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

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

Eternal God, the recent numbers are staggering: 500,000 deaths from COVID, 58 people who have died in the winter storms of the last 10 days, and at one point 4 million households were without power in Texas.

In the face of the enormity of these figures, we come to You this day at a loss for words, few answers, and in some cases no hope.

Speak to us, O infinite Lord. How precious are Your thoughts, how vast is their sum. If we could count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. You who have determined the number of the stars and call them each by name, great are You our Lord and mighty in power. Your understanding has no limit.

In Your attention to us, You have numbered the hairs on our heads. We ask then that You would heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds. Cover us with Your eternity. May we rest secure in knowing that You will never leave nor forsake us.

It is in the strength of Your everlasting name we pray.

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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

ELECTING A MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 146
Resolved, That following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Ms. Tenney (to rank immediately after Mr. Meuser).
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS: Ms. Tenney (to rank immediately after Mr. Meuser).

The resolution was agreed to.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Gomez). The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

EDUCATORS OWED BASIC PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION
(Ms. BOURDEAUX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BOURDEAUX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as we celebrate Public Schools Week, to talk about the urgent need to protect our teachers, educational support staff, all of their families, and the community at large in our schools.

While the national debate has centered around schools that are closed, in many States, such as Georgia, school districts with high COVID transmission rates are back to in-person teaching, but often without basic safety standards in place, such as requiring students to wear masks on school property.

Teachers and staff in Georgia do not enjoy the protection of strong teacher unions, and the State has exempted schools from liability around COVID. A teacher recognized for excellence in Forsyth County, in my district, chose to quit her job.

She wrote me, saying: Fortunately, my family earns enough money for me not to return to teach, but there are some others who don’t have this blessing and are forced into dangerous circumstances. They can’t speak up. They know their employment would be on the line if they did. So unless others like me speak up and out, this mess will continue.

Mr. Speaker, I join this teacher in speaking out. We owe our educators the courtesy of basic public health protection. We owe them prioritization in receiving the vaccine.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it has been estimated the Paris Accord adopted by President Joe Biden will destroy 2.7 million American jobs.

The Washington Examiner, on January 26, exposes more dangers to American families: “President Biden’s decision to rejoin the Paris climate accord immediately delivered . . . a gift to China.”
“It commits the United States . . . that will entangle American businesses and jobs in new lengths of red tape, and will also probably increase electricity prices.

“China, which emits twice as much carbon each year as we do, has given the rest of the world nothing but empty promises.

“Biden is giving away the store for nothing . . . he should demand external verification of emissions data . . .

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

I appreciate President Biden last night recognizing the lives lost by the Wuhan virus, joining President Trump last year, who took the first action to ban travel from China.

UNRELATED COVID RELIEF BILL

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

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I have been reading the COVID “unrelated” relief bill. At least when President Trump was borrowing money to keep the economy from crashing, he was creating jobs, making America energy independent—lowering gasoline and fuel prices for every American family—lowering unemployment, protecting our borders, rebuilding our military, and so on.

Now, however, with the assistance of this chamber, this administration is doing just the opposite.

It sounds like something right from the pages of Saul Alinsky’s book, “Rules for Radicals,” how malcontents propose to destroy America.

This COVID “unrelated” relief bill is more about keeping America closed and funding liberal policies than getting past this virus, and it is outrageous.

RECOGNIZING LUKA GARZA

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of someone in my district who is not as vertically challenged as I am.

This past weekend, University of Iowa men’s basketball player Luka Garza broke the University of Iowa’s all-time scoring record in basketball. The new record of 2,126 points put Luka ahead of the late Roy Marble, who held the previous record of 2,116 points for over 30 years.

A native of the D.C. area, Luka was a star player for the Maret School, leading the Frogs to a city championship while being named Gatorade D.C. Player of the Year and setting the school points record.

Luka has been a dominant player in college basketball since his first game as a University of Iowa Hawkeye against Chicago State. Since then, he has gone on to win numerous conference and national awards, including Big Ten Player of Year and the Sporting News Player of the Year last season.

As a former faculty member at the university, I was thrilled when Luka decided to return to Iowa City for his senior season instead of heading to the NBA draft. With four regular season games, the Big Ten Tournament, and March Madness left, I have no doubt that Luka will continue to break his own record and make Iowa proud and the best place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

BASKETBALL STARDOM

Garza broke the University of Iowa’s all-time scoring record in basketball.

SPEAKER’S REMARKS

Mr. Speaker, with the permission of the House, I wish to extend my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Sharon Sanders, one of Charlotte’s great philanthropists and the founder of Kids First of the Carolinas, which through the decades has provided essentials and Christmas gifts to over 35,000 children and families in the Charlotte area. Ms. Sanders died January 14 after a battle with cancer.

Sharon was a powerful woman, mother, and friend to all, with an extraordinary passion for helping others. Her love for children led to her founding Kids First; and with the assistance of legendary Charlotte broadcaster John Hancock, the organization was able to expand outreach, providing for more than 2,000 children every Christmas and raising about $80,000 a year.

I appreciate President Biden last night recognizing the lives lost by the Wuhan virus, joining President Trump last year, who took the first action to ban travel from China.

Even as she endured treatment for cancer, Sharon remained devoted to Kids First. Despite her hospitalization, she was overjoyed that they were, once again, able to help over 1,000 families during the holidays past.

Mr. Speaker, the Charlotte community will miss Sharon greatly. It is a privilege to honor her memory today.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly, at 2 o’clock and 11 minutes p.m., the House stood in recess.

RECOGNIZING LUKA GARZA

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I have been reading the COVID “unrelated” relief bill. At least when President Trump was borrowing money to keep the economy from crashing, he was creating jobs, making America energy independent—lowering gasoline and fuel prices for every American family—lowering unemployment, protecting our borders, rebuilding our military, and so on.

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RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly, at 2 o’clock and 11 minutes p.m., the House stood in recess.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

HONORING SHARON SANDERS

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Sharon Sanders, one of Charlotte’s great philanthropists and the founder of Kids First of the Carolinas, which through the decades has provided essentials and Christmas gifts to over 35,000 children and families in the Charlotte area. Ms. Sanders died January 14 after a battle with cancer.

Sharon was a powerful woman, mother, and friend to all, with an extraordinary passion for helping others. Her love for children led to her founding Kids First; and with the assistance of legendary Charlotte broadcaster John Hancock, the organization was able to expand outreach, providing for more than 2,000 children every Christmas and raising about $80,000 a year.

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RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly, at 2 o’clock and 11 minutes p.m., the House stood in recess.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DEMINGS) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

JOSEPH HAYNE RAINNEY MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 264) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Charlotte Street in Georgetown, South Carolina, as the “Joseph Hayne Rainney Memorial Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 264

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

SECTION 1. JOSEPH HAYNE RAINNEY MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Charlotte Street in Georgetown, South Carolina, shall be known and designated as the “Joseph Hayne Rainney Memorial Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to refer to the “Joseph Hayne Rainney Memorial Post Office Building”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME) and the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.
Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues here in the House in consideration of H.R. 264 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Charlotte Street in Georgetown, South Carolina, as the Joseph H. Rainey Memorial Post Office Building.

Joseph Rainey was the first African-American Member of the United States House of Representatives and one of 14 Black Representatives elected before the end of Reconstruction in 1877.

Joseph Rainey was born into slavery in Georgetown, South Carolina, in 1832. His father was a barber and used his earnings to buy freedom for himself and his family and, yes, including Joseph. Later, during the Civil War, Joseph was drafted by the Confederacy, but he escaped to Bermuda with his family and built a prosperous business as a barber.

In 1866, he returned to Georgetown, where he became the county’s first African-American Member of Congress in the 19th century. Following his time in Congress, Rainey was appointed as a Federal agent of the U.S. Treasury Department. He returned to South Carolina in 1886 and, unfortunately, passed away the following year in Georgetown.

Representative Joe Rainey fought tirelessly for civil rights, education, and economic opportunity for all people. He left behind a legacy that will never be forgotten. So, at the very least, naming a post office in his honor will continually help all of us to remember the contributions of this remarkable trailblazer.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE) for his remarks.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, thank the gentlewoman from the First District of South Carolina for yielding the floor to me.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 264.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. RICE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 264, to rename the Post Office in Georgetown, South Carolina, the Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office.

A man, a trailblazer of many firsts, a civil rights pioneer, an American hero that I had never heard of before I got to Congress; I first learned of him because his portrait hangs on the wall in the halls of the House of Representatives.

Joseph Rainey was the first African-American Member of the United States House of Representatives. Rainey was born into slavery in Georgetown in 1832. His father was a slave, but also a barber, and used his earnings to buy freedom for himself and his family, including Joseph.

Following his service in the Civil War, Joseph Rainey was conscripted into the Confederate Army, but he escaped to Bermuda with his family and built a prosperous business as a barber.

In 1866, he returned to Georgetown, where he became the county’s first African-American Member of Congress. He was one of 14 Black Representatives elected before the end of Reconstruction in 1877. He was the longest-serving African-American Member of Congress, a record which stood until the 1950s.

Following his time in Congress, Rainey was appointed as a Federal agent of the United States Treasury Department for the Internal Revenue Service in South Carolina.

In 1866, he returned to South Carolina for good and proceeded the following year in Georgetown. Rainey fought tirelessly for equal rights, education, and economic opportunity for all. He left behind a legacy that has improved the lives of generations, not just in South Carolina, but across the country.

Representative Rainey’s house still stands in historic Georgetown. It is located at 921 Prince Street. It was designated a national historic landmark in 1994, which provides an opportunity to visit just last year. The next time you are close by, stroll by the modest home in downtown Georgetown and pause for a moment to marvel at the life of an American hero; a man born a slave, a successful entrepreneur, escaped conscription in the Civil War, and served as a Representative in the United States Congress. What a remarkable life.

It was a privilege to introduce this bill that honors a true American patriot like Mr. Rainey. All South Carolinians, all Americans, can look up to Joseph Rainey as a trailblazer of civil rights.

I would like to thank Lorna Rainey, the great-granddaughter of Joseph Rainey, for her support in this effort.

I also want to thank Representative Clyburn and Representative Mace, who helped move this through committee and bring it to the floor, along with the entire South Carolina House delegation for their cosponsorship of this bill.

This is a much-deserved honor for an accomplished American patriot from South Carolina, Joseph Rainey. I urge my colleagues to vote “yea”.

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. MFUME for yielding time, and I thank Mr. Rice for introducing this legislation.

Madam Speaker, when I was first elected to Congress, I visited Congressman Clyburn’s office seeking his assistance with committee assignments. While there, I noticed the pictures of eight former South Carolina Congressmen, all African American, hanging prominently in his outer office.

Among those was Joseph Rainey, the first African American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. I was unaware of Mr. Rainey, and so I became curious about this man.

Joseph Rainey was born to enslaved parents on June 21, 1832, in Georgetown, South Carolina, a community heavily dominated with slaves.

As the years went on, Joseph Rainey’s father was permitted by his master to work independently and save a little money. Using his accumulated funds, Edward Rainey purchased freedom for little Joseph and his family.

When President Lincoln was elected in 1860, 11 States seceded from the Union; South Carolina was the first. A civil war erupts.

Joseph Rainey, now 28 years of age, was conscripted, or drafted, to work on fortifications in Charleston. This was unacceptable to Joseph, and so, with his family, he escaped to St. George, Bermuda.

Madam Speaker, St. George is a small parish on the island of Bermuda. While there, Rainey undoubtedly became acquainted with my grandfather, James Peter Butterfield, born 1853, who lived his entire life in St. George.

On December 6, 1865, the 13th Amendment was added to the Constitution, ending slavery in America. 400,000 slaves in South Carolina are free; 37,000 in Charleston, 32,000 in Beaufort, 18,000 in Georgetown.

The same year, the Civil War ends. South Carolina desires to be readmitted to the Union. As a condition, South Carolina was required to adopt a constitution that repudiated secession, acknowledged the end of slavery and repudiated debts that the State and its White citizens had incurred.

The South Carolina Constitutional Convention convened on January 14, 1868. A very prominent delegate to the convention was Joseph H. Rainey. The convention’s minutes, Madam Speaker, reflect that Rainey advocated for free public education for all South Carolina citizens. He advocated for relieving White landowners of their insurmountable debt that had accumulated during the war.

The convention was successful; a new constitution was adopted, and on July 23, 2021.
9, 1868, South Carolina was readmitted to the Union. Joseph Rainey was recog-
nized for his brilliance during the con-
vention.

The following year, 1869, Congress passed the 15th Amendment granting the former slaves the right to vote and hold office. On February 3, 1870, the 15th Amendment was finally ratified by the States.

Joseph Rainey seized the opportu-
nity; ran for Congress in the First Dis-
trict. Elected on December 12, 1870, Congressman Rainey remained a Mem-
ber of this body until after President Rutherford B. Hayes ended Reconstruc-
tion, which gave rise to violence against African Americans.

Though Rainey was reelected in 1876, he did not seek office again, making him the longest-serving African-American Congressman during Reconstruction.

Madam Speaker, this is a remarkable story. I appreciate Mr. Rice, and Mr. Clyburn, and the entire South Caro-
lina delegation for offering this legisla-
tion to name the Post Office located at 1101 Charlotte Street in Georgetown as the Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office Building.

Ms. Mace, Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Mfume. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have four days in which to re-
view and extend their remarks and to
include extraneous material on H.R. 264.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentle-
man from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. Mfume. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Clyburn), the distinguished whip of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Clyburn. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 264, which will designate the post office located on Charlotte Street in Georgetown, South Carolina, as the Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office Building.

I am proud to join with the bill’s lead sponsor, Congressman Tom Rice, and the rest of the South Caro-
lina congressional delegation in co-
sponsoring this important legislation.

This action builds on our efforts in the last Congress to honor the life and legacy of Joseph Rainey by naming H-150, the former House Committee on In-
dian Affairs room in the Capitol, in his
honor.

These are just two of the long-over-
due actions needed to amplify the his-
torical significance of the first African American to serve in the United States House of Representatives.

Congressman Rainey was a trail-
blazer whose story and place in history have been overlooked. As a former his-
tory teacher who believes knowing our history is instructive so that we don’t repeat the mistakes of our past, I would like to share with you my fellow South Carolinian’s legacy.

Joseph Rainey, as you heard, was born enslaved in 1832 in Georgetown, South Carolina. His father was able to buy his family’s freedom with earnings he made as a barber. As a freedman liv-
ing in Charleston, Rainey was con-
scripted by the Confederacy in 1862. Rather than fighting to preserve slav-
erelated, and violent insurrection. Federal
troops were withdrawn from the South follow-
ing widespread white supremac-
rist violence during the 1876 election and the subsequent election of Ruther-
ford B. Hayes as President.

Joseph Rainey spoke out against the removal of Federal protection of voting

rights, but in 1878, he lost reelection to
to former Confederate officer John Smythe Richardson in a district that was, like South Carolina, majority Black.

Severe gerrymandering reduced the number of Black South Carolinians in Congress to one in the 1890s. When George Washington Murray lost his bid for reelection in 1897, South Carolina’s representation in Congress was again all White and remained all White for the next 95 years.

Segregation and Black disenfran-
chisement were the law of the land until the 1960s. But thanks to the Vot-
ering Rights Act of 1965 and its 1982
amendments, I was elected to this au-
some body in 1992.

Today, Congress is still grappling with racial issues, voter suppression, and, as we witnessed last month, do-

meric terror.

It is fitting and proper that we are taking this step as we are celebrating Black History Month. I believe we would do well to learn some of the les-
sions of American history through Jo-

seph Rainey’s experiences. I hope today’s action will help illuminate his story and cause us all to reflect on his legacy. We must not allow the progress we have made toward racial equity since the 1960s to retrogress, as it did after the 1860s.

To truly honor the contributions of Joseph Rainey and all African Ameri-
cans, we must build on this progress by working together to address our coun-
try’s longstanding racial inequities and fulfill the promise of liberty and jus-
tice for all.

Ms. Mace. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers and am prepared to close.

It is a real honor to be here today, and the distinguished whip is correct that this is long overdue, to recognize Joseph Rainey and his accomplish-
ments.

He fought tirelessly for civil rights and education and opportunity. He fought for freedom for every working American in this country. To be here today in Black History Month to recog-
nize his legacy and his legend, he will not be forgotten, and we ensure that today.

I hope that future generations of South Carolinians and Americans across the country can be inspired by his courageous leadership here in this House. I urge my colleagues to support this bill today.

Ms. Mace, Madam Speaker. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Mfume. Madam Speaker, I want to make sure that I mention my appre-
ciation to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Clyburn) and the gen-
tleman from North Carolina (Mr. But-
terfield) for the way they succinctly captured a great swath of American history over the period of time that followed Lincoln’s signing of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

I am happy and honored to bring this measure forward. I want to thank the gentlewoman from South Carolina for all of her efforts and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Rice) for their work advancing this.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge the passage of H.R. 264. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Mfume) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 264.

The question was taken; and (two-
thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

Mr. Mfume. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Jim Ramstad Post Office

Mr. Mfume. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 772) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 Minnetonka Avenue South
in Wayzata, Minnesota, as the “Jim Ramstad Post Office.” The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 772

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

SECTION 1. JIM RAMSTAD POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 Minnetonka Avenue South in Wayzata, Minnesota, shall be known and designated as the “Jim Ramstad Post Office”.

(b) DESIGNATION.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Jim Ramstad Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME) and the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. MFUME. Madam 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 772 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 Minnetonka Avenue South in Wayzata, Minnesota, and I hope I am pronouncing that correctly, as the Jim Ramstad Post Office.

Jim Ramstad was born in James- town, North Dakota, on May 6, 1946. He was a graduate of the University of Minnesota and the George Washington University Law School, as well as a member of the Army Reserve, from 1968 until 1974.

Jim became a State senator in 1981. There, he began shaping his personal and political life around the principles of recovery, honesty, resilience, transparency, and accountability.

Jim Ramstad would then go on to serve in the Minnesota State Senate for 10 years before ultimately becoming a Member of this body, the United States House of Representatives, representing Minnesota’s Third District.

In the Congress, he was a consensus builder, championing the bipartisan policies needed to reduce discrimination against those suffering from mental health and addiction problems.

His signature legislation, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health Treatment Act, was enacted in 2008 just before Jim retired from Congress. After retiring, he served as a fellow at Harvard University and as an advisor to Minnesota’s Hazelden treatment center.

Representative Ramstad lived the final 39 years of his life in absolute and complete sobriety. His story is the story of recovery, impacted in a way that many of us will not understand, but impacting the lives of Minnesotans and Americans. He died November 5, 2020, after battling Parkinson’s disease for some time.

Naming a post office for Jim Ramstad is an entirely appropriate measure, given his distinguished political career and contributions to his State and to his country.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 772, a bill that would name a Minnesota post office after Jim Ramstad.

From 1968 to 1974, Jim Ramstad served as a member of the Army Reserve. In 1981, he was elected to the Minnesota State Senate, where he would go on to serve for 10 years. He was then elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and represented Minnesota’s Third Congressional District.

During his time in Congress, he strove to reduce discrimination against those suffering from mental health and addiction problems. He retired from Congress in 2009 and went on to serve as a fellow at Harvard University and as an adviser to Minnesota’s Hazelden treatment center.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill honoring an inspiring American leader that proves that everyone deserves a second chance.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS).

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 772, to designate the post office in Wayzata, Minnesota, on the shores of Lake Minnetonka as the Jim Ramstad Post Office.

Congressman Ramstad spent 10 years representing the 45th District in the Minnesota Legislature and 18 years representing Minnesota’s Third District in this Chamber. As the current Representative for Minnesota’s Third, I am humbled to have followed in the footsteps of such a gentleman, public servant, and advocate.

Throughout his life in public service and throughout his entire life, Jim led with principle, with compassion, and with grace. His battle with and recovery from alcoholism gave voice to millions of Americans facing the very same challenges and illuminated every aspect of his life and his service.

From the statehouse to this House, Jim embodied the spirit of honesty, resilience, transparency, and accountability. He was a noted consensus seeker and a champion of bipartisan policies to reduce discrimination against those suffering from mental health challenges and addiction. His signature legislation, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health Treatment Act, was enacted in 2008 just before his retirement from Congress.

Congressman Ramstad will go on to continue his service as a fellow at Harvard University, and as adviser to Minnesota’s Hazelden treatment center. He lived the final 39 years of his life in sobriety.

Congressman Ramstad passed away on November 5, 2020, after a battle with Parkinson’s disease.

Naming a post office in Wayzata is a small gesture to commemorate the passing of a giant of Minnesota politics. But as former Minnesota State Senator and Jim’s former district director, Paul Anderson, told me: “Jim loved Wayzata, and Wayzata always loved Jim back.”

So I send my love to Jim’s wife, Kathryn, and to all of his family and friends, and colleagues who continue to mourn his loss.

May his memory be for a blessing. May his spirit and legacy of bipartisan cooperation continue. May his name grace the post office in the town he loved and the town that loved him back.

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. PHILLIPS) for his leadership on this effort, for his leadership in the House, and for reminding me, especially, that the post office will reside in Wayzata, appropriately.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers on this side. I urge passage of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 772.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOSE HERNANDEZ POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 813) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1050 Sunset Road Southwest in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the “Jose Hernandez Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 813

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

SECTION 1. JOSÉ HERNANDEZ POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1050
Mr. Hernandez enlisted in the Army after graduating from Arizona State University and was then stationed in Germany and deployed to Iraq in 2003. After his discharge from the Army, Jose Hernandez moved to New Mexico and began working at the U.S. Postal Service as a civil engineer and letter carrier.

In 2009, he was tragically killed while protecting a mother in a domestic dispute. He intervened to try to peacefully end the fight, but was shot by the woman’s son. His hometown mourns this tragic loss.

I urge my colleagues today to support this legislation honoring a true American hero.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. HALEND).

Ms. HALEND. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jose Hernandez, a beloved letter carrier and local hero who was killed for the job he loved. I am trying to resolve an argument along his route.

Residents who live along his route remember Jose as the type of letter carrier who would go above and beyond the call of duty. His shocking death was devastating for our community, and more than a year later, we continue to mourn the loss.

To honor his legacy, I introduced a bill to rename his old workplace in his honor.

Jose Hernandez has served proudly in the Army. He has four beautiful children and a loving wife, Nikki. He served the Albuquerque area U.S. Postal Service for 12 years.

Our letter carriers and postal workers shouldn’t have to worry about their safety when they go to work. Those who will see Jose’s name on the Five Points Post Office will remember him as the hero that he was who went above and beyond his duty.

For these reasons and many more, I am thankful first for the entire New Mexico delegation for their support, and for Chairwoman Maloney’s and Chairman Raskin’s swift work to move my bill that will name the post office at 1050 Sunset Road Southwest in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the Jose Hernandez Post Office Building.

Jose Hernandez was born in 1971, in Arizona. He enlisted in the Army after graduating from Arizona State University in 2003, and was stationed in Germany. In 2003, he deployed to Iraq for 1 year.

