Just for a moment, stand in their shoes.

Because here is the thing about life: There is no accounting for what fate will deal you. Some days, you need a hand. There are other days when we are called to lend a hand. That is how it has to be. That is what we do for one another. If we are this way, our country will be stronger, more prosperous, more ready for the future, and we can still disagree.

My fellow Americans, in the work ahead of us, we are going to need each other. We need all our strength to persevere through this dark winter. We are entering what may be the toughest and deadliest period of the virus. We must set aside politics and finally face this pandemic as one Nation—one Nation.

(Applause.)

And I promise you this, as the Bible says: "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." We will get through this together—together.

(Applause.)

Look, folks, all my colleagues I serve with in the House and the Senate up here, we all understand the world is watching, watching all of us today. So here is my message to those beyond our borders: America has been tested, and we have come out stronger for it. We will repair our alliances and engage with the world once again—not to meet yesterday's challenges but today's and tomorrow's challenges—and we will lead not merely by the example of our power but by the power of our example.

(Applause.)

We will be a strong and trusted partner for peace, progress, and security.

Look, you all know we have been through so much in this Nation. In my first act as President, I would like to ask you to join me in a moment of silent prayer. Remember all those who we lost in this past year to the pandemic, those 400,000 fellow Americans—moms, dads, husbands, wives, sons, daughters, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. We will honor them by becoming the people and the Nation we know we can and should be. I ask you, let's say a silent prayer for those who have lost their lives and those left behind and for our country.

(Moment of silence.)

Amen.

Folks, this is a time of testing. We face an attack on our democracy and on truth, a raging virus, growing inequity, the sting of systemic racism, a climate in crisis, and America's role in the world. Any one of these would be enough to challenge us in profound ways, but the fact is we face them all at once, presenting this Nation with one of the gravest responsibilities we have had.

Now, we are going to be tested. Are we going to step up, all of us? It is time for boldness, for there is so much to do. And this is certain: I promise you, we will be judged, you and I, by how we resolve these cascading crises of our era. Will we rise to the occasion is the question. Will we master this rare and difficult hour? Will we meet our obligations and pass along a new and better world to our children?

I believe we must. I am sure you do as well. I believe we will. When we do, we will write the next great chapter in the history of the United States of America—the American story—a story that might sound something like a song that means a lot to me. It is called "American Anthem." There is one verse that stands out, at least for me, and it goes like this:

The work and prayers of centuries have brought us to this day, which shall be our legacy, what will our children say? Let me know in my heart when my days are through, America, America, I gave my best to you.

Let us add our own work and prayers to the unfolding story of our great Nation. If we do this, then when our days are through, our children and our children's children will say of us: They gave their best, they did their duty, they healed a broken land.

My fellow Americans, I close today where I began, with a sacred oath. Before God and all of you, I give you my word. I will always level with you. I will defend the Constitution. I will defend our democracy. I will defend America, and I will give all—all of you—keep everything I do in your service, thinking not of power but of possibilities, not of personal interest but of public good. And together, we shall write an American story of hope, not fear; of unity, not division; of light, not darkness; a story of decency and dignity, love and healing, greatness and goodness—may this be the story that guides us, the story that inspires us, and the story that tells ages yet to come that we answered the call of history. We met the moment. Democracy and hope, truth and justice, did not die on our watch but thrived, that America secured liberty at home and stood once again as a beacon to the world. That is what we owe our forebearers, one another, and generations to follow.

So, with purpose and resolve, we turn to those tasks of our time sustained by faith, driven by conviction, and devoted to one another and the country we love with all our hearts. May God bless America, and may God protect our troops.

Thank you, America.

(Applause.)

(Garth Brooks performed "Amazing Grace.")

Mr. BLUNT. It is hard not to be reminded of President Obama singing that same song at the Mother Emanuel Church, a song that in our country is as close to both poetry and prayer as you could possibly come, and we are going to finish with those two things.

Let me introduce Amanda Gorman, our Nation's first ever National Youth Poet Laureate.

Ms. GORMAN. Mr. President, Dr. Biden, Madam Vice President, Mr. Emhoff, Americans, and the world:

When day comes we ask ourselves,

where can we find light in this never-ending shade?

The loss we carry,
a sea we must wade
We've braved the belly of the beast
We've learned that quiet isn't always peace
And the norms and notions
of what just is
Isn't always just-ice
And yet the dawn is ours
before we knew it
Somehow we do it
Somehow we've weathered and witnessed
a nation that isn't broken
but simply unfinished
We the successors of a country and a time
Where a skinny Black girl
descended from slaves and raised by a single
mother
can dream of becoming president
only to find herself reciting for one
And yes we are far from polished
far from pristine
but that doesn't mean we are
striving to form a union that is perfect
We are striving to forge a union with purpose
To compose a country committed to all cul-
tures, colors,
characters and
conditions of man
And so we lift our gazes not to what stands
between us
but what stands before us
We close the divide because we know, to put
our future first,
we must first put our differences aside
We lay down our arms
so we can reach out our arms
to one another
We seek harm to none and harmony for all
Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is
true:
That even as we grieved, we grew
That even as we hurt, we hoped
That even as we tired, we tried
That we'll forever be tied together, vic-
torious
Not because we will never again know defeat
but because we will never again sow division
Scripture tells us to envision
that everyone shall sit under their own vine
and fig tree
And no one shall make them afraid
If we're to live up to our own time
Then victory won't lie in the blade
But in all the bridges we've made
That is the promise to glade
The hill we climb
If only we dare
It's because being American is more than a
pride we inherit,
it's the past we step into and how we repair
it
We've seen a force that would shatter our na-
tion
rather than share it
Would destroy our country if it meant delay-
ing democracy
And this effort very nearly succeeded
But while democracy can be periodically de-
layed
it can never be permanently defeated
In this truth
in this faith we trust
For while we have our eyes on the future
history has its eyes on us
This is the era of just redemption
We feared at its inception
We did not feel prepared to be the heirs
of such a terrifying hour
but within it we found the power to author a
new chapter
To offer hope and laughter to ourselves
So while once we asked,
how could we possibly prevail over catas-
trophe?
Now we assert
How could catastrophe possibly

prevail over us?

We will not march back to what was
but move to what shall be
A country that is bruised but whole,
benevolent but bold,
fierce and free
We will not be turned around
or interrupted by intimidation
because we know our inaction and inertia
will be the inheritance of the next genera-
tion

Our blunders become their burdens
But one thing is certain:
If we merge mercy with might,
and might with right,
then love becomes our legacy
and change our children's birthright
So let us leave behind a country
better than the one we were left with
Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest,
we will raise this wounded world into a won-
drous one

We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the
west,
we will rise from the windswept northeast
where our forefathers first realized revolu-
tion

We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of
the midwestern states,

we will rise from the sunbaked south
We will rebuild, reconcile and recover
and every known nook of our nation and
every corner called our country,
our people diverse and beautiful will emerge,
battered and beautiful
When day comes we step out of the shade,
afire and unafraid
The new dawn blooms as we free it
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it
If only we're brave enough to be it.

(Applause.)

Mr. BLUNT. Thank you, Amanda Gorman.

Now, for our benediction, I am pleased to
introduce the Reverend Dr. Silvester
Beaman, pastor of the Bethel African Meth-
odist Episcopal Church in Wilmington, DE, a
friend of President Biden for 30 years.

Reverend BEAMAN. As a nation and people
of faith gathered in this historical moment,
let us unite in prayer.

God, we gather under the beauty of Your
holiness and the holiness of Your beauty. We
seek Your face, Your smile, Your warm em-
brace.

We petition You once more in this celebra-
tion. We pray for divine favor upon our
President, Joseph R. Biden, and our First
Lady, Dr. Jill Biden, and their family. We
further ask that You would extend the same
favor upon our Vice President, Kamala D.
Harris, and our Second Gentleman, Doug
Emhoff, and their family. More than ever—
more than ever—they and our Nation need
You.

We need You, for in You we discover our
common humanity. In our common human-
ity, we will seek out the wounded and bind
their wounds. We will seek healing for those
who are sick and diseased. We will mourn
our dead. We will befriend the lonely, the
least, and the left out. We will share our
abundance with those who are hungry. We
will do justly to the oppressed, acknowledge
sin, and seek forgiveness, thus grasping rec-
onciliation.

In discovering our humanity, we will seek
the good in and for all our neighbors. We will
love the unlovable, remove the stigma of the
so-called untouchables. We will care for our
most vulnerable, our children, the elderly,
emotionally challenged, and the poor. We
will seek rehabilitation beyond correction.
We will extend opportunity to those locked
out of opportunity. We will make friends of
our enemies. We will make friends of our en-
emies.

People—Your people—shall no longer raise
up weapons against one another, who will
rather use our resources for the national
good, and become a beacon of life and good
will to the world, and neither shall we learn
hatred anymore. We will lie down in peace
and not make our neighbors afraid.

In You, oh, God, we discover our humanity,
and in our humanity, we discover our com-
monness. Beyond the difference of color,
creed, origin, political party, ideology, geog-
raphy, and personal preferences, we will be-
come greater stewards of Your environment,
preserving the land, reaping from it a sus-
tainable harvest, and securing its wonder
and miracle-giving power for generations to
come.

This is our benediction, that from these
hallowed grounds where slaves labored to
build this shrine and citadel to liberty and
democracy, let us all acknowledge—from the
indigenous Native Americans to those who
recently received their citizenship, from the
African American to those whose foreparents
came from Europe and every corner of the
globe, from the wealthy to those struggling
to make it, from every human being, regard-
less of their choices—that this is our coun-
try.

As such, teach us, oh, God. As such, teach
us, oh, God, to live in it, love in it, be healed
in it, and reconcile to one another in it, less
we miss kingdom's goal.

To Your glory, majesty, dominion, and
power forever, hallelujah. Glory hallelujah,
in the strong Name of our collective faith.
Amen.

(Performance of "The Stars and Stripes
Forever" by the U.S. Marine Band.)

(Performance of "Let Freedom Ring" by
the U.S. Marine Band.)

(The Inaugural Ceremony was concluded at
12:33 p.m.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you, Mr.
President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr.
BOOKER). You are welcome.

Mr. SCHUMER. A new politeness
from the Chair.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The
clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk
proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I
ask unanimous consent that the order
for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without
objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Re-
publican leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for
this 117th Congress, the American peo-
ple chose an evenly split Senate—50
Republicans and 50 Democrats. With
the election of Vice President HARRIS,
that means the Democratic leader will
act as majority leader.

So I want to congratulate my col-
league from New York. His pride and
emotion were palpable yesterday as
this self-described "kid from Brooklyn
[and] son of an exterminator and a
housewife" became the first Jewish
Member of Congress to lead either
Chamber—a historic milestone.

Now, the Senate has handled an even split before. Twenty years ago, faced with the same scenario, the two leaders brokered a power-sharing agreement so the institution could function smoothly.

The Democratic leader and I are discussing a similar agreement now. I have been heartened to hear my colleague say he wants the same rules from the 2000s to apply today, because, certainly, 20 years ago there was no talk—none whatsoever—of tearing down longstanding minority rights on legislation.

The legislative filibuster is a crucial part of the Senate. Leading Democrats, like President Biden himself, have long defended it. Democrats themselves just spent 6 years using it, literally, to block bills from Senator TIM SCOTT's police reform to coronavirus relief.

And less than 4 years ago, when it was Republicans who held the Senate, the House, and the Presidency, 27 current Democrats plus Vice President HARRIS signed a letter insisting this longstanding rule should not be broken.

So if the talk of unity and common ground is to have meaning and, certainly, if the rules from 20 years ago are to be our guide, then I cannot imagine the Democratic leader would rather hold up the power-sharing agreement than simply reaffirm that his side won't be breaking this standing rule of the Senate.

I appreciate our ongoing, good-faith discussions and look forward to finding the solution together.

Our side takes a great deal of pride in the accomplishments that three consecutive Republican Senates have delivered for the American people.

In 2014, our majority was elected to check and balance the last years of a lameduck Presidency.

In 2016, we were reelected to help ignite a real, all-American economic comeback, rebuild and modernize our military, and fight for the forgotten corners of our country. Together with the Trump administration and a Republican House, we did just that.

In 2018, we were rehired again on those strong results, especially the historic job market for American workers and our commitment to the judiciary.

And now, even as voters chose President Biden for the White House, they simultaneously shrunk Democrats' House majority and elected this evenly divided Senate.

The 2020 election was as far from a sweeping mandate for ideological transformation as any election we have seen in modern history. The American people stunned the so-called experts with the number of Republicans they sent to the House and to the Senate to make sure commonsense conservative values have a powerful say in the government.

So our side is ready to share ideas and work with the Biden administration, applying common sense to find common ground for the common good.

But if and when our Democratic friends depart from common sense, when they retreat from common ground or their proposals harm the common good, then we will use the power the American people have given us to push for what we think is right.

On the Biden administration's very first day, it took several big steps in the wrong direction. The President reentered the failed Paris climate agreement, a terrible bargain that would set us up to self-inflict major economic pain on working American families with no assurance that China or Russia would honor their commitments. In fact, the United States has already been reducing carbon emissions, while China and other nations in the agreement have kept increasing theirs. Rejoining will just set us up to kill American jobs while our competitors continue to roar on by.

The President also unilaterally canceled the Keystone XL Pipeline. The day-one priority was to kill thousands of American jobs, including union jobs, disappoint our strong ally Canada, and reverse some of our progress toward energy security. This is a project that the liberal Canadian Government and Prime Minister Trudeau support—an investment in North American energy. Even the Obama State Department concluded it would not harm the climate. But because canceling the pipeline project just feels like the green thing to do, the new administration killed all these jobs. This was not the day one the American workers deserved.

The new administration has also sketched out a massive proposal for blanket amnesty that would gut enforcement of American laws while creating huge new incentives for people to rush here illegally at the same time. This kind of failed approach will invite another humanitarian crisis on our border and privilege powerful interests ahead of American workers.

For all the talk about norms within government, last night brought a truly unprecedented move at the National Labor Relations Board. The President fired the Board's independent general counsel almost a year before the end of his term. Even leftwing activists called the unprecedented move "aggressive."

Now, it is still early. There is still plenty of time for President Biden to remember that he does not owe his election to the far left. The President can and should refocus his administration on creating good-paying American jobs, not sacrificing our people's livelihoods to liberal symbolism. Senate Republicans will be ready, willing, and eager to help make that happen.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority whip.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am happy to be standing here today on the Senate floor during an exciting week and one that really provides us with hope for the future. I welcome President Biden and, of course, Vice President HARRIS to their new roles and look forward to their leadership that they will provide in these difficult times.

We can never forget that America is still in the midst of a deadly pandemic. Tragically, we lost over 400,000 Americans. In my State of Illinois, we have seen more than 1 million COVID cases, and 18,398 of my neighbors and friends in Illinois have died due to this deadly virus.

As we continue to try to stop the spread of this pandemic, I am glad that the vaccine rollout has been able to help some in my State—537,000 people in Illinois have received vaccines. It is a refreshing and long overdue sight to have the President and White House fully engaged in addressing this pandemic with a focus on science and racial equity.

On his first day yesterday, President Biden signed several important Executive actions, including instituting a mask mandate for all Federal facilities and buildings.

Secondly, he moved to rejoin the World Health Organization. This was one of the most confounding decisions by the Trump administration. In the midst of a global pandemic, President Trump opted to remove the United States from the World Health Organization, which was focusing on the spread of this pandemic and its impact on nations around the world.

Finally, President Biden created an office to coordinate a national response to the pandemic. Today he is outlining a strong plan to provide a national strategy to liberate us from this threat.

I must say that I was disappointed in the transition when at first President Trump refused to acknowledge that he lost the election, and then his Agencies dragged their feet when it came to informing the Biden administration of the status quo in America. Thus,

today, we learn that we were not as prepared as we should have been when it came to distributing the vaccines that were being manufactured across this country. Now we almost have to start from zero to find a way to meet President Biden's challenge of 100 million Americans vaccinated in the first 100 days that he is in office. I pray that he is successful. We should do everything in our power on both sides of the aisle to give him the resources and the cooperation he needs.

The fact sheet of things that will be done by the Biden administration on COVID-19 is lengthy and impressive. The President, on the first day, established a White House COVID-19 Response Office and Coordinator, as I mentioned, required mask wearing and social distancing in Federal facilities, and rejoined the World Health Organization.

Today, President Biden also unveiled a national strategy to leverage Federal resources. It outlines detailed plans for a comprehensive vaccination strategy. If there was cheering—and there should have been—for the Warp Speed project developing successful vaccines in a short period of time, it was followed by some disappointment that even with these vaccines and the knowledge of how to make them, we are not producing them in the quantities necessary, and we are not addressing the logistics of spreading these vaccines across America where they are needed the most.

The President is setting out to restore trust by leading with experts for public outreach, and he is relying on science. That is refreshing. It is hard to imagine something that basic is as refreshing as it is. He is providing resources and guidance to reopen most K-8 schools in 100 days. Wouldn't that be a blessing? There isn't a parent or grandparent in this country who won't cheer that particular goal. He is addressing supply gaps and State capacity. We are finding them virtually all across the United States. And he is focusing on vulnerable populations, including those in long-term care facilities and communities of color.

To implement this plan, President Biden will sign Executive orders today to direct agencies to exercise all authorities, including the Defense Production Act, to accelerate the manufacturing and delivery of vaccination, testing, and medical supplies. Let me say, I have never understood why President Trump refused to use this Defense Production Act to its full capacity, to use his leadership as President to marshal the resources of production and distribution of vaccines and other absolutely necessary medical devices.

President Biden also is directing FEMA to increase Federal reimbursement to States from 75 to 100 percent for emergency supplies, such as PPE, and National Guard personnel. He is establishing a Healthy Equity Task Force to provide recommendations on

how to allocate and address racial and ethnic disparities that have been magnified by this crisis.

We know the economic damage of this virus continues to linger. Nearly one in four people in my State in renter households reports being behind on rent, and one in three households reports having difficulty just covering usual household expenses.

We continue to see historic numbers of Americans filing for unemployment, including more than 100,000 people in Illinois who applied for unemployment last week. But to fully address the health and economic toll of the pandemic, Congress needs to build upon the work we did in December and heed the call of the \$1.9 trillion plan that President Biden outlined last week.

I was part of a bipartisan group of Senators who met several months ago. We talked about following on the CARES Act with some measure of COVID relief. We proposed a plan of \$908 billion, which was then embraced by the leaders on both sides of the aisle and the White House, and they negotiated further. That resulted in the measure we passed just a few days ago. But make no mistake, that was not the end of the story, nor did we envision that it would be. This was done on a temporary emergency basis to cover the first quarter; that is, the first 3 months of this calendar year. I pray that this pandemic and all of the problems it has caused will soon be gone, but I doubt that it will happen in the next 3 months.

We have more work to do, and President Biden knows it. I think we all do. We need to come together again on a bipartisan basis.

The first CARES Act passed the Senate by a vote of 96 to nothing. There were no dissenting votes. The second measure, I believe, had 91 or 92 votes in favor of it. So we have shown real bipartisanship. We can't quit on this challenge.

Janet Yellen has been named as the Treasury Secretary designate by President Biden. I had a conversation with her 2 weeks ago. We talked about the perilous state of the economy. It is naive for us to believe that the worst is behind us. We have to face the reality that we may have darker days ahead, and we have to be prepared to deal with them—first, with the pandemic and, second, with the economy. Even the Chairman of the Federal Reserve has encouraged us not to take our foot off the accelerator, lest we lapse into a recession or worse.

Let's take this seriously. Let's help the businesses, help the workers, help the families, and do our best to get this economy back on its feet.

Illinois has spent \$843 million in our health departments to expand testing and vaccine delivery from the December package. But with half a million people vaccinated so far in a State of 13 million, more resources and support are needed. That means providing the \$20 billion for vaccine distribution and

\$50 billion for testing that President Biden has asked for as part of his rescue package so we can finally, once and for all, crush this virus, get the economy back on its feet, and get our kids back in school.

It also means investing in the health workforce, such as through a bill I have introduced with Senator MARCO RUBIO, Republican of Florida, to provide scholarship and loan repayment through the National Health Service Corps for doctors and nurses to serve in communities with a shortage of providers.

I say to the Presiding Officer, I am sure you are personally aware that there are fewer African-American doctors in the United States today than there were 10 years ago. I am sorry to report that. It should be just the opposite. We should have so many more, for many reasons, not the least of which is to overcome health inequity.

This scholarship program that Senator RUBIO and I are proposing builds on the model of the National Health Service Corp, which tracks young doctors to come and serve in underserved areas and to help underserved populations, and then helps pay off their student loans. We take this approach: Keep that; it is good. Expand it where we can, but let's look at another aspect. What if we provided scholarship assistance and really directed it toward minority candidates to become doctors and dentists and nurses and healthcare professionals? All of those aspects would be encouraged if people knew that they had a scholarship through the National Health Service and the promise that they would serve where they were needed after they graduated. We hope this will be included in any measure that is passed in the near future.