When he was discharged from the Army, Mr. Hernandez moved to New Mexico with his wife and continued his career in public service at the U.S. Postal Service.

New Mexicans on his mail route remember the days when they were in a rush and Mr. Hernandez would quickly go through his mailbag just to get them their mail before they had to rush to work. And they remembered the slower days when he would join them for a short chat or simply sit for a moment to enjoy the weather.

In April of 2019, letter carrier Jose Hernandez was tragically killed while protecting a mother in an argument with her son. Mr. Hernandez intervened to try to peacefully end the dispute, but was, instead, shot and killed by the young man.

Mailboxes along his former route quickly became memorials, while his colleagues made their own memorials at his former post office.

So naming a post office after this distinguished public servant, who gave his life in the line of duty trying to protect an innocent woman, I think is the very least that this body can do.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 813, a bill that would name an Albuquerque, New Mexico, post office after Jose Hernandez.
On April 4, 1965, just a week before his 36th birthday, he was on a combat mission over North Vietnam to bomb the Thanh Hoa Bridge.

Smitty was successful in destroying the bridge, but his F-105 fighter plane was hit and he was forced to bail out over North Vietnam. He was captured immediately and spent the next 8 years as a prisoner of war in various prisons, where he was confined, mistreated, and tortured.

He is credited with introducing the tap code so that they could communicate surreptitiously between their cell walls.

During his distinguished Air Force career, Smitty earned two Silver Medals, three Legion of Merits, the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Stars for valor, two Purple Hearts, and two Air Medals as well.

Smitty retired from the Air Force in August of 1979, and entered directly into the University of Mississippi School of Law, graduating from the Mississippi bar in December of 1981. His post-Air Force employment included banking law and marketing. In October of 2012, Colonel Harris was awarded the Life-time Achievement Award from the Air Force Association.

Tupelo, Mississippi, is the home to Smitty and to Louise, their two daughters, and a son who was born in Okinawa shortly after Smitty was shot down. Their spouses, as well as others in their family, reside in Tupelo.

Madam Speaker, we are urging today an extra honor for Smitty Harris, a true American, by naming this postal facility after him.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 208, a bill to name a Mississippi post office for Colonel Carlyle “Smitty” Harris.

Smitty Harris enlisted in the Air Force in 1951, and would later go on to serve for 28 years as a pilot instructor, operations officer, and faculty member at the Air War College.

In 1965, while on a combat mission over North Vietnam, Smitty’s F-105 was struck and he was forced to bail out over North Vietnam where he was captured.

He spent the next 8 years as a prisoner of war, where he was confined in various prisons and tortured. During his time in prison, he is known for creating the tap code, which POWs used to communicate secretly between cells.

After nearly 8 years as a prisoner of war, he returned home to the U.S. and to his loving family. His son called him his hero and role model. But the truth is, he is every American’s hero.

He has earned numerous medals and accolades for heroic service on behalf of our Nation. Those include: two Silver Star, three Legion of Merits, the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Stars for valor, two Purple Hearts, and two Air Medals.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues today to support this legislation in recognition of this great American hero, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for allowing me to speak today in support of H.R. 208 to designate a post office for Colonel Carlyle “Smitty” Harris, my friend.

Madam Speaker, he served with one of our colleagues and friends here. Mr. Sam Johnson, and was in the Hanoi Hilton with him for much of the time they shared together. I have this long speech written, but I want to talk about who Carlyle Smitty Harris is.

He is Smitty to all his friends. You would never know that he was a lawyer; you would never know that he was a pilot; you would never know that he was a retired colonel. He is such a gentleman and such a role model for our entire community. His family are key people in the Tupelo area.

Smitty was shot down and spent almost 8 years in the Hanoi Hilton. During that time, he had learned many, many years ago, from a sergeant, about a tap code they used to communicate in World War II. Being one of the first 10 or 12 prisoners in the Hanoi Hilton, they would separate them so that they couldn’t communicate. And Smitty taught this to all the other members when they came in so that they could communicate when they were separated and segregated as prisoners.

You would think that 8 years serving in the Hanoi Hilton that you would be bitter, that you would hate humanity, that when you were tortured, you would want to be tortured or be mean to others, but Harris, Colonel Harris is a gentleman of all gentlemen. He took it, and now he uses his faith and all the strength that he gained from all those years being away from the people and the things that he loved, and he is not necessarily happy about it, but he is so content with his life, and he passes on the lessons that he learned.

I think back when I went to the governor’s mansion many years ago, and I had my—my—my—17-year-old son. Smitty spent about 2 1/2 hours on the tour bus with my son talking to him about life, about what it meant to be a man.

Madam Speaker, there are not enough words to describe what Smitty Harris has done for this Nation. He is a true hero, just like our former colleague and friend, Sam Johnson, was. These guys gave their best to this Nation during the Vietnam war during their youth, but he continues to give to his community even today.

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for his remarks, and I thank him for his service, as well. The distinguished gentleman also is a Major General of the Army National Guard Element, Joint Force in Mississippi. I don’t take that lightly. I appreciate all he has done and I appreciate him calling the name of Sam Johnson, who I served with previously in this body.

Madam Speaker, I went to the Hanoi Hilton as a tourist and stood there in 1979 looking at what he and Senator McCain, and so many others went through in that facility. I mean, it just brings you back to Earth. And sometimes we take lightly the service. Sometimes, we take lightly the fact that some of our servicemen and women were captured. And sometimes, we take lightly the fact that war can happen at any time. And when it does happen, we hope that it will continue to always bring out the best in all of us.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to stand here and to give these remarks from our side of the aisle about Smitty. I talk about him as if I know him, but when I read about him, I feel like I do know him.

My thanks to the gentleman from Mississippi and the gentlewoman from South Carolina for leading this discussion on the other side.

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

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues today to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being present, the question is now disposed of.

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

The question was put on the other side.

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

EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE OF COUNSEL IN THE DIGITAL ERA ACT

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 546) to regulate monitoring of electronic communications between an incarcerated person in a Bureau of Prisons facility and that person’s attorney or other legal representative, and for other purposes.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
(a) Prohibition on Monitoring.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall, upon implementing a program or system that exists on the date of enactment of this Act, through which an incarcerated person sends or receives an electronic communication, to exclude from monitoring the contents of any privileged electronic communication. In the case that the Attorney General establishes a program or system in accordance with this subsection, the Attorney General shall, upon implementing such system, discontinue using any program or system that exists on the date of enactment of this Act through which an incarcerated person sends or receives a privileged electronic communication, except that any program or system that may continue to be used for any other electronic communication.

(b) Retention of Contents.—A program or system established under subsection (a) may allow for retention by the Bureau of Prisons of, and access by an incarcerated person to, the contents of electronic communications, including the contents of privileged electronic communications, of the person until the date on which the person is released from prison.

(c) Attorney-Client Privilege.—Attorney-client privilege, and the protections and limitations associated with such privilege (including the crime fraud exception), applies to electronic communications sent or received through the program or system established or modified under subsection (a).

(d) Accessing Retained Contents.—Contents retained under subsection (b) may only be accessed by a person other than the incarcerated person for whom such contents are retained under the following circumstances:

1. Attorney General.—The Attorney General may only access retained contents if necessary for the purpose of creating and maintaining the program or system, or any modification to the program or system, through which an incarcerated person sends or receives electronic communications. The Attorney General may not review retained contents that are accessed pursuant to this paragraph.

2. Investigative and Law Enforcement Officers.—

   (A) Warrant.—(i) In General.—Retained contents may only be accessed by an investigative or law enforcement officer pursuant to a warrant issued by a court pursuant to the procedures described in the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

   (ii) Approval.—No application for a warrant shall be made to a court without the express approval of a United States Attorney or an Assistant Attorney General.

   (B) Privileged Information.—(i) Review.—Before retained contents may be accessed pursuant to a warrant obtained under subparagraph (A), such contents shall be reviewed by a United States Attorney to ensure that privileged electronic communications are not accessible.

   (ii) Barring Participation.—A United States Attorney who reviews retained contents pursuant to clause (i) shall be barred from—

   (I) participating in a legal proceeding in which an individual who sent or received an electronic communication from which such contents are retained under subsection (b) is a defendant; or

   (II) sharing the retained contents with an attorney who is participating in such a legal proceeding.

3. Motion to Suppress.—In a case in which retained contents have been accessed in violation of this subsection, a court may suppress evidence obtained or derived from access to such contents upon motion of the defendant.

(e) Definitions.—In this Act—

1. Term “agent of an attorney or legal representative described in subparagraph (A)."

2. Term “any electronic communication between any incarcerated person and a potential, current, or former attorney or legal representative of such a person; and

3. Term “any electronic communication between an incarcerated person and the agent of an attorney or legal representative described in subparagraph (A)."

(f) Accessing Retained Contents.—Conducting a review, in accordance with this Act through which an incarcerated person sends or receives an electronic communication. In the case that the attorney-client privilege, which keeps communications between individuals and their attorneys confidential, exists in part to foster open communications. This privilege is a fundamental component of the effective assistance of counsel guaranteed by the Constitution. Of course, this privilege does not protect communications between a client and an attorney made in furtherance of or in order to cover up a crime or fraud, also known as the crime-fraud exception. We understand that.

Outside of any custody setting, defendants are less constrained in their ability to have candid conversations with their attorneys. Generally, out-of-custody defendants can go to their attorneys’ offices, speak with them freely on the phone, or send written or electronic correspondence without fear of interference or monitoring. To an extent, in-custody defendants also have these protections.

For example, in the Federal system, Bureau of Prisons’ regulations ensure that inmates can meet with their attorneys without auditory supervision. Criminal justice rights that these defendants have are protected by the Constitution. Of course, this privilege does not apply to email communications for the nearly 152,000 individuals currently in Federal custody, including those in pretrial detention who have not been convicted of any crime.

I know that my colleagues can see that that is definitively a denial of the civil rights, civil liberties, and the constitutional rights that these individuals should have access to.

H.R. 546 would ensure that all communications between attorneys and their clients remain confidential, including emails.

Madam Speaker, over a decade ago, the Federal Bureau of Prisons recognized the growing importance of email, which is important in providing efficient and swift communications between inmates and individuals on the outside.

Since 2009, Bureau of Prisons’ inmates have been able to access emails
through a system known as TRULINCS. However, TRULINCS requires inmates and their contacts to consent to monitoring of all communications, even email exchanges between inmates and their attorneys. That, I think we all understand, is unfair.

Madam Speaker, during the last decade, email has grown rapidly and is the primary means of communication between inmates and their attorneys. During the current pandemic, emails have become even more important given how difficult it is for attorneys to meet with their clients.

Without appropriate safeguards, the Bureau of Prisons risks severely hindering the effective representation of inmates by limiting attorney-client privilege for electronic communications. Therefore, H.R. 546 would require the Bureau to implement an adequate system to ensure that these attorney-client communications remain confidential—again, constitutional protections.

H.R. 546 also includes additional protections, including the requirement of the contents of electronic communications when an inmate is released from prison, as well as authorizing the suppression of evidence obtained or derived from access to information that is in violation of the provisions set forth in the bill.

Madam Speaker, this is an important bill. Its time is now. I commend our colleague, Representative JEFFRIES, for his effort and leadership in developing this bipartisan legislation. This proposal has already received broad support by the House during the last Congress, and now we must act swiftly to see it enacted into law, moving to the United States Senate, and seeing the United States Senate act quickly for it to be signed by President Joe Biden.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join us in support of this bill today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary, Committee, I rise in strong support of H.R. 546, the bipartisan “Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act,” reintroduced by Congressman JEFFRIES of New York, legislation that ensures that email communications between people in Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) custody and their legal teams are protected with the same privilege as legal visits, letters, and phone calls.

This legislation was reported out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously in the 116th Congress and was passed in the House twice—once as part of a COVID relief bill and later without objection on the House floor.

The principles of justice, fairness, and due process upon which our legal system is built necessitate confidentiality between the accused and their defense counsel.

Attorney client privilege is one of the oldest privileges for confidential communications and has been an important part of the American legal system for hundreds of years.

This privilege is critical when clients are in custody, and the form of communication—whether it be in person, by letter, by telephone, or by email—should have no bearing on that protection.

Currently, individuals held in BOP facilities are uniformly denied the ability to have privileged communications with their lawyers through TRULINCS, the only email system available to them.

In order to use the BOP system, incarcerated individuals must sign a waiver acknowledging that their communications may be monitored.

Without signing the waiver, they cannot use the email system, cutting off any opportunity to communicate electronically.

The need for access to privileged email is long overdue, and it is more critical than ever today.

As the COVID pandemic has raged across the country and spread through detention facilities, BOP has restricted in-person visits, and unmonitored calls and legal mail are more difficult to use. But incarcerated clients need to have access to their lawyers is undiminished, and in many instances is heightened by the delays and fears brought on by the pandemic.

Email is the safest and most cost-effective means of communicating.

The Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act remedies many of these concerns by striking the right balance between the government’s limited interest in accessing certain email communications with a warrant and the need to properly protect communications subject to the attorney-client privilege.

This legislation will only require the Department of Justice to adopt procedures concerning attorney-client communications and still maintains the ability for United States Attorneys to access other emails.

The bill stipulates that the protections and limitations associated with the attorney-client privilege, including the crime-fraud exception, apply to electronic communications received through the BOP email system. The BOP will be allowed to retain electronic communications until the incarcerated person is released, but the bill specifies that the contents may only be accessed under very limited circumstances.

Finally, H.R. 546 allows a court to suppress evidence obtained or derived from access to the retained emails if the emails were accessed in violation of the act.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 546, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE, Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), the sponsor and author of this bill, the chairman of the Democratic Caucus.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 546, the Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act.

This bill will modernize our criminal justice system by extending attorney-client privilege to electronic communications, not previously received through the Bureau of Prisons’ email system. This will ensure that incarcerated individuals can communicate with their attorneys efficiently and privately, as it should be.

Under the legislation, the Bureau of Prisons will be prohibited from monitoring privileged electronic communications between incarcerated individuals and that individual’s attorney.

The attorney-client privilege is a vital component of our legal system. As a criminal defendant has an effective advocate in the courtroom. Emails between incarcerated individuals and their attorneys should fall under the attorney-client protections, but currently, that is not the case.

This bill will protect the rights of incarcerated men and women to speak openly and honestly with their attorneys via email, without fear that the prosecution is monitoring those communications. Other forms of communication, such as in-person meetings and letters, can be particularly burdensome and time-consuming. Even if an attorney is near the incarcerated client, it can take hours to travel to a detention facility and visit with the client.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, H.R. 546 requires the Attorney General to ensure that BOP’s email system excludes the contents of electronic communications between an incarcerated person and his or her attorney from the current email monitoring process.

The bill stipulates that the protections and limitations associated with the attorney-client privilege, including the crime-fraud exception, apply to electronic communications received through the BOP email system. The BOP will be allowed to retain electronic communications until the incarcerated person is released, but the bill specifies that the contents may only be accessed under very limited circumstances.

Finally, H.R. 546 allows a court to suppress evidence obtained or derived from access to the retained emails if the emails were accessed in violation of the act.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 546, the “Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act.”

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 546, the Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act.

This bill will modernize our criminal justice system by extending attorney-client privilege to electronic communications, not previously received through the Bureau of Prisons’ email system. This will ensure that incarcerated individuals can communicate with their attorneys efficiently and privately, as it should be.

Under the legislation, the Bureau of Prisons will be prohibited from monitoring privileged email communications between incarcerated individuals and that individual’s attorney.

The attorney-client privilege is a vital component of our legal system. As a criminal defendant has an effective advocate in the courtroom. Emails between incarcerated individuals and their attorneys should fall under the attorney-client protections, but currently, that is not the case.

This bill will protect the rights of incarcerated men and women to speak openly and honestly with their attorneys via email, without fear that the prosecution is monitoring those communications. Other forms of communication, such as in-person meetings and letters, can be particularly burdensome and time-consuming. Even if an attorney is near the incarcerated client, it can take hours to travel to a detention facility and visit with the client.
and provide the best possible legal advice and guidance. That is why confidential communication between attorneys and their clients is so critical and why the attorney-client privilege must be protected.

In New York, the Supreme Court stated that even in a jail, or perhaps especially there, the relationships which the law has endowed with particularized confidentiality must continue to receive unceasing protection.

There are 125,000 individuals currently in BOP custody, many of whom are in pretrial detention and have not been convicted of a crime. In our system, defendants, American citizens, are innocent until proven guilty. Like any person involved in a criminal proceeding, these individuals who are incarcerated must be able to confidentially communicate with their attorneys.

The bipartisan Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act would enable incarcerated individuals to communicate with their legal representatives privately, safely, and efficiently by prohibiting the Bureau of Prisons from prohibiting or regularly limiting the use of privileged electronic communications.

While BOP regulations do protect the confidentiality of in-person attorney visits, phone calls, and traditional mail, no such protections exist in the context of email communications sent through the BOP’s electronic mail system. This system, known as TRULINCS, has become the easiest, fastest, and most efficient method of communication available to incarcerated individuals and their attorneys.

Let’s consider the alternatives. Even a brief client visit can take hours when you factor in travel and wait times. Confidential phone calls are perhaps useful, but they are subject to time limitations and can be difficult to schedule even for urgent legal matters. Postal mail must first be opened and inspected by staff for physical contraband, which can significantly extend the time it takes for the communication to reach an incarcerated individual.

These delays should be unnecessary in a prison system that permits electronic communications and would be available if the attorney-client privilege was consistently applied.

To address this serious problem, H.R. 546 would require the Attorney General to ensure that the BOP email system excludes from monitoring the contents of electronic communications between an incarcerated person and their attorney.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman from New York (Mr. Jeffries) an additional 1 minute.

Mr. JEFFRIES. The BOP will be permitted to retain the contents of these messages until the incarcerated person is released, but they would be accessible only under limited circumstances.

The bill is supported by a wide variety of groups, including the American Bar Association, ACLU, Americans for Prosperity, Dream Corps, Due Process Institute, National Action Network, Prison Fellowship, Right on Crime, Faith and Freedom Coalition, FAMM, Federal public and community defenders organizations, and so many others. I want to thank all the sponsors of this bill, most particularly Representatives Van Taylor, Jerry Nadler, Tom McClintock, Don Bacon, Nancy Mace, and Sheila Jackson Lee, as well as Dan Crenshaw and Dusty Johnson.

Our criminal justice system depends on the attorney-client privilege to ensure effective representation. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 546.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

I wanted to say my compliments to the gentleman from New York in pursuit of this he spoke so eloquently about the presumption of innocence and the right to counsel, among those sacred core rights that our Constitution guarantees to every individual in this country. This important bipartisan bill is important for that.

That is what we do in this Chamber. That is what this Congress should always do. So my compliments to the gentleman from New York and the cosponsors on this piece of legislation. I encourage my fellow Members to support it.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Let me thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Bishop) for his collegial response and his very important remarks on collaboration for important legislation like this.

Let me also thank the distinguished gentleman from New York for finding an Achilles’ heel that would really and continues to undermine the true sense of attorney-client privilege and to respect that privilege, whether you are in custody or not, and also recognizes the increasing utilization of the digital world to file briefs, to make arguments, and, of course, to find that divide between those in-custody inmates incarcerated and those that are not in custody. We are now moving to extensive virtual proceedings.

As we well know, individuals in custody are making a number of efforts to prove their innocence. They are appealing. They are seeking new trials. They, too, have rights that should be respected under both the Criminal Code and the Constitution.

So, again, I thank the gentleman for his thoughtfulness and all the bipartisan cosponsors that he has.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 546 would ensure that the attorney-client privilege, again, is safeguarded in all communications between criminal defendants and their attorneys. This bipartisan legislation addresses an issue that is essential to the fair administration of the criminal justice system.

During this ongoing pandemic, this measure has become even more urgent when there is even more reliance on electronic communications between attorneys and incarcerated individuals.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. Jackson Lee) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 546.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 338, the yeas and nays are ordered to be taken.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PUERTO RICO RECOVERY ACCURACY IN DISCLOSURES ACT OF 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1192) to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as “PRRIDA”).

I want to thank all the sponsors of this bill, most particularly Representatives Van Taylor, Jerry Nadler, Tom Cole, DUSTY JOHNSON, and the right to counsel among those sacred core rights that our Constitution guarantees to every individual in this country. This important bipartisan bill is important for that.

That is what we do in this Chamber. That is what this Congress should always do. So my compliments to the gentleman from New York and the cosponsors on this piece of legislation. I encourage my fellow Members to support it.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Let me thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Bishop) for his collegial response and his very important remarks on collaboration for important legislation like this.

Let me also thank the distinguished gentleman from New York for finding an Achilles’ heel that would really and continues to undermine the true sense of attorney-client privilege and to respect that privilege, whether you are in custody or not, and also recognizes the increasing utilization of the digital world to file briefs, to make arguments, and, of course, to find that divide between those in-custody inmates incarcerated and those that are not in custody. We are now moving to extensive virtual proceedings.

As we well know, individuals in custody are making a number of efforts to prove their innocence. They are appealing. They are seeking new trials. They, too, have rights that should be respected under both the Criminal Code and the Constitution.

So, again, I thank the gentleman for his thoughtfulness and all the bipartisan cosponsors that he has.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 546 would ensure that the attorney-client privilege, again, is safeguarded in all communications between criminal defendants and their attorneys. This bipartisan legislation addresses an issue that is essential to the fair administration of the criminal justice system.

During this ongoing pandemic, this measure has become even more urgent when there is even more reliance on electronic communications between attorneys and incarcerated individuals.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. Jackson Lee) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 546.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 338, the yeas and nays are ordered to be taken.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021” or “PRRIDA”.

SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE BY PROFESSIONAL PERSONS SEEKING APPROVAL OF COMPENSATION UNDER SECTION 316 OR 317 OF PROMESA.

(a) REQUIRED DISCLOSURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In a voluntary case commenced under section 304 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2164), no attorney, accountant, appraiser, auctioneer, or other professional person may be compensated under section 316 or 317 of that Act (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177) unless prior to making a request for compensation the professional person has submitted a verified statement setting forth the connection of the professional person with—

(A) the debtor;

(B) any creditor;

(C) any other party in interest, including any attorney or accountant;

(D) the Financial Oversight and Management Board established in accordance with section 3 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2121); and

(E) any person employed by the Oversight Board described in subparagraph (D).
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(2) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—A professional person that submits a statement under paragraph (1) shall—
(A) supplement the statement with any additional relevant information that becomes known to the person; and
(B) file annually a notice confirming the accuracy of the statement.

(b) NJURISDICTION.—(1) IN GENERAL.—The United States Trustee shall review each verified statement submitted pursuant to subsection (a) and may file any objections to the statement with the court prior to the filing of such statements before the professionals filing such statements seek compensation under section 316 or 317 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177) that fail to satisfy the requirements of subsection (e).