The President's plan sets out additional relief measures that will float to those in need. I am especially encouraged by making the child tax credit fully refundable. That is going to benefit 1 million kids in my State.

Also, the Biden plan aims to safely open schools, businesses, and travel while protecting workers in these areas and committing to protecting our most vulnerable populations.

I am ready to continue pushing for COVID relief. The job isn't finished by any means. We must provide American families and workers the tools they need to survive in this difficult economic time.

As Chair Yellen said earlier this week, "Without further action, we risk a longer, more painful recession now—and long-term scarring of the economy later."

Let's do this, America. Let's do it together. Let's let the spirit of unity that we saw on the West Front of the Capitol yesterday bring us together here in the Senate and the House in a joint effort to help the American people with the resources they need to survive this pandemic and this lengthy financial hardship.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of the quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I want to start by congratulating President Biden and Vice President HARRIS, who took office yesterday. We have a team of former Senators in the White House.

Yesterday was a hopeful day. The Capitol Building, so recently besieged by violence and lawlessness, resumed its rightful place as the seat of our democracy and backdrop for the peaceful transfer of power from one President to the next that is a hallmark of our system of government. The faith of many Americans has been shaken in recent weeks. But yesterday reminded us that our democracy still stands and our Nation endures—bruised, maybe, but unbroken.

I also want to express my profound gratitude to the Capitol Police officers and other law enforcement who, though outnumbered and overrun, defended this Capitol on January 6, and to the soldiers and the law enforcement who have guarded this building in the days since. We live in peace and freedom because of the service and sacrifice of our military and our police officers.

After the election of November, President Biden gave a victory speech in which he pledged to be “a President who seeks not to divide, but to unify. Who doesn’t see Red and Blue states, but a United States. And who will work with all my heart to win the confidence of the whole people.”

He reiterated that commitment in yesterday’s speech, stating: “On this January day, my whole soul is in this: Bringing America together, uniting our people, uniting our nation.”

That is what we need right now—a President who will unite us. If President Biden can truly be a President who governs for all Americans, who respects all Americans, and who works to win the confidence of the whole people, he will have done our Nation a great service.

And I do think President Biden is capable of doing this, but I do want to sound a cautionary note. It is common to talk about unity at Presidential inaugurations. But all too often that commitment to unity is forgotten—by the President or by the members of his party. I hope this commitment will be backed up with action and that Democrat leaders in Congress will embrace the President’s words. That means respecting those Americans who didn’t vote for President Biden as well as those who did.

It means working together to confront our Nation’s challenges, instead of adopting an “our way or the highway” approach. It means preserving minority rights in the Senate when it comes to legislation, the heart—the heart—of what makes the Senate special and something Republicans, I might add, defended during our time in the majority.

For the President, it means nominating individuals who represent a majority of Americans, not the far left fringes of his party. I have seen some hopeful actions from President Biden. Several of his nominees for important posts, while perhaps not those whom I would have chosen, are public servants whom I believe will serve our country well in positions like Director of National Intelligence, whom we voted on yesterday. And the President has demonstrated both his leadership and his concern for all Americans by prioritizing the pandemic and focusing on getting Americans vaccinated.

But there have been troubling things as well. While the President has nominated some mainstream candidates, other nominations raise serious concerns on issues like overregulation of the economy and life and conscience protections.

While I applaud the President’s focus on the pandemic, I am concerned that a number of the measures in his pandemic relief proposal are heavily partisan—and, certainly, not things that should be rushed through Congress without serious consideration of the long-term impact they would have on our economy and American families.

If there was any mandate given in this election, it was a mandate for moderation. A historic number of Americans voted for President Biden, but a historic number voted for President Trump as well. Democrats lost seats in the House of Representatives, and the Senate is evenly divided.

I hope—I really hope—that Democrat leaders and the President will remember that and not allow the far left, which has sought to hijack the Democratic Party in recent years, to determine their agenda. We have a chance—a chance—for a new day here in this country, and I believe that President Biden is committed to leading us there.

I pray that that commitment will endure and that we can spend the next months and years working together, legislating together, and ensuring the voices of all Americans are respected and heard.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, there have been few other times in American history when the need for economic growth through strategic, responsible, pro-business policies has been as great as it is today. Nothing is more important to a family than a

good-paying job. That is where the American dream begins.

Today, as our Nation fights to overcome the horrendous health and economic impacts of COVID-19, we must balance our approach. We have to protect American families and individuals who have been hurt by this crisis, support commonsense public health policies and an aggressive vaccine distribution effort, while also keeping businesses open, incentivizing future growth of businesses, large and small, and standing up to our economic adversaries, like Communist China, by reshoring our supply chain back home.

We also need to continue cutting regulations to make it easier for businesses to operate and for entrepreneurs to create jobs.

President Biden and his Cabinet have the important task of revitalizing our economy amid one of our Nation’s worst economic crises. In my 8 years as Governor of Florida, we balanced our budget each year, cut \$10 billion in taxes, paid off one-third of our State debt, and Florida companies added nearly 1.7 million jobs. But instead of looking to innovation and approving policies of States like Florida that will create jobs and help Americans and small businesses, the Biden administration is already making promises to go in the opposite direction—promises that are being championed by his nominee for Treasury Secretary, Janet Yellen.

Let me be clear. I support targeted relief to help our small businesses and individuals who are hurting because of the coronavirus. With the start of a new administration, I was hoping to hear some fresh, new ideas on how to accomplish our shared goal of addressing this crisis. But that is not what we are hearing from the Biden administration. Their answer is the same as it always has been for Democrats: more government, more spending, higher taxes, no accountability.

Voters are befuddled by the claim that while families cannot borrow without limits or consequences, somehow the Federal Government can. It is irresponsible, and I won’t stand for it. We have to get serious about how we are spending taxpayer dollars. We already have more than \$27 trillion in Federal debt.

If interest rates return to their 50-year average, the interest on our Federal debt will make it impossible to fund our military, Medicare, and Social Security.

President Biden wants to spend more than \$350 billion to bail out wasteful, liberal States for their decades of mismanagement, and his nominees, including Ms. Yellen, support this nonsense.

Andrew Cuomo has threatened the New York wealthy that if they don’t help him get a Federal Government bailout, he will raise their taxes.

I was elected Governor of Florida when Cuomo was elected Governor of New York. While Governor of Florida, I lowered taxes each year. Cuomo raised

taxes. Since we were both elected, families and businesses have increasingly left New York for lower taxes, better schools, better roads, and warmer weather in Florida.

Asking taxpayers to bail out failed politicians in liberal States like New York and Illinois and save them from their own bad decisions isn't fair to the taxpayers in fiscally responsible States like Florida. After all, many Florida taxpayers left New York because of Cuomo's tax policy.

It makes no sense. Congress has already allocated more than \$4.5 trillion to address this crisis. Think about it. We just passed a nearly \$1 trillion relief package 4 weeks ago. This is all borrowed money. The Federal Government doesn't have savings for a rainy day, and we still don't know how much money is unspent from the previous coronavirus relief packages. How can we possibly justify spending more money right now? We don't even know what we might need to spend money on.

And for States like California, we know they don't need it. California's tax revenues for this fiscal year is running \$9 billion, or 18 percent, above projections. Personal income tax revenue in October was \$1 billion—15 percent higher than in the previous October, and sales taxes were up 9.2 percent. For the last 4 months, overall revenue in California has exceeded spring forecasts and even 2019 collections. But that hasn't kept Governor Newsom and his far left buddies in Congress from keeping their hands out for more money.

We cannot simply throw massive spending at this with no accountability to the current and future American taxpayer. It is shameful.

We have also heard the Biden administration and its nominees call for a new national minimum wage of \$15 an hour. It is clear that these folks haven't talked to business owners. Small businesses in America are struggling like never before, especially in liberal States, where repeated lockdowns have exacerbated their work to stay open. And President Biden believes now is the time to slap another mandate on their back and drive even more Americans chasing the dream of this country out of business? I am not sure how you could possibly be more detached from reality.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, a federally mandated \$15 minimum wage would cost as many as 3.7 million Americans their jobs.

Let me tell you, I know what it is like to be poor, to live in public housing, to not have enough money to afford healthcare for a family member. I watched my parents struggle for work. I don't want any family to go through what I went through.

I ran for office because I wanted to help struggling families like the one I grew up in to have the chance to live the American dream. So when I hear folks like Ms. Yellen say that job loss

from a minimum-wage mandate is "very minimal, if anything," it really leaves me at a loss. Watching 3.7 million Americans lose their jobs will not be minimal.

Adding insult to injury, we have heard great praise for the implementation of a carbon tax. Let's remember, this was part of the Green New Deal, which would be a disaster if passed. According to estimates from the Heritage Foundation, a carbon emissions tax would cost the country 1.4 million jobs while decreasing our GDP by \$3.9 trillion and reducing income for a family of four by \$40,000, with disproportionate costs falling on low-income families. Again, how can this be seen as the logical step when so many in our Nation are simply trying to recover and rebuild from the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic?

If the administration has its way, Americans should prepare for higher taxes, less income, less opportunity, and more government mandates.

Ms. Yellen seems to think the solution to America's economic woes is more government, more taxes, more regulation, not more individual opportunity. That is wrong and will only send us further into debt and our families further into despair.

Based on what I have heard, I am concerned and, frankly, disturbed by what is being offered as the future of America's economic policy. When I ran for the Senate, I did so to fix Washington's broken way of doing things. We have to address Washington's unconscionable need to waste tax dollars on things that don't actually help or even hurt American families, especially working families and those on fixed incomes. I will never give up this fight.

In 2018, Ms. Yellen was quoted speaking about the unsustainable U.S. debt and said: "If I had a magic wand, I would raise taxes." We know that is not the real answer to solving our debt issue. It is simply the lazy, liberal approach.

It is time to get value out of every dollar we spend and make hard choices that actually help families and ensure a strong economic future for our Nation.

I cannot support the nomination of a candidate who proudly promotes Joe Biden's policies to mortgage our kids' and grandkids' futures with irresponsible and shortsighted tax spending.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

FILIBUSTER

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, there is a lot going on in the Senate, a lot of activity behind the scenes right now. Leadership of both parties is negotiating a 50-50 power-sharing agreement, which is very important for the Senate and very important for our Nation.

One issue that is being discussed is the status of what is going to happen, possibly—hopefully, nothing is going to happen—with a really important element of the U.S. Senate: the legislative filibuster—something that has been a hallmark of this body almost since the founding of the Republic. This shouldn't be a hard issue.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter, led by Senator COLLINS and Senator COONS, dated April 7, 2017, to the then-majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, and the Democratic leader, Senator SCHUMER.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, April 7, 2017.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
Democratic Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL AND DEMOCRATIC LEADER SCHUMER: We are writing to urge you to support our efforts to preserve existing rules, practices, and traditions as they pertain to the right of Members to engage in extended debate on legislation before the United States Senate. Senators have expressed a variety of opinions about the appropriateness of limiting debate when we are considering judicial and executive branch nominations. Regardless of our past disagreements on that issue, we are united in our determination to preserve the ability of Members to engage in extended debate when bills are on the Senate floor.

We are mindful of the unique role the Senate plays in the legislative process, and we are steadfastly committed to ensuring that this great American institution continues to serve as the world's greatest deliberative body. Therefore, we are asking you to join us in opposing any effort to curtail the existing rights and prerogatives of Senators to engage in full, robust, and extended debate as we consider legislation before this body in the future.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Collins, Orrin Hatch, Claire McCaskill, Lisa Murkowski, Christopher A. Coons, Joe Manchin, III, John McCain, Patrick J. Leahy, Roger F. Wicker, Luther Strange, Angus S. King, Jr., Michael F. Bennet, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, John Boozman, Lindsey Graham, Richard Burr, Mark R. Warner, Jerry Moran.

Roy Blunt, Marco Rubio, Jeanne Shaheen, Thom Tillis, Sherrod Brown, Shelley Moore Capito, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Brian Schatz, Michael B. Enzi, Dean Heller, Cory A. Booker, Mazie Hirono, Dianne Feinstein, John Thune, Bill Cassidy, Heidi Heitkamp, Jeff Flake, Chuck Grassley, Maria Cantwell, Rob Portman.

Lamar Alexander, John Kennedy, Jon Tester, Thomas R. Carper, Pat Roberts, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, Thad Cochran, Joe Donnelly, Ben

Sasse, Todd Young, Kamala D. Harris, Bill Nelson, Johnny Isakson, Edward J. Markey, Mike Lee, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert Menendez, Tim Kaine.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Over 60 Senators in the U.S. Senate—the majority of Republicans and the majority of Democrats—sent this letter to who was then leadership of the Senate, writing, in essence: Don't change the legislative filibuster.

A bunch of Democrats and a bunch of Republicans—I was going to read the names, but they know who they are—the majority on both sides in this body, from both parties, in 2017 said: Don't change it. This shouldn't be something the U.S. Senate changes.

Part of the reason this was going on was that, at the time, then-President Trump was pressing Senators, particularly Majority Leader McConnell, to change the filibuster. The filibuster requires 60 votes to move legislation in the Senate. It requires compromise. It requires bipartisanship. It is what makes us different from the House. At the time, then-Republican President Trump was saying: Change it. I want legislation to move more quickly.

The Republicans and then-Majority Leader McConnell said that it was not a good idea. As a matter of fact, most of us said that it was not a good idea, so we didn't do anything. We didn't change it because we didn't want to change the nature of the U.S. Senate.

This is one of the issues being discussed right now, but it shouldn't be a difficult issue because, as I said, the vast majority of Senators in this body, a couple of years ago, said: Don't do it. We don't want the Senate to just become a smaller version of the House, because that is what would happen if you were to get rid of the legislative filibuster.

I do want to extend my congratulations to the new majority leader as of yesterday, Senator Schumer, but to the new majority leader: This should not be a difficult issue. This should not be something that we are having a problem with in terms of the negotiations between the Democrats and the Republicans that delays the power-sharing agreement. This should be a piece of cake. Just a couple of years ago, the vast majority of Democrats and Republicans said: Don't change the legislative filibuster. We want to make sure that remains the case.

I think, for the new majority leader, this would be an act of statesmanship, an act of compromise, and would certainly make the statement that he is going to keep the Senate the same as it has been for decades, for centuries. Changing the legislative filibuster would change the entire structure, history, and precedent of this very important body in our country, so it shouldn't be hard. The vast majority of the Democrats and Republicans has already agreed to this.

To our new majority leader: Do what you know is right—an act of statesmanship and compromise. We have all

been talking about it. It should not be a difficult decision, particularly given that so many Senators on both sides of the aisle feel strongly enough to have written Senator Schumer and Senator McConnell just a couple of years ago on this.

To all of my colleagues who signed that letter—you know who you are—make sure you are pressing the new majority leader to stick to what you pressed him on just a couple of years ago. It is important.

NOMINATION OF LLOYD JAMES AUSTIN

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I also want to talk about another important issue, and that is President Biden's nomination for the very important job of Secretary of Defense, Mr. Lloyd Austin. We are going to be voting on his nomination here on the Senate floor in a couple of hours.

I had the honor of introducing Mr. Austin just 2 days ago at his confirmation hearing, and I thought the confirmation hearing went well. So I want to talk a little bit about Mr. Austin before we take what will essentially be two important votes for his confirmation.

Now, the last time I was actually on the floor of the U.S. Senate, our Capitol was under siege, and from a foreign policy and national security perspective, America's authoritarian rivals have been gloating over what happened on that day. They have been reveling in our disunity. Democracy brings chaos, they tell their people. It is better to have a strong hand that keeps order. Well, as you know, we do live in an imperfect democracy, no doubt, and the American I was honored to introduce at the Armed Services hearing the other day, Mr. Lloyd Austin, understands our imperfections more than many.

Yet, on closer inspection, the world's dictators have little to celebrate. Congress went back to work on January 6, right here on the Senate floor, to count electoral votes, and yesterday there was a peaceful transfer of power at the top of our government, as there has been since our Republic's founding.

At some point—maybe sooner than we think—Chinese and Russian citizens are going to ask: Hey, why can't we do that? Why don't we have strong, resilient institutions that ensure the regular elections of new leaders and that invest in self-government and the people?

When these citizens ask these questions of authoritarians like Putin or Xi Jinping, they are not going to be gloating anymore because they won't have answers to these questions.

So what does this all have to do with Mr. Lloyd Austin? A lot. Mr. Austin has been nominated to lead one of America's most trusted institutions—the Department of Defense. Many of us have worked hard over the last few years to rebuild our military's strength

and readiness, but I think we can all agree that there has been too much turmoil at the top at the Pentagon. As its civilian leader, I am confident that Mr. Austin will bring steadiness, leadership, and respect to this indispensable American institution.

I got to know Mr. Austin in 2005 and 2006 while serving together in an Army-heavy combatant command as we conducted combat operations throughout the Middle East. We had what might be referred to today as an unequal power relationship. He was a two-star general. I was a major. He had spent years on Active Duty. I was a reservist. He was a soldier. I was a marine. I was just one of hundreds of field-grade infantry officers who had been recalled to Active Duty and deployed in the region during a challenging time for our Nation. Yet, when I asked for his time, Mr. Austin gave it. When I had a problem, he listened. When I asked for help on an important mission, he provided it.

A critical hallmark of exceptional leadership, especially for organizations like the Pentagon, is not just how one treats superiors but how one treats subordinates, those down the chain of command. What I saw was respect and integrity and someone who knew how to get things done in a difficult environment.

It is clear to me the core principles of Mr. Austin's life have been duty, honor, country. West Point has done its job. Now, that may sound quaint to some, but I think having individuals of impeccable character at the top of our government is more important than ever. Other than integrity, there is no singular requirement for the difficult job of Secretary of Defense, and as the former Director of the Joint Staff and as the former CENTCOM Commander, Mr. Austin certainly has insight on critical issues, such as interagency budget battles, working with allies, and congressional oversight.

Mr. Austin is also fully committed to the constitutional principle of civilian control of our military—something that those who serve in uniform typically understand and revere more than those who don't. In that regard, you may recall that, about 10 days ago, we had a hearing in the Committee on Armed Services on this very important topic, but I actually thought some of the witnesses had rather simplistic views of this important issue.

They had brought up topics and discussions of so-called "military logic" by those who wear the uniform versus "political logic" for those who don't wear the uniform.

So let me play devil's advocate for those who participated and watched that hearing.

The very nature of the confirmation hearing that we had with Mr. Austin just 2 days ago and, indeed, the very nature of the transfer of power that we saw yesterday here at the Capitol are evidence, in my view, that the civilian control of the military is not at risk in

America. I actually believe the related but opposite problem should be of more concern today, at this moment, and that problem is no military experience in the top ranks of our government. With the exception of Mr. Austin, no nominee on the incoming Biden administration's national security team has ever served in uniform. With regard to the entire Biden Cabinet, only one other nominee has any military experience at all. This is not wise.

If confirmed, I am sure I won't agree with all of Mr. Austin's decisions, but when the inevitable budget battles occur, it will be critical for our Nation's security and, very importantly, the military members and their families who serve to have a Secretary of Defense who understands firsthand the very real morale and readiness problems that result from drastic cuts to our military—something, unfortunately, I think many of my colleagues here in the Senate will be pushing for and even members of the Biden administration will be pushing for.

So let me conclude with this. Right now, a number of us are interviewing Cabinet members for confirmation for the incoming Biden administration. I anticipate opposing some, supporting others. Certainly, I anticipate opposing some if I believe they will hurt the working families of my State. But with regard to Mr. Austin, I am fully supporting his nomination.

We are living through difficult times—a pandemic, racial tensions, riots, turmoil at the top of the Pentagon, and rising dangers from China, Russia, and Iran. Mr. Austin's confirmation won't solve all of these problems, but it will help.

He represents the best of America—a man of integrity, humility, and character, with a wealth of relevant experience. Our allies will take comfort in his confirmation, and our adversaries will take pause. And as America's first African-American Secretary of Defense, he will be an inspiration to millions both in and out of uniform.

For all of these reasons, I strongly urge my colleagues to support Mr. Austin's confirmation and the waiver in Federal law that it requires.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I can say with certainty that General Austin has no better friend or ally in this Chamber than Senator DAN SULLIVAN, who has seen him as a person and seen him as a commander.

Those votes will occur later today.

Madam President, I rise today on the floor to talk about what happened yesterday at the Capitol and what happened 2 weeks ago at the Capitol.

Yesterday, we had the 59th Presidential inauguration right here. The citadel of democracy was once again

the place where a President and Vice President were sworn in for 4 years.

Starting in 1789, every 4 years, America and the world have witnessed this remarkable event that provides for the peaceful transfer of Executive power and the continuity of government—something we sometimes take for granted but is rare, even today. It has happened through wars. It has happened through economic recessions. We have had our inaugurations today and during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

What is more, the inauguration took place 2 weeks to the day on the very west steps of the United States Capitol where a violent mob stormed this building, desecrating these halls, and tried to stop our constitutionally mandated deliberations in this body.