(4) OBJECTION.—The United States Trustee may object to compensation applications filed under section 316 or 317 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177) if the attorney or accountant violates requirements of subsection (e).

(2) OBJECTION.—The United States Trustee may object to compensation applications filed under section 316 or 317 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177) if the attorney or accountant fails to satisfy the requirements of subsection (e).

(3) RIGHT TO BE HEARD.—Each person described in section 1109 of title 11, United States Code, may appear and be heard on any issue in a case under this section.

(c) JURISDICTION.—The district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction of all cases under this section.

(d) TIME FRAME.—(1) IN GENERAL.—If a court has entered an order approving compensation under a case commenced under section 304 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2164), each professional person subject to the order shall file a verified statement in accordance with subsection (a) not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) NO DELAY.—A court may not delay any proceeding in connection with a case commenced under section 304 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2164) pending the filing of a verified statement under paragraph (1).

(e) LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In a voluntary case commenced under section 304 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2164), in connection with the review and approval of professional compensation under section 316 or 317 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177), the court may deny allowance of the professional's services and reimbursement of expenses, accruing after the date of the enactment of this Act, to the professional if the professional—
(A) knowingly or with reckless disregard of the truth, submitted or caused to be submitted false or deliberately inaccurate statements of connections required by subsection (a) or has filed inaccurate statements of connections; or
(B) except as provided in paragraph (3), is on or before the date of the enactment of this Act, a person that is not a disinterested person, as defined in section 101 of title 11, United States Code; or
(C) except as provided in paragraph (3), represents, or holds an interest adverse to, the interest of the estate with respect to the matter on which such professional person is employed.

(2) DISCUSSION.—In making a determination under paragraph (1), the court may take into consideration whether the services and expenses are in the best interests of the estate and the creditors and the shareholders or members, and the estate.

(3) COMMITTEE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.—An attorney or accountant described in section 1109(b) of title 11, United States Code, shall be deemed to have violated paragraph (1) if the attorney or accountant violates section 1108(b) of title 11, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill which was passed out of the House last Congress by a unanimous vote.

Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1192, the “Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act,” or “PRRADA,” which conditions compensation of professionals retained under the congressionally passed “Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act” or “PROMESA” upon the applicant providing certain disclosures similar to those required under Bankruptcy Code section 327.

In response to dire fiscal issues facing Puerto Rico at the time, Congress passed Pub. L. No. 114–187, the “Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act” or “PROMESA” in 2016, legislation I strongly supported and cosponsored.

The Act established the Financial Oversight and Management Board (Board), a fiscal control board comprised of seven members that would have control over Puerto Rico’s budget, laws, financial plans, and regulations.

It empowered the board to propose a budget for Puerto Rico and restructure its obligations owed to bondholders estimated to be $6.5 billion, and other creditors.

Although largely patterned on chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, PROMESA did not incorporate all facets of chapter 11 and other relevant provisions of the code. Importantly, this includes the code’s mandatory disclosure requirements regarding actual or potential conflicts of interest that professional persons seeking to be retained in a bankruptcy case must make to the court prior to their retention.

Though largely patterned on Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, PROMESA did not incorporate all facets of Chapter 11 and other relevant provisions of the code. Importantly, this includes the code’s mandatory disclosure requirements regarding actual or potential conflicts of interest that professional persons seeking to be retained in a bankruptcy case must make to the court prior to their retention.

This bill would close that loophole by requiring under Bankruptcy Code section 327.

Additionally, the bill would require the United States Trustee to review such disclosures and submit comments in response to the court and also authorize the United States Trustee to object to compensation requested by the professionals.

Finally, H.R. 1192 would allow courts to deny compensation for services and reimbursement of expenses if the professional person did not comply with the disclosure requirement, was a disinterested person, or held an interest adverse to the bankruptcy estate.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which was passed out of the House last Congress by a unanimous vote.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 1192, the “Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021.”

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. I urge myself as much time as I may consume.
I rise today in support of the Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act. In 2016, Puerto Rico was experiencing significant financial pressures brought on by sizable debt and related obligations. In response to Puerto Rico’s financial crisis, Congress enacted the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act of 2016. The 2016 law established a bankruptcy mechanism for Puerto Rico to address its obligations.

Like the general bankruptcy law, the 2016 law enables bankruptcy professionals, like accountants, consultants, and lawyers, to apply for payment for their services upon court approval. But the 2016 law omitted disclosure requirements that apply to compensated professionals in proceedings under the general Bankruptcy Code, title 11 of the United States Code, pursuant to rule 2014(a) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure. Moreover, the gap in the 2016 law created a potential for undisclosed compensation terms and undisclosed conflicts of interest vis-a-vis parties of interest for professionals serving in Puerto Rico’s bankruptcy.

To address this concern, this bill applies the disclosure requirements of rule 2014(a) to professionals serving in connection with Puerto Rico’s bankruptcy and seeking compensation for those services. The bill also requires oversight of the disclosures that bankruptcy professionals make.

This bill’s disclosure and oversight requirements increase the likelihood that conflicts of interest will be caught and timely addressed before compensation decisions are made.

Taken as a whole, this added transparency will benefit important interests, such as those of creditors and taxpayers—and ultimately, of Puerto Rico itself.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the author of this legislation and also a champion, as all Members of the United States Congress know, during the very trying and difficult times of our friends in Puerto Rico. It is her voice that has been the most singularly powerful in their advocacy, along with her wonderful colleague, the distinguished representative, the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1192. I was proud to introduce this bill with bipartisan support in the House.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Speaker of the House NANCY PELOSI and Chairman JEROE NADLER for bringing this legislation to the floor, and Mr. BISHOP, the ranking member of the subcommittee, and Senator BOB MENENDEZ for introducing a companion bill in the Senate. The Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021, or PRRADA, eliminates a double standard currently facing Puerto Rico. Under U.S. Code and Federal bankruptcy procedure, any conflicts of interest, or even the perception of such conflict, between those working on the bankruptcy and the debtor are required to be disclosed. However, a loophole in the current law prevents this from being extended to the people of Puerto Rico.

In 2016, Congress passed the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act, or PROMESA, to set up an orderly bankruptcy process to restructure its debt, stimulate economic development, and put the island on a path to financial recovery. This bill will extend current U.S. law, requiring disclosures of conflicts of interest to Puerto Rico, thereby improving transparency and reducing the likelihood of conflicts of interest.

Puerto Ricans should be confident that the board’s bankruptcy advisers do not have their thumb on the scale to favor certain interests or have a self-interest. This bipartisan bill ensures integrity of the PROMESA process.

While we can have different opinions on how effectively the oversight board is carrying out its mission, one thing should be clear: The island’s residents should be entitled to the same rights and protections as any debtor on the mainland.

Once more, I would like to thank Chairman NADLER, the staff, and the bipartisan cosponsors of the bill. I strongly encourage all Members to vote “yes” on this critical piece of legislation. I also would like to recognize the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN), who is a co-sponsor of the bill.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Representative VELÁZQUEZ and myself have proposed this bipartisan initiative in the last two Congresses, having achieved passage in the House during the last session. I think Congresswoman VELÁZQUEZ is very thoughtful in terms of how important this is and the effects on PROMESA regarding this bill.

We support this bill as an important component in ensuring the restructuring process under PROMESA, and it looks out for Puerto Rico’s interests.

This legislation requires any counsel and professional personnel that the financial oversight board may hire to work on a title III case for the restructuring of Puerto Rico’s debt to submit verified disclosures of their connections with the debtor, creditors, or persons employed by the oversight board prior to being compensated. These provisions extend the same requirements to decisions about the hiring of personnel for the restructuring as are imposed on such personnel under existing bankruptcy rules. I think it is important to have the same kind of rules for those people who are going to be managing the debt, as we speak, those kinds of negotiations.

Our intention is not to exclude any people with expertise and knowledge about Puerto Rico’s fiscal transactions from being resources in the restruct- ing process, but I think it is essential that any such connection be clear and known so that such persons’ qualifications and the role they are going to be playing can be better evaluated.

Conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest, can be best avoided if there are accountability and transparency during the process. This bill would allow that to happen.

This bill would require that such personnel must disclose in detail their connection and involvement with any entity involved in the issuance of Puerto Rico’s debt and in any claims involving Puerto Rico’s debt, informing the identity of each one.

Anyone who is serving in the board— and I repeat, anyone serving in the board—working to inform its decisions, or representing it before the title III court, must have the trust of all parties that they are committed to defending the interests of Puerto Rico to the best of their ability in accordance to the law and justice.

A lack of transparency in personnel decisions creates a lack of confidence and distrust. Learning that someone was involved in the business of one of the parties in the case, only after they are named and working on the case, does not create assurance of their commitment to the best interests of Puerto Rico or even managing the debt.

Our goal must be to reach the day that we will no longer have provisions of PROMESA or the fiscal oversight board, and we can dedicate ourselves to rebuild our economy and provide for growth. But until that happens, we must demand that those instruments created by PROMESA be accountable and transparent in their processes. Anything else should be unacceptable.

That is the reason this bill, H.R. 1192, is important, and I ask my colleagues to support and pass this bill.

Madam Speaker, I say thank you to the Congresswoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for this bill and for allowing this initiative to be a bipartisan one.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico, and I thank the gentlewomen from Texas and New York.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself some time as I may consider.
Madam Speaker, let me indicate again, this is a very vital initiative to continue to help in Puerto Rico’s recovery. Let me thank the gentlewoman from New York for her leadership and, of course, the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico. This partnership and bipartisan collaboration with the other co-sponsors is very crucial as we continue to work as a Congress to do our job for the people of Puerto Rico.

H.R. 1192 closes a loophole under current law by establishing disclosure requirements regarding actual or potential conflicts of interest in the bankruptcy process under PROMESA. In doing so, this legislation promotes transparency and accountability in the Puerto Rico restructuring process.

Again, I thank my colleague, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ from New York, the author of the bill, for her leadership on this issue, and Mr. NADLER and his work. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this commonsense measure. This, of course, along with the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico, is helping the people of Puerto Rico, our neighbors and our fellow Americans.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Cuellar) at 6 o’clock and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 6 o’clock and

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 15, not voting 10, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yeas</th>
<th>Nays</th>
<th>Not Voting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>406</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The result of the vote was announced by the Clerk.

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative), the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The House adjourned at 6:30 p.m. today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The result of the vote was announced by the Clerk as above recorded.

The House convened at 12:15 p.m. by the Speaker pro tempore, the Chair declaring the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Colleen M. Brown (Mass.)

The House stood in recess.

RECESS

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

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Cuellar) at 6 o’clock and 31 minutes p.m.

COLONEL CARLYLE “SMITTY” HARRIS POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o’clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

1831

NAYS—15

Bowman
Bush
Carter (TN)
Capps
Recobar

NOT VOTING—10

Butterfield
Chesney
Rimmer
Rodgers (WA)
Fudge

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECALLED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Alcribed (Davids)  Bowmar (Clark (MA))
Baraggan (Beyer)  Boyle, Brendan (F. Jeffries)
Bilirakis  Buchanan (Donalds)

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Bilirakis  Buchanan (Donalds)
the coronavirus: an unimaginable human toll in our modern era of medical and technological advances. These deaths are of staggering proportions and cause incomprehensible sadness, but we cannot think of them as the end of COVID–19.

As we have learned with these words “Precious Lord take my hand” and lead me on. We will together win the battle.

PENN STATE THON

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give a big thank-you to Penn State students for their commitment to an incredible cause.

Each year, students spend countless hours raising awareness and money in the fight against pediatric cancer. Every February, their efforts culminate in a 48-hour dance marathon known as THON.

THON provides financial and emotional support to thousands of families across the Commonwealth who have a child battling pediatric cancer.

THON is normally a celebration of thousands in the Bryce Jordan Center on campus—an opportunity for children with cancer to focus on simply being a kid even just for the weekend.

Sadly, the pandemic forced this popular tradition online this year. However, despite a global pandemic, students still managed to raise $10.6 million this year.

Since 1973, Penn State students have raised more than $180 million. Those figures, combined with nearly 17,000 student volunteers, makes Penn State THON the largest student-run philanthropic effort in the world.

I am proud of the Penn State students who are so committed to this cause, and I am even more proud of the children and families who keep fighting.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: HONORING COBB COUNTY SHERIFF CRAIG OWENS

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

Mrs. McBATH. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I rise today in honor of a trailblazer in Black history, Cobb County Sheriff Craig Owens.

This past November, Sheriff Owens made history as the first African American to be elected sheriff in Cobb County, in my district.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Sheriff Owens has served over 30 years in the Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, and Cobb County Police Department. His career path and experience utilize the leadership skills that he gained from his experience serving in our Armed Forces.

Deutch (NY)

Dingell (Kuster)

Frankel (Lois)

Gonzalez, Vinnie

Gosar (Wagner)

Grifalva (Garcia)

Hasting

Huffman

Hufman

Kirkpatrick (Stanton)

Langevin

Lieu (Beyer)

Logdren (Jeffries)

Lowenthal (Beyer)

Meng (Clark MA)

Morse (WI)

Moulton (Tran)

Napolitano

Neuce (Perlmutter)

Payne (Paline)

Ruiz (Aguilar)

Rush

Wilson (FL)

Watanabe

Yeager

Crawford

Cromwell

Gonzalez

Frankel, Lois

Dingell (Kuster)

C. Scott

Gonzalez, Vinnie

Gosar, Mark

Grifalva (Garcia)

Hasting

Huffman

Hufman

Kirkpatrick (Stanton)

Langevin

Lieu (Beyer)

Logdren (Jeffries)

Lowenthal (Beyer)

Meng (Clark MA)

Morse (WI)

Moulton (Tran)

Napolitano

Neuce (Perlmutter)

Payne (Paline)

Ruiz (Aguilar)

Rush

Wilson (FL)

Yates

Pease

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Sheriff Owens leads by putting people first, and I am so proud of the work he is doing to unite Cobb County and instill faith and trust in its police department. As one of his constituents and as a partner in service to Cobb County, it is my honor and privilege to recognize Sheriff Owens today.

REMEMBERING TOM SEIPEL, JR.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Tom Seipel, Jr., who passed away on February 13.

Tom had a heart for enriching the lives of countless children, and it shined in all he did.

After graduating from Ohio State University, he moved to Seoul, South Korea, to teach English to kindergartners. Tom then returned to the U.S. to serve as a children’s minister in Kentucky for several years.

He later selflessly moved to Nicaragua, where he opened and operated a children's ministry to provide meals and after-school tutoring for the poor children of Managua. While there, Tom also taught at Nicaragua Christian Academy.

In his final years before losing his hard-fought battle with cancer, he received treatment in Savannah, Georgia.

Tom’s legacy will surely live on for many years to come, and I am thankful for the positive impact he made on countless lives. My thoughts and prayers go out to all who knew and loved him, especially the love of his life, Margarita, and their daughter, Mia Isabella.

RECOGNIZING MACOMB AND OAKLAND COUNTY STUDENTS

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Macomb and Oakland County students who participated in my inaugural Ninth District MLK Jr. Day Youth Conference. These students brought their heart, talent, and idealistic selves to the table to zero in on what Dr. King’s life is really about: transforming society to be more just.

COVID-19 has exposed deep inequalities in every facet of life, especially for Black Americans, who are nearly two times as likely as White Americans to die of COVID-19. Imagine what we could do to end these disparities if we honor Dr. King by emulating his work.

Having watched these students sponge up lessons on the true premise of MLK Day—achieving social justice—and make plans to fight for change in their own lives and communities, I am energized and hopeful that we can boldly champion justice and equality in Congress. I can think of no better way of marking Black History Month than that.

RECOGNIZING PARRY MCCLUER HIGH SCHOOL BOYS’ BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Parry McCluer High School boys’ basketball team that won the Virginia Class 1 State championship this weekend.

After trailing by 8 in the first quarter to Altavista, the Fighting Blues lived up to their name and battled back—leading by 2 at halftime. In the locker room, Coach Cartolaro told his team to go out and attack in the third quarter. And attack they did. Quickly outscoring 10-2, the Blues opened up their lead and never looked back. When the final buzzer sounded, Parry McCluer had pulled off a 17-point victory.

I applaud Coach Cartolaro and the entire team for their fortitude and perseverance these past few months. They overcame every obstacle presented to them and brought home the trophy to Buena Vista. Congratulations to the Blues. This achievement is well-deserved and their community is proud of their hard work.

EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW

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

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Equality Act.

For far too long our Nation has failed to read and live up to the words that adorn the front of the United States Supreme Court: Equal Justice Under Law.

We now have a rare opportunity to explicitly push our Nation to live up to its founding ideals and make that phrase ring true for all Americans. No matter who you are or whom you love, under the Equality Act you will be guaranteed the exact same protections as everybody else.

LGBTQ individuals should not have to worry when they try to access a small business loan, seek healthcare, or buy a home.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to cosponsor this historic civil rights legislation, and I look forward to casting my vote in support of its passage.

REMEMBERING RUSH LIMBAUGH

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight in sadness to acknowledge and commemorate the loss of an American icon, Rush Limbaugh, who, since 1985, extolled the virtues of conservatism on radio.

Starting in Sacramento, California, for the first 3 years, 1985 to 1988, he was within range of my tractor and my pickup out in the fields, where I was working at the time. He was really a breath of fresh air for radio, for a different type of talk and a different style.

I know he inspired millions around the country during his many years on radio. With his loss, he won’t be replaced. He surely led the way for many others to take on that mantle, but nobody will do it quite like Rush Limbaugh. He did so well at it, and he touched so many that he was even recognized about 1 year ago right here in this Chamber by President Trump with the Medal of Freedom, one of the highest honors anybody can receive.

Mr. Limbaugh may be controversial to some, but he was always coming from truly a humble heart to try to get a message out to what America was about, his love for this country, and a love for its ideals.

So I know that many will miss him, and I am glad to be honored to help touch on his legacy here tonight.

LIVING UP TO THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND EQUITY

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

Ms. NEWMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight on behalf of the millions of Americans who continue to be denied housing, education, public services, and much, much more because they identify as members of the LGBTQ community; Americans like my own daughter who, years ago, bravely came out to her parents as transgender.

I knew from that day on, my daughter would be living in a nation where, in most of it States, she could be discriminated against merely because of who she is. And yet, it was still the happiest day of my life, because my daughter has found her authentic self.

And as any mother would, I swore that I would fight to ensure this country changes for the better. Without the Equality Act, this Nation will never live up to its principles of freedom and equality. The right time to pass this act was decades ago. The second best time is right now.

I am voting yes on the Equality Act for Evie Newman, my daughter, and the strongest, bravest person I know.
HONORING THE LIFE OF LUKE LETLOW

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, coming from Illinois, it is often a question I get here in this Chamber: Why not have you a pin of the State of Louisiana on your lapel? I have the pin on my lapel because there is a void, a void in this institution because one of our colleagues wasn’t able to get sworn in. Luke Letlow would have made a tremendous Member of this institution. And I want to thank my colleague, MIKE JOHNSON, and the entire Louisiana delegation, and what would have been his freshman class, for honoring him tonight in a Special Order.

Luke Letlow, I was a district staffer for years, trying to make this House be a better place for every single American. I was looking forward to serving with him. Unfortunately, tragedy took his life, and we are without his service.

My heart goes out to his wife, Julia, and their two kids, and the entire State of Louisiana, and this institution, for not having the opportunity to see the true leadership of Congressman Luke Letlow.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LUKE LETLOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BOURDEAUX). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, our Special Order tonight is to honor a dear friend, one who would have been a colleague of ours here, and a great tragedy.

Congressman-elect Luke Joshua Letlow, from Start, Louisiana, passed away from complications due to COVID-19 on December 29, 2020. He had just been elected to Congress December 5, and he was only, as we know, 41 years old. He was in the prime of his life and, so far as any of us could tell, otherwise the picture of health and energy and excitement and positivity. He was excited to serve with us here and came as a terrible shock to all the people of Louisiana and to millions of people around this country.

Luke was known in Louisiana for having a servant’s heart. He had a peaceful nature about him. When he talked to a constituent, or a friend, or anyone, he made them feel they were the most important person in the world. He was one of those guys who was a great person and he would have left a big mark here.

I have also been encouraged since his passing to know that my friend was guided by his faith in Christ. A good friend of ours told me shortly after his passing that Luke was even closer to the Lord in his final days. In fact, he called this trusted prayer warrior to share briefly about an experience he had just a few nights before he passed away.

He was in the hospital, and Luke said he felt the certain presence of God and his peace. Luke Letlow knew the truth of Christ and the peace of his salvation, and we all have taken great comfort in that.

Luke leaves behind his devoted wife, Julia, and their two young children, Jeremiah and Jacqueline. He leaves his parents, Johnny and Dianne Letlow; his grandmother, Mary Taylor; his brothers, Paul and Matt, and their families; and a huge network of people who were like family to Luke and loved him as their own.

He was raised in Start, Louisiana, just east of Monroe. For the people who don’t know the geography, it is northeast Louisiana. Throughout his entire adult life, it was very clear how deeply he cared about the people of our State and those who live in the Fifth Congressional District, which is a sprawling 24 parishes, the largest by land area in our State.

He worked for Bobby Jindal during Jindal’s stint here in the U.S. House, and also later when Bobby was elected Louisiana’s Governor.

Luke also worked as chief of staff for his predecessor and our good friend, Dr. Ralph Abraham, who just retired and left the seat open.

Throughout Luke’s time in each of those positions, he made it a priority to work every day to benefit those that he served. He wanted to make life better for the people of his home State and, in those efforts, he worked closely with our farmers and the oil and gas industry and countless small businesses to ensure they were given every opportunity to succeed.

Judging from his accomplishments and a remarkable record of public service, there is no doubt at all that he would have made an outstanding Member of Congress.

Many people are aware now that there will be a special election in March, March 20, to fill that seat that he has left open, and we are delighted to tell you that his beloved bride, his widow, Dr. Julia Barnhill Letlow, will be running for that seat, and we expect that she will be taking her place here shortly thereafter.

She is a native of Monroe, a dedicated mother, of course, and an education professional who has dedicated her life to promote and advocate for higher education, traditional family values, and our quality of life in Louisiana. We are excited to soon welcome her here to fill the giant void that our dear friend and brother, Luke, has left us.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS), another member of our delegation.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, The Congresswoman Luke Letlow was called home far too soon. He was a friend and we were looking forward to working together here in the people’s House.

His passing was so sudden and unexpected that it caused many of us—it certainly caused me to reflect upon my life and to be renewed in my determination to serve the people and to become a better man every day, because that is the kind of spirit that Luke delivered to the world.

There was a charming and brilliant man with a beautiful smile, a wonderful spirit, a compassionate man, driven to serve.

I had the opportunity to break bread with Julia, Luke’s wife, last week, and I saw in speaking with her that Luke lives in the light in her eye, in her children, and everyone that Luke touched during the course of his life.

So I am prayerful that this child of God’s presence will be felt, that Representative-elect Luke Letlow’s service will, indeed, be felt within this Chamber, if we can just take a moment to seek that guidance that he clearly pursued and listened to during the course of his life. He brought that to those that he worked with and the citizens that he served. So I thank my colleagues for arranging this Special Order tonight.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Louisiana, Mr. HIGGINS, for his remarks.

We sat together at the funeral of Luke, and it was a great service. There were so many kind words said about him. And he is remembered to just be the great spirit and the great Louisiana homegrown talent that he was.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. RICE), who is also the freshman class president, the class that Luke of course would have been a part of.

Mrs. RICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding.

I rise today as the president of the 117th Congress Republican freshman class to express our profound sadness that we all share for the loss of our friend and colleague, Luke Letlow.

Luke was a great American who was committed to serving his country and the people of his home State of Louisiana. Sadly, Luke was taken from us way too early.

I was grateful I actually had the chance to meet Luke. He was elected on December 5, which was the last day of the second week of New Member orientation.
But as the freshman class president, I felt it my duty to make sure that he felt included by texting him, connecting him with other Members, and making sure that he had all of his needs met as he joined this 117th freshman class.

Our entire class looked forward to being sworn in together on January 3, and we were devastated by the news of his passing on December 29 of 2020. We all knew that Luke would have been a tremendous addition and someone who would have made a positive impact on this great Nation.

I join with all of my colleagues in sending our thoughts and support to Luke’s family, including his wife, Julia, son, Jeremiah, daughter, Jacqueline, and I am keeping them all in my prayers.

It is interesting to see in God We Trust above the Speaker’s chair because one thing I do know is that Luke trusted God.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership of the freshman class and for those kind remarks.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLOUGER), another leader from that class.

Mr. PFLOUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend Luke Letlow.

Luke and I spoke many times as we both prepared to enter Congress, and we shared the privilege of both representing districts that are centered around a couple of very important things: agriculture and family. I looked forward to serving with him and working together to better the lives of our farmers and our ranchers across the district and across the entire country.

Luke led a life of public service to the good people in the great State of Louisiana from a young age, beginning as a young college graduate serving on the staff of Congressman John Cokes and later as a representative of Louisiana’s Fifth District at that time.

He went on to serve the people in multiple capacities before launching a successful Congressional bid of his own. He was a man of faith in Jesus Christ, and he lived his life in accordance with His guiding principles. There is no way for us to know the thousands of lives that he had already touched before he entered into a plan to run for Congress, and how many lives he touched in those years of service, and the countless others who were blessed just by knowing him.

There was nothing that he loved more than serving others and primarily, his love of being a husband and a father to his wife, Julia, and a father to their two children, Jeremiah and Jacqueline, something that his legacy will live on forever in our hearts.

Today, I give glory to God for his life and pause to reflect on that legacy which will live on through Julia, Jeremiah, and Jacqueline. My prayers are with all of them.

His passing is a tremendous loss to this U.S. Congress, to the State of Louisiana, and, more importantly, to his family and friends who loved him and cherished him.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, we have a few others from the class that Luke Letlow would have been proud to serve in, some of the rising leaders here. I will call on them in no particular order here, but I yield to another gentleman from Texas (Mr. FALLON), if he is ready.

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I never had the privilege and blessing to meet Luke Letlow in person and to share our hearts and enjoy the blessed gift of fellowship. But to be honest, I still feel a bond and a connection and a friendship with Luke because we were both married to beautiful, successful women, and we certainly outkicked our coverage both had two children, and we both chose public service and eventually ran for Congress.

Luke left this world far too early, only 41. The scourge of an evil virus whose growth across the globe was fostered by the nefarious and malignancy of a Communist regime in Beijing.

COVID–19 has claimed millions, 500,000 here at home, and it stole Luke from us. Luke Letlow, a man in his prime who had every reason to live for, is now gone. And it shouldn’t be that way.

He should be with us today. He should be with us here, voting, visiting, talking, learning, and leading. But COVID robbed our country and this Chamber of Luke Letlow.

This same scourge, Madam Speaker, crossed my path 3½ weeks ago, and it damn near killed me. I experienced the worst pain in my life. I had bacterial and viral poisoning with the virus thriving in my body at the same time. I thought I was going to die. Prayers and terrific American medical care spared me. So I am not going to hold back, and I am just going to talk frankly and from the heart.

I am consumed today, right now, this very moment, with why. Why is Luke gone? Why was I spared? Why are 500,000 Americans dead? I don’t know. But I do have a strong belief that we all have a purpose, and everyone in this Chamber has the Almighty has for us, and we just don’t know what it is yet.

I feel, now that I have been gifted bonus decades, I want to know what I should do with those years. How should I lead my life? The bottom line is, we all should ask ourselves that question and exercise the power that we have within each of our souls to be kinder, to be gentler, to be more understanding, to smile when somebody walks on an elevator. It costs us nothing to do these things. We should live for others. And above all, we should love and never be ashamed to be vulnerable and love thy neighbor.

We want to honor Luke Letlow? You want to honor his legacy and his life? Then live and love and be joyous and be kind. Live for others with all of your hearts. I am not the least bit ashamed to say that I am going to try. That is what we are here for, and that is our purpose. Let’s acknowledge the bounties and the blessings and the very gift of life itself because life is short, and it is delicate, and it is fragile.

Luke, we are praying for you. We miss you; we love you; and we are going to be there for Julia and your kids.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON), another classmate of Luke’s.

Mrs. HINSON. Madam Speaker, tonight, we are here to honor the life of Luke Letlow, who was taken from us far too soon.

Luke led a life of public service, and he was dedicated to bettering the lives of Louisianans. I know he was so looking forward to serving the great people of the State of Louisiana here in Congress.

Most importantly, though, he was a devoted husband to his wife, Julia, and a loving father to their two young children. We are all grieving with them during this time, their entire family. I hope the Letlow family can seek some comfort in knowing that so many people here in D.C., back in Iowa, Georgia, and around the country are lifting up prayers for them every single day.

Although Luke is no longer with us, he does leaves behind, and he reminds us about, a remarkable legacy that we and, most importantly, his two children will always be able to remember him by long after we are all gone from this place, too.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, for letting me speak tonight on behalf of our classmate, Luke Letlow, and his entire family.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida, Mrs. Hinson, another bright light in this class and my friend.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Luke Letlow.

As a Member-elect of this freshman class, Luke was one of us. We didn’t get the privilege of serving alongside him, but in getting to know his family, I have no doubt that he would have been an energetic leader among us.

In talking with Luke’s wife, Julia, I have come to know the very best of what Luke stood for and why he will forever be with us as a Member of this body.

Luke’s love of Louisiana ran as deep as the roots of generations that came before him. Luke revered leaders ranging from Ronald Reagan, whose optimistic vision of conservatism transformed the Republican Party and the world, to the local Richland Parish police jurors who ensured residents received the essential services that local
government was charged with providing.

Luke loved studying Louisiana political history and voraciously read every out-of-print book on the subject that he could get his hands on. Luke’s passion for preserving the history of Richland Parish and the surrounding area led him to document gravesites and local churches to building a website that chronicled the history of the rural community where he was raised.

Luke, like his native Louisiana, and Richland Parish himself, was a person and motivated him to pursue a career in the noble profession of public service.

Tonight, we honor his memory. But moving forward, we will strive to embody his passion for people, our history, and our Nation.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to introduce another member of the Louisiana delegation for remarks in our Special Order tonight. Mr. Graves, as you know, is a member of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. Graves), my friend. He knew Luke very well, and I know he will bring some good thoughts to us tonight.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, Mr. Johnson, for yielding and for organizing this.

Madam Speaker, I sat here and listened to all of these people talk about Luke Letlow, and I don’t know who they are talking about.

Luke was a redneck. There is this iconic picture of Luke where he is wearing this hat, and it says: “Start Fire.” The only thing that comes to mind is this is parent material, right?

Luke was a good ol’ boy, and I know, in many instances, that term is associated with negativity. That is not Luke. Luke was a force for good, and he did that before the Navy even coined that term.

I have known him for 15, 20 years. We staffed together up here in Congress. We worked together in the Governor’s office in Louisiana. Luke was always a workhorse, always, not a show horse.

Madam Speaker, Luke was a public servant. He wasn’t a politician. He had a heart for the public. He had a heart for fixing things, and he was good at it. Luke brought folks together, and he got things done.

There wasn’t a prejudiced or discriminatory bone in his body. Everybody was a friend. Everybody Luke met, he looked you in the eye, he gave you that little grin, which was a little bit cockeyed, and he truly wanted to know you.

He truly wanted to get to know people, to find out what you were about. He loved finding out about the background or history of people, their ancestry, their relatives, where they were from, what they did, what they cared about.

Madam Speaker, the people in the Fifth District of Louisiana saw that as well. There are 24 parishes that comprise the Fifth District, and Luke won 23 of those, 23 of them in the election. This district, his predecessor used to brag, and Luke serving as the chief of staff to Congressman Ralph Abraham used to brag, has more acres of row crops than any other district in Congress. This wasn’t an urban area. This wasn’t New York City or even New Orleans. This was a rural area. Madam Speaker, these were the people that Luke had a heart for.

I have never in my life been as excited as I was to have a colleague like Luke. Years and years ago, I told him, I said: “Luke, look, if Doc, or Ralph Abraham, ever steps down, you have to run. You have to do it.”

There are a lot of people up here that are good. Luke would have been great.

Madam Speaker, you look at this place, you watch the network TV, the news, and you wonder why in the world anyone would want to come to do this. Because you get to question people’s sanity, looking at how dysfunctional, how partisan, how divisive this place is.

One of the previous speakers hit it on the head when they said Luke is exactly what we need here. I will say it again: Luke is a workhorse, not a show horse. He brings people together. He doesn’t care about your race, your ethnicity. He doesn’t care about your political party. What he cares about is doing things right.

Luke’s dream was to find a good life partner, and knowing him when he was a little younger, I think many of us thought that was a pretty lofty goal for Luke. But, man, he nailed it. He did. Julia, his partner, his life partner, his spouse, his wife, is just amazing, and Luke was just so excited, so giddy, about that relationship.

Luke’s dream was to be a good son, and he is. He is a great son. He is a great brother.

Before I leave you all with the wrong impression, I should have clarified that I was not saying Luke was a pyro. He was a good, kind, gentle soul.

So, Madam Speaker, I want to thank you, my friend, GARRET GRAVES of Louisiana, for those poignant words. The funeral service was like that, with recollections from close friends. We could have sat there all afternoon and reveled in it.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. Scalise), the whip, my dear friend, and one of the guys who helped guide Luke on his path to get here.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Louisiana for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I stand here today to pay tribute to Luke Letlow. Just like earlier tonight when we stood out on the steps of the Capitol to pay respects to the 500,000 people who we have lost from COVID-19, Luke, unfortunately, is in that number. He is not somebody that you would have fazed, as the song goes. He was young, healthy, and he had his whole life in front of him.

He had already lived a rich life. He had already left such a powerful impact on people in the right kind of way, like my colleague, Congressman Graves, talked about. He had a big heart, Madam Speaker. He had a servant’s heart.

Luke was the kind of person who you want to get into public service to do it for the right reasons, to actually believe in something and want to make people’s lives better.

When he would go through the rural communities of his district—which is a
very rural district—he would just talk to people, strike up conversations. He would want to hear their stories and he would want to help people. He had a lot of opportunities to do that, Madam Speaker.

He started working for Congressman John Cooksey out of college at Louisiana Tech. He had already garnished a desire for public service.

After he worked for Congressman Cooksey, I met him in 2004, when he was working on the campaign of my predecessor, Bobby Jindal, who got elected to Congress. Luke served with him there. When Bobby got elected Governor, Luke went to serve with him in the State to make our State a better place.

And then when Ralph Abraham came to Congress, Luke spent the last 6 years working for Ralph as his chief of staff, going around the rural parts of that district in northeast Louisiana, just reaching out, finding out about people.

He was very much into genealogy. He wanted to know not just about people, but also about their history, where they came from, what made people tick, and how he could keep making a difference.

Ultimately, when Ralph retired, Luke made that decision to run. And he didn’t make that decision alone. His lovely wife, Julia, was all in. They were a family that was a partnership. They were a true love story of two people who cared deeply about each other and who cared deeply about their children: young Jeremiah; and young Jacqueline, who we also grieve for.

It is heartbreaking when you think of the promise and what was lost, what we as colleagues lost. You hear members of his own freshman class who never got to serve with him—soms, just reaching out, finding out about people.

So, Madam Speaker, when we remember Luke Letlow, it is that big smile that he had. He was a man of deep, deep faith, and that faith carried him and his family through those difficulties in the last few days when he was struggling and fighting for his life. I know that faith is what got him into heaven. He would probably be looking down and saying, ‘Y’all shouldn’t be making such a big fuss.

But you know what? He deserves this kind of tribute because this would have been a richer body if we had Luke Letlow.

We will all remember him and keep him in our thoughts and our prayers.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the whip for those great remarks and his great leadership, and I know Luke appreciated that as well.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT).

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding up his Special Order to honor Congressman-elect Luke Letlow.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Congressman-elect Luke Letlow, whose tireless work for his community, serving for public service, and love for his constituents will long be an inspiration to many Americans.

He spoke glowingly of the mighty Mississippi and his district’s rich Louisiana soil, both of which flowed freely through his veins as he passionately advocated for the people he elected him to be their voice.

His life of service working for Governor Bobby Jindal, serving as chief of staff to Congressman Ralph Abraham, and then successfully running for Congress himself, exemplified his commitment to win the day.

Congressman-elect Letlow shared my great love for our Western States, and he was a fierce advocate for the issues facing everyday Americans. His calling to public service was only surpassed by his calling to be a loving husband, father, brother, and son. He cared deeply for his beloved wife, Julia; son, Jeremiah; and daughter.

After he won his race, Congressman-elect Letlow’s wife, Julia, spoke of God’s sovereignty over the life of her husband, quoting the words from scripture: “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I set you apart.”

God set Luke apart with a calling, with an anointing, and that same calling and anointing is now in that Godly heritage that he has left behind. God’s whereabouts presence is surrounding the Letlow family.

God’s plan for Luke’s life was one of service, and his legacy will live on through his family. His wife, Julia, is a woman of deep faith. A calling to public service is on her life. She was his rock for all of his years in public life. I am honored to call her my friend now.

May his family find comfort in the words of the scripture: “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted. . . .” and in knowing that Congressman-elect Letlow fought the good fight, finished his race, and kept the faith.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Colorado for her words. That was very appropriate. I was going to cite the same scripture.

I will just say this as we close tonight: The night we got word of Luke’s passing was December 29, and that word, the phone call we got shook my whole family, as it did everybody in the State.

As we were putting our children to bed that night, I reminded my youngest son, my 10-year-old son, that while grieving is part of our human experience, the Lord mourns with us. We know that from Isaiah 53:3. And as Lauren just said, He always remains close to the brokenhearted. Psalm 34.

So many are mourning this loss and so many remain brokenhearted. But I will close with these words from the Apostle Paul, as he wrote to the church in Rome, Romans 8:38-39: “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present or the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Luke believed that and he lived it, and he would want us to remember it, too.

Madam Speaker, this concludes our Special Order tonight, and I yield back the balance of my time.
Madam Speaker, first, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Harris), my friend and colleague who is a practicing anesthesiologist.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, this bill, the Equality Act, is nothing more than an identity politic sellout, a thinly veiled attack to attack and coerce individuals who hold serious and legitimate concerns or objections to things like parental rights to make healthcare decisions for their children; the ability of women to compete on an equal athletic playing field; and even medical procedures like sterilization and abortion care.

I am a physician and I have been practicing medicine for over 35 years. This bill, if enacted, would mandate that healthcare practitioners and even facilities like Catholic hospitals be forced to provide and participate in procedures like abortion, which ends a human life.

We should all be able to agree that a Catholic hospital should never be compelled by the government to offer procedures like abortion that they morally object to in the strongest possible terms.

Furthermore, if society continues to support politically correct gender identity politics, the science is becoming clearer that gender dysphoria, especially in children, is a psychiatric condition that in most cases will resolve itself with time.

Instead, however, this bill would require patients to undergo medical interventions for their children, children who may even be prepubescent, resulting in sterilization, and oftentimes later regret.

Madam Speaker, in response, I will be reintroducing the Conscience Protection Act this week. My bill will protect healthcare providers from being required to perform abortions or sterilizations and allow them to continue practicing medicine without duress or coercion from their employer or perhaps even their patients.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor my bill, and I oppose the so-called Equality Act on the floor this week.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. HARRIS, and I appreciate his firsthand experience and thoughts on this very, very, serious matter.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), cochair of the Values Action Team.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for her courage and backbone in supporting these vital social issues.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on the dangers of H.R. 5, the so-called Equality Act. This bill would have disastrous effects on our culture. H.R. 5 will not only turn the Civil Rights Act on its head, it would harass individuals and entities who are merely seeking to exercise their sincerely held religious beliefs.

Under the current text, countless faith-based businesses and nonprofits across the country would simply cease to exist. I am not convinced that my colleagues across the aisle understand the far-reaching consequences of the so-called Equality Act. The reality is that churches could be forced to violate their beliefs simply to stay open if they were enforced as written.

This awful legislation also creates fundamental inequalities for many Americans. Parents sending their kids to public schools would live in fear that their young daughter would have to use the same locker room or restroom as a man because the Equality Act would open the door to biological males using women’s bathrooms.

I have introduced an amendment to the Equality Act protecting accommodations choosing to designate private, single-sex spaces, such as restrooms or locker rooms. I hope the Democrat majority allows a vote on this commonsense amendment that tens of millions of American parents want.

In addition, the so-called Equality Act would significantly disadvantage women participating in sex-specific sports leagues. That is why I have also introduced an amendment, originally filed as a bill last Congress by Democratic Representative TULSI GABBARD, ensuring equal playing for women and girls in high school and college sports. This amendment of mine seeks to protect women and girls simply wanting to compete against other biological women and girls on a level playing field.

Women and children suffer when Democrat policies are enacted. Women’s sports, and the girls and young women who just simply want to compete with other females on an equal basis, will be the victims of Democrat policies.

Madam Speaker, I adamantly oppose the radical Equality Act, and I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will take a stand and oppose it as well. I thank my friend, and an emergency room physician.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Missouri for her leadership on this very important issue.

Madam Speaker, as a physician, I know firsthand that this bill, H.R. 5, will force medical providers to surrender sound medical judgment and their sincerely held convictions to politically fashionable dogmas.

According to the radical activists who seek to enshrine gender identity in the Federal civil rights law, the only appropriate treatment for a child struggling from gender dysphoria is gender reassignment. That is it. Such procedures often lead to irreversible damage, especially in adolescents. But under the Equality Act, medical providers who object to performing these procedures will face crushing legal liability if they refuse to comply. Every medical facility receiving any Federal money will be given an ultimatum: Comply or shut down.

Madam Speaker, if H.R. 5 becomes law, a doctor who refuses to perform a mastectomy or a hysterectomy on an otherwise healthy teenage girl seeking gender reassignment surgery, will be held liable for violating the Federal law.

H.R. 5 even goes so far as to exempt itself from longstanding, bipartisan Federal religious liberty protections— protections both Congress and the Supreme Court have consistently upheld. A Catholic hospital, following the commands of Scripture to serve the frail and the poor will be forced to violate
their very faith to comply and perform abortions or face financial ruin.

Madam Speaker, as a physician, I took a sacred oath to do no harm and to preserve the health of those in my care. If this bill becomes law, many doctors will be forced to go against both their conscience and their medical judgment.

Make no mistake, this is a death sentence for medicine and for the sacred rights of conscience. Biology is not bigotry, and medicine is not discrimination.

All Americans who do not wish to see medicine sacrificed to the politically correct orthodoxy should stand up and oppose this bill.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, Dr. Green. That is excellent. “Biology is not bigotry.” It seems like common sense, but we are not talking about common sense with the Equality Act. And that is why we are here tonight, to let the American people know about the very serious, permanent ramifications of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), another doctor, who I am proud to be joined by, who is a dentist from Texas.

Please think about this bill and what it is going to mean to Americans.

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague from Missouri for this opportunity.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in objection to the so-called Equality Act. Once again, under the guise of equality, the left is prioritizing its radical agenda over religious freedom, the well-being of children, and the safety of women and girls.

As the father of three daughters and the grandfather of nine granddaughters, I am outraged at the assault that this bill launches on women in sports. And furthermore, as a healthcare practitioner, I am infuriated at its blatant attack on the conscience rights and religious freedoms of those in the healthcare industry.

This bill is not about preventing discrimination in medical treatment. It is about forcing medical professionals to abandon their conscience rights and medical judgment to comply with the left’s extreme views on gender.

The Equality Act would prohibit physicians from counseling children with gender dysphoria. They would be required to administer dangerous medical treatments, including puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries.

This mandate contradicts science. Increasingly, we are finding that these treatments compound these children’s confusion rather than solving it. The catastrophic effects leave children physically and psychologically scarred and often render them sterile. It is nothing short of child abuse.

The left will not tolerate disagreement with its view on gender. They provide no conscience protections and explicitly state that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act does not apply to this new definition of sex. Physicians refusing to perform these harmful treatments would be punished, even if they object because of religious or moral convictions.

The Equality Act is an attempt by the left to promote its radical agenda and suppress everyone else who disagrees. We must fight for the conscience rights and religious freedoms of our medical professionals, and we must stop our children from being used as pawns in the game of political correctness.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Well said, and I thank the gentleman so much.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH), the first female president of the Minnesota Senate. She is a mother of two and grandmother of five.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman HARTZLER for putting this together. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with people in the country understand what is in this bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5, the so-called Equality Act. The reality of this bill is anything but equal. It is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to force unreasonable mandates on our institutions and restrict the liberties of the American people.

Here if this becomes law, Americans can expect government-imposed limits on the free exercise of religious liberty, businesses forced to cover the costs of abortions, and medical providers required to perform abortions, even if it conflicts with their deeply held beliefs. Unfortunately, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

So today, I rise on behalf of pro-life Americans in my district and across the country who fear this legislation will be manipulated by the radical left to impose its will and create a right to abortion right up to the moment of birth.

Madam Speaker, a majority of Americans support at least some restrictions on abortion, including making sure taxpayer funds are not used to fund abortions. Instead of respecting the rights of all Americans, this bill will impose a top-down abortion mandate that interferes with the State and Federal laws that protect the right to life and will force doctors, nurses, and other health care providers to participate in abortion procedures, even if it goes against their own sincerely held beliefs.

The previous administration made great strides in protecting religious freedom and the liberties of all Americans. Unfortunately, the new administration does not seem to value those cherished beliefs.

The previous administration made great strides in protecting religious freedom and the liberties of all Americans. Unfortunately, the new administration does not seem to value those cherished beliefs.

This bill will relegate the pro-life view to discrimination, redefine gender, and require faith-based employers to pay for abortion in their insurance offerings.