It was the ninth inauguration ceremony I have attended. I was proud to be there as President Biden and Vice President HARRIS were sworn in.

I am here on the floor today to thank the Capitol Police and other law enforcement agencies, including the Secret Service and its Director, Jim Murray, who took the lead on this national special security event to ensure that things went smoothly and that we, indeed, had a peaceful transfer of power.

I also want to give special thanks to the men and women of the National Guard, who worked to ensure this ceremony was safe and secure. Over the past 2 weeks, 25,000 National Guard troops from across the country, including all 50 States and 3 territories, answered the call, leaving their families and friends and, for most, leaving their regular jobs to help defend this sacred celebration of democracy that occurred at this place yesterday.

This number of 25,000 troops includes nearly 1,000 guardsmen from my home State of Ohio. I had the opportunity to meet with a couple hundred of these citizen soldiers from Ohio yesterday. I was able to tell them how much we appreciate their commitment to the mission and what they have done, truly, to protect democracy and to help our Capitol Police during a stressful time. Because of their efforts, the ceremony was safe for everyone in attendance, and we were able to proceed with this transfer of power.

When I thanked them, they all told me the same thing—they were just doing their duty. They were proud to be here. They were protecting their country and their fellow citizens.

I have seen this firsthand over the years when I have visited Ohio National Guard installations around our State, including the Mansfield Air Base, the Toledo Air Base, the Springfield Air Base, Rickenbacker Air National Guard.

During this pandemic, when more Americans than ever are facing severe food insecurity, I have had the chance to hand out food with members of the Ohio Army National Guard who have been working around the clock at food banks I have been at, like Greater

Cleveland Food Bank or Central Ohio Food Bank. They are working hard alongside volunteers to respond to a true crisis.

But that is not all. The Ohio National Guard has played an essential role in providing critical assistance to our prisons and our jails when guards were out with the COVID virus. They have helped with testing. They have helped to get the COVID-19 vaccines distributed across our State, and they are continuing to do that. We can't thank them enough for what they have done during this time of crisis.

As I have visited with the Guard this week, both with regard to the Ohio members and Guard from all over the country, including some conversations I had this morning, I have told them all what I have heard from the Capitol Police this week. I have heard that they really appreciated the backup at a time when shifts have been long, sleep has been rare, and the effects of the attack on the Capitol are still acutely felt.

It has been a tough 2 weeks on our Capitol police officers. It has been a tough 2 weeks since the attack on the Capitol.

I want to take this opportunity to also express the gratitude of all of us in this Chamber and all Americans to the Capitol Police for bravely holding the line against an illegal, violent mob that threatened this building, our proceedings, and our colleagues.

In effect, the men and women of the Capitol Police Force put their lives on the line to defend democracy. It is that simple.

As I said on this floor that terrible night 2 weeks ago, it was because of their courage that we were safe and because of their courage that we were able to demonstrate to the American people and the world that we were going to accomplish our constitutional duty of certifying the election. They allowed us to do that.

As a Congress, we have begun a complete, impartial, and nonpartisan investigation into what went wrong that day. I am working across the Senate with the committees of jurisdiction—the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, where I will be the ranking Republican, the Rules Committee, the Appropriations Committee, and the Intelligence Committee to ensure that our Capitol Police are never put in that kind of position again. We are performing oversight to ensure they have what they need to be able to protect the Capitol going forward.

Without prejudging our investigation, we must consider what reforms need to be made and take a hard look at the physical security of our Capitol Complex. While these buildings must remain accessible to the people, we need to look at incorporating the best practices in physical security, to include shatterproof windows and doors that can't be easily breached. This will

cost money, but it is absolutely necessary, based on what happened on the 6th of January.

I look forward to helping lead this bipartisan effort, and I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join in.

Again, I don't want to prejudge our review, but I know among the findings we will make is a finding that the officers on the line were heroic, and those officers deserve our gratitude.

We must never forget those who lost their lives that night, including a law enforcement officer and member of the Capitol Police, Officer Brian Sicknick, who, since 2008, had patrolled these halls and had been a familiar face to many of us. He was tragically killed defending this Capitol. He gave his life in heroic defense of us and our democracy.

Only a couple of days after the attack, I learned the tragic news that we lost another officer, a friend, Officer Howard Liebengood. Howie was on duty the day the Capitol was attacked and responded to the attack just as his many brave comrades did. He experienced some difficult experiences that night. I was devastated to learn of his death the next day.

Howie was someone I used to see almost every day. He was usually stationed in the Russell Building, where my office is located. He was an utmost professional—someone who took great pride in his work and had an ironclad commitment to keeping people safe. His dad was Sergeant at Arms here at one time.

He brightened my day every time I saw him. The last time was a few weeks ago, when he was standing guard outside the doors to the Russell Building, alone in the cold, alert, vigilant, and good-humored.

Today I reread a letter that I wrote to the Chief of the Capitol Police several years ago, commending the exceptional work of Howie and his partner, Chris Gallo, for their "professionalism, coupled with their kind demeanor."

Howie represented what is great and good about not just our police force but our country.

Rest in peace, Officer Brian Sicknick and Officer Howard Liebengood.

Through the tragedy of that day 2 weeks ago came other stories of bravery and valor too. We have heard about the heroic actions of Officer Eugene Goodman, an Army veteran whose quick thinking under intense pressure protected us here in this Senate Chamber by leading the mob away from the Chamber while many of us were still inside.

He unselfishly put himself in danger and, despite the risk, handled himself with the professionalism that defines the Capitol Police, and I was pleased to see his promotion.

Officer Goodman's heroic efforts are, to me, representative of the actions of all the brave officers of the Capitol Police, who, on that day of violence and lawlessness, held the line against the mob.

I am proud of another member of the Capitol Police. This is the supervisor. Inspector Tommy Lloyd is commander of the Capitol division—as compared to the House and the Senate, commander of the division to protect the Capitol itself.

This is a powerful photograph that I saw in *TIME* magazine. It is a photograph of him facing the mob, shoulder to shoulder with his line officers.

The Capitol was breached, but because of the valor of these men and women, we were able to complete our job and are able to be here today, discussing the workings of our democracy, confirming members of the new administration, doing our job.

The actions of law enforcement in the Capitol should serve as a reminder to all of us of the risks our police officers take every single day to keep us safe—not just here in the Capitol but around the country. On Monday, for example, the city of Toledo, OH, lost one of its own when Officer Brandon Stalker of the Toledo Police Department was killed in a standoff with a gunman. Officer Stalker, only 24 years old, was the father of two young children and engaged to be married. He had a promising life ahead of him. My thoughts are with the friends and families of Officer Stalker and the friends and families of Officers Sicknick and Liebengood during this difficult time.

Even with all the threats and challenges they face, our officers of the law here and around the country carry on in their duties to protect and to serve. They are truly the best of America. Officer Stalker's fellow officers will continue to patrol the streets of Toledo to keep its citizens safe. Yesterday, despite the hardships they have faced, the Capitol Police, once again, lined the Halls of Congress, keeping watch over the inauguration of the next President and Vice President of the United States.

Together, the National Guard, the Capitol Police, the Secret Service, and other law enforcement protected a Presidential inauguration that was at once like none other in recent memory, and yet also a continuation of a long and great tradition—an unbroken chain of peacefully transferring power that our Nation has cherished since 1789. They did their duty, as they do every day, in defense of the values we Americans hold dearest—democracy, liberty, rule of law—and we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 335

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I will be, in a moment, asking for unanimous consent that we do the waiver on the Secretary of Defense, and we will vote on that relatively shortly, the Members should be aware.

So, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate re-

ceives H.R. 335 from the House, that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that there be 30 minutes for debate; that the bill be considered read a third time; and that the Senate vote on the passage of the bill, with 60 affirmative votes required for passage; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, just to clarify for the Members, we expect this vote to occur sometime within the next hour.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROVIDING FOR AN EXCEPTION TO A LIMITATION AGAINST APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WITHIN SEVEN YEARS OF RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to consideration of H.R. 335, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 335) to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be up to 30 minutes of debate on the bill.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today in opposition of the legislative waiver for the nominee to become the next Secretary of Defense.

Since the inception of our Republic, civilian control of our military by democratically-elected civilians has been fundamental to American Government. This principle was firmly established as General George Washington famously resigned his commission to the Continental Congress in 1783, when he might have easily positioned himself as the leader of the fledgling American Government instead. With this bedrock principle in mind, Congress in 1947 established a limitation on former military generals serving as Secretary of Defense without a sufficient number of years in civilian life. Today, Active-duty military members must have been retired for at least 7 years before becoming eligible to serve as Defense Secretary.

Four years ago, despite great concern for what I saw as an erosion of the principle of civilian control of our military, I voted in support of granting a "one-time exception" to the statutory requirement for the confirmation of Gen. James Mattis. Until Congress

granted a waiver of this requirement in 2017 for General Mattis, Congress had approved a waiver only once before, in 1950 for General George Marshall. With the nomination of Gen. Lloyd Austin, what I had thought would be a once-in-a-generation waiver in 2017 now appears to be the start of an unwelcome trend.

To be clear, I do not believe that General Austin himself poses a specific risk to the civilian control of our military. By all accounts, he is a dedicated public servant and patriot with more than 40 years of successful military service. However, I do not believe that President Biden has offered a strong enough justification for granting another legislative waiver in so short a time.

Should a waiver for his service be approved over my objections, which appears likely to occur, I intend to support General Austin's nomination based on his merits and qualifications. Over the course of his long and distinguished career, including as commander of U.S. Central Command during one of the region's most challenging periods for the United States, he has served with professionalism and diligence and has earned the trust of President Biden.

General Austin has committed to uphold the principle of civilian control of the military and pledged to ensure civilian leadership and oversight over the Pentagon's strategic and operational planning. I commend General Austin for once again answering the call to serve, and I look forward to working with him to rebalance our civil-military relations toward civilian control.

In November 2018, the congressionally appointed National Defense Strategy Commission concluded that, "There is an imbalance in civil-military relations on critical issues of strategy development and implementation. Civilian voices appear relatively muted on issues at the center of U.S. defense and national security policy." Losing this civilian perspective can have profound, long-term strategic impacts on the Pentagon and our national security policy.

There are many reasons for this trend toward unbalanced civil-military relations in recent years, including the failure of the prior administration to adequately fill Senate-confirmed positions at the Pentagon, instead relying on acting officials with limited ability to assert themselves within the department.

We have also seen a troubling increase in the politicization of our military. For example, hundreds of retired generals and admirals signed public letters of support for Presidential candidates in 2020, with both campaigns competing for the most military endorsements. That was coupled with a growing trend toward political expression among the ranks on social media and elsewhere; in at least one instance, servicemembers in uniform were featured at one of the national Presidential nominating conventions. It is

imperative that military officers do not come to view their commands as auditions for future political appointments or opportunities to curry favor with civilian political leaders.

As Dr. Lindsay Cohn, a professor at the U.S. Naval War College, stated during the recent Senate Armed Services Committee hearing examining civilian control of the Armed Forces, civilian control of our military is not necessarily an on-off switch. It is a web of institutions, norms, practices, and understandings which can be weakened or strengthened. Recently, we have begun to see the principle of civilian control of the military weakened and degraded.

In my view, Congress must not simply acquiesce to that growing trend. I do not believe it would be wise to allow the exception to swallow the rule when it comes to such a foundational principle of our Republic as civilian control of the military.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I rise today to once again oppose a waiver to bypass U.S. law and allow a recently retired member of Armed Forces to serve as our Secretary of Defense. On the merits, I support the nomination of Lloyd Austin, and I believe that Mr. Austin is highly qualified for this role. However, the importance of civilian leadership at the Department of Defense is greater than any individual nominee.

The subordination of military authority to civil authority is a bedrock principle of our democracy. In 2017, when I voted against a waiver to allow James Mattis to serve as Secretary of Defense, I stressed that our Founders' emphasis on civilian leadership distinguished the young United States from the other nations of the time. I also noted that in enacting the exception for General Marshall in 1950, Congress expressly stated that: "the authority granted by this Act is not to be construed as approval by the Congress of continuing appointments of military men to the office of Secretary of Defense in the future. It is hereby expressed as the sense of the Congress that after General Marshall leaves the office of secretary of defense, no additional appointments of military men to that office shall be approved."

I still believe that the 7-year waiting period is a valuable practice—one of many—that preserves our Nation's long tradition of placing civilian authority above military authority. In 2017, I said "should Congress vote to waive this law at this moment in time, I will review the nomination [. . .] on its individual merits." And I intend to apply my words then to my actions now and will consider Mr. Austin's nomination on its merits when it comes to the floor for a vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I would ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will read the title of the bill for the third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill, having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. REED. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 4 Leg.]

YEAS—69

Bennet	Hagerty	Paul
Blunt	Hassan	Peters
Boozman	Heinrich	Portman
Braun	Hickenlooper	Reed
Brown	Hirono	Risch
Cantwell	Hoeven	Romney
Capito	Inhofe	Rounds
Cardin	Johnson	Sanders
Carper	Kaine	Schatz
Casey	Kelly	Schumer
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Coons	King	Shaheen
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Sinema
Crapo	Leahy	Smith
Cruz	Lujan	Stabenow
Daines	Manchin	Sullivan
Durbin	McConnell	Thune
Ernst	Menendez	Tuberville
Feinstein	Murkowski	Warner
Fischer	Murphy	Warnock
Graham	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Grassley	Padilla	Wicker

NAYS—27

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Rubio
Barrasso	Hawley	Sasse
Blackburn	Lee	Scott (FL)
Blumenthal	Lummis	Tester
Booker	Markey	Toomey
Collins	Marshall	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warren
Cotton	Murray	Wyden
Duckworth	Rosen	Young

NOT VOTING—4

Burr	Moran
Hyde-Smith	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the bill is passed.

Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The bill (H.R. 335) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business,

with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MICHAEL CARTER

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, for more than two decades, my friend Dr. Michael Carter has made Campbellsville University an oasis where students can answer their calling. Nestled in the heart of Taylor County, CU offers quality Christian higher education to thousands of future leaders. As the school's president, Michael accomplished one remarkable goal after another. He also set the university on a path toward long-term success. At the end of last year, Michael began a richly-earned retirement leaving behind a grateful university community. I would like to take a moment today to recognize my friend for his servant leadership and his lasting impact in Kentucky and beyond.

According to CU's board chair, Michael's leadership "forever transformed" the century-old school. I couldn't agree more. When Michael came to campus in 1999, the university was home to around 1,600 students and 74 full-time faculty. His tenure has seen the CU family grow to include more than 13,500 students and a record-setting freshman class despite the coronavirus pandemic. CU recently graduated its first class of Ph.D. students, marking a major milestone for the school's academic excellence. He also nearly tripled the faculty ranks with leading scholars and dedicated educators.

To accommodate the new students and faculty, Michael undertook an ambitious plan to grow CU's physical footprint. That plan—like everything at CU—was centered on faith. Michael embarked on the construction of a landmark chapel anchoring the entire community in its mission. Then, under the steeple of the new Ransdell Chapel, the growth has continued to surpass expectations.

CU's expansion wasn't limited to the city of Campbellsville, either. Michael oversaw the opening of eight additional centers of learning in Kentucky and around the country. The university was even approved for a new international arm in Ontario. Today, CU properties account for 1.1 million square feet, giving it the ability to serve current students with plenty of space to expand its reach.

In each of my visits to the school, I have been impressed by the remarkable development under Michael's leadership. From its 850 student athletes to a \$137 million economic impact in Taylor County, Michael has helped CU reach previously unbelievable heights. With the rest of his all-star leadership team, including my friend Dr. John Chowning, Michael drove the school's growth while keeping focus on an unmatched student experience.

When CU bid farewell to its president, the community also said goodbye

to its consequential first lady. Debbie Carter has a long list of accomplishments in her own right. She took a leadership role in securing a national accreditation for CU's Carver School of Social Work. She was also a driving force to create pathways for students with financial needs to attend CU. Michael and Debbie made an incredible team that changed this university and our Commonwealth for years to come.

Whatever the future holds in store for Michael and Debbie, I would like to wish them the very best. They leave office with the sincere gratitude of a university community made better by two decades of devotion. I encourage my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Michael Carter for his leadership at Campbellsville University.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL, RET. ARTHUR T. DEAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I would like to recognize the retirement of MG Arthur Dean as CEO and executive chairman of Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, known as CADCA. MG Arthur T. Dean, U.S. Army, Retired, came from humble beginnings in North Carolina to rise to the highest, most distinguished levels of military service, where he retired after 31 years at the grade of major general. He possesses numerous military awards, with the highest being two awards of the U.S. Army Distinguished Service Medal.

I have had the honor to work with CADCA for many years and have long supported their efforts to prevent drug abuse. For instance, I supported and led efforts to create the Drug Free Communities Program in 1997.

Major General Dean began his career as CEO and board chair at CADCA in 1998, so we have had the pleasure of working on anti-drug efforts for over 20 years. I applaud him in his well-deserved retirement.

Over the past 23 years of service, I have had the pleasure to witness General Dean use his superior leadership, diplomatic skills, and passion to build CADCA into a world-class organization. Under his leadership, the Drug Free Communities Program has grown, and now over 2,000 communities benefit from these grants.

General Dean is a leader with vision, compassion, and a steely determination to ensure that substance use prevention remains a national priority so the next generation of Americans can grow up safe, healthy and drug free.

General Dean has been an outstanding leader of CADCA. His legacy will be one of progress and dedication towards reducing rates of youth substance use and misuse.

I want to thank General Dean for his dedicated and exceptional service to our Nation, both as a military and civilian leader, and wish him well in his much-deserved retirement.

CONFIRMATION OF AVRIL DANICA HAINES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I today rise in support of the nomination of Ms. Avril Haines as the Director of National Intelligence.

Last night, the Senate overwhelming voted to confirm Ms. Avril Haines as the Director of National Intelligence with a vote of 84-10.

I voted in support of Director Haines as I believe her to be a highly-qualified professional with the trust and mandate by President Biden to be a strong leader and reinstall stability and objectivity to the intelligence community.

She has pledged to defend and uphold our democracy, our freedoms and our values by ensuring there is simply no place for politics ever when it comes to intelligence.

It is clear from her background that Ms. Haines has the experience necessary to be an effective DNI.

She has served as both the Deputy Director of CIA and as Deputy National Security Advisor to President Obama, along with other positions in the White House and Congress.

Her nearly 20 years of experience in national security, intelligence, and foreign policy matters gives her valuable insight into the many challenges facing the intelligence community and makes her a great choice for Director of National Intelligence.

Based on my conversations with Director Haines and her testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, I am fully confident she has what it takes to put the IC on the right path.

During her confirmation hearing on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, Director Haines outlined her top three priorities: No. 1, strengthening the institution including increasing trust and credibility with analytic objectivity; No. 2, better aligning IC efforts and resources to the major threats we are facing such as China and transnational threats; and No. 3, building better partnerships Congress, academia, the private sector, U.S. State and local officials, and with other countries.

I strongly agree on these significant priorities and look forward to periodically receiving updates from her on these.

Furthermore, I thank her for her clearly stated position that waterboarding is, in fact, torture and that the CIA's former interrogation program's enhanced interrogation techniques included torture.

In short, she is the ideal candidate to head the intelligence community at a time when we face numerous crisis threatening our national security.

She inherits an intelligence community beset by challenges, and I look forward to working with her to protect the American people.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, the Director of National Intelligence must demonstrate commitment to restraining the vast power of our intelligence agencies. They should not view themselves as an enabler or facilitator of

agencies that already operate without public scrutiny. We do not need another Washington insider in this position, someone who will go along to get along, helping to further the expansion of secret government powers.

What we need is someone who is a skeptic of these powers. After years of revelations of government spying on Americans and the exposure of the unconstitutional applications of these powers, I had hoped that the President would submit a nominee that understands the importance of regaining the public's trust, to pledge transparency and accountability.

The President's nominee, Avril Haines, does not meet that profile. She played a key role in formulating the government's legal authority to conduct summary executions by drone and was reportedly summoned in the middle of the night to approve lethal drone strikes. As Deputy Director of the CIA, she declined to punish any of the CIA employees who spied on the Senate as it was investigating the CIA's torture programs. Her record is that of an insider, someone who will defend the broken status quo. I will not support more of the same unconstitutional policies, and I oppose her confirmation.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR ELECTION INTEGRITY

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, along with my colleague Senator MIKE CRAPO, I rise today to ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the mission statement for the Citizens Committee for Election Integrity and their recommended minimum standards for fair and honest elections. Idahoans concerned about election integrity formed the Citizens Committee for Election Integrity to demonstrate the meaning of the Constitution by helping ensure the voices of "We the people" are heard.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

The Citizens Committee for Election Integrity's mission statement reads as follows:

All political power rests with the people.