Madam Speaker, I oppose this legislation on behalf of the unicorn who do not have a voice. I oppose this legislation on behalf of my constituents, many of whom hold beliefs that are in conflict with this bill’s radical ideology. And I oppose this bill on behalf of the millions of Americans who know that life is a God-given gift worth fighting for.

Madam Speaker, I oppose this bill and ask Members to do the same.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, Representative FISCHBACH. Life is precious, and it is jeopardized under this very bill, and so thank you for raising those points.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT), a volunteer counselor to incarcerated women.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman so much.

Under this legislation, their crisis counselor may be “Alexis” who was actually born “Alex.” And they will have to talk to him about their assault.

Where is the equality for parents who want to raise their children, free from government overreach?

Under this proposal, Congress seeks to replace mom and dad with bureaucrats. This isn’t hyperbole. In Ohio, a mom and dad had their child removed from their custody because they didn’t allow their daughter to undergo gender transition. Removed from their custody.

And so here we are. The left will lay down the rights and security of millions of Americans, particularly young women, at the altar of gender ideology.

Following the lead of liberal indoctrination camps, also called colleges and universities, my colleagues on the left are committed to advancing this radical ideology, the rights and sovereignty of individual States be damned. So much for Federalism.

The power-hungry left will not slow down until every school, every church, every workplace, every State, and every community adheres to the left’s definition of gender.

You disagree? They will find you. They will imprison you. Or as we have seen, they will even take your children. And let’s make sure the American people know this is only the beginning.

The Equality Act requires doctors to perform abortions, and they are going to use your tax dollars to pay for them.

Once the left codifies their ideology, they will come for your speech. It is already happening in Canada, where you can be fined and imprisoned for misgendering someone.
Madam Speaker, they won’t stop there. Nothing will ever satisfy the left until there is complete and total compliance.

Madam Speaker, Scripture says, when speaking of those who have turned their back on God, who have traded the truth for a lie: Professing to be wise, they became fools. I can think of no better description of the so-called Equality Act, or inequality act, than this. The utter foolishness is astounding. Up is down, and right is wrong.

Madam Speaker, for the sake of our sons and daughters, for the sake of parental rights, privacy, decency, and so much more, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this horrendous legislation.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, so well said. Up is down, and right is wrong.

Our last speaker is the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), a doctor of education.

I want to thank the other colleagues who are here. We are running out of time, but I want to thank Representative RICK ALLEN, who objects to this bill, for being here as well.

Dr. Foxx, will you share, in closing, why we should oppose this bill this week? I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, our First Amendment is a powerful instrument that has protected our most sacred freedoms for hundreds of years. Few other countries provide the same protections and freedoms that our First Amendment guarantees. Yet, today, these essential rights are under attack.

H.R. 5 is the latest example of Democrats’ misleading and partisan manner of legislating. As a former educator and the Republican leader of the Education and Labor Committee, I can tell you that the bill may have “equality” in the title, but it certainly does not serve ALL Americans.

This legislation has a clever name and an allegedly noble purpose, but it is a vehicle for serious, harmful consequences.

The Equality Act would empower the government to interfere in how regular Americans think, speak, and act. Specifically, it would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to make sexual orientation and gender identity protected classes. According to the National Review, this extreme legislation “redefines sex to include gender identity, undermines religious freedom, gives males who identify as females the right to women’s spaces, and sets a dangerous political precedent for the medicalization of gender-confused youth.”

Under H.R. 5, our nation’s K–12 schools would be forced to treat gender as being fluid, subjective, and not tied to biological reality. The bill would undermine Title IX protections for girls by outlawing sex-based athletic competitions.

Even more troubling is the bill’s malicious and intentional destruction of religious freedom protections.

Religiously affiliated colleges and universities that maintain student codes of conduct, hiring practices, or housing rules reflecting sincerely held beliefs about marriage and sexuality risk losing federal funding under the Equality Act, as such policies would be deemed discriminatory.

Beloved secular private colleges that maintain single sex admissions policies, like Smith College and Morehouse College, could be forced to change their policies or forego federal funding.

In Virginia, we’ve already seen the displeasure amongst parents regarding such policy implementation. In an opinion piece published by the Washington Post in 2019, a former middle and high school teacher whose children attended Arlington Public Schools said, “It would erode parents’ rights over their children’s education, corrode Title IX protections for girls and risk convincing healthy, normally developing boys and girls that their bodies are wrong and must be altered with hormones and surgeries.”

The bill also lacks any pro-life protections, which is why I am submitting my amendment that will protect religiously affiliated groups and individuals from participating in or funding abortions.

This bill is a brazen attempt to replace long-standing constitutional rights with the identity politics of the moment.

We have entered treacherous waters by considering legislation that stifles proven, bipartisan solutions and, more seriously, our Bill of Rights. It’s outrageous that Democrats would advertise these proposals as guaranteeing fundamental civil and legal rights.

Madam Speaker, as elected Representatives, we all strive for equality before the law, but H.R. 5 is another classic example of Democrats passing a bill now and figuring out what it means later.

This is no way to legislate.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, the Equality Act’s supporters claim it will protect students from discrimination, but in reality it makes schools more dangerous and unfair for everyone.

By expanding the definition of “sex” to include self-declared gender identity, it requires schools to allow biological males into girls’ restrooms, locker rooms, showers, and sport events usually reserved for women.

And by incorporating sexual orientation and gender identity into Title IV of the Civil Rights Act, which appropriately mandates the desegregation of public accommodations, this bill could order the incorporation of radical gender ideology in sex education or other aspects of curriculum, far outside the original law’s scope. Activists are already pushing graphic, age-inappropriate content on these topics on students in places like Arlington, Virginia.

This bill puts teachers and administrators at risk too. Those who “misgender” a student or fail to use the individual’s preferred pronouns could be accused of harassment and subject to discipline or even lose their jobs.

Girls would also face unfair competition in sports. The Equality Act would force schools to allow biological males to compete on female-only teams.

We have already seen consequences of this. One transgender MMA fighter has broken the skulls of two female opponents (and counting), and transgender runners and basketball players are dominating female competitors, leaving many females’ long ambitioned goals of trophies and scholarships dashed.

For years, supporters of Title IX have fought to encourage and empower girls through athletic competition. Democrats would like to erase those gains, shattering countless girls’ dreams and dignity, to appease the woke mob.

Americans of faith would suffer too. Religiously affiliated colleges and universities that maintain student codes of conduct, hiring practices, or housing rules reflecting their faith’s sincerely held beliefs about marriage and sexuality would lose federal funding under the Equality Act, as such policies would be deemed discriminatory and open them to countless lawsuits to threaten their very existence.

All-female universities, whether religious or secular, would be required to accept male students identifying as female students, and male students identifying as males, since this bill provides no exemptions for female-only institutions that are private institutions want.

The misnamed Equality Act erases opportunities for girls and women and harms all students and teachers. It must be opposed.
OUR POWER, OUR MESSAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on the subject of my Special Order hour.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to open our first Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour of this year, during Black History Month, utilizing to the fullest extent possible: Our Power, Our Message.

I would like to thank the Congressional Black Caucus members for having the confidence to elect me to be chairwoman during the 117th Congress. I stand on the shoulders of greatness as I acknowledge the past members and chairs for their tremendous leadership.

For the next 60 minutes, we have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people about the issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus and the millions of constituents we represent.

Tonight’s Special Order hour topic will serve as part of a rollout of our policy agenda and celebrate our 50th anniversary in the context of the many critical issues facing the Black community.

The Congressional Black Caucus kicked off Black History Month, Madam Speaker, with the powerful Travon Free film “Two Distant Strangers,” a moving story about a young Black man caught in a George Floyd type of nightmare with his local police department.

During tomorrow’s CBC meeting to be held at 12 p.m., the “Living Black History” vignette, featuring all 58 members of the CBC, will be unveiled to the public via Facebook, TheGrio, and my YouTube page.

We are also hosting a virtual film screening of director Lee Daniels’ film, “The United States vs. Billie Holiday,” tomorrow evening.

In that spirit, later this week, I will be introducing the Black History is American History Act to close out our Black History Month.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the CBC with the largest CBC group ever, 58 members who represent the diversity, hope, and promise of this great Nation. It has been stated before, and it certainly bears repeating, the CBC is certainly referred to as the conscience of the Congress and over the decades has forcefully advocated on policies that our Nation cares about, ranging from economic justice and representation, healthcare, voting rights, consumer protection, education, and fair policing to far beyond.

The killing of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaid Arbery, and George Floyd drew America closer to another watershed moment last year, amid a pandemic that has disrupted life as we knew it, triggering an intergenerational cross-class collective of people demanding change, which led to the passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, a bill that is the first-ever bold, comprehensive approach to hold police accountable, change the culture of law enforcement, empower our communities, and build trust between law enforcement and our communities by addressing systemic racism and biases to help save lives.

I also wear another hat, and that is as chairwoman of the Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee of the House Financial Services Committee. Though it may speak for itself, I appreciate that kind of transformative change which is sought in policy, legislation, and regulation that will, hopefully, result in building a record that we can use as we promote diversity and inclusion in our democracy. As CBC founder member Bill Clay noted, we have no permanent friends or enemies, just permanent interests.

The CBC’s priorities will allow us, in many instances, to work with the Biden administration to deliver relief to our constituents who have been so devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic and to work on long-term plans for recovery. To that end, we are so pleased that we will announce our domestic policy team tomorrow, as we have met with Ambassador Susan Rice, who is head of the Biden domestic policy team.

It is so important that I end by saying the Congressional Black Caucus is committed to dramatically reversing these alarming trends by working with our community leaders, allies, and colleagues in Congress to pass critical legislation and by working with the Biden-Harris administration to encourage responsible executive branch policies and actions using Our Power, Our Message.

Now, I am honored to announce our CBC anchors for tonight: Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, a scholar, a strategist, an orator, a woman who has sponsored legislation and helped craft much of the changes that we will be talking about through the 117th Congress; and I am equally as proud to say that the Special Order hour will be co-chaired by her coanchor, Congresswoman Ritchie Torres, a freshman, a member of the Financial Services Committee, a giant in public housing legislation. Tonight, you will hear from them.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.
This is a moment in history. Tonight, we will explore honoring our 50-year legacy, Our Power, Our Message.

As I was flying up today, I was very happy to find on the movie list on an airplane “Good Trouble,” the movie about John Lewis, with so many Members telling their stories. I think I will just simply say: Good trouble.

Tonight, we hope to exemplify good trouble as we honor the 50-year legacy of the Congressional Black Caucus and emphasize Our Power, Our Message. We want to make a difference by working together.

We will do that, however, with the 55 members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and I think our numbers are higher than that, and they are all on different committees. Amazing. They will pierce the seams of equality and justice in the 117th Congress. So we will have our past, but we will have our future.

Let me briefly talk about where we were 400 years ago. Ships sailed from the west coast of Africa and in the process of mankind’s most inhumane practices, human bondage and slavery. Approximately 4 million Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and colonies, that became the United States, from 1619 to 1865.

The institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by the Government of the United States from 1789 to 1865, and certainly American slavery is our country’s Original Sin, and its existence and the birth of a nation is a permanent scar on our country’s founding documents, and on the venerated authors of those documents, and it is a legacy that continued well into the last century.

The framework for our country and the document to which we all take an oath describes African Americans as three-fifths a person.

The infamous Dred Scott decision of the United States Supreme Court, issued just a few decades later, described slaves as private property, unworthy of citizenship.

And, a civil war that produced the largest death toll of American fighters in any conflict in our history could not prevent the indignities of Jim Crow, the fire hose at lunch counters, and the systemic and institutional discrimination that would follow for a century after the end of the Civil War.

The mythology built around the Civil War has obscured our discussions of the impact of chattel slavery and made it difficult to have a national dialogue on how to fully account for its place in American history and public policy.

While it is nearly impossible to determine how the lives touched by slavery could have flourished in the absence of bondage, we have certain datum that permits us to examine how a subset of Americans—African Americans—have been affected by the callousness of involuntary servitude.

We know that in almost every segment of society—education, healthcare, jobs, and wealth—the inequities that persist in America are more acutely and disproportionately felt in Black America.

This historic discrimination continues: African-Americans continue to suffer debilitating economic, educational, and health hardships including but not limited to having nearly 1,000,000 black people incarcerated; an unemployment rate more than twice the current white unemployment rate; and an average of less than 1/16 of the wealth of white families, a disparity which has worsened, not improved over time.

These conditions gave rise to a strong belief by Congressman Charlie Diggs that black members of Congress needed a way to make a difference by working together.
The idea for an organization of black elected Members of Congress came from Representative Charles Diggs (D-Mich.) who created the Democracy Select Committee (DSC) in an effort to bring black members of Congress together.

Diggs noted that he and other African American Members of Congress often felt isolated because there were very few of them in Congress, and he wanted to create a forum where they could discuss common political challenges and interests.

Diggs observed that “The sooner we get organized for group action, the more effective we can become.”

The DSC was an informal group that held irregular meetings and had no independent staff or budget, but that changed a few years later. As a result of court-ordered redistricting, one of several victories of the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act joined by the force of the Civil Rights Movement, the number of African-American Members of Congress rose from nine to thirteen since the end of the Civil War brought reconstruction that provided the way for voting rights for former slaves.

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) was established in 1971 by the following 13 founding members:

1. Rep. Shirley Chisholm (D-N.Y.);
2. Rep. William L. Clay, Sr. (D-Mo.);
3. Rep. George W. Collins (D-HI);
5. Rep. Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.);
8. Rep. Ralph H. Metcalfe (D-III);
11. Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.);
12. Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio); and

Few recall that before these storied luminaries were elected to Congress, there were other African American Members of Congress immediately following the end of the Civil War who also served in this august body.

1. Robert Brown ELLIOTT 42nd (1871–73), 43rd (1873–75)
2. Jefferson Franklin LONG, 41st (1869–71)
4. Hiram Rhodes REVELS, 41st (1869–1871)
5. Robert Carlos DE LARGE 42nd (1871–73)
7. Benjamin Sterling TURNER, 42nd (1871–1873)
8. Josiah Thomas WALLS, 42nd (1871–73), 43rd (1873–75), 44th (1875–77)
9. Richard Harvey CAIN, 43rd (1873–75), 45th (1877–79)
10. John Roy LYNCH, 43rd (1873–75), 44th (1875–77), 47th (1881–83)
11. Alonzo Jacob RANSIER, 43rd (1873–75)
12. James Thomas RAPIER, 43rd (1873–75)
13. Blanche Kelso BRUCE, 44th (1875–77), 45th (1877–79), 48th (1879–81)
14. Jeremiah HARALSON, 44th (1875–77)
15. HYMAN, John Adams 44th (1875–77)
16. Charles Edmund NASH, 44th (1875–77)

At the end of reconstruction, many of these Black Members of Congress lost their office and many others who sought elected office or attempted to vote in public elections lost their lives. It would take nearly another hundred years until a sufficient number of Federally elected black candidates would return to Congress.

As but too many African Americans know, in some ways, the civil war has never truly ended.

On January 6, 2021, we saw the raw, savage face of the lingering confederacy attempt to put a dagger into the heart of our democracy.

On that day, every belief expressed by this preamble to the Constitution of the United States was at risk of being lost to the hands of a wellcoordinated attack hidden within the ranks of a riotous, murderous mob that invaded and laid siege to U.S. Capitol during the constitutionally required but ministerial act of counting the ballots submitted by the presidential electors of each state and declaring publicly the persons who were by their ballots elected President and Vice-President of the United States.

We witness the outcome of the 2020 Presidential Election long before January 6, 2021 because of the transparency of each state’s election administration and that the Joint Congressional committee would simply confirm that Joe Biden had won more than a majority of the electoral votes, along with winning the national popular vote by more than 7 million votes.

The riot came immediately after then-President Trump promoted a march on the Capitol and called his supporters to ‘stop the steal,’ ‘never give up, never concede,’ and to ‘fight like hell’ during a speech that day, asserting that they would not have ‘a country anymore’ if they did not act.

During the breach, Members of Congress were voting to certify then-President-elect Joe Biden’s election victory, and many participants in the attack intended to thwart this effort.

Violent participants, incited by the former President’s rhetoric, injured scores of D.C. Police and U.S. Capitol Police officers—killing one, while four civilians also died.

The level of violence and passions demonstrated are out of character for a nation that is accustomed to the peaceful transfer of power, especially when the results were so clear—the President had been soundly defeated for reelection.

We did not appreciate how powerful a lie could be in the domain of social media where people can wall themselves off from alternative views and news.

A nation accustomed to the peaceful transfer of power from one presidency to another was unprepared for the enemy within from a Chief Executive who would attempt to strike at the heart of lawful authority to destroy the union so that he could remain in office.

The underlying currents that led to the siege of the Capitol on January 6, 2021 began with the Compromise of 1876, which ended Reconstruction.

We must have an account of the crimes committed and the exacting of justice to those whose violent acts of rebellion against the authority of the United States resulted in the deaths of six people and the deprecation and defamation of the Citadel of Democracy.

The injury done to the nation by white supremacists on January 6, 2021, can be linked to the harm they have done to this nation for well over 100 years beginning with the end of Reconstruction.

The withdrawal of Union troops from the defeated and seditionist southern states in 1877 effectively put an end to Reconstruction and ushered in the era construction of any efforts to normalize equal rights under law to former slaves.

This period of African American history is obscured by time and characterized by a willful ignorance by governments, media, and academia, of the scale of murder mania that gripped the South during the period. More than law de jure segregation, when the lines were being drawn in the blood of black people that outlined what black people would and would never be allowed to do in American society.

Before they were written into law, the ‘Black Codes’ were shaped by a series of violent acts that occurred in communities large and small throughout the South, leading to tens of thousands of murders and attacks that marred many because of arbitrary rules of social conduct such as a black man did not tip his hat, get off the sidewalk, spoke to a white person without first being spoken to, or other perceived slights.

The reign of terror visited upon former slaves and their communities began near the end of Reconstruction and resulted in a secret history of the United States that almost erased the gains made by自由黑人 during the period 1865–1876 that included over 1,500 elected offices held throughout the South.

There were former slaves elected to serve in the 41st and 42nd Congresses of the United States, most of whom were denied re-election to office once Jim Crow laws limited access to voting for former slaves.

It was unnatural for black communities to have gone silent in the body politic after the strides made by newly freed slaves in engaging in political discourse but that silence was caused by the tens of thousands of singular and mass murders and lynchings that occurred after the end of Reconstruction and continued well into the 20th Century.

The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre that killed hundreds of blacks is another example of what a mob stirred by racial fervor can do to African Americans who only crime was living a prosperous and economically independent American Dream.

African American history has a long, painful and bloody path that clearly exhibits how violent the Confederacy was, and we have fought a cold civil war for over 156 years, which today is on the verge of turning hot.

Evidence of the desperation of black people to escape the drudgery of the south is evident by the greatest self migration of people within the United States known as the Great Migration, which saw the relocation of more than 6 million African Americans from the rural South to the cities of the North, Midwest and West from about 1916 to 1970.

The push to leave family and communities in the south was motivated by a deep desire to escape the yoke of the cold Civil war; and the pull to go to other parts of the nation was a chance to live free of fear, which translated into black people who were allowed to pursue the American Dream.

This period for the progeny of Americans it was shameful, painful and a disgrace that the Confederate battle flag was paraded in the Capitol of the United States by Trump’s motley band of disloyalists, something that hundreds of
thousands of true patriots gave the last full measure of devotion to prevent in the crucible years of the civil war from 1861 to 1865. The lynchings, beatings, rapes, burnings, joined with roadblocks to advancements that would afford African American people basic human rights such as fair wages, food, shelter, education, healthcare, due process and equal treatment under the law, were denied for much of our history.

The goals of this cold civil war were simple: it was to secure any effort by society to create a world where black people are free and have full rights as citizens of the United States.

The threat of a hot civil war comes from the majority of Americans accepting that African Americans have a place in America, and a right to pursue the American Dream.

The shift in American values and views regarding race have come very slowly with advances and setbacks until the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 created space and time to reestablish justice for black voters that continues to be under threat.

In this latter respect, the Insurrection of January 6 sought to duplicate the Compromise of 1876 because in both cases adherents of white supremacy sought to retain and monopolize political power by disenfranchising and disempowering millions of black Americans, throughout the South in 1876 and in the urban centers of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin and Georgia in 2020.

The threat of a hot civil war stems from the fear of anti-government extremists that a growing majority of Americans accept that African Americans have an equal right and entitlement to the blessings of liberty because they are full members of the American political community.

January 6, 2021, was not the first time that white supremacists attacked to overthrow duly elected white and black public officials. In 1898, in Wilmington, Delaware, and again in Colfax, Louisiana in 1873, the election of diverse slates of statewide candidates to public office triggered violent white mobs to attack and murder black officials.

The Colfax Massacre, sometimes referred to euphemistically as the Colfax Riot, occurred on Easter Sunday, April 13, 1873, in Colfax, Louisiana, the seat of Grant Parish, where between 62 and 153 black men were murdered by racist white vigilantes calling themselves a militia.

Three white men also died in the confrontation, with at least one said to have been shot by his own ally.

In the wake of the contested 1872 election for governor and local offices, a group of white Democrats armed with rifles and a small cannon, overpowered Republican freedmen and black state militia occupying the Grant Parish courthouse in Colfax.

Most of the freedmen were murdered after they surrendered; nearly 50 were killed later that night after being held prisoners for several hours.

Estimates of the number of dead have varied, ranging from 62 to 153. The exact number of black victims was difficult to determine because many bodies were thrown into the Red River by white supremacists.

Reconstruction ended in 1877 and by 1898 the protection afforded newly freed slaves to participate as equal citizens in casting ballots in public elections that allowed for the election of black and white candidates ceased to exist. White supremacists who ran as candidates in 1898, but lost their elections used mob violence to take the offices from the duly elected officials, sparking the Wilmington insurrection, also known as the Wilmington Massacre of 1898 or the Wilmington Coup of 1898.

The similarities between what happened on January 6, and the events of 1898 are striking in that both featured a mass riot and insurrection carried out by white supremacists.

The mass riot carried out by white supremacists on January 6, 2021, sought to overturn an election where black voters played a significant role in electing Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris as President and Vice President of the United States.

Furthermore, to add injury to their racist sensibilities, the preceding day, January 5, 2021, the state of Georgia elected its first African American and Jewish U.S. Senators during a special election.

Today, we see the potential for the 1898 level of violence against the entire Congress, which has become the most diverse deliberative body in our nation’s history.

Since the attack, the FBI has identified more than 400 individuals out of an estimated 800 who illegally entered the Capitol on January 6, 2021. As of January 27, 2021, the FBI’s Washington Field Office has confirmed that more than 150 criminal cases against those individuals have been filed.

Although some reporting initially contradicted Justice Department officials’ public statements regarding aggressive efforts to charge all violent criminals, acting U.S. Attorney Michael Sherwin reaffirmed the Department’s commitment on January 26, 2021, stating “[r]egardless of the level of criminal conduct, we’re not selectively targeting or just trying to charge the most significant crime . . . [a] crime was committed we are charging you, whether you were outside or inside the Capitol.”