Our Constitutionally guaranteed republican form of government relies on free, fair, and honest elections to select our representatives and leaders.

To ensure equal protection and equal representation of the people, laws governing our elections must meet certain minimum standards.

It is the purpose of this Citizens Committee to concisely articulate the minimum standards for free, fair, and honest elections. These standards shall then be used by our local, state and federal legislators as a metric for reviewing and revising election law to ensure free, fair, and honest elections where the outcome is accepted by all citizens of good will.

On January 2, 2021, the committee met at the Idaho State Capitol to recommend the following minimum standards for fair and honest elections:

Our Constitutionally guaranteed republican form of government relies on free, fair,

and honest elections to select our representatives and leaders.

The standards listed here shall be used by our local, state and federal legislators as a metric for reviewing and revising election law to ensure free, fair, and honest elections where the outcome is accepted by all citizens of good will.

1. All voting processes, other than those needed to preserve the privacy of a citizen's vote, must be open and available for direct observation, with no minimum distance requirements, and audit by agents of the candidates or parties.

2. All election materials must have a secure chain of custody at all times. Election officials must be accompanied by observers when accessing any election materials. Records of the chain of custody shall be complete and available for audit.

3. All votes, regardless of voting method, shall be held to equal standards.

4. Voters shall only be qualified electors that are able to verifiably provide their government issued photo identity before being issued a ballot. Voters who provide false information, including information of voter qualification, should face severe penalties.

5. As a condition of being issued a ballot, the voter's identity and signature must be recorded in a permanent record (Poll Book).

6. Original Ballots must have a physical form that allows voting choices to be examined and properly interpreted by the naked eye.

7. Ballots must have features designed to prevent counterfeiting.

8. An auditable system for tracking the status of all ballots must be implemented and maintained in the State of origin. The total number of printed ballots must equal the sum of the number of cast ballots, spoiled ballots, and unvoted ballots.

9. Ballot tabulation must be conducted by two independent and unrelated systems. The difference in totals between the two systems must be less than one half the margin of victory or 0.1% of the vote total, whichever is less. Tabulating machines must only tabulate and not modify ballots in any way, or be connected to the internet.

10. Before the results of an election can be certified, the ballot counts must be reconciled with the voter records. The margin of uncertainty must be less than one half the margin of victory or 0.1% of the vote total, whichever is less.

11. Lists of qualified electors must be purged of unqualified persons 180 days before an election. Voter Rolls should be vetted and compared with available government records to identify duplicate or ineligible registrations.

12. Laws and regulations governing an election may not be changed for 180 days prior to that election.

13. All election records should be retained and preserved for not less than 22 months.

14. Voter identification for provisional ballots must be verified, with information provided by the voter, prior to that ballot being counted.

REMEMBERING HENRY H.R. "HANK" COE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, the 2021 General Session of the Wyoming Legislature got underway. Noticeably absent from the first day of the session was State Senator Henry H.R. "Hank" Coe. Hank had been present in Cheyenne for the first day of the annual legislative session for 32 consecutive years.

In March of 2020, on the last day of the 2020 Wyoming legislative session,

Hank announced his plan to retire. Senator Coe represented the people of Park County from 1988 to 2020.

Hank was a respected and effective legislator. He earned a reputation for being a kind, thoughtful, persuasive legislator of great integrity.

Hank always had a remarkable grasp of the issues facing the state and his home community. He could see short and long-term needs and offer solutions to address those needs.

During his time in the legislature, Senator Coe served on numerous committees, was elected as majority floor leader, and, in 2001, served as president of the senate.

For 17 years, Hank proudly served as the chair of the senate education committee. He was a strong proponent of local control and high-quality education.

Hank showed students that through hard work and dedication to their studies, there was a world of opportunities within their reach. He understood the importance of investing in our young people, recognizing their achievements, and providing them with the tools needed to succeed.

When I served in the Wyoming State Senate, I had the great honor of working with Hank Coe on one of our proudest legislative initiatives, the creation of the Hathaway scholarship program.

We were able to create a scholarship fund with a \$400 million permanent endowment. Income from the fund continues to fund scholarships for Wyoming high school graduates today. The Hathaway scholarship program allows every Wyoming student, regardless of economic background, to qualify for a merit-based scholarship to attend the University of Wyoming or any of our State's seven community colleges.

Senator Coe's leadership was a driving force behind passage of this legislation. Thousands of Wyoming students without the resources to obtain a college education have benefited from this scholarship.

Hank's contribution to public service extended far beyond Wyoming's capitol. He was a mentor to many in his hometown of Cody. He participated fully on local boards and committees. The Cody Chamber of Commerce, Cody Medical Foundation, Cody Yellowstone Air Service, Wyoming Air Service, Buffalo Bill Museum of the West, and the Park County Commissioners all benefited from Hank's committed service.

When Hank retired, he released the following statement, which was printed in the Cody Enterprise on March 13, 2020:

"The Wyoming Legislature continues to be one of the most effective and civil deliberate bodies in the nation. It is my sincere hope that this tradition will continue and Wyoming can be an example to the rest of the nation," said Coe. "Serving in the Senate has been a true honor and a privilege. I'm eternally grateful to the people of Park County who put their faith in me to represent them for so many years. To my community, friends, family, fellow lawmakers and the exceptional legislative staff, I say thank you."

Hank had a calling to serve. He took that calling and ran with it. His life's work has made a difference in the lives of the people in Park County and in every corner of our great State. History will look kindly upon the contributions and achievements of Hank Coe.

Hank passed away today, January 21, 2021. He leaves behind a remarkable legacy, and he will be greatly missed by a grateful State. To Hank's entire family, especially his children and grandchildren: son H.R. and grandson Henry, daughter Carey Coe Johnson and husband Jeff and grandchildren Madeline, Jagger, and Jrakke, and daughter Bethany Coe Boydston and grandchildren, Jackson, Tyler and Lily—our prayers and well wishes are with you.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the remarkable life of Hank Coe. His dedication to service will have a profound impact on our state for generations. Thank you Hank.

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, today I am pleased to recognize Senator Henry "Hank" Coe, who has retired from the Wyoming State Senate after 31 years of dedicated service and over 40 years of public service to Wyoming.

A Cody, WY native, Senator Coe has shown his dedication and love for the State of Wyoming and willingness to serve its citizens. Hank was first elected to the Wyoming Senate in 1989 and served with distinction for over three decades. During his tenure in the Wyoming Senate, Senator Coe served as vice president of the senate from 1997 to 1998; senate majority floor leader from 1999 to 2000; and as president of the senate from 2001 to 2002.

Senator Coe was chairman of the Travel, Recreation and Wildlife Committee from 1992 to 1998, where he worked to grow the tourism industry into one of Wyoming's largest industries. He also served on the Education Committee from 2003 to 2019, working to ensure that Wyoming's children had the tools they need to succeed. These are just a few of the many roles to which Senator Coe brought his passion and expertise, and represent a cornerstone of Wyoming public policy. Prior to joining the Wyoming Senate, Senator Coe served 8 years as a Park County commissioner, and in honor of his service, the commissioners have declared April 29 "Hank Coe Day" in Park County, WY.

Senator Coe's service to our great State goes beyond his work as an elected official. He was a respected member of his community. He was a member of the Volunteer Fire Department, a trustee for the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, a member of the Wyoming Business Alliance, an advisor for the Regional Airport board, and much more.

I had the honor of serving with Senator Coe during my time in the Wyoming Legislature. Our desks were right across the aisle from one another on

the Senate floor, and we enjoyed playing subtle pranks on each other. I will also cherish many evenings at the home of his extraordinary mother, Peg Coe, retiring to the den of her sprawling home for drinks and unforgettable conversation. The Coes are a one of a kind but quintessential Wyoming family of the highest order.

Senator Coe passed away today, but I have no doubt he will be an example for generations to come of a dedicated public servant, a model of humility, and a true beacon for the values Wyoming holds dear.

Thank you, Senator Coe for your years of tireless service to Wyoming and for your friendship. I send your family my condolences. God bless.

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADMIRAL FREDERICK J. "FRITZ" ROEGGE

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, today I honor a superb leader and warrior. I have had the privilege of associating with VADM Fritz Roegge both personally and professionally over many years, and it has been my pleasure to do so. After 40 years of uniformed service, Vice Admiral Roegge will be retiring from the U.S. Navy. On this occasion, I believe it is fitting to recognize his distinguished service and dedication to our Navy.

Vice Admiral Roegge is an honors graduate of the University of Minnesota with a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering and was commissioned through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program. He went on to earn a master of science in engineering management from the Catholic University of America and a master of arts with highest distinction in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College. He was a fellow of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI program and of the Harvard Kennedy School program for Senior Executives in National and International Security.

His sea tours include USS *Whale* (SSN 638), USS *Florida* (SSBN 728) (Blue), USS *Key West* (SSN 722), and most prominently, command of USS *Connecticut* (SSN 22). His major command was as commodore of Submarine Squadron 22, with additional duty as commanding officer, Naval Support Activity La Maddalena, Italy.

Ashore, he has served on the staffs of both the Atlantic and Pacific Submarine Force commanders, on the staff of the Director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion, on the Navy staff in the Assessments Division (N81) and the Military Personnel Plans and Policy Division (N13), in the Secretary of the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs at the U.S. House of Representatives, as the head of the Submarine and Nuclear Power Distribution Division (PERS 42) at the Navy Personnel Command, and as an assistant deputy director on the Joint Staff in both the Strategy and Policy (J5) and the Regional Operations (J33) Directorates.

Vice Admiral Roegge completed his first flag officer assignment as the deputy commander, Joint Functional Component Command for Global Strike at U.S. Strategic Command. He then served concurrently as commander, Submarine Group 8; commander, Submarines, Allied Naval Forces South; deputy commander, U.S. 6th Fleet; and director of Operations and Intelligence (N3), U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa. As a rear admiral, he served on the Navy staff as director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy Division (N13) with a concurrent period as director, Total Force Manpower Division (N12) and then as commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Vice Admiral Roegge now culminates his career of service to the Navy and the Nation as the 16th president of the National Defense University (NDU). NDU is the university of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the premier Joint Professional Military Education institution in the Department of Defense. NDU's mission to develop joint warfighters and other national security leaders through rigorous academics, research, and engagement has never been more important to our Nation and its security.

I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to Vice Admiral Roegge for his outstanding leadership and unwavering support of the missions of the U.S. Navy. I want to recognize his supportive family, Mrs. Julie Roegge and their two sons, Alex and Will. I wish Vice Admiral Roegge and his family "fair winds and following seas."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF HOUSTON COUNTY

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I consider it an honor and a privilege to acknowledge for the official record Houston County, TN, sesquicentennial anniversary.

Each State is its own melting pot of history and culture, and Tennessee is no exception. In Houston County, the Irish roots of the pioneers who explored the Cumberland River run deep, having buried themselves in the rugged, foggy hills and creek beds that so resembled the founders' homeland.

First settled in the 1780s, the Houston County area served as a new frontier for early pioneers. What began as a small working settlement flourished into a community that bore witness at the crossroads of the Civil War, embraced the possibilities of crisscrossing railroads, and led the charge toward progress that we now look back on as a major industrial boom.

On January 21, 1871, the Tennessee legislature officially established Houston County, named in honor of Texas freedom fighter and the sixth Governor of Tennessee, Sam Houston. Since then, the people who call Houston County home have turned their little

piece of rural Tennessee into a beautiful place to live, work, and raise a family.

Congratulations are in order to the members of the Houston County Historical Society and, most importantly, to the citizens of Houston County. I ask my colleagues to join with me in wishing them another 150 years of progress and prosperity.●

REMEMBERING HELEN EUGENIA HAGAN

● Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, today I rise to recognize Ms. Helen Eugenia Hagan, a remarkable pianist and pioneer for BIPOC women in music.

Her passion for performing began at a young age, and Ms. Hagan became the organist for the Dixwell Avenue Congregational Church when she was around 11 years old. Ms. Hagan's talents earned her a spot at the Yale School of Music. In 1912, she was the first African-American woman to graduate from Yale University.

At the request of General John J. Pershing, Ms. Hagan traveled to France during World War I as part of a group led by preacher Henry H. Proctor. Ms. Hagan was the only Black performing artist sent to France during the war. Continuing to break barriers, she was also the first Black pianist to perform a recital at a New York concert venue. Ms. Hagan's compositions and concert work received outstanding praise. The then-Dean of the Yale School of Music credited Ms. Hagan with "rare promise," and critics commended her creativity and originality.

Struggling to find work during the Great Depression, she took graduate-level courses at Columbia University's Teachers College while still giving performances. In 1933, Ms. Hagan took a teaching position at Bishop College in Texas and gave private music lessons in New York. She remained committed to musical composition, performance, and education until her passing in 1964.

On February 6, 2021, the New Haven Symphony Orchestra will honor Ms. Hagan with a History Award. Alongside Yale University, the symphony has been dedicated to sharing the life story of this incredible woman, who performed her "Piano Concerto in C minor" with them in 1916. This award is a tribute to Ms. Hagan's extraordinary legacy, which will be enduring.

I applaud her many accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in remembering Ms. Helen Eugenia Hagan.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 335. An act to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of per-

sons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 5:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOYER) has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 335. An act to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-19. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of Foreign Terrorist Organizations designation of Lashkar/ISIL (OSS-2021-0015); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-20. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of Foreign Terrorist Organizations designation of Harakat (OSS-2021-0010); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-21. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of Foreign Terrorist Organizations designation of Ansarallah (OSS-2021-0011); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. 12. A bill to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Lloyd James Austin, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Defense.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It

has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 21, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

NOMINATION OF ANTONY BLINKEN

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I come to the floor today to urge the swift confirmation for Tony Blinken to be the Secretary of State.

Like we saw with Avril Haines yesterday and moving toward Lloyd Austin today, we need to hold a floor vote on Mr. Blinken's nomination urgently.

Mr. Blinken is well known to the Senate, having previously been confirmed as Deputy Secretary of State, having served as the Deputy National Security Advisor and, of course, as the staff director of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee before that.

He is superbly qualified to be the Secretary of State, and his knowledge and thoughtfulness were on display during 5 hours of testimony earlier this week. And since then, he has been asked to respond to hundreds of questions. As a matter of fact, he has had an inordinate number of questions that have been put to him for the record. He had nearly over half a hundred before his hearing. He has had from a couple of our colleagues nearly 600 questions, including multiple parts to those questions. And to my knowledge, he has largely answered them all, notwithstanding the size, the magnitude of it.

Now, I have been, since I arrived in this institution, one of the big advocates of the prerogatives of each and every individual Senator and of the institution. So I take a back step to no one, but there is a difference between prerogatives and prerogatives that are abused, which, in essence, are for the purpose of not seeking information but for the purpose of delaying a nomination.

Now, I appreciate that Senator RISCH, the present chairman of the committee, has been working with me to try to accelerate Mr. Blinken's nomination to the floor, but I would ask my colleagues, particularly those on the committee, to join him and I in an effort to bring one of the important national security positions in our government to the floor for a vote.

I don't think we should be leaving this weekend without a vote for the Secretary of State.

He is the right person to repair and restore our alliances, to rebuild and renew the State Department, to reinvigorate the relationship between the Department and Congress—something

that I think Republicans and Democrats alike have agreed have soured dramatically.

His testimony, his opening statement, his answers to questions show that he will be a working partner with this institution.

But, obviously, confirming Mr. Blinken is not just about the nominee himself. It is about doing what the American people expect and the Constitution requires—providing advice and consent to ensure that national security officials are in office in a timely manner.

We are facing challenges in every corner of the world. The world is on fire—from Iran to Russia, to Venezuela, to global challenges that define our times and defy borders, like COVID, migration, and climate change. We can't afford delaying to put Mr. Blinken in office. We can't allow the State Department to be rudderless.

If we don't have leadership, we can't be sure that China or Russia and others won't fill the vacuum as they have for the last several years or do something that is adverse to our national and economic security.

Imagine that there is a hostage deal to be had, as I believe there is, and you can't have another country call the Secretary of State because the Secretary of State doesn't exist.

Imagine if there are tensions between two countries that affect our national interests. You don't have a Secretary of State to call as counterpart in those countries to seek to ease the tension, to remove the threat.

Imagine if President Biden needs to have a Secretary of State engage in some part of the world to stop a conflict, to open an opportunity, to prevent an unintended consequence. We don't have that person, and we cannot expect the President to pick up the phone in each and every instance in the world as he is trying to deal with COVID at home and an economic crisis that follows on from that. That is what the Secretary of State does.

So Mr. Blinken also, finally, is not just critical to addressing challenges abroad, we have to acknowledge what the role of Secretary of State is here at home.

If we remember what just happened back on the 6th, three of the first four officials in the line of succession—the Vice President, the Speaker of the House, and the President pro tempore of the Senate—were in the Capitol when domestic terrorists breached the building. Every day we learn more details about this heinous attack, including that the terrorists, some of whom were chanting “Hang Mike Pence!” came within a minute or so of a potential face-to-face encounter with Vice President Pence. Thank God, through the quick thinking and heroics of our Capitol Police and other law enforcement, those three remained unscathed, but if something had happened, it is the Secretary of State who is fourth in line of succession to the President of

the United States. Leaving the office vacant is irresponsible. It is irresponsible in that regard. It is irresponsible in terms of something happening in the world and not having a Secretary of State who could work to deal with it so that we could preserve our national security, promote our national interests, and stop something, an unintended consequence, from happening.

Mr. Blinken has the qualifications. The challenges facing our country call for him to be confirmed, and I hope the Senate does not leave here tomorrow until he is confirmed.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The senior Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I would ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for such time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, let me just say to my good friend from New Jersey how wholeheartedly I agree with him. I have known Tony Blinken for a long period of time. I have worked with him in different venues. I talked to him today at some length, and we talked together on many issues that I think are significant.

One issue out there is the one we have been talking about in the Western Sahara. He understands the issues. So I join my friend from New Jersey in encouraging a fast and quick confirmation.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO TEAM INHOFE

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, we recently said goodbye to a lot of really good, hard-working men and women from the previous administration, and I want to highlight a few of them.

We refer to them—some of my friends and some of my enemies refer to them as the “Inhofe mafia.” It comes from the committees that I have chaired, both the Armed Services Committee as well as the Environment and Public Works Committee. But anyway, they are really a great bunch of people.

I am going to start with Andrew Wheeler. Andrew Wheeler was with me for a number of years—14 years—before he became the Director of the EPA. Here is a guy who was nominated to be the Administrator. At that time, I said that there is no one in America who is as qualified as Andrew Wheeler for this job. The first job he had out of law school was with the EPA. When he was nominated to be Administrator, I kind of gave his whole life history.

All of my Senate colleagues know Andy and have known him for a long period of time—Democrats and Republicans. He has worked for me in the Senate as well as becoming one of my “has-beens,” as we refer to people who used to be with me and are still my good friends.

Andy started in my personal office as chief counsel and went on to serve as

the staff director and chief counsel during my time as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. He has decades of experience and is one of the most skilled energy and environmental policy experts I have ever come in contact with, and I am immensely proud of what he has been able to accomplish throughout his career, but particularly as EPA Administrator.

Andy understood that the EPA's mission is to implement the laws that are passed by Congress for the American people. The EPA's job is not to legislate. A lot of people think that. That is our job, to legislate, and then he carries it out, and he did really just a great job with that.

Contrary to what many on the left say Republicans want, we do want clean air and clean water and clean land, and Andy proved that he could accomplish that without burdensome overregulation. During his time at the EPA, he spearheaded a number of the rules and deregulatory actions that brought important relief to American job creators while protecting our environment.

He rolled back the economy standards on cars that were created to try to force Americans to drive vehicles they don't want to drive and that they can't afford. In its replacement, Andy developed the SAFE vehicles rule, which expands consumer choice and lowers the price of vehicles.

Andy also repealed and replaced the waters of the United States rule, or WOTUS. On the WOTUS rule, if you talk to any of the agricultural groups—I am talking about the Farm Bureau and other agricultural groups—they would say that was the rule we really had to do something about. States like mine don't need Washington bureaucrats imposing their radical regulations like WOTUS on people who know the waters better than they do. It is not an overstatement when I say that this was probably the greatest regulatory burden facing Oklahoma's farmers, landowners, and ranchers during the Obama administration. I was proud to see WOTUS repealed by the navigable waters protection rule, which provided a clean and lawful definition of waters of the United States and doesn't try to overregulate the arid parts of the State.

Oklahoma is an arid State. If you go out to the western part of Oklahoma, the panhandle of Oklahoma, it is really arid. If you take that regulation out of the hands of the States and give it to the Federal Government, there is always a concern by our farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma and across the Nation that they would turn these arid areas into wetlands.

Another of the regulatory overhauls accomplished by Andy was for the affordable clean energy or the ACE rule that replaced the illegal Clean Power Plan, which regulated emissions of coal-fired powerplants. I had long been critical of the Clean Power Plan and led the charge against it in the Senate.

Like most of that era of the rules, it was a Federal power grab, and it would have sent Americans' electricity bills soaring, and we all knew that. But we made it history when we repealed and replaced the Clean Power Plan with the ACE rule. It was good. Not only did this rule help Americans' electricity costs be affordable, it is expected to benefit the environment as well.

Just last month, the EPA finalized another big rule that requires EPA to prepare a cost-benefit analysis before coming up with new regulations. How is that at all unreasonable? Americans shake their heads, and they wonder why we would pass things that don't have any kind of a cost-benefit analysis. What is it going to cost? What kind of sacrifices are we going to have to make? Well, we put that into effect, and I think it is something people are very thankful for.

Throughout his tenure, Andy has been focused on what is in the best interests of the taxpayers and not just the Washington bureaucrats. That is clear with this rule and countless others.

You know, one of the good things about Andy, as I already mentioned, is that he knows more about the process than anybody else does—more about the EPA. He has always been a star, and he started at the bottom. When he was first put into that office and was confirmed as EPA director, he gave a speech over at the EPA. He didn't know I was there. I went over there to hear it. He had 300 people at the EPA all listening to him and looking at him and saying: There is room at the top for me. Here is a guy who started at the very bottom and ended up as director of the EPA. It didn't go unnoticed. Everybody realized that.

So I would ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an E&E News article from July 2018, which details a number of the former staff people and their backgrounds.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[July 6, 2018]

'BRAVE NEW WORLD' AS TEAM INHOFE TAKES OVER

(By Robin Bravender)

It's official: Alumni of the best-known climate skeptic in Congress are leading EPA.

Former aides to Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) have helped shape President Trump's energy policy agenda since even before he was elected. Many of them quickly landed top spots at EPA and in the White House, and Inhofe alumnus Ryan Jackson helped shepherd Scott Pruitt through the confirmation process before becoming his chief of staff at the agency last year.

But now an ex-Inhofe staffer is taking the reins as Pruitt leaves under a cloud of controversies.

Andrew Wheeler, who steps in as EPA's chief on Monday, was staff director and chief counsel to Inhofe on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for much of the George W. Bush administration.

Jackson, a longtime friend of Wheeler, is expected to remain as EPA's chief of staff after Pruitt's exit. Jackson—a native Okla-

homan—was an Inhofe aide who worked as EPW staff director and Inhofe's chief of staff.

Brittany Bolen became the acting head of EPA's policy shop after Samantha Dravis left earlier this year. Bolen was Republican counsel to Inhofe on the EPW Committee. Daisy Letendre, a communications adviser in the policy office, was Inhofe's communications director.

And former Inhofe counsel Mandy Gunasekara is now principal deputy assistant administrator in EPA's air office.

Republicans and some energy industry lobbyists say Inhofe's alumni network brings deep policy knowledge to EPA and is well-positioned to bring calm to an agency that has been mired in controversies under Pruitt.

"With these Inhofe staff, you get all of the Pruitt policy and none of the Pruitt baggage," said an energy lobbyist and former congressional staffer.

It makes sense that ex-Inhofe aides would populate EPA under a Republican administration, the lobbyist said, given Inhofe's long tenure as the top Republican on the Senate committee charged with overseeing the agency. "He has hired a lot of smart people to work for him who were good and have gone on to do various other things," the lobbyist said.

Those staffers have a history of working closely with Democrats on Capitol Hill, that person added: "I think that the Democrat staff and members believe that Inhofe and the Inhofe staffers treated them fairly when they were up there."

They also share an appreciation for process, said Matt Dempsey, Inhofe's former communications director.

He expects his former colleagues to take a "back to basics" approach at EPA. "It's not necessarily a political agenda, but it's a policy-based agenda," he said.

That contrasts with how many people viewed Pruitt, who was widely thought to be trying to use EPA as a stepping stool to reach higher political office.

Under Wheeler, "the whole tone is going to be different," the energy lobbyist said. "People are going to perceive that Andy is going to spend his time on policy and not thinking about whether he's the next senator from Oklahoma."

But as Republicans and many in industry are celebrating the rise of the Inhofe crowd at EPA, some on the left are furious that disciples of the Senate's most vocal climate change skeptic—famous for throwing a snowball on the Senate floor to try to disprove global warming—are leading the agency tasked with protecting the environment.

"It is a brave new world of pro-fossil-fuel ideologues who seem not to care about anything but industry profits, the rest of the country be damned," said Bill Snape, an attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. "We're all getting hit in the head by the snowball at this point. It's obviously disturbing."

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, at the top of the list was my chief of staff, Ryan Jackson. Like Andy, Ryan also went on to be my staff director of the EPW Committee, Environment and Public Works, where he helped negotiate bipartisan bills for highway, water, and infrastructure to environmental bills like TSCA. Remember, that was the one that had the chemical regulations. In his role he helped me negotiate with former California Senator Barbara Boxer.

This is kind of interesting. I think the Presiding Officer would find this to be interesting. Barbara Boxer and I—

for many, many years, every time the Republicans were in the majority, I was the chairman of that committee, and she was the ranking member. Every time the Democrats were in control, she was the chairman, and I was the ranking member. So we worked together, and we accomplished more. I won't divulge where the meeting is, but there is a meeting that Republicans have historically had at 12:15 p.m. on a Tuesday with all the members of the committees, the chairmen. We would talk about what we have done, and when it was my turn, I would say: Now from the committee that actually gets things done. That was Barbara Boxer and I. No two people could be further apart philosophically than Barbara Boxer and I, yet we were able to do that with the help of Ryan Jackson.

I actually hired him when he was still in college. He left my office early 2017 to go to work as Chief of Staff at the EPA, where he was a central player in the implementation of the last administration's policies.

In February, he left the EPA, which was when Mandy Gunasekara took office as chief of staff. Mandy worked for me in the EPW Committee for several years as the majority counsel. In that role she helped me craft air and other policy priorities. While at the EPA, she has been instrumental in advancing priorities like the ACE rule that I mentioned earlier. She is a skilled and devoted public servant, and I am proud of all that she has done to advance policies that benefit all Americans.

A number of others of what I refer to as my "has-beens" have served at the EPA over the last 4 years. Susan Bodine was the chief counsel on EPW and went on to serve as Assistant Administrator in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

Brittany Bolen was counsel for the EPW, Environment and Public Works Committee, and went on to serve as Associate Administrator for the Office of Policy.

Byron Brown was senior counsel at the EPW and went on to serve as Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy.

Then there is Daisy Letendre. She was communications director in my office and went on to serve as a Senior Advisor in the Office of Policy.

So I am proud of all my "has-beens" and the big impact that they have had on our country. We are grateful for their service, past and present—especially that of Andrew Wheeler and Ryan Jackson. I say to our friends Wheeler and Jackson: Thank you and good luck in your next endeavors. You did great work.

Let me just mention one last thing. I urge the Biden administration not to repeal a lot of the rules and regulations and deregulation initiatives that gave us the economy that was unprecedented during the time before the pandemic set in. It would be devastating to our country, which is already trying to recover from the pandemic. Now is not

the time to impose costly new regulations on Americans and the job creators in this country. Everyone knows that this pandemic has wreaked havoc on our economy, and I am certain that, had we not had the virus, we would have broken even more economic records than we already had.

Prior to the pandemic, we had the best economy of our life. We set records, with small business optimism reaching the highest level on record in its 45-year history and unemployment hitting a 50-year low of 3.5 percent. We have always said in the past that full employment is 4 percent. We brought it down that entire year, and in February of 2020 it was down to 3.5 percent. It never had happened before. The median household income rose to a record high in 2019, the highest since 1967. The wealth of American families rose. That is an indicator. It rose to the highest level in history. So these good things were happening, and I would urge this administration not to repeal some of these regulations. Repealing some of these regulations would simply reverse gains like these.

I urge the Biden administration to work with me and others to reach compromises on regulations that would benefit all Americans. That seems to be pretty reasonable, and I think that is a good program to do. Let's give it a try. OK?

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that upon the conclusion of morning business on Friday, January 22, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 1, the nomination of Lloyd Austin to be the Secretary of Defense; further, that there be 10 minutes for debate on the nomination, equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; and that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the

Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Friday, January 22; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now, for the information of Senators, there will be a rollover vote on confirmation of the Austin nomination to be Secretary of Defense at approximately 10:30 tomorrow.

We also hope to vote on confirmation of the Yellen and Blinken nominations this week.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:14 p.m., adjourned until Friday, January 22, 2021, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LEGISLATIVE AUTONOMY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Legislative Autonomy Act, which would eliminate the wasteful congressional review period for legislation passed by the District of Columbia Council and align longtime congressional practice with the law. The congressional review period for D.C. bills is almost entirely ignored by Congress, providing it no benefit, but imposes substantial costs (in time and money) on the District. Congress has almost always used the appropriations process, rather than the disapproval process, to block or nullify D.C. bills and almost entirely abandoned the disapproval process as its mechanism for nullifying D.C. bills 24 years ago, having used it successfully only three times before then. Yet Congress still requires the D.C. Council to use Kafkaesque make-work procedures to comply with the abandoned congressional review period established by the D.C. Home Rule Act.

Our bill would eliminate the congressional review period for bills passed by the D.C. Council. However, Congress would lose no authority it currently exercises because, even upon enactment of this bill, Congress would retain its authority under Clause 17 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution to amend or overturn any D.C. laws at any time.

The congressional review period (30 days for civil bills and 60 days for criminal bills) includes those days when either house of Congress is in session, delaying D.C. bills from becoming law, often for many months. The delay forces the D.C. Council to pass most bills several times, using a cumbersome and complicated process to ensure that the operations of this large and rapidly changing city continue uninterrupted, avoiding a lapse of a bill before it becomes final. The congressional calendar means that a 30-day period usually lasts a couple of months and often much longer because of congressional recesses. For example, the congressional review period for a bill that changed the word "handicap" to "disability" lasted nine months. The Council estimates that 50 to 65 percent of the bills it passes could be eliminated if the review period did not exist. To ensure that a bill does not lapse, the Council often must pass the same bill in three forms: emergency (in effect for 90 days), temporary (in effect for 225 days) and permanent. Moreover, the Council has to carefully track the days the House and Senate are in session for each D.C. bill it passes to avoid gaps and to determine when the bills have taken effect. The Council estimates that it could save 5,000 employee hours and 160,000 sheets of paper per two-year Council period if the review process were eliminated. House Minority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY ad-

ressed the issue of saving such resources by eliminating the amount of paperwork sent to Congress when he proposed a cut in the number of reports that federal agencies are required to submit to Congress. Our bill is a perfect candidate because it eliminates a paperwork process that repeats itself without interruption.

My bill would do no more than align the Home Rule Act with congressional practice over the last 24 years. Of the more than 5,000 legislative acts transmitted to Congress since the Home Rule Act was passed in 1973, only three resolutions disapproving D.C. bills have been enacted (in 1979, 1981 and 1991) and two of those mistakenly involved federal interests—one in the Height Act and the other in the location of chanceries. Placing a congressional hold on more than 5,000 D.C. bills has not only proven unnecessary, but has imposed costs on the D.C. government, residents and businesses. District residents and businesses are also placed on hold because they have no certainty when D.C. bills, from taxes to regulations, will take effect, making it difficult to plan. It is particularly unfair to require the D.C. Council to engage in this unnecessary, labor-intensive and costly process to no effect. My bill would only eliminate the automatic hold placed on D.C. bills and the need for the D.C. Council to comply with a process initially created for the convenience of Congress, but that is now almost never used. This bill would promote efficiency and cost savings for Congress, the District and D.C. residents and businesses without reducing congressional oversight, and would carry out the policy stressed by Congress of eliminating needless paperwork and make-work redundancy.

I urge my colleagues to support this good-government measure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PLACE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Preparing Localities for an Autonomous and Connected Environment (PLACE) Act. This legislation passed the House last session as Section 5303 of the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2, 116th Cong.) and creates a federally funded highly automated vehicle clearinghouse to study the secondary impacts of autonomous vehicles and mobility innovation.

The transportation sector is changing at a faster pace than ever before. New mobility options like Uber and Lyft, bikeshare, and scooters have already disrupted how Americans get around. The private sector has invested more than \$16 billion toward bringing semi- or fully-autonomous vehicles to market, and research publications on self-driving technology have quadrupled over the past three years. Many

predict autonomous vehicles will become widely available within just a few years.

Done right, autonomous vehicles can solve some of the country's most vexing transportation problems while improving mobility for all. Done wrong, autonomous vehicles can exacerbate transportation's negative externalities, leaving communities struggling to make sense of an everchanging landscape. The PLACE Act will ensure that autonomous vehicles improve the livability of communities, allowing policymakers to understand their influence on land use, urban design, transportation, real estate, accessibility, municipal budgets, social equity, availability and quality of jobs, air quality and climate, energy consumption, and the environment. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue as part of a long-term surface transportation reauthorization package.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID J. TRONE

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I was not present in the House chamber for Roll Call vote no. 11. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES PROTECTION ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, Representative KAHELE, in introducing our bill to protect one of the most unique and fragile environments on Earth, our Hawaii, from devastating invasive species.

Invasive species pose an especially grave threat to Hawaii's unique ecosystems, natural resources and agricultural communities, in part due to Hawaii's unique geography. Hawaii is the most isolated island chain and one of the most ecologically diverse places in the world. We are 2,282 miles from the Continental United States, 2,952 miles from Japan and 4,772 miles from Washington, DC, with no other islands in close proximity. We have within our constrained borders ten of the thirteen world climate zones, with ecosystems ranging from desert to tropical, where plants and animals that found their way to Hawaii evolved like nowhere else. A 2014 survey identified fully 9,975 endemic species in Hawaii. These species include the Hawaiian scarlet honeycreeper, the 'i'iwi, the flowering evergreen; and the state mammal of Hawaii, the 'lioholoikauaua (Hawaiian monk seal).

However, tragically, in large part due to invasive species, Hawaii has become the endangered species and extinction capital of the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

world. Hawaii currently has 502 species listed as endangered, more than any other state and almost half of the total endangered species nationwide. Many of these species are critically endangered and face an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Although we will never know the true number of species that have gone extinct in Hawaii, best estimates are that in the last 200 years alone, 28 bird, 72 snail, 74 insect and 97 plant species have gone extinct.

As one particularly poignant example, two years ago the Atlantic published an article, *The Last of Its Kind*, which chronicled the death of George the snail. He was the last *achatinella apexfulva*, a species of tree snail that is endemic to the island of O'ahu. This article calls attention to the alarming fact that snails in Hawaii are disappearing at an alarming rate, perhaps faster any animal on Earth right now, victims of various factors in part linked to invasive species.

The threat to our state tree, the 'ōhi'a lehua, is also illustrative of our growing crisis. Used for poi boards and outrigger canoes, the 'ōhi'a lehua is important to Hawaiian culture and the islands' watersheds. As the first tree to grow in new Hawaii lava flows, 'ōhi'a grows throughout the watershed creating new soil, stabilizing steep mountain ridges and comprises approximately 80 percent of Hawaii's native forests. However, rapid 'ōhi'a death, or ROD, caused by an invasive fungal pathogen, kills 'ōhi'a trees quickly, and threatens the stability of Hawaii's native forests. Since its discovery on the Big Island in 2014, ROD has spread to Kaua'i, Maui and O'ahu, and has killed hundreds of thousands of trees.

Hawaii's unique circumstances also have given rise to one of our nation's most diverse and productive agricultural communities. With a year-round growing cycle, our crops have ranged throughout our history from the highest quality sugar and pineapple and cattle to tropical specialty crops like fruit and cut flowers in the highest demand worldwide.

Yet it is exactly because these crops like our natural resources have adapted to Hawaii's uniqueness that they are the most susceptible to devastation from external species against which they have no natural defenses. Invasive species have drastically impacted agriculture in Hawaii, threatening some of the island's most valuable crops in the state's third-largest industry.

Hawaii's third most valuable crop, the macadamia nut, is under threat from the macadamia felted coccid. Macadamia felted coccid has been found in all of Hawaii Island's macadamia growing regions. The felted coccid reduces macadamia tree output by draining nutrients from the tree. Invasive species coupled with increased rain led to a 22 percent decline in the macadamia nut harvest this year compared to last year.

The cattle industry, which is one of Hawaii's most important agricultural commodities, has been dramatically affected by the introduction of the invasive two-lined spittlebug. Since being detected in 2016, the pest now infects more than 125,900 acres of grassland and is clearing lands for invasives grasses that further affect Hawaii's ecosystems.

Yet despite these incontrovertible and growing impacts of external species on Hawaii's natural resources and economy, existing federal law leaves Hawaii largely defenseless against increasingly destructive invasives. Im-

ports by air and sea, the only means of inbound transportation to our island state, lack any effective regulation to screen out invasives. This is despite a fairly robust screening of exports from Hawaii to the Continental United States to screen out invasives from Hawaii viewed as harmful to mainland agriculture (invasives that, ironically, were invasives into Hawaii to start with).

I sought to crack down on this lax regime to prevent and curb invasives with my introduction in 2005 of H.R. 3468, modeled after New Zealand and other isolated jurisdictions with then like now the most stringent invasive species prevention regimes in the world. Since the introduction of that bill, the threats from invasives have only grown. Since 2005, 195 invasive species have been introduced to Hawaii. That is in addition to the roughly 5,000 invasive species that have been introduced to Hawaii throughout its history.

Our bill, the Hawaii Invasive Species Protection Act, will require the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), in cooperation with other federal departments and the State of Hawaii, to conduct visual, x-ray and canine inspections, as appropriate, on person, baggage, cargo and any other article destined for direct movement to the State of Hawaii. The inspections will search for high-risk invasive species and agricultural materials. The inspections will be conducted at airports, ports and postal sorting facilities prior to direct travel to the State of Hawaii.

Our bill further requires APHIS to work with the State of Hawaii to develop and publish a list of the high-risk invasive species and agricultural materials for the State of Hawaii. It pays for these inspections by increasing Agriculture Quarantine Inspection fees to cover the full cost of inspection.

Inaction is not an option. Since my re-introduction of this bill last Congress, the coffee berry borer, which was discovered in Kona on Hawaii Island in 2010, now infects all of the coffee growing islands in Hawaii. The coffee berry borer can cause yield losses of between 30 and 35 percent and affects the quality of the coffee beans, directly impacting the income of growers. Had this bill been implemented, it may have helped prevent coffee leaf rust from entering Hawaii late last year. The confirmed presence of this fungal disease, which can lead to yield losses of between 50 and 80 percent, on multiple Hawaiian islands could leave one of Hawaii's most iconic industries devastated.

If we truly care about the threat that continued and escalating invasive species pose to one of the most invaluable and unique ecosystems on earth, in addition to our unique economy and way of life, then the stark reality is that this bill is what it will take. Again, it is not revolutionary when compared to other countries that have not only recognized this threat but actually done something about it. And it is certainly not revolutionary when compared to longstanding domestic restrictions on exports from Hawaii, leading to the basic point that if these invasive species prevention requirements are good enough for the rest of the country and much of the world then they're good enough for Hawaii.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful to this House for your understanding and careful consideration of Hawaii's challenge and opportunity, and ask for our bill's expeditious passage. Mahalo (thank you).

APPRECIATING FIRST LADY
MELANIA TRUMP

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, American Families have been blessed the last four years with the service of First Lady Melania Trump.

She is a native of Slovenia, a beautiful new nation liberated by the American Victory in the Cold War inspired by Ronald Reagan, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Pope John Paul II of Poland

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the Farewell Message of First Lady Melania Trump of January 18, 2021, which is to be treasured.

My fellow Americans, it has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as First Lady of the United States.

I have been inspired by incredible Americans across our country who lift up our communities through their kindness and courage, goodness and grace.

The past four years have been unforgettable. As Donald and I conclude our time in the White House, I think of all the people I have taken home in my heart and their incredible stories of love, patriotism, and determination.

I see the faces of brave young soldiers who have told me with pride in their eyes how much they love serving this country. To every service member and to our incredible military families: You are heroes, and you will always be in my thoughts and prayers.

I think of all the members of law enforcement who greet us wherever we go. At every hour of every day, they stand guard to keep our communities safe, and we are forever in their debt.

I have been moved by children I have visited in hospitals and foster care centers. Even as they fight difficult illnesses or face challenges, they bring such a joy to everyone they meet.

I remember the mothers who have battled the disease of Opioid addiction, and have overcome incredible hardships for love of their children.

I have been inspired by the devoted caregivers for babies born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, and communities that give these children the support and care they need to grow.

When I think about these meaningful experiences, I am humbled to have had the opportunity to represent a nation with such kind and generous people.

As the world continues to confront the COVID-19 pandemic, I thank all the nurses, doctors, healthcare professionals, manufacturing workers, truck drivers, and so many others who are working to save lives.

We grieve for the families who have lost a loved one due to the pandemic.