The long and blood history of white supremacy requires an approach that holds individuals accountable for their actions as a means of ending the lure of the mob as a tool of violence against targets of interest.

Reports that cite that over a hundred current or former members of the military were involved in the riot at the Capitol are shocking to some.

Unfortunately, this aspect of white supremacist violence was evident by violence committed by Proud Boys and Boogaloo adherents made clear their objectives.

My efforts to focus the attention of the military on this link was evident in an amendment I offered to the NDAA for FY2021 that was adopted.

This Jackson Lee Amendment included in the House version of the NDAA directed the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress the extent, if any, of the threat to national security posed by domestic terrorist groups and characterized those involved in beliefs systems of white supremacy, such as the Boogaloo and Proud Boys extremists is reflected in the Conference Bill.

The NDAA conference identified that the FBI is under-staffed and over-allocated by Section 5602 of the NDAA FY 2020 (Public Law 116-92), to complete a report that would better characterize the domestic terrorist threat by requiring the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security in consultation with the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), to produce a set of comprehensive reports over 5 years.

The report is to include: a strategic intelligence threat internal to the United States; metrics on the number and type of incidents, convictions and related results; resulting investigations, prosecutions and analytic products, copies of the execution of domestic terrorism investigations; detailed explanations of how the FBI, DHS and NCTC prioritize the domestic terrorism threats and incident; and descriptions regarding the type incarceration, health disparities, more vulnerable to economic slowdowns, and even more likely to get COVID–19 and have much worse health outcomes.

LIST OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS IN THE 117TH CONGRESS:

The work of the 117th Congress is just begun, but the list of unfinished business is long:

- Ending the COVID–19 by Ending Healthcare Disparities;
- Passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act;
- Criminal Justice Reform;
- Funding to complete the restoration of a safe drinking water system for Flint, Michigan;
- Enactment of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act;
- Immigration Reform.

The United States is a work in progress, as stated in the preamble to the Constitution: We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States.

African Americans have fought in every war this nation has faced knowing that they were not afforded the same rights and freedoms of white Americans.

We comprise thirteen percent of the population of the United States, and yet experience a higher rate of incarceration, health disparities, more vulnerable to economic slowdowns, and even more likely to get COVID–19 and have much worse health outcomes.
Disparities tell the story of living while black in America. Disparities in maternity mortality, in the care we receive from doctors when we are in pain caused by Sickle Cell anemia, or present with serious symptoms like Ebola as was the case with Thomas Eric Duncan who went to a Dallas Area hospital for treatment.

Disparities in the spread of COVID–19 are killing Black people at a much higher rate than our percentage of the population in states reporting demographic data. Since that time, we have seen a pandemic sweep the country, taking more than 500,000 souls in its wake and devastating the African American community.

According to the latest estimates from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, Black people get COVID–19 at a rate nearly one and a half times higher than that of white people, are hospitalized at a rate nearly four times higher, and are three times as likely to die from the disease.

Disparities in the spread of COVID–19 are killing Black people at a much higher rate than our percentage of the population in states reporting demographic data. Since that time, we have seen a pandemic sweep the country, taking more than 500,000 souls in its wake and devastating the African American community.

Interestingly, a recent peer-reviewed study from Harvard Medical School suggests that reparations for African Americans could have cut COVID–19 transmission and infection rates both among Blacks and the population at large.

Their analysis, based on Louisiana data, determined that if reparations payments had been made before the COVID–19 pandemic, narrowing the wealth gap, COVID–19 transmission rates in the state’s overall population could have been reduced by anywhere from 31 percent to 68 percent.

I include in the RECORD an article detailing the results of a Harvard Study that found that reparations for slavery could have reduced COVID–19 infections and deaths in US from between 31–68 percent.

Disparities in vaccine access in every aspect of African American life and death.

Between 1980 and 2015, the number of people incarcerated in America increased from roughly 500,000 to over 2.2 million.

Today, the United States makes up about 5 percent of the world’s population and has 21 percent of the world’s prisoners.

1 in every 37 adults in the United States, or 2.7 percent of the adult population, is under some form of correctional supervision.

In 2020, African Americans constituted 2.3 million, or 34 percent of the total 6.8 million correctional population.

African Americans are incarcerated at more than 5 times the rate of whites.

The imprisonment rate for African American women is twice that of white women.

Nationwide, African American children represent 32 percent of children who are arrested.

42 percent of children who are detained, and 54 percent of children whose cases are judicially waived to criminal court.

Though African Americans and Hispanics make up approximately 32 percent of the US population, they comprised 56 percent of all incarcerated people in 2015.

In 14 of 50 states and D.C. that have their own parole board, Black people are incarcerated at a rate that is twice that of white people.

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Today, with a heavy heart our nation sadly marks the loss of 500,000 American lives to the coronavirus: an unimaginable human toll in our modern era of medical and technological advancement. It is staggering how this loss of life has affected our economy, our health, our mental health, and our society.

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act will be reintroduced this Congress to complete the work this nation has already begun in bringing justice to the criminal justice system. And every day, we use our power and our message to lift up these important issues that are facing our nation, and we ask those who are listening and watching to make these efforts your own.

Criminal Justice Reform is a pressing issue that Congress must address. As Judge Learned Hand observed, “If we are to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment: thou shalt not ration justice.”

Reforming the criminal justice system so that it is fairer and delivers equal justice to all persons is one of the great moral imperatives of our time.
For reform to be truly meaningful, we must look at every stage at which our citizens interact with the system—from policing in our communities and the first encounter with law enforcement, to the charging and manner of attaining a conviction, from the sentence imposed to entry and collateral consequences.

House Democratic Leader and House Judiciary Committee Chair JERROLD NADLER and myself, as Chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, have accepted and embraced the challenge of reforming the criminal justice system and developing innovative legislative remedies to correct many of the most glaring inequities and racial disparities in the most critical areas of the system.

This is an important topic and one that Congress must turn its attention to with urgency and unity of effort to:

- address the harms caused;
- get an accounting of what happened;
- understand how the water was poisoned;
- make the lives of people damaged by this tragedy whole;
- find justice for those lives that may have been lost; and
- determine and provide for the long-term health needs of those impacted.

Today, the water in Flint, Michigan is not safe to drink and we have no concrete answer on when it will be safe. Flint, Michigan is not the only city whose citizens are impacted by ongoing financial challenges. For financially strapped cities, sinking property tax income, and falling property values, which caused significant declines across the nation beginning in late 2008. The financial damage done to communities like Flint in the form of steep declines in property values, which caused significant declines in property tax income.

On December 15, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson said: "The Negro, Negro, Negro must be integrated into all aspects of the Nation's life. The second are Negro voting rights. The third is the relationship between government and Negro voting rights. These are entitled to the ballot, period. The fourth is theoke of change is difficult for many to swallow. It is not clear that there were too many Americans do not understand the centrality of radical change to American history. They sit in the shade of trees they did not plant, warm themselves by fires they did not light, and repel the cold with blankets they did not dig. They profit from persons they do not know, and they build upon
foundations that they did not lay. But Black Americans knew this difficult truth: radical change is the only acceptable change. They are keenly aware that their struggle for equality and justice is a never-ending battle. Black Americans are resentful because after all these years they must constantly push for change or be pushed back into the shadows. Black Americans are the seeds that go unwatered and still rise. The soil not tilled but still fertile. You can’t ask us to be patient with change anymore or to play by your rules because Black Americans have been patient from John Castor to Henry Scott to George Floyd to ——.

I am honored to yield to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JONES), a distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee, among other committees, and a scholar in his own right, a lawyer, and someone who has been able to be trained in the ways of the law, but whose heart is vested in the ways of justice. I am delighted to yield to my colleague for his time on the floor in this wonderful momentous occasion.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished co-chair of this incredible Special Order sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus for those very kind words.

I will say, as someone who has spent most of his life following the work of this Black Caucus, it is an honor to finally join the legends, the luminaries who helped to inspire my own run for the United States Congress. Thank you.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the CBC for holding this hour to reflect on Black history. I want to share, in particular, the story of a young lawyer who came to the village of Hillburn in Rockland County, New York, during his fight to desegregate our public schools.

Like many places in 1943, the Village of Hillburn had a main school for White children. It was called the Hillburn School. And it had a school for children...
of color without a library, a playground, or indoor plumbing. That was called the Brook School.

But our elders did not accept this. They fought back. Parents of the Brook School children organized and, with the help of a young attorney with the NAACP’s legal defense fund, they sued the district. With the help of their lawyer, the parents of the Brook School children won their fight against segregation in a case that helped to lay the groundwork for Brown v. Board of Education 60 years later.

Who was this young lawyer who came to the Village of Hillburn?

He was the man who would later become our Nation’s first Supreme Court Justice who was Black: Thurgood Marshall.

I am moved by the story because it shows how Black history creates Black futures, how the courage and resistance of the Black leaders of years past are the reason a poor Black kid from Rockland County now stands in this special Chamber as the United States Congress Member representing that same school district today.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman Jones so very much for his powerful statement, obviously, a lawyer’s lawyer to bring to our attention the great leadership of Justice Thurgood Marshall, civil rights attorney Thurgood Marshall, from a lawyer whom we will continue to promote justice now as a legislator.

Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to just put in the RECORD really the historical description of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Since its establishment in 1971, the Congressional Black Caucus has been committed to using the full constitutional power, statutory authority, and financial resources of the Federal Government to ensure that Black Americans and other marginalized communities in the United States have the opportunity to achieve the American Dream.

As part of this commitment, the CBC has fought in the past 50 years to empower citizens and address their legislative concerns by nursing a policy agenda that is inclusive, pragmatic, effective, and resonates with the American people.

Just for a moment, I would like to comment on the dangerous interrelatedness of race and the insurrectionist day of January 6.

6 Shockingly, Madam Speaker, those who came to object—so they say—to the duly qualified and legitimate election of President Joe Biden and, of course, Vice President Harris, they, of course, came allegedly with that proposition. And the so-called people who came to, according to the police officer by the name of Mr. Harry Dunn—courageous and brave with so many others—indicated: The rioters called me the n-word dozens of times.

So here we are celebrating the Congressional Black Caucus. Here we are defenders of democracy. Many of our Members are former members of the United States military, having gone into battle, or our family members. Have. We fought in, as early as a war as World War I, World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and other wars in between. We shed our blood for this country.

And the so-called people who came and said they just wanted some democracy, they believed that their candidate won, but they took enough time to call the sons and daughters of enslaved Africans—coming to the uniform defending democracy, the n-word. They took time to carry a fake flag, calling it the Confederate flag when it is a symbol in the 1960s of the harshness and brutality of segregation and the Klan. They took time to bring that flag to the United States Congress, in the midst of the highest number of elected persons of color, persons who are descendants in many different ways of enslaved Africans.

But here it is: We have to mention Mr. Dunn’s name. There were many others who were beaten that day. I honor them, and we will honor them as time goes. This night, tonight, we mention this gentleman who said most powerfully—Harry Dunn recalled the sickening events of January 6—when he says that the level of racist abuse he suffered caused him to break down in tears, but he was not broken. His quote was: “Y’all failed.”

That is my message today. All of the brutality that we may have experienced, which I will talk about in a moment, all of it failed. That is why we are here today fighting in the Education and Labor Committee; fighting in the Science, Space, and Technology Committee; fighting in the Ways and Means Committee; fighting in the Energy and Commerce Committee; the Judiciary; the Interior; the Armed Services Committee; Oversight and Reform Committee; and the Budget Committee, where you will see our presence.

We are fighting for America, but we are the conscience that drives the reality that there are more people to be concerned about than those of us in this Chamber. There are mothers and father who work every day, who don’t see the fruit of their labor. There are children who clamor for education, but it is not there.

There are soldiers who need to have the line of hierarchy and the route to promotion and elevation, who don’t get it. There are businessespersons who have brilliant ideas, but can’t access the capital. There are incarcerated persons who are not guilty, but are still incarcerated.

And there are doors of college institutions closed. There are people who want to do better with a new house, but still, in the 21st century, are redlined. And there are many who want to go places and cannot go, who are African American.

So, we are not complaining. We are trying to explain how much has been done by people who have had this kind of history. It is important to take note of that.

Madam Speaker, may I have the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Texas has 24 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. Torres), if he will carry for me.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman, as always, for the inspiration of words.

Our colleague, Congressman Jones, spoke earlier of Brown v. Board of Education. That Brown v. Board of Education was the first legal case I ever read. In high school, I participated in a form of legal debate known as moot court, which taught me how to think, read, write, and speak critically and artfully. I will never forget reading Brown v. Board of Education how inspired I felt, those words in the field of education: Separate but equal is inherently unequal.

Those words inspired me to see myself—as a young Black man—as a public servant and maybe one day as a Member of the United States Congress.

But I have to be honest. If you had said to me 1 year ago, I would become a Member of Congress during an infectious disease outbreak, that I would witness an insurrection against the U.S. Capitol during the electoral college vote count, and that I would have to vote to impeach a President who had been impeached once before, I would have said that sounds a lot like a movie.

So this has been the most draining and disorienting beginning for any freshman class in the modern history of the United States Congress, but I am nevertheless honored to be here.

January 6 is a reminder that the missteps of the CBC takes on a renewed urgency. The Congress Member and I sit on the Homeland Security Committee, and one of our highest priorities is going to be counterterrorism. During one of our recent hearings, I made the observation that America has a pattern of willful blindness toward white supremacist extremism as a form of domestic terror.

Even though the statistics have been clear that white supremacist extremism has been the dominant driver of violence in the United States for decades, the U.S. Government did not designate a white supremacist group as a

Never mind the massacre against Afri-
can Americans, against Latinos, and
against members of the LGBTQ com-
munity. It took the Federal Gover-
ment until 2020 to finally recognize
white supremacy as a form of domestic
terrorism.

I am often asked: Whom do you ad-
mire in history?

The gentlewoman brought up the Un-
derground Railroad, and I am a great
admiring of Harriet Tubman, who, as
the architect of the Underground Rail-
road, is America’s Moses. She was a
genuine liberator of an enslaved peo-
ple.

I also have deep admiration for Ida B.
Wells, who was alone as a journalist in
standing up to the campaign of domes-
tic terrorism andlynchings against Af-
rican Americans. And we have to draw
from the legacy of Ida B. Wells and
renew our commitment to fighting do-
men

President. And Barbara Jordan, who
headed the Ju-

mestic terrorism in our own time.

When it was finalized—it was a docu-
ment that dealt with a right to a trial
for women to vote, to the amend-
ments that deal with a right to a trial
by jury, to the Fifth Amendment, due
process, and the protection of your
property. These are all breathing docu-
ments and words, breathing amend-
ments that have allowed a people who
were in bondage to scrap their way out
of the devastation of hatred. We use
this Constitution.

But shamefully, that fight has to con-
tinue. And on January 6, that fight,
that scab was torn off again. That rug
was burning again. Those who came
to say that they were fighting for Trump
and fighting to overturn the election,
but more importantly, they are fight-
ing because the election was theirs,
they called a Black officer the N word
more times than he can remember,
caused him to break down, among oth-
ers. And he had the courage to say, all
this they tried to do, we did not buy.

Let me just show these depictions of
our journey. I will start with this one.
This year, 2021, is the 100th anniver-
sary—I hate to even use that term—of
the Tulsa riot. Allegedly, a young Black
man in an elevator was alleged to have
touched a White woman. I think when
he finally got out of the elevator
it was alleged rape, or it was rape,
typical story, over and over again.

That is why we have such pain for
George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Walter
Scott, Tamir Rice, Trayvon Martin,
Ahmaud Arbery, Pamela Turner, San-
dra Bland, Jacob Blake, and Elijah
McClain in Colorado, and names be-
tween them. Between them were the
mothers who have become friends, Mi-
ichael Brown, that is why we have such
pain.

And I guess my constituent—the
frican American community.

This is how it was. This is how it was.
This is how it was. It was entertain-
ing the Tulsa race riot. They were cap-

groes on way to Convention Hall dur-
ung the Tulsa race riot. Allegedly, a young

This year, 2021, is the 100th anniver-
sary of probably some of the likes of
those names that I called. Life cut down.

And this depiction is Captured Ne-
groes on way to Convention Hall dur-
ing the Tulsa race riot. They were cap-
tured. There was no justice. 300 Ne-
groes, Black Americans were buried in
an unmarked grave, as we are told.
This is how it was. This is how it was.
This is how it was.

The Congressional Black Caucus will
be commemorating that this year. And
I will introduce legislation with Sen-
or, the Tulsa race riots

4,000, 4,000-plus Blacks were hung.
And as you can see, there were smiling
faces in the crowd. It was entertain-
ment. Come to the haunt.

No, this is not a depiction of some
dastardly person who did violent acts
and raided through the community.

This could have been someone walking
along a dark road. It could have been
the civil rights movement; they were just
driving, trying to get to their destina-
tion.

These folks could have been walking.
We had one woman who had a dispute
with a storekeeper. She was a business-
woman. She was ultimately hung;
ever came back home. The family was
looking for where she might be.
It looks like another celebratory occasion, hanging. We will hear more of this when we proceed to discuss our commission to study and develop reparations proposals.

But let me—before I yield to my good friend, Mr. Jackson Lee, I just want you to see this one. This gentleman's name was—I am going to call him Mr. Gordon. He is a slave—was a slave, deceased. And clearly, those are markings of a very bad beating. But that is not the end of his story.

The same man who came out of slavery and fought in the Civil War on behalf of the Union. This is what we did. We always rise to the occasion.

You will hear more about our story. But I wanted to make sure that we just got a sense of how we have been overcomers. But even with being overcomers, we know there is more to do.

Madam Speaker, I am very delighted to be able to yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. Williams), and she got a sense of how we have been overcomers. But even with being overcomers, we know there is more to do.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today my Congressional Black Caucus colleagues and I observe Black History Month and celebrate 50 years of Our Power, Our Message.

For 50 years, the Congressional Black Caucus has uplifted the voices of Black people and other marginalized communities so that they can share in the promise of America for all.

For the 117th Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus marks a new milestone in CBC history. The next 50 years of Our Power, Our Message is strong.

We are here in D.C. witnessing more Black history being made with the first Black woman to serve as Speaker, Madam Speaker, and a member of our Congressional Black Caucus serving as Vice President of the United States. Indeed, our power and our message are strong.

While we continue to make great strides, it is not lost on me that 2020 was a difficult year for Black people across this country. Collectively, we battled a pandemic that continues to infect and kill Black people at disproportionate rates.

In the beautiful state of Georgia, Black people are also experiencing some of the highest levels of unemployment in decades. By November 2020, Black Georgians had filed 71 percent more unemployment claims than White, Hispanic, Latinx, and Asian-American workers combined.

Being Black in Georgia, we fight daily for what so many take for granted in this country, the right to vote, the right to the fair and equal treatment that George Floyd didn’t get, the right to the right to exist.

Today, in particular, we reflect on how far we have to go. One year ago, Ahmaud Arbery was hunted down and murdered, simply because he was a Black man going for a jog in Brunswick, Georgia.

His murder by white supremacists and the subsequent delays in realizing justice may seem new, but Black people have dealt with systemic racism for centuries. I give you here to break these structures and dismantle these systems using our power and our message as the Congressional Black Caucus.

Ms. JACKSON LEE, Madam Speaker, I thank this gentlewoman for her words and certainly her powerful words on the importance of our Vice President, the Honorable Vice President Harris. We are grateful for her.

It is my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. Torres), my co-anchor.

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Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute to my classmate, Congress Member NIKEMA WILLIAMS, who, as the chair of the Georgia Democratic Party, was instrumental in winning the Senate for the Democratic Party.

Thanks to leadership of on-the-ground organizers like Congress Member WILLIAMS, a Democratic Senate, a Democratic House, a Democratic President means we have the makings of an FDR moment. We have a historic opportunity to rebuild in the 21st century as FDR did in the 20th century.

Systemic racism in America traces back 400 years, and it is incredible to think that in the 400-year history of our country, we are as close as we have ever been to confronting the root causes of systemic racism.

That is the burden that we bear as the Congressional Black Caucus, but it is not only a burden. It is a blessing. Public service in an FDR moment is a blessing.

It is said the first historian, Herodatus, said that he wrote the first historical book so that the deeds of brave people cannot be forgotten. That is the same reason the CBC exists, so that the deeds of Black heroes like Harriet Tubman and Ida B. Wells, like John Lewis, like Barack Obama and Kamala Harris, are never forgotten, that the contributions of Black America should remain front and center in the life of our country.

It has been an honor to be with you, Congress Member JACKSON LEE. I cannot tell you how honored I feel to be a member of the CBC.

You know, I grew up poor most of my life. I was raised by my single mother who had to raise three children on minimum wage, which in the 1990s was $4.25 an hour. I grew up in public housing, in conditions of mold and mildew, leaks and lead, without consistent heat and hot water in the winter. I never got washed out near half of Black small businesses in our country.

In the face of the COVID–19 pandemic, the Black Caucus has played a critical role in the
Madam Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus will certainly play a prominent Congress for generations to come. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the caucus to advance better, more equitable policies for all.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(B) of House Resolution 8, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 9 o’clock and 32 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

### EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2020, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

**REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2020**

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<th>Name of Member or employee</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
<th>Departure</th>
<th>Country</th>
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1. Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
2. If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.


**REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2020**

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**REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2020**

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**REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2020**

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<td>HOUSE COMMITTEES&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.</td>
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1. Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
2. If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.


**REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2020**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name of Member or employee</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
<th>Departure</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Per diem 1</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Other purposes</th>
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<td>U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency 1</td>
<td>U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency 2</td>
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1. Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
2. If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF, Jan. 8, 2021.
EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-359. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Market Participants Division, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Margin Requirements for Uncleared Swaps for Swap Dealers and Major Swap Participants (RIN: 3033-AF03) received February 2, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-360. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Division of Market Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Swap Entities (RIN: 3033-AF18) received February 2, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-361. A letter from the Deputy Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau’s final rule — Truth in Lending (Regulation Z) Annual Threshold Adjustments (Credit Cards, HOEPA, and Qualified Mortgages) received February 2, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-362. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Research and Planning, Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Implementation of Executive Order on Access to Affordable Life-saving Medications (RIN: 0966-A125) received February 2, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.