Every life is precious, and I ask all Americans to use caution and common sense to protect the vulnerable as millions of vaccines are now being delivered.

In the midst of this hardship, we have seen the best of America shine through. Students have made cards and delivered groceries to our Senior Citizens. Teachers have worked twice as hard to keep our children learning.

Families have come together to provide meals, supplies, comfort and friendship to those in need.

Be passionate in everything you do but always remember that violence is never the answer and will never be justified.

When I came to the White House, I reflected on the responsibility I have always felt as a mother to encourage, give strength, and teach values of kindness. It is our duty as adults and parents to ensure that children have the best opportunities to lead fulfilling and healthy lives.

The passion for helping children succeed would drive my policy initiative as First Lady.

I launched Be Best to ensure that we as Americans are doing everything we can to take care of the next generation. Be Best has concentrated on three pillars: well-being, on-line safety, and opioid abuse.

In a few short years, I have raised awareness of how to keep children safe online; we have made incredible progress on our nation's drug epidemic and how it impacts the lives of newborns and families, and we have given a voice to our most vulnerable children in the foster care system.

Internationally, Be Best has evolved into a platform that encourages world leaders to discuss issues impacting the lives of children and allows them to share solutions. It has been an honor to represent the American people abroad. I treasure each of my experiences and the inspiring people I have met along the way.

As I say farewell to my role as First Lady, it is my sincere hope that every American will do their part to teach our children what it means to Be Best. I ask parents to educate your children about the courageous and selfless heroes who worked and sacrificed to make this country the land of the free. And to lead by example and care for others in your community.

The promise of this Nation belongs to all of us. Do not lose sight of your integrity and values. Use every opportunity to show consideration for another person and build good habits into your daily lives.

In all circumstances, I ask every American to be an ambassador of Be Best. To focus on what unites us. To rise above what divides us. To always choose love over hatred, peace over violence, and others before yourself.

Together, as one national family, we can continue to be the light of hope for future generations and carry on America's legacy of raising our nation to greater heights through our spirit of courage, goodness and faith.

No words can express the depth of my gratitude for the privilege of having served as your First Lady.

To all the people of this country: You will be in my heart forever.

Thank you. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING RICK SENSE'S SERVICE TO WISCONSIN'S EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize my District Chief of Staff, Rick Sense, for his service to Wisconsin's Eighth District. He began his career with the U.S. House of Representatives in January of 2011 in the office of my predecessor, Congressman Reid Ribble. He then continued his service as my District Chief of Staff, serving with me in the 115th and 116th Congress, until his time working with us in the House has come to an end here in 117th Congress.

Rick has dedicated his Congressional career to providing superior service to the con-

stituents of Northeast Wisconsin. He understood that his job was to make the federal government work for Wisconsinites. He dedicated his tenure to forging relationships from Appleton to Sturgeon Bay to Marinette, bringing together federal partners, the business community, and local nonprofits to share knowledge and resources.

Many who have had the pleasure of working with Rick describe him as passionate, reliable, approachable, intelligent, and extremely hardworking. He has a keen awareness of the needs of the community and provides valuable support in accomplishing the mission of my office. Despite being a Cubs fan, Rick is a valuable asset to Northeast Wisconsin whose work has touched the lives of many.

Additionally, Rick has inspired the next generation of leaders. Through patient instruction and mentorship, interns and staff who have worked with Rick have moved on to employments with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as Member offices in this Chamber, creating a ripple of change that will surely leave positive impacts in its wake.

I wish Rick the best as he begins his new role with the Greater Green Bay Chamber of Commerce. I am sure he will excel in this new position, bringing with him a deep dedication to servant leadership and desire to foster collaboration amongst Wisconsin's business community.

Politics can be a difficult world to navigate. Rick brings to it a compassion and respect that provides a constant reminder to us all of why we choose to serve this great nation. I'd like to close with the words of our former president, Abraham Lincoln. "With malice towards none, with charity for all." Rick truly embodies these words, and I am proud to have served in this fine institution with him.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOUSTON COUNTY BEING ESTABLISHED IN TENNESSEE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of Houston County being established and incorporated into the state of Tennessee.

Officially established on January 21st in the year 1871, Houston County takes its name from the legendary Sam Houston, who, among many things, served as the first member of Congress from the 7th district of Tennessee. Like its namesake, Houston County embodies the spirit of American grit and perseverance. From the stoked lime kilns of days past to the thriving timber industry of today, Houston County continues to foster a strong and proud community.

Over its long history, Houston County has endeavored to faithfully honor the heritage of the Irish pioneers who settled the land through the annual Irish Day Parade. One of my favorite events of the year, the Irish Day Parade, now draws over 30,000 people to Erin. The scenic countryside of Houston County is home to gently flowing creeks and streams, rolling

hills and forests, and a vibrant community with a little bit of Ireland in its soul.

Houston County is home to many of Tennessee's finest citizens, and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Houston County on this impressive anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MOLLY HAMMER

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a sadness I struggle to express on behalf of a community that has lost a voice, a city that has lost a leader, and family that has lost a friend. I rise to honor the life and memory of Molly Hammer. Molly spent years gracing Kansas City and the world with a one-of-a-kind voice and an indomitable spirit. For thirteen of those years, she did so while sharing her life with metastatic breast cancer. On Tuesday, November 24, Molly lost her fight with breast cancer. She was forty-eight years old. Her story, cut tragically short, is of a soul who sought to use her gifts to spread joy and to use her hardships to inspire hope. For fifteen years, Molly sang for us. Today, we sing of her.

Those lucky enough to have followed Molly's career since its beginning know that the talent, work ethic, and grit she displayed in the final years of her life were nothing new. Her high school choir teacher remembers her astounding professionalism while playing the narrator in her high school's production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. After graduating, she went on to become a stage actor and portrayed Patsy Cline on a stage in Iowa for five years. In 2005, Molly answered a spiritual call from a difficult industry where she could have the complete independence she craved—jazz and blues. And thank goodness she did. It was then that she dove into an intense study of vocal jazz and began an illustrious career in the Kansas City music community. Molly soon became a fixture of the 18th & Vine jazz scene, winning the 2016 Critics' Choice for Best Jazz Singer award from *The Pitch*, releasing four LPs—one just three months ago—and cementing her place as an integral stitch in the rich cultural fabric of Jazz's cradle.

In 2008, Molly was diagnosed with breast cancer, and she beat it. Eight years later, it came back, and Molly returned to her battle, this time fighting a more aggressive foe but with no less determination or spirit. And not only did Molly continue to bring joy to her community through song during that battle, she also became an outspoken advocate for cancer research and a powerful voice in bringing awareness to what it means to live life with the disease. She called for increased research funding and better methods of preventative screening, worked with organizations like *METAvivor* and the *Susan G. Komen Foundation*, and even lobbied Congress. However, though her music and her advocacy took her

all over the country and all over the world, Molly, I am proud to say, was devoted to Kansas City, and more specifically to the Kansas City music community. She supported organizations like GUILDit, which seeks to connect the world of music to the world of business to help support artists. After all, when Molly was diagnosed, she had no health insurance—a tragically common phenomenon among independent artists. And recently, she chose to donate the proceeds from her albums to the Midwest Music Foundation, ensuring that her giving spirit will continue to touch artists in her community for years to come.

I have always been struck by Molly's ability play any room at all. Molly sang the National Anthem at Arrowhead Stadium. Molly sang it at Kauffman Stadium. Molly sang at the Kauffman Center. Molly sang at the Folly Theater. And yet, even when her fight with cancer was at its most painful ebb, Molly got out every single weekend and brought her voice and her presence to local jazz clubs and Unity churches throughout Kansas City. When the pandemic struck, dealing a crushing blow to musicians and venues everywhere, Molly sang online from her living room. On stage with a microphone in hand and a piano to sing beside—that's where Molly felt at home. She used to say it was because music fed her soul. I so hope Molly knew that her music fed our souls as well.

Today, my heart is with Molly's family and friends, who are coping with a loss no amount of preparation could have softened. To Molly's parents, I say this: we are never prepared to outlive our children. I hope you take comfort in that you were able to see Molly exhibit a resilience that every parent hopes their child will have when they send them out into what can be an unfair and unforgiving world. Scripture tells us, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." Molly's story, to me, is a story of service. Molly was given the gift of a singular voice and a presence that could light up jazz club, a concert hall, or a stadium, and she used it to bring joy and music to others. Molly was dealt a terrible disease, and she used it to bring awareness and comfort to those fighting alongside her. Molly administered God's grace in one of its most breathtaking forms, and she did so for all of us.

Jazz is about many things. It is about finding beauty where there is pain. It is about finding freedom where there are shackles. But at a musical level, jazz is about setting up rules, so they can then be broken. It is about establishing a rhythm, so that it can be defied. Madam Speaker, as I reckon with this loss, I take comfort in my belief that Molly has defied the unrelenting rhythm of this mortal world and taken her place among a choir of angels. There is piano somewhere in heaven that has been waiting for Molly, and I know that today, she is singing beside it.

So, Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the life and legacy of Molly Hammer. Though she may never return to the stages where we've seen her before, today Molly joins a pantheon of jazz greats whose music echoes through time. Artists never really die, and I woke up this morning with Molly's music in my head. "So let me fly out of this world," she would often sing at the end of her concerts, "And spend the next eternity or two / with you."

HONORING JOSEPH A. MYERS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today, with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, in memory of Joseph A. Myers, who passed away on December 29, 2020.

Born January 16, 1940 in Cloverdale, Mr. Myers was a native Pomo Indian. He began his career as a law enforcement officer and was the first known California Indian to serve in the California Highway Patrol. He earned both his undergraduate degree and Juris Doctor from UC Berkley.

Mr. Myers became a revered leader in the Native American community and developed a reputation for working effectively to preserve Native American history through education and activism. He served as the Associate Director of the American Indian Lawyer Training Program where he mentored advocates on tribal law, and notably joined a lawsuit against the Bureau of Indian Affairs that successfully reversed the termination of 17 Rancheria communities in California. Mr. Myers later founded the National Indian Justice Center to help tribes strengthen governance capacity and improve the quality of life in Indian country. He was also a founding board member of the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center.

Mr. Myers shared his knowledge of Native American issues at UC Berkley as a professor in the ethnic studies department. The University named the Joseph A. Myers Center for Research on Native American Issues as a tribute to Mr. Myers contributions to the community including the Native American students on campus.

Along with his hard work ethic and commitment to making a positive difference for others, Mr. Myers was known for his good sense of humor, compassion and wit. Although he is already greatly missed, there is no doubt his legacy will continue to be an inspiration for many.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join Congressman MIKE THOMPSON and me in expressing deep gratitude for Mr. Myers and his many years of selfless service to the Native American community and the entire North Coast, and in extending condolences to his family and many friends.

HONORING KELLY WALTERS

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Kelly Brice Walters of Christiansburg, Virginia, who passed away on December 26, 2020 at the age of 84. Mr. Walters was a first responder who committed his life to providing and improving emergency services in the New River Valley.

Kelly Walters was born on September 16, 1936 in Rogers, Virginia, to Vada McGuire and George M. Walters Jr. He began his career as a first responder in 1964 with the Christiansburg Lifesaving and First Aid Crew. In this organization, later the Christiansburg

Rescue Squad, he served as Captain, First Lieutenant, Second Lieutenant, Treasurer, and President of the Board of Directors. He helped launch rescue squads in Floyd County and Riner in Montgomery County. In the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads, he served as the District 7 Vice President twice and ultimately as President and was also honored in its Hall of Fame.

Colleagues and community members remember Mr. Walters for his kindness and dedication to the emergency services. They told the Roanoke Times about his willingness to help coworkers with bills without expecting repayment or to pay for EMT certifications for others before the state reimbursed such expenses. Many colleagues looked upon him as a mentor.

In addition to his work with the Christiansburg Rescue Squad, Mr. Walters worked earlier life at the Blue Ridge Overall Factory, Cromer Furniture, and as caretaker of the Cemetery Corporation. He also served for eighteen years as Montgomery County's Animal Control Officer. Apart from these responsibilities, he was a member of the Christiansburg Hunting Club, which he served as President and as a member of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Walters was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia Gerald Walters. He is survived by his daughter Nancy; grandson Bradley Hutchenson; great-grandchildren Elizabeth Ann and Halley Jo; sisters Brenda Thomas, Shirley Bartlett, and Jean Walters; and sister-in-law Jane Akers. I would like to offer my condolences to them and the people of Christiansburg on the loss of this dedicated public servant.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BICYCLE COMMUTER ACT OF 2021

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Bicycle Commuter Act of 2021. This legislation passed the House last session in Section 90436 of the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2, 116th Cong.) and would reinstate and improve the bicycle commuter tax benefit.

The bicycle is the most efficient form of urban transportation ever devised. Cycling reduces carbon emissions, provides enormous physical and mental health benefits, and is one of the most cost-effective modes of transportation available. Communities across the country have realized these benefits and substantially invested in building better bike networks and improving facilities for biking to work. These investments are one of the reasons that rates of biking to work have increased by more than one-third since 2000. Still, however, only 0.51 percent of workers biked to work in 2019.

Despite these impressive developments, there is no commuter tax benefit for biking to work—like we have for parking and transit. First enacted in 2009, the bicycle commuter benefit was a tax benefit that employers could offer to provide a reimbursement of up to \$20/month for expenses relating to bicycle commuting expenses. But if an employee elected

to take advantage of the bicycle commuting reimbursement, they were not eligible to receive transit or parking commuter benefits. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act suspended the bicycle commuting reimbursement benefit through 2025, taking away a valuable financial incentive for people who choose to bike to work.

With more employees choosing to bike to work, it is critical that Congress reinstates the bicycle commuter benefit and uses this opportunity to improve the benefit to reflect present-day commuting options. The Bicycle Commuter Act of 2021 reinstates the bicycle commuter benefit and changes the structure of the benefit by making it a pre-tax benefit, allowing employees to receive a higher benefit amount, allowing the benefit to be used with parking and transit, and adding bikeshare and electric bikes as an eligible expense.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to enact this legislation and provide Americans with cleaner, more efficient ways of commuting to work.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL SEAN D. FOSTER

HON. JOHN R. CURTIS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Sean D. Foster on his retirement from the Army. LTC Foster's remarkable career spans nearly three decades of distinguished service in defense of our nation.

LTC Foster's career started in the Army National Guard, where he enlisted as a Tank Crewman. He attended the United States Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer upon graduation. After serving for five years in the Infantry, including a year-long deployment to Iraq, LTC Foster attended law school and became a Judge Advocate through the Army's Funded Legal Education Program.

LTC Foster's career as a Judge Advocate has been truly exemplary. He immediately established himself as a criminal law expert and served in prosecutorial and defense capacities to ensure the fair administration of justice. Notably, LTC Foster was also selected to serve as the lead defense attorney for a general officer in a historic courtmartial that garnered national media attention.

From 2014 to 2016, LTC Foster served in the Special Operations Community, deploying to Germany and Afghanistan. As the Group Judge Advocate for the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Carson, Colorado, LTC Foster directly supported the development of more than 60 complex special operations missions in 13 countries.

LTC Foster was selected to participate in the Army's Congressional Fellowship program in 2016. He earned a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University and worked as a Fellow in the U.S. Senate. In 2018, he continued on as a Legislative Counsel in the Army's Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison, and also served as the Chief of the Army's Congressional Response team. As a Legislative Counsel, LTC Foster led multiple congressional delegations

worldwide, and I can personally attest to his excellent leadership and communication skills from my own experience participating in delegations led by LTC Foster.

LTC Foster has compiled an outstanding record of significant contributions to the Army over the past 27 years and has unceasingly provided the highest standards of commitment to duty. His service to our great country is indeed a gift to the American people. I thank LTC Foster and wish him and his family the very best on this occasion of his retirement.

RECOGNIZING WIKIPEDIA FOR CELEBRATING ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Wikipedia on the 20th anniversary of its founding on January 15, 2001. The organization has developed a flourishing, free, and accessible home for the world's knowledge and has become an indispensable part of our lives.

While encyclopedias have long relied on a small number of academics and experts to write and update information, Wikipedia leverages a voluntary, community-based approach that has allowed the product to expand to cover an extraordinary array of topics that has worldwide scale, well beyond what all previous encyclopedias could cover, combined. To date, Wikipedians have created an astonishing 175 million pages that are visited by two billion unique devices per month.

The world-class team of people . . . employees and volunteers that administer Wikipedia, are a major reason why the project has been such a success, and I'm proud that many of my constituents are part of this group. Wikipedia's success is also due to the fact that it is managed by a values-driven nonprofit organization, the Wikimedia Foundation.

Wikipedia is a large part of the reason we all have the world's information at our fingertips and it's a privilege to congratulate Wikipedia on celebrating 20 years of informing the world.

A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam speaker, I was grateful to represent South Carolina's Second Congressional District at yesterday's inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS and to join my colleagues to witness this historic event.

I appreciate the Capitol Police, National Guard, Secret Service, and all law enforcement officers who worked to ensure our security and a peaceful transition of power. The South Carolina National Army National Guard was ably led by Colonel Edward Cloyd includ-

ing Second District Congressional Office District Director 1Lt. Alex Morris.

Moving forward, it's time to keep working toward what is best for the country. Americans still need a way out of this Wuhan pandemic, job growth, and continued support for our men and women in uniform. Having traveled with Senator Biden on delegations to Iraq and Belgium, I know firsthand he can seek unity.

Best wishes Congresswoman-Elect Claudia Tenney, fighting for a fair election. In conclusion, God Bless our Troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CIVICS LEARNING ACT OF 2021

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Civics Learning Act of 2021, a bill that aims to promote democratic ideals by ensuring that young Americans receive a strong civics education.

On January 6, 2021, our country witnessed an armed insurrection on this sacred ground. This insurrection was fueled by lies and conspiracy theories that were allowed to take hold in too many minds of our fellow Americans because they have not come to understand even the most basic parameters of our democratic republic. Disturbingly, an Annenberg Public Policy Center poll conducted in 2018 found that only 32 percent of American adults could name all three branches of government. In 2017, only 37 percent of Americans surveyed could name any of the rights guaranteed under the First Amendment. The failure to establish an extensive understanding of American democratic principles begins in grade school: In 2014, only 23 percent of eighth graders performed at or above the proficient level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress civics exam. This lack of civic awareness leads to an unstable bedrock for our democracy, which requires widespread knowledge of American government for it to function properly.

This is why I have introduced the Civics Learning Act of 2021, which increases funding for innovative and evidence-based civics learning and teaching programs, including hands-on civic engagement activities, online and video game-based learning, service learning, and participation in student governance. Recognizing that most civics programs focus on high school teachers and students, this bill would ensure funding for elementary, middle, and high school programs to create a strong foundation for civic knowledge. In addition, this bill would prioritize funding for high-need schools, underserved populations, and low-access areas such as rural or inner-city communities. With this focus, the bill can inspire the participation of marginalized communities and better integrate them into American democracy.

Madam Speaker, it is my sincere hope this body will expeditiously pass this measure. Doing so will reaffirm America's commitment to civics education, fostering a more informed citizenship that will only strengthen our democracy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MASONIC
PALESTINE LODGE NO. 357 F. &
A. M. OF DETROIT

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions of one of Detroit's longest-serving fraternal and service organizations, Palestine Lodge No. 357 F. & A. M.

Founded January 26, 1881, Detroit's Palestine Masonic Lodge has operated for one hundred forty years. The Palestine Lodge can count among its past members many high-profile residents, including James Vernor, originator of Vernor's Ginger Ale, a Detroit staple, and automotive pioneer Henry Ford. More recently, the Palestine Lodge, in affiliation with the Michigan Masons, has helped make significant contributions to its charitable foundation to make meaningful impacts on the lives of countless Michigan residents. These actions are not limited to its scholarship programs for students, its bikes for books child literacy incentive program, as well as its S.A.Y. Detroit tutoring and literacy program. In addition, the Palestine Lodge members give countless hours of volunteer time on local community initiatives.

Please join me in recognizing Detroit's Palestine Lodge No. 357 F. & A. M.'s many contributions to the residents of Michigan and the 13th Congressional District over the past one hundred forty years.

AYUDA ACT OF 2021

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Assuring You Uniform Dietary Assistance (AYUDA) Act, making the Northern Mariana Islands part of the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). My bill ensures individuals and families in our islands who rely on this help to put food on the table are treated equitably and receive similar levels of assistance available in other parts of our nation.

Inclusion in SNAP for the people I represent remains a priority goal for me. I first introduced the AYUDA Act in the 112th Congress. And in the years since, a pilot program has demonstrated the feasibility of including the Northern Marianas in SNAP. Taking this action will avoid future disruption in vital food aid. And it will relieve the administrative burden on the U.S. Department of Agriculture to manage a one-off, block grant for our islands when right next door in the U.S. territory of Guam SNAP works perfectly well.

The current block grant approach to food aid for the Northern Marianas continues to reduce assistance to those in need compared to other Americans. Because the arbitrarily capped block grant funds do not automatically respond to changing economic conditions, families in need face the prospect that their benefits will be reduced or cut off completely.

In fact, just last October, the Commonwealth government stated it had no choice but to remove households from eligibility for the new fiscal year due to insufficient funds. Moreover, benefits were substantially cut by 25 percent on October 1, 2020.

The time has now come to right the disparity that keeps the majority-minority community I represent excluded from this critical safety net program that has kept millions of Americans from going hungry during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At a time when the Marianas economy continues to be shut due to the coronavirus crisis, I urge my colleagues to support this bill so that those in need are not treated differently simply because of where they live in America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAFE AND QUIET SKIES ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing my Safe and Quiet Skies Act from the 116th Congress to ensure that commercial air tour flights are adequately regulated to ensure in-air and on-ground safety and address widespread and accelerating community disruption. I extend a special thanks to my colleagues, Congressmembers NADLER, NEGUSE, NORTON, SHERMAN, and SIRES, for co-introducing this necessary measure.

In 2019 alone, there were 17 sightseeing tour flight and skydiving accidents nationwide with 37 tragic deaths from six of those crashes. In my Hawaii alone, we saw three dead in the crash of a commercial air tour helicopter into a residential neighborhood, eleven more dead in the crash of a commercial skydiving plane, and then seven more dead in a commercial air tour helicopter crash in a remote mountain region. Many other areas of the country have been equally impacted, especially those with high commercial usage, more dense populations, valuable natural resources, significant defense installations and other factors.

These tragedies occurred amidst a rapid increase in commercial helicopter and small plane overflights including residential, commercial, and industrial neighborhoods, cemeteries and memorials, land and marine parks and other recreation areas, and sensitive military installations. These have disrupted whole communities with excessive noise and other impacts, destroyed the peace and sanctity of special places, increased risk to not only passengers but those on the ground, and weakened security and management of defense operations.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) currently has virtually exclusive jurisdiction over these aircraft operations. Following these and other recent tragedies across the country, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which is responsible for investigating accidents but not for direct safety regulation, strongly recommended to the FAA that safety-related regulation of commercial tour helicopters and small aircraft skydiving operations is generally insufficient.

Regarding ground disruption and risk, the FAA takes the position that its responsibility is

strictly operational safety and national airspace efficiency and does not extend to ground disruption and other negative impacts. As a result, the operators, aside from strict takeoff and approach, avoidance of established flight paths and other limited circumstances, are virtually free to fly wherever, whenever, and as often as they want. And they do, with little to no self-regulation.

This situation is unacceptable for both safety and community impact concerns. It is also not limited to Hawaii, with growing concerns in other areas with high commercial tour usage, more dense populations, valuable natural resources, significant defense installations and other factors.

This bill would first require the FAA to implement the NTSB's recommended enhanced safety regulations. It would also prohibit flights over federal property that requires privacy, dignity, and respect, to include military installations, national cemeteries and national parks, wildlife refuges and wilderness. It would further require the use of standard equipment to monitor the location of flights, apply the "sterile cockpit rule" to tour flights (meaning in part that the pilot could not also be the tour guide), prohibit flights lower than 1,500 feet over actual ground, and limit decibel levels to those commonly applied to operations in residential areas. Additionally, the bill would allow states, localities, and tribes to impose stricter regulations on tour flights in their jurisdictions with required public engagement.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill into law.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILEY DECK

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, today I wish to honor a great American and steadfast public servant. James Wiley Deck is leaving the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) after having served in critically important roles of increasing responsibility over the last four years. A polished leader and expert communicator, Wiley worked tirelessly throughout his time at DOT to keep the public safe on our nation's roadways while helping to build the infrastructure needed to accommodate the future of American transportation.

Wiley joined DOT in 2017 as the Director of Government Relations for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). While in this role, he served as the principal advisor to the FMCSA Administrator with respect to legislative affairs, Congressional relations, and all policy matters affecting Federal, state and local governments, as well as public and private interest groups. His innate ability to collaborate with a variety of government stakeholders led to multiple legislative successes—including the securing of \$100 million in autonomous vehicle research and development funding for DOT.

In 2019, Wiley transitioned to the Office of the Secretary, where he served as Senior Policy Advisor to Secretary Elaine L. Chao. In that role, he served as the principal strategic advisor to the DOT Secretary on issues pertaining not only to the FMCSA, but to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Office of Drug and Alcohol

Policy and Compliance (ODAPC). He served as the Department's representative on the White House COVID-19 Supply Chain Task Force and the White House Food Supply Chain Policy Coordinating Committee, where he helped shape the Federal response to the pandemic. He also led the Department's efforts to create the National Freight Strategic Plan to guide strategic Federal initiatives for multimodal investments to reduce congestion and improve intermodal connectivity.

In 2020, Secretary Chao asked Wiley to lead FMCSA. As Acting Administrator of a Federal agency with a \$680 million budget and nearly 1200 employees, Wiley led the implementation efforts on two significant regulatory reform efforts: Hours of Service and the Definition of Agricultural Commodities, two issues which are of vital importance to my Congressional District. More importantly, however, he diligently worked with Congress to secure \$30 million in Federal funding for a new Large Truck Crash Causal Factors Study. The last comprehensive large truck crash causation study provided the DOT, and safety research community, valuable insight into the factors which contribute to crashes involving at least one commercial motor vehicle, but the data was collected nearly 20 years ago. A new updated study—one that accounts for the changes in technology, vehicle safety, driver behavior and roadway design over the last two decades—is sorely needed and will serve as Wiley's lasting legacy in the Department.

Prior to transitioning to DOT, Wiley served for 22 years on the staff of my friend and the former Chairman of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Congressman John L. Mica of Florida, the last six as his Chief of Staff. He is also a proud graduate of the University of Central Florida, although I would remind the Speaker that the last time UCF played my alma mater, Virginia Tech, in football was August 31, 2003, and Virginia Tech won 49–28.

Wiley, his wife, Elizabeth, and their two children, Emilia and Enslie, live in Stafford, VA.

Madam Speaker, I am thankful for Wiley's leadership, dedication to public service throughout his 26-year career in the Federal government and his work on issues of vital importance to the economic vibrance of our great nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIKESHARE TRANSIT ACT OF 2021

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Bikeshare Transit Act of 2021. This legislation passed the House last session in Sections 1210 and 2102 of the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2, 116th Cong.) and would make bikeshare systems eligible to receive funding to enhance related public transportation service or transit facilities.

America is in the middle of a bikeshare revolution: at least 119 communities have bikeshare systems, supporting a network of more than 100,000 bikes. In 2019, riders took 50 million trips on bikeshare systems, and the number of trips and systems has grown every year since 2010. The COVID-19 pandemic

has further increased demand for bicycles and bikeshare systems as people seek transportation options. Systems are operating in communities of all sizes from Los Angeles and Portland to Topeka and Conway, Arkansas.

While some existing bikeshare programs received federal dollars to develop their systems, the lack of an established source of federal financial support has proved an impediment to many other projects. Since the term "bikeshare" is not included in federal law or described as a form of transit, bikeshare systems and departments of transportation are forced to operate in a gray area, creating challenges for funding and maintaining bikeshare systems.

This legislation makes bikeshare systems eligible to receive funding to enhance related public transportation service or transit facilities. Federal funding can be used for acquiring or replacing bikeshare-related equipment and constructing bikeshare facilities. Bikeshare systems will also be listed as eligible projects under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program. The Bikeshare Transit Act will remove significant barriers facing new and existing bikeshare projects applying for federal funding while underscoring that bikeshare programs drive economic development and are an important part of bringing choice and adding value to America's transportation system.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to include this legislation in a long-term surface transportation reauthorization package.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, on July 20, 2020 I missed recorded vote No. 142 due to travel delays. Had I been present I would have voted YEA (Passage of H.R. 6395).

HONORING THE LATE LOUIS AYALA

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Louis Ayala, a beloved member of our north Fort Worth community, who died of COVID-19 and pneumonia last week. Mr. Ayala was known for his dedication to the barber shop industry and was honored by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation last year as the oldest active barber in Texas.

At the age of 14, while still in middle school, Louis learned how to cut hair. Years later, he opened Ayala's Barber Shop on North Main Street in the same neighborhood where he grew up and where our community went for decades to get a good haircut. Since 1945, Louis Ayala has kept our community happy and looking sharp. Louis Ayala's hard work and spirit is an outstanding example of Amer-

ican ingenuity and perseverance. His commitment to his small business and community must be commended and remembered.

THANK YOU SECRETARY ROBERT WILKIE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I appreciate Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Robert Wilkie for his service to our country. Last Thursday, the VA shared a review by Secretary Wilkie, discussing recent accomplishments. Wilkie writes that,

"... over the last few years, VA was reborn. Today our approval rating stands at about 90 percent for health care, and among our fastest growing population—women—we have an 86 percent approval rating.

"Recent studies show VA measures up to the private sector on access and quality. Veterans liked what they saw and started voting with their feet. VA completed a record number of appointments in fiscal year 2019—59 million—the same year the MISSION Act took effect. The more Veterans we served, the more Veterans trusted us. Trust in VA care hit a record high in April 2020.

"VA achieved what all the experts in Washington said was impossible by rolling out a modernized health record that will make it easier than ever for health professionals to access Veterans' medical history."

CELEBRATING THE INDEPENDENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Independence Chamber of Commerce on one hundred years of support and advocacy for local businesses across Independence, Missouri. For an entire century, the Independence Chamber of Commerce has nurtured the entrepreneurial spirit that serves as the economic backbone of my district.

President Harry Truman, born and raised in Independence, emphatically believed that "America was built on courage, on imagination, and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand." For one hundred years, the Independence Chamber of Commerce has given local business leaders the tools to be courageous and imaginative, along with the determination necessary to succeed. The Chamber represents over five hundred businesses in Independence, each doing their part to make a difference in the lives of their friends and neighbors. Every year, the Chamber's incredible staff and Board of Directors organize nearly two hundred events, from roundtable discussions with burgeoning business leaders, to seminars with professionals on how to grow new enterprises. These business-centered events bolster the economic

mainstays of a proud and historic community. However, the Chamber's extensive catalog of events engages with all sorts of communities. Its organization and sponsorship of events like the annual Halloween parade, a weekly Foodie Friday that promotes local restaurants, and the SantaCaliGon Days Festival bring joy and warm memories to those fortunate enough to call Independence home. And as the current public health crisis continues to pose unprecedented challenges and difficult decisions to small businesses, the Independence Chamber of Commerce has risen to meet the moment. It has reimagined how to help local businesses and continues to serve as a vital resource for those navigating the narrow waters between a struggling economy and a lethal virus. Additionally, the Chamber's concerted effort to spread awareness about various COVID-19 relief funds has been the difference, for many family-owned businesses, between surviving a difficult year and being forced to close. In short, the Chamber's work has ensured that President Truman's hometown continues to grow and prosper.

However, the Chamber's work extends far beyond Independence city limits. Its annual lobbying day in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C. helps promote the policies necessary for robust business growth and economic development not only in the great state of Missouri, but across the entire country. And as this year has placed a renewed and long-overdue emphasis on community-owned broadband service, affordable quality housing, and neighborhood inclusivity, the Chamber has been an effective advocate for many of the issues that inspired me to run for City Council, for Mayor, and then for Congress. Through their advocacy, the Chamber has initiated and supported several infrastructure development and neighborhood revitalization projects that have benefitted a broad coalition of communities. It recognizes that policies that are good for hardworking individuals in all kinds of communities are also good for businesses, and I look forward to our continued partnership as we support Missouri families. But as I mentioned, it is not just the Chamber's policies, but also its presence, that have tangible positive effects on the district I represent.

With every educational seminar, a small business owner gains an opportunity to innovate and incorporate new ways to grow their business. With every networking event, the Chamber connects leaders who can collaborate and form symbiotic partnerships that benefit all of us. With every ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony, the Chamber offers a business the vital publicity and web of support needed to grow and succeed. Running a business is hard. But for one hundred years, the Independence Chamber has made it easier for the aspirational among us to capitalize on the same entrepreneurial spirit that made the American economy the envy of the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating the current and former staff members who have organized the daily activities of the Independence Chamber of Commerce, as well as all the past and present members of the Chamber's Board of Directors, who have served as dutiful stewards of this thriving organization. The Independence Chamber of Commerce has brought together entrepreneurs and served as a stalwart of growth and resiliency for the past one hundred

years. I have no doubt that they will continue this important work over the next century and beyond.

IN RECOGNITION OF KAREN
MC CARTHY'S 37 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PETER MEIJER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. MEIJER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and service of longtime Michigan resident, Mrs. Karen McCarthy.

After 37 years, Mrs. McCarthy begins a well-deserved retirement after decades of public service to our local communities, and she will certainly be missed by the countless West Michiganders that she has helped and worked alongside over these many years. Mrs. McCarthy worked in community affairs for Consumers Energy and she most recently served as Community Affairs Manager in Kent County, based in Grand Rapids. In that role, she was responsible for local government and community relations, charitable giving, and economic development throughout Kent County.

It is difficult to overstate Mrs. McCarthy's connection to our community. Along with her work at Consumers Energy, she has served on numerous local committees and spent her personal time volunteering with organizations dedicated to combatting poverty and empowering women and girls. Her compassionate spirit, service to the public, and strong work ethic have made her an essential piece of West Michigan society.

Mrs. McCarthy's passion for serving others and dedication to her community have left a lasting impact, and we hope that her example will inspire younger generations to feel a similar call to public service. We wish her a joyful and peaceful retirement with her family and friends, and we remain grateful for her contributions that have improved the lives of so many of her fellow West Michiganders.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in commending Mrs. McCarthy for her service and her long career helping the people of the great state of Michigan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALEXIS
PAULSEN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alexis Grace (Hauck) Paulsen, the daughter of Toby Hauck, President of the Air Traffic Controllers Local ZAU and an Illinois resident.

Alexis Grace (Hauck) Paulsen was born September 14, 1992, at Scott AFB, Illinois and died Monday, January 18, 2021, in Clare, Illinois, at the age of 28.

Alexis graduated from Hiawatha High School in 2011 in Kirkland, IL. Throughout high school Alexis participated in volleyball, basketball, softball and FFA. She was a member of the County Progressors 4-H Club and

showed livestock at the Boone County Fair. After graduation, she took classes at Kishwaukee College. Alexis was a member of Hillcrest Covenant Church in DeKalb.

Alexis enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She loved meeting new people. She married Matthew on May 23, 2015. They spent their married life in Clare where she thrived in maintaining a loving home for her husband and sons. Her favorite thing in life was being a stay at home mom to her two boys.

Alexis is survived by her husband, Matthew; sons, Fredrick and Franklin; parents, Lori Jackson and Derrick Lander, Toby and Darla Hauck; parents-in-law, Jeff and Lauri Paulsen; brother, Dylan (Jasmine) Hauck; brothers-in-law, Tim (Cassie) Paulsen and Chris (Katie) Paulsen; nieces, Makayla Hauck, Olivia, Nola, and Brielle Paulsen; grandparents, Ann Carrel, Roger and Marilyn Jackson, Fred and Barb Hauck, Leanna Kacmarek, Betty Paulsen, Carol and Terry Dyer, and David and Eena Lundberg; and 16 aunts and uncles. Alexis is preceded in death by her grandfathers, Mort Carrel and Adolph Paulsen.

My deepest condolences to the Paulsen and Hauck families. This is indeed a tragic time, but also a time of reflection and hope. I am often reminded, "the pain you feel today is the strength you feel tomorrow. For every challenge encountered, there is opportunity for growth and healing." May the Lord give you that strength during this time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RONALD
FRANCIS DWYER

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and remember the life of Ronald Francis Dwyer, who passed away on December 24, 2020, at the age of 77 after an eight-year battle with cancer.

Born in Edwards, Illinois in 1943, Ron displayed natural gravitation towards community and teaching. Ron worked in education for 46 years as a teacher/counselor, coach, and principal for Spalding High School, Limestone High School, East Peoria High School, Notre Dame High School, Armstrong Oakview Grade School in East Peoria, Paul Bolin Grade School in East Peoria and Central Junior High School in East Peoria. After he retired from 23 years in public schools and 23 years in private schools, Ron began serving for three years as a bailiff for the Peoria County Court House. Ron spent 21 years as a sports official in basketball, baseball, and football. Ron is a member of the Peoria Sports Officials Hall of Fame.

Ron was a man of deep faith and a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Kickapoo, Illinois, where he belonged to Bishop Rosati Council of the Knights of Columbus. Ron's devout service awarded him the PRO Ecclesia ET Pontific Medallion from the Diocese of Peoria in 2000, the Peoria Notre Dame Foundation award in 2004, and the Alumni of the Year Award in 2017. The religious values and foundation of faith instilled through Ron's teachings will continue to strengthen our community for years to come.

From teacher, coach, administrator, sports official, husband, father, and grandfather, Ron lived his life serving others with honesty, humility, and integrity. We mourn the passing of Ronald Dwyer, a friend and hero to many across the state of Illinois. He left a lasting impact on those who had the pleasure of knowing and learning from him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE INSURRECTIONIST ATTACK UPON THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the National Commission on the Insurrectionist Attack Upon the United States Capitol Act, which would create a national commission to provide a complete account surrounding the attack on the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, including preparedness and response. The commission would also present recommendations on how to protect our country from future attacks. My bill is modeled on the bipartisan legislation that created a national commission to investigate the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

What happened on January 6, 2021, is no less grave, no less revealing than what happened to our country in 2001. In 2001, we realized that we were woefully unprepared for a foreign terrorist attack. The bipartisan national commission created by Congress conducted an unbiased investigation and helped us improve our defenses against international threats.

Now we are faced with another threat, but this one does not come from outside, it comes from within. The people who ransacked and defaced the U.S. Capitol, the people who threatened elected officials trying to fulfill their constitutional duty were not foreigners; they were Americans. In order to tackle this new internal threat to our democracy, we must understand it, and we cannot understand it without investigating how this attack on the U.S. Capitol occurred.

The commission created by my bill would draw upon all available evidence and prior investigations to generate a full and complete accounting of the circumstances of the attack and the country's preparedness for and immediate response to the attack. This commission must be above the fray of politics to give us clear answers on what happened on January 6th. The American people deserve unbiased answers.

What happened is deeply personal for me and for many who live or grew up in the District of Columbia, where the U.S. Capitol is located. We all recognize the U.S. Capitol as a sacred symbol of democracy, but domestic terrorists came into my hometown and wreaked mayhem on our federal governing institutions. The commission would provide definitive answers to help Congress determine policies to ward off such attacks in the future.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ADOLPH FLOYD GONELLA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of a distinguished American and a brother-friend, Adolph Floyd Gonella, Ph.D., who was born on November 1, 1933 in San Mateo County, California, and passed away on January 4, 2021, at the age of 87. Floyd Gonella was the son of Amedeo and Margherita Gonella who were immigrants from Italy. His father was a farmer who raised cabbage and artichokes. Floyd's family lived humbly and he learned from them the value of hard work and service to others. He experienced anti-Italian discrimination during World War II when they were declared enemy aliens and placed under curfew as residents of a coastal county. This contributed to his empathy and passion for helping the disadvantaged among us.

Dr. Gonella earned his degree in education and several teaching certificates from San Francisco State where he was a star football player, and he earned a doctorate in education at the University of California, Berkeley. His distinguished career included service as an adjunct professor at Santa Clara University, and as Superintendent of the Jefferson Union High School District. He went on to be elected to three 4-year terms as the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools and was considered 'Mr. Education' by everyone.

Dr. Gonella retired as County Superintendent of Schools in 2003 and stepped up to become Superintendent of East Palo Alto's bankrupt Ravenswood City School District. Working with city, school and community leaders he revitalized the district and brought it to fiscal and educational health. He then went on to the dysfunctional Vallejo City Unified School District where he and Superintendent Rick Damelio were successful in rescuing the district. In addition to assisting poorly performing school districts, Dr. Gonella and his wife, Margaret, created the Daly City Youth Health Center which has been providing services to low-income teens for thirty years.

Dr. Gonella earned many awards, including Coach of the Year in 1962 and the Fred Kiesel Distinguished Service Award. He served on the California Advisory Council on School Restructuring and was named Outstanding Alumnus by the San Francisco State Education Department. For three decades he served as Team Chair of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, frequently traveling to various Asian countries to accredit schools. He also led the Daly City Chamber of Commerce in an extensive membership drive.

Dr. Gonella gave generously of his time and considerable talents to the San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council, the Criminal Justice Council, the San Mateo County AIDS Program Community Advisory Committee, the Junior Statesmen Foundation, the First 5 Commission, and the American Heart Association. In 2003, the County Office of Education honored him by naming its offices the Floyd Gonella Education Center.