EC-364. A letter from the Agency Representative, United States Patent and Trademark Office, National Advisory Committee, transmitting the Department’s temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River; Natchez, MS (Docket No.: USCG-USCG-2020-0645) (RIN: 1625-AA88) received February 2, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-365. A letter from the Yeoman Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Neuse River, New Bern, NC (Docket No.: USCG-USCG-2020-0645) (RIN: 1625-AA88) received February 2, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-366. A letter from the Yeoman Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River; Natchez, MS (Docket No.: USCG-USCG-2020-0645) (RIN: 1625-AA88) received February 2, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-367. A letter from the Chief Petty Officer, CG-LPD, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s temporary final rule — Security Zone; Fleet Week, Chicago, IL; San Diego, CA (Docket No.: USCG-2020-0655) (RIN: 1625-AA87) received February 2, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-368. A letter from the Yeoman Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s temporary final rule Special Local Regulation: Fort Lauderdale Air Show; Atlantic Ocean, Fort Lauderdale, FL (Docket No.: USCG-2020-0128) (RIN: 1625-AA80) received February 2, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-370. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s final regulations — Rollover Rules for Qualified Plan Loan Offset Amounts (Treas. Reg. No. 1.154-52) received February 2, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-371. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s IRB only rule — COVID-19 Relief for Employers Using the Coronavirus Response Tax Relief Act of 2020 (Notice 20-20) received February 2, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-372. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s IRB only rule — Guidance on Sections 102 and 103 of the CARES Act With Respect to Safe Harbor Plans (Notice 2020-86) received February 2, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar.

Ms. SCANLON: Committee on Rules, H. Res. 147. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 803) to designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Land Conservation System, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-6). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BACON (for himself, Mr. RUTHERPORD, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. CUELLAR):
use by the national instant criminal background check system; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Mrs. MALIK, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

H.R. 1218. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on social outcomes with respect to broadband maps; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mrs. ROGERS of Washington, and Ms. CHU):

H.R. 1219. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualifiedABLE programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BENDON F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEAN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMBS, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. TROY of New York, Ms. VANDERHORST of Delaware, and Ms. ZEIGLER of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1220. A bill to reauthorize the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, the Lackawanna Heritage Area, the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, the Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area, and the Oil Region National Heritage Area; for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Mr. BLOOMBAUER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIALALIA, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. PINHEIR, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. JONES, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. SIKES, Mr. VILLA, Ms. HASTINGS, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. RYAN, Mr. POCON, Ms. MENG, Ms. WATERS, Mr. RASKEIN, and Ms. MATSU):

H.R. 1221. A bill to increase deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in low-income communities and communities of color, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. PRYBAJAL, Mr. RYAN, Ms. POCON, Ms. MENG, Ms. WATERS, Mr. RASKEIN, and Ms. MATSU):

H.R. 1222. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding proprietary institutions of higher education in order to protect students and taxpayers; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 1223. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to individuals associated with the Government of the Russian Federation who are complicit in the poisoning and repression of citizens of the Russian Federation for political motives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, Financial Services, Ways and Means, Transportation and Infrastructure, and 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. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. LEONHARDT, Mr. PORTER, Mrs. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SABHANES, and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 1224. A bill to reauthorize the authority of the Merit Systems Protection Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. MEZER, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 1225. An act to increase diversity and inclusion in the workforce of national security agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Intelligence (Permanent Select), the Judiciary, Homeland Security, Agriculture, and Financial Services, 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. CROW (for himself, Mr. BALDERSO, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. TONE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CASE, and Mr. TTTCC:

H.R. 1226. A bill to establish a Next Generation Entrepreneurship Corps program within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. DELGADO (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 1227. A bill to establish a public health plan; 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. DELGADO (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. MALINOWSKY):

H.R. 1228. A bill to advance a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Libya and support the people of Libya; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. DEUTCH (for himself and Mr. DIAZ-BALART):

H.R. 1229. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reauthorize and expand the National Threat Assessment Center of the Department of Homeland Security; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. DIETZ (for himself and Mr. SCHAPIRO):

H.R. 1230. A bill to establish the boundary of the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TONEY of Texas:

H.R. 1231. A bill to prohibit the reentry of the United States into the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action unless the President makes certain certifications relating to Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 1232. A bill to require a five-year staffing plan for the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. GALLAGHER, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. STEEL, Mr. FITZGERALD, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. TIPFANY, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 1233. A bill to authorize the President to award the Medal of Freedom to James Megellas, formerly of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and most recently of Colleyville, Texas, before his death on April 2, 2020, for acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. PINHEIR, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 1234. A bill to end the use of corporal punishment in schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. HERRERA BRUTLER (for herself and Mr. PORTER):

H.R. 1235. A bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of anatomical gifts and organ transplants; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. MALINOWSKY, and Mr. KUSCHNER):

H.R. 1236. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of imported seafood; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 1237. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit a person from knowingly providing substantial assistance relating to a contribution or donation by a foreign national, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.R. 1238. A bill to establish the Office of the Ombudsperson for Immigrant Children in Government Custody, 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. JOHNSTON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. MALINOWSKY, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

H.R. 1239. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on motor vehicle recalls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOHNSTON of South Dakota (for himself and Ms. CRAND:

H.R. 1240. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to modify prevented planting coverage; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. JONES (for himself and Mr. TRONO):

H.R. 1241. A bill to improve the full-service community school program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

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

H.R. 1242. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for lifelong learning accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

H.R. 1243. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit for training services received by individuals who are unemployed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. KIM of California (for herself and Mr. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 1244. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide for a paid family and medical leave expansion; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. KIM of New York (for herself and Mr. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 1245. A bill to require the Committee on House Administration to report on the status of the Office of Inspector General of the United States House of Representatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. KIM (for herself and Mr. BURCH):
H.R. 1245. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit interfering with voter registration and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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.

H.R. 1246. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to allow ranchers and farmers to use the same calculation for a minimum loan amount under the paycheck protection program; to the Committee on Small Business.

H.R. 1247. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to include an act of unregulated custody transfer in the definition of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

H.R. 1248. A bill to remove all statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from display in the United States Capitol; to the Committee on House Administration.

H.R. 1249. A bill to discontinue the use of payment of money as a condition of pretrial release in criminal cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1250. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports to network outage reporting; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

H.R. 1251. A bill to support United States efforts to protect the demarcations of subsea plus real property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

H.R. 1252. A bill to provide for certain construction-related authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

H.R. 1253. A bill to modernize and streamline the public diplomacy capabilities of the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

H.R. 1254. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to prohibit corrupt foreign influence over the President, the Vice President, and their immediate family members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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.

H.R. 1255. A bill to protect and promote from discrimination living organ donors; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Reform, House Administration, Education and Labor, and Financial Services, 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.

H.R. 1256. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to replace the plaque and concrete block bearing the name of Francis Newlands from the grounds of the memorial fountain located at Chevy Chase Circle in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R. 1257. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the effect of financial and credit counseling for homeless veterans and veterans experiencing homelessness, to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1258. A bill to amend the Poultry Products Inspection Act and the Federal Meat Inspection Act to support small and other meat and poultry processing establishments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

H.R. 1259. A bill to toll the Petition for a Writ of Mandamus in the District of Columbia and in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1260. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to support paths to treatment and prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1261. A bill to modernize and streamline the public diplomacy capabilities of the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

H.R. 1262. A bill to establish a task force on improvements for certain notices to airmen, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

H.R. 1263. A bill to prohibit federal funding for institutions of higher education that have partnerships with the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

H.R. 1264. A bill to support United States efforts to protect the demarcations of subsea plus real property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

H.R. 1265. A bill to support United States efforts to protect the demarcations of subsea plus real property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

H.R. 1266. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require corporations, political committees, nonprofit organizations, labor organizations, and trade associations to report disbursements to foreign nationals for purposes of disseminating foreign-related publications and to inquire whether persons providing such disbursements are foreign nationals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

H.R. 1267. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a civil right of action for the disclosure of the identity of a whistleblower a criminal offense, to provide a civil right of action for the disclosure of the identity of a whistleblower, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1268. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to provide a report on the Recreation and Heritage Canalway, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

H.R. 1269. A bill to toll the Petition for a Writ of Mandamus in the District of Columbia and in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1270. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit political contributions to foreign nationals for purposes of disseminating foreign-related publications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1271. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award targeted grants to State, Tribal, and local health departments or nonprofit organizations in geographic locations with racial and ethnic minorities and other vulnerable populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 to disseminate information regarding the safety and efficacy of the public diplomacy physical presence abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

H.R. 1272. A bill to establish a task force on improvements for certain notices to airmen, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

H.R. 1273. A bill to provide for certain construction-related authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.
radical climate agenda at the White House by prohibiting use of petroleum-based products and energy sources; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. MANN (for himself, Mr. LANGLEY, Ms. WAGNER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. JONES), Mr. CONROY, Ms. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. McCaul, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. PFLuger, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. LATUNER, Mr. O’HALLORAN, Ms. HERRELL, Ms. HAYES, Mr. HAGDORN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. LATTA, Mr. RICHARD, Mr. BACON, Mr. EMER, Mr. JACKSON, Ms. BUSTOS, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. SMITH of Nebras., Mr. HOCHELIN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. KELLER, Mr. FORTEHEN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. HARTZELL, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. CLEINE, Mr. FENCE, Mr. CARL, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. ALIOTTI, Mr. HORD, Mr. PEEKSTRA, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. GIERS, Mr. BALDERSON, Ms. CAMMACK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. MOOKH of Alabama, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. AUSTIN Scott of Georgia, Mr. LUTKEMEYER, Mr. McCILLEN, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. FULCHER, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. SPANBERGER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. CASE, Mr. ROONEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. ESTES:

H. Res. 150. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 20 to February 27, 2021, as “National FFA Week”, recognizing the important role of the National FFA (FFA) Organization in developing the next generation of agricultural and natural resource leaders, and urging all Americans to support the FFA and the students and programs of the FFA.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. CHU, Mr. TORREY of New York, Ms. TUTUS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mrs. TRAhan, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. COOPER, Mr. JEFFERIES, Ms. TLAIR, Ms. STEVENS of Washington, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. Peters, Mr. McCULLUM, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALoney of California, Ms. EVANS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. BERG, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. POCAH, Mr. BOURDREUX, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. WATSON COOLEY, Mr. GODDA, Mr. KRISHNASWAMUTHI, Mr. MCNerney, Mr. Jacobs of California, Ms. Ross, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. McCILLEN, Mr. BUSH, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. BLUMENTSAUER, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. PATRICK, Mr. MALONEY of New York, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MEERS, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. BRUNING, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. CROW, Mr. NKOUSHI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GARAMendi, Ms. MONBODJO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. JOHNSEN of Texas, Mr. JONES, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ESHEIO, Mr. KLIMER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. BIEYER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LIU, Mr. KILDER, Ms. DEAN, Mr. NEWMAN, Mr. DEREK, Mr. BURMAN P. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. TONKO, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. DEGETTY, Mr. SABBON, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. TRONE, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. COHEN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. GARCE of Illinois, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. TINGRREE, and Mrs. BEATTY:

H. Res. 151. A resolution condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to COVID-19; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Ms. GONZALEZ-COLON, Ms. BASS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAVER, Mr. CRYER, Mr. DEMINGS, Ms. DINGELL, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. HAYES, Ms. JACKSON Lee, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Tennessee, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. MEERS, Ms. MEING, Mr. NORTON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SPEIER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATSON COOLEY, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. AXN, Mr. STEVENS, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H. Res. 152. A resolution supporting the designation of March 2021 as Endometriosis Awareness Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. STEEL (for herself, Ms. PORTER, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. CALVET, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. CORRE, and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H. Res. 153. A resolution condemning recent hate crimes committed against Asian-American and Pacific Islanders; 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. BACON:

H. R. 1210. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. McCaul:

H. R. 1211. 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. ADAMS:

H. R. 1212. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 7

By Mr. ALLLEN:

H. R. 1213. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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H.R. 1214.
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 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. BANKS:
H.R. 1214.

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. BOST:
H.R. 1216.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which states “[t]he Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States”.

By Mr. BOST:
H.R. 1217.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which states “[t]he Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States”.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:
H.R. 1218.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Congress may also make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying into execution their powers enumerated under Article I.

By Mr. CARDENAS:
H.R. 1219.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Congress may also make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying into execution their powers enumerated under Article I.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:
H.R. 1220.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:
H.R. 1221.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. COHEN:
H.R. 1222.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. CONOLLY:
H.R. 1223.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. CONOLLY:
H.R. 1224.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. JAYAPAL:
H.R. 1225.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S.C. Article I Section 8.

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:
H.R. 1230.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:
H.R. 1231.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. JONES:
H.R. 1231.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. KILMER:
H.R. 1232.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1232.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1233.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1234.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1235.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1236.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1237.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1238.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1239.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1240.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1241.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1242.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1243.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1244.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1245.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1246.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1247.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1248.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1249.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KOCH of Georgia:
H.R. 1250.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KIM of California:
H.R. 1251.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:
H.R. 1252.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. LEE of California:
H.R. 1253.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. LEE of California:
H.R. 1254.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. LEE of California:
H.R. 1255.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. LEE of California:
H.R. 1256.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. LEE of California:
H.R. 1257.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. LEE of California:
H.R. 1258.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. LEE of California:
H.R. 1259.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. MAST of South Carolina:
H.R. 1260.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. MAST of South Carolina:
H.R. 1261.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. McCULLOCH:
H.R. 1261.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. McCULLOCH:
H.R. 1262.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. McCULLOCH:
H.R. 1263.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. McCULLOCH:
H.R. 1264.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. McCULLOCH:
H.R. 1265.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. McCULLOCH:
H.R. 1266.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. McCaul: H.R. 1262.
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. Meuser: H.R. 1263.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8
By Mr. Murphy of North Carolina: H.R. 1264.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 (Clause 17, and Clause 18) of the U.S. Constitution and Article 4, Section 3 (Clause 2) of the U.S. Constitution.
By Ms. Nader: H.R. 1265.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clauses 3 and 18 of Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. Pallone: H.R. 1267.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 (Clause 17, and Clause 18) of the Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to the regulation of Commerce with foreign Nation, and among the several States, and with Indian tribes).
By Ms. Stefanik: H.R. 1268.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. Roseendale: H.R. 1269.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. Ryan: H.R. 1270.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8: “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. Scalise: H.R. 1271.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power 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. Stefanik: H.R. 1272.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
By Ms. Wexton: H.R. 1273.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 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. 7: Mr. Van Drew
H.R. 30: Mr. Blumenauer
H.R. 38: Mr. Keller
H.R. 55: Ms. Bourdreaux and Mr. Scott of Virginia
H.R. 82: Mr. Courtney, Ms. Titus, Ms. Porter, Mr. Tonko, Mr. Zeldin, Mr. Thompson of California, Mr. Himes, and Mr. Higgins of New York.
H.R. 174: Ms. Scanlon.
H.R. 365: Mr. Veasey, Mr. Trone, Mr. Butterfield, Ms. Manning, and Ms. Moore of Wisconsin.
H.R. 322: Mr. Rogers of Alabama, Mr. Mann, Mr. Sessions, and Mr. Crawford.
H.R. 328: Mr. McGovern, Mr. Jones, Ms. Tlaib, Ms. Schakowsky, and Ms. Pingree.
H.R. 343: Mr. Jackson and Mr. Moore of Alabama.
H.R. 369: Ms. Craig.
H.R. 376: Mrs. McClain.
H.R. 392: Ms. Meng, Mr. Garcia of Illinois, Mr. Waters, Mr. Blumenauer, and Mr. DeFazio.
H.R. 399: Mr. San Nicolas and Ms. Escobar.
H.R. 426: Mrs. Miller of Illinois.
H.R. 446: Mrs. Hayes.
H.R. 454: Mr. Peters.
H.R. 460: Mr. Khanna, Mr. Evans, and Ms. Scanlon.
H.R. 471: Mr. Rice of Georgia, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Posey, and Mr. Rose.
H.R. 473: Mr. Barden.
H.R. 480: Ms. Dioggette.
H.R. 499: Mr. Emmers.
H.R. 533: Mr. Neguse and Ms. Underwood.
H.R. 587: Mr. San Nicolas.
H.R. 542: Mr. Garcia of Illinois, Ms. Pingree, Ms. Leger Fernandez, Mr. Carson, Mr. Nadler, Ms. Strickland, and Mr. Thompson of Mississippi.
H.R. 543: Mr. Buc.
H.R. 547: Mrs. Fischbach, Mr. Emmer, and Mr. Case.
H.R. 553: Mr. San Nicolas and Mr. Cole.
H.R. 565: Mr. Bilirakis.
H.R. 575: Mr. Cloud.
H.R. 576: Mr. McGovern.
H.R. 584: Mr. Shires.
H.R. 588: Ms. Pingree.
H.R. 588: Mr. Neguse and Mr. DeSaulnier.
H.R. 597: Ms. Scanlon, Ms. Titus, and Mr. Lawson of Florida.
H.R. 600: Mr. Owens, Mr. Perry, Mr. Busch of North Carolina, Mr. Mast, and Mr. Issa.
H.R. 606: Mr. Guest, Mr. Pfluger, Mr. Murphy of North Carolina, and Mrs. Miller of Illinois.
H.R. 611: Mr. Ruppersberger, Mr. Pressley, Mr. Garamendi, and Mr. Stivers.
H.R. 612: Mrs. Lee of Nevada.
H.R. 616: Mr. Cicilline, Mr. Kildeer, Mr. Neguse, Ms. Spanberger, and Mr. McBath.
H.R. 623: Mr. Hastings, Mr. Harder of California, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Luria, Mr. Correa, Ms. Kelly of New York, Mr. Swalwell, Mr. Takano, Mr. Gallego, Ms. Blunt Rochester, and Mr. DeSaulnier.
H.R. 638: Mr. Chershaw.
H.R. 677: Mr. Scalise and Mr. Pence.
H.R. 684: Mr. Young, Mr. Carter of Texas, Mr. Tony Gonzales of Texas, Mr. Van Drew, Mr. Bost, Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania, Mr. Harris, and Mr. Palmer.
H.R. 693: Mr. Sherman.
H.R. 707: Mr. Thompson of California and Ms. Malliotakis.
H.R. 708: Mr. Ruppersberger and Mr. Cicilline.
H.R. 724: Mr. Green of Tennessee.
H.R. 725: Mrs. Cmack and Ms. Greene of Georgia.
H.R. 754: Mrs. Miller of Illinois.
H.R. 773: Ms. Chu.
H.R. 793: Mr. Katko, Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, and Ms. Sherrill.
H.R. 794: Mr. Krishnamoorthi, Mr. Soto, Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Connolly, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Garcia of Illinois, Mr. Gehrava, Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Chu, Mr. Omar, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Evans, Ms. Hayes, Ms. Pingree, Ms. Tlaib, and Mr. Thompson of Mississippi.
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H. Res. 136: Mr. Deutch, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Keating, Mr. Moulton, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Connolly, Mr. Sherman, and Mr. Case.
H. Res. 137: Mr. Deutch, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Keating, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Pappas, Mr. Sherman, and Mr. Case.
H. Res. 142: Mr. Jackson.
H. Res. 144: Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois and Ms. Manning.

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

OFFERED BY Ms. Lofgren

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on House Administration in H.R. 5 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY Mrs. Maloney

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Oversight and Reform in H.R. 5 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY Mr. Nadler

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in H.R. 5 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY Mr. Scott

The provisions in H.R. 5 that warranted a referral to the Committee on Education and Labor do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY Mrs. Waters

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Financial Services in H.R. 5 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY Mr. Gregalva

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Natural Resources in H.R. 863 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY Mr. Smith

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Armed Services in H.R. 863 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.
The Senate met at 10:31 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable Raphael G. Warnock, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

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

Let us pray.
Eternal God, in times of trouble You hear us. We cry to You and receive Your answers. May we embrace Your precepts as You guide us through the fog of our earthly pilgrimage.
Lord, may our lawmakers trust You for strength. Provide them with the powers of wisdom, discipline, and discernment. You have promised that those who trust patiently in You will soar high on wings like eagles, running without weariness and walking without fainting.
Mighty God, we praise Your matchless Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
The Presiding Officer. The clerk will please read a communication from the Senator from the President pro tempore (Mr. Leahy).
The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

To the Senate:
Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable Raphael G. Warnock, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

Patrice J. Leahy,
President pro tempore

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
The Acting President pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS
The Acting President pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

EXECUTIVE SESSION
The Acting President pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.
The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louisiana, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The Acting President pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today the Senate will complete the confirmation of two key nominees: Linda Thomas-Greenfield to serve as U.N. Ambassador and Tom Vilsack to serve as Agriculture Secretary.
As I said yesterday, the Senate will also confirm Jennifer Granholm this week to serve as the next Energy Secretary and begin the confirmation of Dr. Miguel Cardona to serve as the next Education Secretary. We also hope to do Gina Raimondo, nominee for Secretary of Commerce, early next week.
Each of these nominees has received bipartisan support in committee. Each of these nominees is undoubtedly qualified for their positions, a stark departure from the caliber of nominees the Senate was made to consider during the previous administration.
Make no mistake, the Senate will move quickly to approve key officials in the Biden administration this work period. These Cabinet positions and Agencies have an immense influence over the policies of the United States, impacting hundreds of millions of American lives. At a time of acute national challenge, we need qualified leaders atop our Federal Agencies—and fast. and that is what we intend to do.

CORONAVIRUS
Mr. President, on COVID, while the Senate will be busy fulfilling its constitutional duty to advise and consent on Presidential nominees, Democrats remain hard at work preparing the desperately needed COVID relief bill.
Our country is still in the throes of a crisis. Yesterday, we passed that grim milestone of 500,000 deaths, a towering and incomprehensible figure. Millions of Americans have reported being thousands of dollars behind on rent, on utilities. Small businesses are hanging on for dear life. Vaccinating 330 million Americans as efficiently as possible is one of the most crucial and complex undertakings of our times.
What we need to do now is put our foot on the gas to end the pandemic as quickly as possible, get our economy back to normal, and repair the damage that has been done. That is what the American Rescue Plan is all about. It will deliver the resources to keep small businesses afloat; Americans in their homes; and teachers, firefighters, and other essential employees in the public sector on the job.
It will send a direct check to Americans struggling with a once-in-a-lifetime financial burden. It will boost vaccine distribution. And it will provide funding and guidance for schools to reopen as quickly and safely as possible.

That last point, in particular, should appeal to my Republican friends who have been raising concern about school closures. We all want the schools to reopen safely. We are all worried about the cost of virtual learning on children and parents.

The solution is simple. It is not giving a speech here on the Senate floor. It is not criticizing teachers or school administrators. It is giving school districts the funding they need to reopen safely during the COVID crisis. We want to do it as quickly as possible, and it is hard to understand that our Republican friends are saying: “Open up the schools” and “I won’t vote for any money for the schools” to do just that. It is a complete contradiction.

The Republican position seems to be that these difficult challenges will fix themselves, that we don’t need any more aid; we did enough already. Anyone who’s talking about anything about schools knows, in the vast majority of schools in this country, that is just not the case.

So let our Republican friends put their votes where their speeches are, in helping the schools, in getting the money, in opening the schools safely—not in simply trying to make a political point and then trashing the schools without giving them the money they need. It makes no sense whatsoever. It is a total contradiction.