Floyd Gonella was a decades-long friend and trusted advisor to me and beloved by my entire family. His compassion and care for

those less privileged were a source of inspiration to all who had the good fortune to know him, and his expertise as an educator was unparalleled. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him, worked with him, and called him friend. He leaves his wife, Margaret Taylor; his daughter, Michelle Gonella; his son, Michael Gonella (Chelsea) and grandsons, Nick and Alex; and his son, Stephen.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in expressing our condolences to Margaret Taylor and the entire Gonella family. Floyd Gonella lived a purposeful life, transforming the lives of countless students who he had great faith in. He made our community a better place to live in and learn, and he strengthened our country with his countless contributions.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEAN OVERMAN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the exemplary leadership and faith-based work of Pastor Jean Overman, who has been recognized as the 2021 Pastor of the Year for the National Christians in Action.

Pastor Jean Overman has dedicated her entire life's work to serving the people in her community in and around Inkster and Western Wayne County in Michigan's 13th Congressional District. Her drive to serve for the good of our communities has had a profound impact on the lives of many. In addition to her pastoral duties and spiritual work, she serves as Executive Director of Operation Refuge, a local charitable organization that runs a number of programs to assist our most underserved populations. Its Mother's Pantry program affords families emergency food assistance in a grocery store-style setting. And, its Camp Inspire, a summer STEM camp, is a catalyst to instill confidence in young women and inspire them to explore science and technology studies.

In short, Pastor Jean Overman is an advocate for social justice, uplifting issues around poverty, education, racial justice and more. Her work reflects her love of community and her passion for creating a better future for our families. Her commitment to help those in need is unwavering and truly reflective of what it means to live like Christ.

Pastor Jean Overman is a true public servant, and we are truly grateful for her advocacy and her work every day serving the district. Please join me in recognition of her outstanding achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROAD USER CHARGE ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2021

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Road User Charge Advancement Act of 2021. This legislation passed the

House last session in Section 5401 of the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2, 116th Cong.) and builds on the successful Surface Transportation Systems Funding Alternatives (STSFA) program to further enhance national understanding and competencies in collecting a road user charge.

Increased vehicle fuel efficiency and a stagnant federal gas tax have encouraged increased demand on our transportation system without proportionally contributing to necessary maintenance and investment. In just a few years, the United States will no longer be able to finance our transportation system based on gallons of fuel consumed. Surface transportation faces significant funding challenges which have only deepened during the COVID-19 pandemic. The federal gas tax, unchanged since 1993, has lost more than 71 percent of its purchasing power due to inflation and fuel efficiency gains. As a result, Congress has transferred more than \$153 billion in general fund revenues to prop up the Highway Trust Fund since 2008. Without new sources of revenue, or increasing existing sources, the total Highway Trust Fund shortfall is projected to reach nearly \$190 billion in the next 10 years.

Two national transportation study commissions, authorized in 2005, named a road usage charge based on vehicle miles travelled (VMT) as the most promising revenue alternative to the gas tax and the "consensus choice" for the future. Since then, California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming have operated or are operating pilot projects where drivers are charged for miles traveled as part of the STSFA program.

The Road User Charge Advancement Act of 2021 would reauthorize the STSFA program through Fiscal Year 2025, increase the authorization amount to \$35 million, and reduce the state match requirement to incentivize more states to participate. The legislation also includes annual reporting requirements to provide more frequent knowledge-sharing opportunities and provides special consideration for states that are collecting revenues in their pilots.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to advance this legislation as part of a surface transportation reauthorization package and provide communities with longterm funding certainty to meet their infrastructure needs.

IN HONOR OF MR. MARK SHIELDS

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mark Shields, a United States Marine veteran and longtime American political commentator before the United States House of Representatives. Mr. Shields, a fellow alumnus of the University of Notre Dame, has led a fulfilling career that embodies a lifetime of journalistic integrity and service to the American people.

Mr. Shields entered the political world in 1965 when he accepted a position to serve as Wisconsin Senator William Proxmire's legisla-

tive assistant in Washington, DC. From there, Mr. Shields continued on his path in politics, serving on dozens of local, state, and national campaigns throughout the 1960s and 1970s.

Mr. Shields is perhaps best known for his role as a trusted and engaging political commentator featured on programs, including PBS' "The NewsHour" and CNN's "Capital Gang." For 33 years, up until stepping back from his regular duties in December 2020, Mark Shields graced the American public with his thoughtful and expert political analysis on the "PBS NewsHour" program, where he reported on the facts and the news with principle and grace.

Mark Shields' career continues to serve as a symbol for Americans nationwide who strive to follow their passions and seek to make a difference. Mr. Shields' regular commentary on "PBS NewsHour" will certainly be missed—but never forgotten. I wish Mr. Shields and his family the best in their future endeavors.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation to Mark Shields for his extraordinary contributions to our society.

DEPARTING ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as President Donald Trump left office, he presented an address the evening before his departure correctly reviewing his achievements. I have had the opportunity to see his success firsthand.

Last January, I was in a bi-partisan delegation to Poland and Israel. In Krakow citizens were grateful to President Trump placing American troops in Poland deterring Russian aggression. At the World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem, citizens were so appreciative of President Trump. Previously, I led a House delegation for the historic opening in May 14, 2018, of the American Embassy in Jerusalem with President Trump fulfilling Promises Made Promises Kept.

Last February, I accompanied Senator TIM SCOTT and his mother, Frances Scott, to his hometown of North Charleston on Air Force One with President Trump where he highlighted his heartfelt success for American families of the lowest unemployment seen ever for African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans.

The Address of January 19, 2021, can be cherished by the 62,984,828 Trump supporters in 2016 carrying 86 percent of the nation's counties, and by the 74,216,722 Trump supporters in 2020 resulting in South Carolina having the largest Republican majorities in 140 years.

"My fellow Americans, four years ago we launched a great national effort to rebuild our country, to renew its spirit, and to restore the allegiance of this government to its citizens. In short, we embarked on a mission to make America great again for all Americans. As I conclude my term as the 45th President of the United States, I stand before you truly proud of what we have achieved together. We did what we came here

to do, and so much more. This week we inaugurate a new administration and pray for its success in keeping America safe and prosperous. We extend our best wishes, and we also want them to have luck, a very important word.

"I'd like to begin by thanking just a few of the amazing people who made our remarkable journey possible. First, let me express my overwhelming gratitude for the love and support of our spectacular First Lady Melania. Let me also share my deepest appreciation to my daughter, Ivanka, my son-in-law Jared, and to Baron, Don, Eric, Tiffany, and Lara. You fill my world with light and with joy. I also want to thank Vice President Mike Pence, his wonderful wife, Karen, and the entire Pence family. Thank you as well to my chief of staff, Mark Meadows, the dedicated members of the White House staff, and the cabinet, and all of the incredible people across our administration who poured out their heart and soul to fight for America.

"I also want to take a moment to thank a truly exceptional group of people, the United States Secret Service. My family and I will forever be in your debt. My profound gratitude as well to everyone in the White House military office, the teams of Marine One and Air Force One, every member of the armed forces, and state and local law enforcement all across our country. Most of all, I want to thank the American people. To serve as your president has been an honor beyond description. Thank you for this extraordinary privilege. And that's what it is, a great privilege and a great honor. We must never forget that while Americans will always have our disagreements, we are a nation of incredible, decent, faithful, and peace-loving citizens who all want our country to thrive and flourish and be very, very successful and good. We are a truly magnificent nation.

"All Americans were horrified by the assault on our capital. Political violence is an attack on everything we cherish as Americans. It can never be tolerated. Now more than ever, we must unify around our shared values and rise above the partisan rancor and forge our common destiny. Four years ago, I came to Washington as the only true outsider ever to win the presidency. I had not spent my career as a politician, but as a builder looking at open skylines and imagining infinite possibilities. I ran for president because I knew there were towering new summits for America just waiting to be scaled. I knew the potential for our nation was boundless as long as we put America first. So I left behind my former life and stepped into a very difficult arena, but an arena, nevertheless, with all sorts of potential if properly done.

"America had given me so much and I wanted to give something back. Together with millions of hardworking Patriots across this land, we built the greatest political movement in the history of our country. We also built the greatest economy in the history of the world. It was about America first because we all wanted to make America great again. We restored the principle that a nation exists to serve its citizens. Our agenda was not about right or left. It wasn't about Republican or Democrat, but about the good of a nation, and that means the whole nation. With the support and prayers of the American people, we achieved more than anyone thought possible. Nobody thought we could even come close. We passed the largest package of tax cuts and reforms in American history. We slashed more job-killing regulations than any administration had ever done before.

"We fix our broken trade deals, withdrew from the horrible Trans-Pacific Partnership and the impossible Paris Climate Accord, renegotiated the one-sided South Korea deal.

And we replaced NAFTA with the groundbreaking USMCA, that's Mexico and Canada, a deal that's worked out very, very well. Also and very importantly, we imposed historic and monumental tariffs on China, made a great new deal with China. But before the ink was even dry, we and the whole world got hit with the China virus.

"Our trade relationship was rapidly changing. Billions and billions of dollars were pouring into the US but the virus forced us to go in a different direction. The whole world suffered, but America outperformed other countries economically because of our incredible economy and the economy that we built. Without the foundations and footings, it wouldn't have worked out this way. We wouldn't have some of the best numbers we've ever had. We also unlocked our energy resources and became the world's number one producer of oil and natural gas by far. Powered by these policies, we built the greatest economy in the history of the world. We reignited America's job creation and achieved record-low unemployment for African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, women, almost everyone. Income soared, wages boomed. The American dream was restored and millions were lifted from poverty in just a few short years. It was a miracle.

"The stock market set one record after another, with 148 stock market highs during the short period of time, and boosted the retirements and pensions of hardworking citizens all across our nation. 401(k)s are at a level they've never been at before. We've never seen numbers like we've seen, and that's before the pandemic and after the pandemic. We rebuilt the American manufacturing base, opened up thousands of new factories, and brought back the beautiful phrase Made in the USA. To make life better for working families, we doubled the child tax credit and signed the largest-ever expansion of funding for childcare and development. We joined with the private sector to secure commitments to train more than 16 million American workers for the jobs of tomorrow.

"When our nation was hit with the terrible pandemic, we produced not one, but two vaccines with record-breaking speed and more will quickly follow. They said it couldn't be done, but we did it. They called it a medical miracle. And that's what they're calling it right now, a medical miracle. Another administration would have taken three, four, five, maybe even up to 10 years to develop a vaccine. We did it in nine months. We grieve for every life lost and we pledge in their memory to wipe out this horrible pandemic once and for all.

"When the virus took its brutal toll on the world's economy, we launched the fastest economic recovery our country has ever seen. We passed nearly \$4 trillion in economic relief, saved or supported over 50 million jobs, and slashed the unemployment rate in half. These are numbers that our country has never seen before. We created choice and transparency in healthcare, stood up to big pharma in so many ways, but especially in our effort to get favored nations clauses added, which will give us the lowest prescription drug prices anywhere in the world. We passed VA Choice, VA Accountability, Right to Try, and landmark criminal justice reform.

"We confirmed three new justices of the United States Supreme Court. We appointed nearly 300 federal judges to interpret our Constitution as written. For years, the American people pleaded with Washington to finally secure the nation's borders. I am pleased to say, we answered that plea and achieved the most secure border in US history. We have given our brave border agents and heroic ICE officers the tools they need to

do their jobs better than they have ever done before and to enforce our laws and keep America safe. We proudly leave the next administration with the strongest and most robust border security measures ever put into place. This includes historic agreements with Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, along with more than 450 miles of powerful new wall.

"We restored American strength at home and American leadership abroad. The world respects us again. Please don't lose that respect. We reclaimed our sovereignty by standing up for America at the United Nations and withdrawing from the one-sided global deals that never served our interests. And NATO countries are now paying hundreds of billions of dollars more than when I arrived just a few years ago. It was very unfair. We were paying the cost for the world. Now the world is helping us.

"And perhaps most importantly of all, with nearly \$3 trillion, we fully rebuilt the American military, all made in the USA. We launched the first new branch of the United States Armed Forces in 75 years, the Space Force. And last spring, I stood at Kennedy Space Center in Florida and watched as American astronauts returned to space on American rockets for the first time in many, many years.

"We revitalize our alliances and rallied the nations of the world to stand up to China like never before. We obliterated the ISIS caliphate and ended the wretched life of its founder and leader alBaghdadi. We stood up to the oppressive Iranian regime and killed the world's top terrorist, Iranian butcher, Qassem Soleimani. We recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. As a result of our bold diplomacy and principled realism, we achieved a series of historic peace deals in the Middle East. Nobody believed it could happen. The Abraham Accords opened the doors to a future of peace and harmony, not violence and bloodshed. It is the dawn of a new Middle East, and we are bringing our soldiers home. I am especially proud to be the first president in decades who has started no new wars.

"Above all, we have reasserted the sacred idea that in America the government answers to the people. Our guiding light, our North star, our unwavering conviction has been that we are here to serve the noble everyday citizens of America. Our allegiance is not to the special interests corporations or global entities, it's to our children, our citizens, and to our nation itself. As president my top priority, my constant concern has always been the best interests of American workers and American families. I did not seek the easiest course. By far, it was actually the most difficult. I did not seek the path that would get the least criticism. I took on the tough battles, the hardest fights, the most difficult choices because that's what you elected me to do. Your needs were my first and last unyielding focus. This, I hope, will be our greatest legacy.

"Together, we put the American people back in charge of our country. We restored self-government. We restored the idea that in America no one is forgotten because everyone matters and everyone has a voice. We fought for the principle that every citizen is entitled to equal dignity, equal treatment, and equal rights because we are all made equal by God. Everyone is entitled to be treated with respect, to have their voice heard, and to have the government listen. You are loyal to your country and my administration was always loyal to you.

"We worked to build a country in which every citizen could find a great job and support their wonderful families. We fought for the communities where every American

could be safe and schools where every child could learn. We promoted a culture where our laws would be upheld, our heroes honored, our history preserved, and law-abiding citizens are never taken for granted. Americans should take tremendous satisfaction in all that we have achieved together. It's incredible.

"Now, as I leave the white house, I have been reflecting on the dangers that threaten the priceless inheritance we all share. As the world's most powerful nation, America faces constant threats and challenges from abroad. But the greatest danger we face is a loss of confidence in ourselves, a loss of confidence in our national greatness. A nation is only as strong as its spirit. We are only as dynamic as our pride. We are only as vibrant as the faith that beats in the hearts of our people. No nation can long thrive that loses faith in its own values, history, and heroes for these are the very sources of our unity and our vitality.

"What has always allowed America to prevail and triumph over the great challenges of the past has been an unyielding and unashamed conviction in the nobility of our country and its unique purpose in history. We must never lose this conviction. We must never forsake our belief in America. The key to national greatness lies in sustaining and instilling our shared national identity. That means focusing on what we have in common, the heritage that we all share. At the center of this heritage is also a robust belief in free expression, free speech, and open debate. Only if we forget who we are and how we got here could we ever allow political censorship and blacklisting to take place in America. It's not even thinkable. Shutting down free and open debate violates our core values and most enduring traditions.

"In America, we don't insist on absolute conformity or enforce rigid orthodoxies and punitive speech codes. We just don't do that. America is not a timid nation of tame souls who need to be sheltered and protected from those with whom we disagree. That's not who we are. It will never be who we are. For nearly 250 years in the face of every challenge, Americans have always summoned our unmatched courage, confidence, and fierce independence. These are the miraculous traits that once led millions of everyday citizens to set out across a wild continent and carve out a new life in the great West. It was the same profound love of our God-given freedom that willed our soldiers into battle and our astronauts into space.

"As I think back on the past four years, one image rises in my mind above all others. Whenever I traveled all along the motorcade route, there were thousands and thousands of people. They came out with their families so that they could stand as we passed and proudly wave our great American flag. It never failed to deeply move me. I knew that they did not just come out to show their support of me. They came out to show me their support and love for our country. This is a republic of proud citizens who are united by our common conviction, that America is the greatest nation in all of history.

"We are and must always be a land of hope, of light, and of glory to all the world. This is the precious inheritance that we must safeguard at every single turn. For the past four years, I have worked to do just that. From a great hall of Muslim leaders in Riyadh to a great square of Polish people in Warsaw, from the floor of the Korean Assembly to the podium at the United Nations General Assembly, and from the forbidden city in Beijing to the shadow of Mount Rushmore, I fought for you. I fought for your family. I fought for our country. Above all, I fought for America and all it stands for, and that is safe, strong, proud, and free.

"Now, as I prepare to hand power over to a new administration at noon on Wednesday, I want you to know that the movement we started is only just beginning. There's never been anything like it. The belief that a nation must serve its citizens will not dwindle, but instead, only grows stronger by the day. As long as the American people hold in their hearts, deep and devoted love of country, then there is nothing that this nation can not achieve. Our communities will flourish. Our people will be prosperous. Our traditions will be cherished. Our faith will be strong and our future will be brighter than ever before. I go from this majestic place with a loyal and joyful heart, an optimistic spirit, and a supreme confidence that for our country and for our children, the best is yet to come. Thank you and farewell. God bless you. God bless the United States of America."

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF
MELISSA KIEDROWICZ ELLISON

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a trusted advisor, Melissa Kiedrowicz Ellison, who has been an invaluable member of my team for more than a decade. Melissa first joined my staff as an intern in the 111th Congress and has served the people of the district I represent as a Legislative Correspondent, Legislative Assistant, Legislative Director, and as my Deputy Chief of Staff. Melissa has always been a steady hand, helping me carry out my duties as a member of the House Select Committee on Benghazi, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and as Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus during the 115th Congress.

Melissa has been by my side through countless hours of markups and hearings on difficult issues before the Committee on Ways and Means. Her grace under pressure, expertise, and leadership have been extraordinary assets in guiding my legislative efforts to combat

the COVID-19 pandemic and help working families recover from the greatest challenge we have faced in generations. Melissa always strived to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the constituents we serve, and she ensured Team Sánchez worked with common purpose in the halls of Congress and in the 38th District to do so. Thanks to Melissa's tenacity, I was proud to secure passage of 13 bills through the U.S. House of Representatives on her watch.

Melissa is known for her witty sense of humor, unfailing loyalty, and an appreciation for all things Disney.

I am so proud that Melissa will be bringing that magic to the Ways and Means Committee as the new Director of Outreach and Member Services. Her rich knowledge of the Committee will be a boon to Chairman NEAL and all of our members as we redouble our efforts to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuild an economy that benefits all working families. Though Melissa is leaving my office, I am so glad she is remaining in the Ways and Means Committee family and she will forever be a valued family member of Team Sánchez. I cannot wait to see all her future accomplishments as her career unfolds.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S75–S94

Measures Reported:

S. 12, to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

Page S91

Measures Passed:

DoD Waiver: By 69 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. 4), Senate passed H.R. 335, to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces.

(A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the bill, having achieved 60 affirmatives votes, pass.)

Pages S86–87

Inaugural Ceremony Proceedings—Agreement:

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Inaugural Ceremony Proceedings be printed in the Record.

Pages S75–79

Austin Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Friday, January 22, 2021, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Lloyd James Austin, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Defense; that there be 10 minutes for debate on the nomination, equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote without intervening action or debate, on confirmation of the nomination.

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Messages from the House:

Page S91

Executive Communications:

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Executive Reports of Committees:

Page S91

Additional Statements:

Pages S90–91

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Page S91

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—4)

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Adjournment: Senate convened at 12 noon and adjourned at 6:14 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Friday, January 22, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S94.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S.12, to provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces; and

The nomination of Lloyd James Austin, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Defense.

NOMINATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Peter Paul Montgomery Buttigieg, of Indiana, to be Secretary of Transportation, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Young, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 72 public bills, H.R. 373–444; 1 private bill, H.R. 445; and 9 resolutions, H.J. Res. 17; H. Con. Res. 7; and H. Res. 54–60, were introduced. **Pages H220–24**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H227**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in remembrance of the over 400,000 Americans who have passed away from the COVID–19 virus. **Page H209**

Order of Business—Consideration of H.R. 335: Agreed by unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider H.R. 335 in the House if called up by the chair of the Committee on Armed Services or his designee; that all points of order against consideration of the bill be waived; that the bill be considered as read; that all points of order against provisions in the bill be waived; and that the previous question 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 Armed Services or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit. **Page H209**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:05 p.m. and reconvened at 2:12 p.m. **Page H209**

Providing for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces: The House passed H.R. 335, to

provide for an exception to a limitation against appointment of persons as Secretary of Defense within seven years of relief from active duty as a regular commissioned officer of the Armed Forces, by a yeand-nay vote of 326 yeas to 78 nays, Roll No. 18. **Pages H209–19**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H209.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yeand-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on page H219.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nomination of Janet Louise Yellen, of California, to be Secretary of the Treasury, 10 a.m., SD–106.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Friday, January 22

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Lloyd James Austin, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Defense, and vote on confirmation thereon at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1:30 p.m., Monday, January 25

House Chamber

Program for Monday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 1:30 p.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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