Also, if we don’t act, enhanced unemployment benefits will expire for millions of Americans in need. If we don’t act, millions of struggling families will miss out on direct payments and an expansion of the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit. If we don’t act, we risk the same long, slow, and painful recovery we experienced after the financial crisis of 2008, when Congress did too little to get our country back on track.

The worst thing we could do would be to slow down now before the race is won. We will not do that. Later this week, Senators will be briefed by the acting chief of police and the Acting Sergeant at Arms. Later this week, Senators will be briefed by the acting chief of police and the Acting Sergeant at Arms on the current and future security measures around the Capitol.

It is our solemn responsibility to protect the Capitol and everyone who works and visits within it. It is our solemn duty to prevent a day like January 6 from ever, ever being repeated. At the same time, the Capitol has been and must be once again a symbol of democracy that is accessible to the people. No one expects the Capitol to remain a militarized zone in perpetuity. As I said, no one expects the Capitol to remain a militarized zone in perpetuity. We must strive to strike the difficult balance between access and security and better understand the intelligence and security failures that led to the attack on January 6. This will be a crucial and bipartisan undertaking. I am glad that Senators from both the Rules and Homeland Security Committees, from both parties, are starting that important work today.

I now yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, millions of American kids in the public school system have been robbed of a year, and counting, of anything resembling a proper education. It has been a historically tough year. That is why Americans have elected our Nation appears to be approaching a major turning point.

Here are just a few recent headlines: A U.S. Vaccine Surge Is Coming, With Million of Doses Promised

Another headline: CDC finds scant spread of coronavirus in schools with precautions in place

Here is one from my home State: COVID-19 cases plummet in Kentucky nursing homes, a key target for the vaccine

So let’s take a look at the economy: U.S. Retail Sales Surpass With Sharpest Advance in Seven Months

Another headline: Consumer Demand Snaps Back. Factories Can’t Keep Up.

To be clear, this isn’t over. The battle is not won yet. But the day is approaching when we will be able to end this defensive crouch and safely reclaim our normal lives.

Last year the Senate built the largest peacetime fiscal expansion in American history. We spent $4 trillion on five overwhelmingly bipartisan packages. The most recent became law just 2 months ago. Funding for hospitals and providers kept our healthcare system above water. The Paycheck Protection Program saved Main Street small businesses. Direct relief and extra unemployment aid helped working families endure the shutdown. Operation Warp Speed laid the groundwork for our historic sprint toward vaccinations.

These were strong, bipartisan policies, targeted to what families specifically needed to wage the war, but today Democrats are steamrolling ahead with a massive spending plan on a completely partisan basis. It did not receive a single House Republican vote in committee yesterday because their partisan plan is not targeted toward helping Americans reclaim their lives and their country from this invader. Instead, here is what it is: a combination of miscellaneous, non-COVID-related, liberal wish-list items and the kinds of bandaid policies that make a defensive crouch slightly less painful but don’t help get us back to normal.

Let’s take a look at K-12 schooling. Until very recently, the new administration’s own scientists had been crystal clear. Earlier this month, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said:

There is increasing data to suggest that schools can safely reopen. A major CDC study found in-person schooling does not—not—fuel community transmission.
Last month, Dr. Fauci said:

"It’s less likely for a child to get infected in the school setting than if they were just in the community.

But Big Labor special interests didn’t appreciate science undercutting their political point. The empire struck back, and the Democratic leaders who love to claim the mantle of science ran away from the science as fast as they could. Now the CDC Director admits that ‘the lived experiences’—whatever that means—represents a dissenting opinion between the hard science and the final guidance. It is a lot of points for candor.

The unions had spoken. The goalposts were on the move. And the White House keeps enhancing the idea that schools need the Democrats’ new spending plan to reopen, when the science disagrees. And furthermore, just 5 percent—5 percent—of what they propose to spend on schools would even be spent this year. Let me say that again. In this big COVID package, only 5 percent of what they propose to spend on schools would be spent this year. In other words, the spendout is over years ahead. You would think their view is, we are never going to get over the coronavirus.

The United Kingdom just announced they will have kids back in school in less than 2 weeks—2 weeks. Countries like Spain and France have had kids in classrooms for months already. The European Centre for Disease Prevention has no problem affirming the science—that closing schools is ‘unlikely to provide significant additional protection for children’s health.’ Even here at home, private and religious schools have been teaching kids in person for months without causing any explosion in the spread of the virus.

Science tells us unambiguously that in-person learning can be done safely and that having young children spend all day staring into a laptop is a nightmare. The evidence is crystal clear. Big Labor bureaucrats keep refusing to follow the science.

In my hometown of Louisville, our union-bred school board vice chairman now asserts, with no evidence:

‘I suggest the absence of a quorum.’

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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in his inaugural address, President Biden spoke about his desire to unify.

He said this:

‘Today, on this January day, my whole soul is in this: bringing America together, uniting our people, uniting our nation.’

Admirable words, but words have to be met with action, and, right now, we are not seeing much of an attempt to unify from the President or his party. In fact, we are seeing pretty much the opposite. The Democrats have made it very clear they are determined to pass another COVID bill on a purely partisan basis, which is particularly disappointing because, up until now, ObamaCare relief has been overwhelmingly bipartisan.

I might add, last year, when we were in the majority, the Democrats made it very clear that they thought the minority should have a voice in COVID relief and that any legislation should reflect the thoughts of both parties. The Democratic leader filibustered the CARES Act—the largest COVID relief bill—multiple times until he got a version that he was satisfied with, but now that the Democrats are in the majority, apparently, they have decided that it is their way or the highway. Forget the fact that the Senate is evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats. The Democrats are determined to ensure that the Republicans and the Americans they represent don’t have a voice in this bill.

Democrats’ move to use reconciliation to force through a purely partisan COVID bill might be understandable—and I add ‘might’—if the Republicans had made it clear that we opposed doing anything else on COVID, but that couldn’t be further from the truth. The Republicans have made it very clear that we are willing to work with the Democrats on additional targeted relief. Just weeks ago, 10 Republican Senators put together a plan and met with President Biden for 2 hours to discuss bipartisan agreement, but while the President certainly listened to them graciously, it quickly became clear that their efforts didn’t matter. It didn’t matter how willing the Republicans were to negotiate; the Democrats had no intention of reaching an agreement. They wanted to go it alone, and they were not going to let the Republicans stop them.

In a speech a few days ago, President Biden acknowledged that people have criticized his $1.9 trillion plan but asked:

‘What would they have me cut? What would they have me leave out?’
Well, let me offer a few ideas. For starters, it might be a good idea to cut out the sections of the Democrats’ bill that have nothing to do with combating COVID. The Democrats are calling this a COVID relief bill, but in actual fact, much of this bill has little to do with the coronavirus. In fact, less than 10 percent of the bill is directly related to combating COVID.

If President Biden wants to know what sections of the bill to cut, I might suggest that he start with the bill’s minimum wage hike. The Democratic bill would more than double the Federal minimum wage at a cost of an estimated 1.4 million jobs—that according to the Congressional Budget Office. That would be problematic enough at a time when we are already dealing with substantial job losses, but it is even worse when you realize that the people most likely to lose their jobs as a result of this hike would be lower income workers.

I would also suggest that the President cut his $86 billion bailout of multiemployer pension plans, which has nothing to do with emergency COVID relief. The President could also consider cutting his $350 billion slush fund for States and localities, which would be used mostly to reward States that shut down their businesses for extended periods and, therefore, have higher unemployment rates.

It has become clear the majority of States are doing OK financially despite the pandemic. A number of States actually saw higher tax revenues in 2020, and a majority of States have the resources needed to weather the rest of this crisis. Three hundred fifty billion dollars far exceeds projected State need.

And while we are on that topic, the economic stimulus provided by President Biden’s bill, in general, far exceeds the economic need and may actually harm the economy. Even without a dollar more of stimulus spending, our economy is expected to grow at a robust 3.7 percent in 2021. The massive amount of spending that the President is proposing to inject into the economy runs the very real risk of overheating the economy and driving up inflation, and you don’t have to take my word for it. Even some liberal economists have expressed their concern about the size of the Democrats’ coronavirus legislation and the damage that it could do to the economy.

Then, of course, there is the money the bill includes for schools. Now, while children in some places, like South Dakota, are back in school, we need to get all kids back in in-person learning. In-person learning is important for kids’ academic, social, and emotional health, and as Republicans have demonstrated, we want to ensure that schools in places they need to get back into the classroom safely.

Our previous coronavirus bills contained more than $100 billion for education, and I think it is safe to say that every Republican would support additional dollars, if needed, but the fact of the matter is, schools still have billions of dollars from previous coronavirus legislation that remains unspent. And the Biden bill would appropriate an additional $126 billion for schools, which, if anything, they would get—whether or not they get kids back into the classroom. On top of that, most of that money would go to schools beginning next year and stretching all the way to 2028; our other two major players, the pandemic will be over. In fact, less—if you can believe this, less than 5 percent of the education spending would occur this year.

Ultimately, the Biden bill’s school funding ends up looking less like a plan to get our kids back in schools and more like caving in to the teachers’ unions.

So if President Biden would like to know what to cut, I would suggest he start with some of the things I have highlighted. And I would ask—I would ask that he and the Democratic leadership abandon their plan to shove through a bloated, partisan bill, paid for with all borrowed money—every single dollar goes on the debt—and to start trying for the unity that the President has talked about.

The President could show that he really meant what he said in his inaugural address by sitting down, in a serious way, with Republicans to develop targeted relief for the States that need it. We are ready to come to the table. The ball is in the President’s court. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order be rescinded. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the nomination of Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield to be the United States Ambassador to the United Nations. Our next U.N. Ambassador will inherit the monumental task of rebuilding our frayed alliances after four years of isolation and division, in which the United States retreated from the leadership role in promoting democracy, freedom, human rights, and the rule of law. There is no person better suited to this task than Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield.

In a Foreign Service career spanning more than three decades, Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield served with distinction both in Washington and around the globe, including at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations that she will now lead.

As the son of a Foreign Service Officer and cochair of the Senate Foreign Service Caucus, I am also acutely aware of the significance of President Biden selecting a career Foreign Service Officer for this position. For 4 years, members of the Foreign Service have been maltreated, demeaned, and marginalized by the people trusted to lead them. The selection of a career Foreign Service Officer to represent the United States at the United Nations marks a sharp turn away from that shameful chapter.

I look forward to working with Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield as we take on the difficult work of restoring our standing in the world, rebuilding our alliances, and investing in the men and women of our Foreign Service. I am proud to support her nomination.

VOTE ON THOMAS-GREENFIELD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Thomas-Greenfield nomination? Mr. SCOTT of Florida. 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. The bill clerk called the roll. Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 61 Ex.]

YEAS—78
Baldwin  Hickenlooper  Reed
Bennet  Hirono  Risch
Blumenthal  Hyde-Smith  Romney
Brown  Inhofe  Rosen
Booker  Johnson  Rounds
Berman  Kaine  Sanders
Brown  Kelly  Schatz
Burr  Kennedy  Schum
Collins  King  Shaheen
Capito  Klobuchar  Sinema
Cardin  Leahy  Smith
Carter  Lee  Sullivan
Casey  Lujan  Tester
Cassidy  Luminais  Thune
Cortez Masto  McCaskill  Tillis
Coons  Menendez  Van Hollen
Cornyn  McConnell  Warner
Cortez Masto  Menendez  Warnock
Crapo  Merkley  Warren
Duckworth  Moran  Warner
Duran  Murkowski  Whitehouse
Feinstein  Murphy  Wicker
Fischer  Murray  Wynn
Gillibrand  Ossoff  Young
Graham  Padilla  Young
Hasan  Peters  Young
Hiron  Portman

NAYS—20
Barrasso  Ernst  Rubio
Blackburn  Grassley  Sasse
Blumenthal  Hawley  Scott (FL)
Brown  Cotton  Scott (SC)
Cramer  Hoeven  Shelby
Cruz  Johnson  Shelly
Daines  Lankford  Tuberville
NOT VOTING—2
Paul  Toomy
upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accord-
cence with the provisions of rule XXII of the
Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar
No. 11, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louis-
iana, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Session of the
General Assembly of the United Nations during
her tenure of service as Representative of the
United States of America to the United
Nations.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez,
Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Thomas R.
Carper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patrick
J. Leahy, Brian Schatz, Christopher A.
Coons, Jack Reed, Michael F.
Bennet, Debbie Stabenow, Chris Van
Hollen, Ron Wyden, Martin Heinrich,
Bernard Sanders, Edward J. Markey,
Cory A. Booker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unan-
imous consent, the mandatory quorum
call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the
Senate that debate on the nomination of
Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louis-
iana, to be Representative of the United
States of America to the Sessions of the
General Assembly of the United Nations
during her tenure of service as Representative of the
United States of America to the United
Nations?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under
the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk
called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the
Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs.
SHAHEEN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are
necessarily absent: the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr.
TOOMEY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber des-
siring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 77,
NAYS—20

Paul
Shahen
Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this
vote, the yeas are 77, the nays are 20.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read
the nomination of Linda Thomas-
Greenfield, of Louisiana, to be Rep-
resentative of the United States of
America to the Sessions of the
General Assembly of the United
Nations during her tenure of service as
Representative of the United States of
America to the United
Nations.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under
the previous order, the Senate stands
in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:40 p.m.,
recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassem-
bled when called to order by the
Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The
clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read
the nomination of Thomas J.
Vilsack, of Iowa, to be Secretary of
Agriculture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under
the previous order, there will be 20
minutes of debate equally divided be-
tween the two leaders of their des-
ignees.

The Senator from Michigan.
Ms. STABENOW. Madam President,
I am very pleased today to rise to sup-
port the nomination of our former Sec-
retary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack.
We are very lucky that he is willing to
serve again. He is certainly no stranger
to all of us, and we are very fortunate
that he is willing to once again be part
of prudential service. In serving as Agri-
culture Secretary during all 8 years of
the Obama administration, Secretary
Vilsack presided over the USDA with
decisive, effective leadership. It was a
pleasure to work with him.

The Agriculture Committee held a
bipartisan hearing earlier this month,
and mere hours later, we voted to ad-
advance his nomination without any ob-
jection. His deep knowledge of agri-
culture and rural America is needed
now more than ever, for our farmers,
our families, and our rural commu-
nities have so many challenges right
now.

The COVID–19 crisis is continuing to
disrupt our food supply chain for farm-
ers, food processors and essential
workers. Tens of millions of families
still don't have enough to eat and are
lining up at food banks in order to put
food on the table. The climate crisis is
posing an extremely grave threat to the
long-term viability of our economy and
our food supply. Farmers of color,
who have long faced civil rights abuses
and systemic racism, continue to expe-
rience economic disparities.

On top of all of this, there is a lot of
work to be done to rebuild the USDA
workforce so that the Department can
fulfill its very important mission.

American farmers, families, and
rural communities need strong, effec-
tive leadership now more than ever.
When it comes to feeding our food
and farm economy, I am very con-
fident that soon-to-be-confirmed Sec-
retary Tom Vilsack will be more than
up to the task. He has a proven track
record and will embrace new ideas in a
new era at the Department.

I know he is committed to addressing
the COVID–19 pandemic, and I know he
is committed to focusing on feeding
our families in need. We have more
than 50 million Americans today who
are hungry and are facing some of the
most severe challenges. It is imperative
that we have a leader like Secretary
Vilsack who is committed to making
sure our food supply is safe, secure,
and reliable.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Presi-
dent, as the United States is facing its
worst hunger crisis since the Great
Depression and family farms are strug-
gling, President Biden has nominated
Tom Vilsack to reprise his role as
Secretary of Agriculture and capably
serve again. He is certainly no stranger
to all of us, and we are very fortunate
that he is willing to serve again. He is
Tom Vilsack.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President,
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worst hunger crisis since the Great
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to all of us, and we are very fortunate
that he is willing to serve again. He is
Tom Vilsack.
these critical needs and support our rural communities.

Mr. Vilsack served as Agriculture Secretary for all 8 years of the Obama administration, overseeing investments in rural communities, healthier school meals, and better food safety standards. He also chaired the first White House Rural Council, which streamlined the effectiveness of Federal programs serving rural America, engaged stakeholders on issues and solutions in rural communities, and promoted coordinated private-sector partnerships in those communities.

Our agricultural landscape has changed over the last 4 years, and we must accelerate our transition to net-zero agriculture by incentivizing practices like crop-covering and carbon sequestration. Agricultural conservation practices are also critical for achieving the pollution-reduction targets for nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. I look forward to working closely with Mr. Vilsack to advance our climate goals.

Additionally, as communities of color experience disproportionate economic hardships as a result of the Covid–19 pandemic in addition to decades of discrimination within USDA, I will hold Mr. Vilsack to his promise to “fully deeply and completely address[ing] inequities” within the department and show “zero tolerance for discrimination.”

Thomas Vilsack has the experience and insight to provide immediate relief to our struggling farmers, families, and rural communities. For these reasons, I support his nomination for Secretary of Agriculture.

Ms. STABENOW. 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. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, it is a real honor to be down here with my friend and the chairwoman of the Agriculture Committee, Senator STABENOW, and I appreciate her cooperation in working so very hard and providing the leadership to get Secretary Vilsack confirmed.

The nomination hearing was held a few weeks ago by the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry to vet the former Secretary and now future Secretary Vilsack. The timing was unusual, but it displayed the bipartisan nature of the committee. The committee was not officially organized, so we didn’t want to set a precedent and didn’t have any precedent in that situation, but working together in going forward, that the chairwoman will continue to work with me and our minority members on the committee to assist the Agriculture Committee in a truly bipartisan way. We have the example of her and Senator Roberts in the great job that they did in working as a team.

Secretary Vilsack is no stranger to the Department of Agriculture, in having served as the Secretary from 2009 through 2017. He has an excellent reputation of putting rural America at the top of his agenda. I am a strong believer that past performance is indicative of future performance, so I am confident that Secretary Vilsack will be successful this go-around.

I look forward to strengthening my working relationship with the Secretary so we can find success in supporting those who work at the Department and assisting those whom the Department serves. Whether that success is borne from the Secretary’s utilizing existing authorities or through new legislation, I trust that the Secretary will work with Congress as the agriculture community tackles new and existing challenges and works to build on countless past successes.

The Department must continue to work with all producers, in order to provide the certainty and with predictability. Farmers and ranchers find themselves in a curious position and curious times in battling COVID, natural disasters, and turning the tide of a few tumultuous trade seasons. The Department must ensure that this administration works with producers of all regions and all commodities and that the Department does not make the hard work of farmers and ranchers more difficult by throwing up obstacles as opposed to opening doors of opportunity.

I look forward to Secretary Vilsack’s coming back to the committee in a few weeks to discuss his plans in depth for the Department as was agreed to at his hearing. I believe the discussion will help the committee have a clearer picture of the Department and the work that lays before us. I will be voting to confirm Tom Vilsack, former Secretary and future Secretary. I urge others to do so as well.

Again, thank you to the chairwoman for her collegiality and cooperation. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON VILSACK NOMINATION

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Vilsack nomination?

Ms. STABENOW. 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.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 63 Ex.]

YEAS—92

Baldwin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blackburn
Brown
Burr
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Corbyn
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Cramer
Cruz
Cullen
Daines
Duckworth
Durbin
Ernst
Femenstein
Fischer
Gillibrand
Hagerty
Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hiroto
Hoeven
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Kaine
Kelly
Kennedy
King
Klobuchar
Lankford
Leahy
Lee
Lujan
Lummens
Manchin
Markey
Marshall
McCaskill
McConnell
Menendez
Merckley
Morrill
Moran
Murkowski
Murray
NAYS—7

Crus
Hawley
Paul
NOT VOTING—1

Shaheen

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

VOTE ON THOMAS-GREENFIELD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Thomas-Greenfield nomination?

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 64 Ex.]

YEAS—78

Baldwin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blackburn
Bouzian
Burr
Capito
Cardin
Carter
Cassidy
Collins
Cruz
Cullen
Daines
Duckworth
Durbin
Ernst
Femenstein
Fischer
Gillibrand
Hagerty
Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hiroto
Hoeven
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Kaine
Kelly
Kennedy
King
Klobuchar
Lankford
Lankford
Leahy
Lee
Lujan
Lummens
Manchin
Markey
Marshall
McCaskill
McConnell
Menendez
Merckley
Morrill
Moran
Murkowski
Murray
NAYS—7

Crus
Hawley
Paul
NOT VOTING—1

Shaheen

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

VOTE ON THOMAS-GREENFIELD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Thomas-Greenfield nomination?

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 21.
Crapo, Lee  
Duckworth, Rosen  
Durbin, Lujan  
Feinstein, Rounds  
Feinstein, Sanders  
Fischer, Schatz  
Gillibrand, Schumer  
Graham, Sinema  
Graham, Smith  
Hassan, Stabenow  
Heinrich, N.J.  
Hickenlooper, Sullivan  
Hiroko, Tester  
Hiroko, Thune  
Hye-Smith, Tillis  
Inhofe, Van Hollen  
Johnson, Warner  
Kaine, Warnock  
Kelly, Warren  
Kennedy, Whitehouse  
Kirby, Wyden  
Klobuchar, Young  
Leahy, Romney  

NOT VOTING—1  
Shahbeen

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION  

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR  
Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 16.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.  
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education.

CLOTURE MOTION  
Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION  
We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 16, Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education.


Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF THOMAS J. VILSACK  
Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I wanted to talk a little bit about the vote I just took here with regard to our Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary Vilsack, who is now the new Secretary or on his way to becoming the new Secretary.

You know, what I have tried to do when looking at nominees is I typically kind of look at three different questions: Do they have experience for the job, the experience necessary for the job, do they have views that I believe will help the country and in particular help my State, and do they care about the people they will be impacting? So that is a bit of a three-part test.

I have tried to work with a lot of the new nominees in the Biden administration. I voted for a number of them, most of them. As a matter of fact, I introduced Secretary Austin at his confirmation hearing. I got to know him many years ago when I was a marine and he was an Army officer, a two-star general.

You know, I will say to my friends, colleagues, constituents back home who say: Hey, Senator, you know, when the Trump administration put forward their nominees, you usually had kind of a party-line vote.

A lot of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, my Democratic friends, would vote no, no, no, no. Why don't you do that? Well, I don't think it is good for the country; that is why I don't do that. I am against some but I have been supportive of many, and I am not sure the way in which it worked with the previous administration was best for our Nation.

So certainly Secretary Vilsack passes the first two parts of that test I was talking about. Clearly he has the experience. He was the Secretary of Ag for 8 years under President Obama and Vice President Biden. Certainly he has views particularly with regard to farm country. You saw the strong vote he had there with regard to helping the ag sector. I am sure he is a patriot, of course. He cares about our country. But it was third question—does he care about the people he will be impacting—that I have had some serious hesitation on.

Mr. President, I will talk a little bit about, you know, a lot of our different economies throughout the country. Our States have been hit hard by this pandemic. I would say that my State's economy has been hit really hard. When you look at what drives a lot of the Alaska economy, oil, gas, mining, the tourism sector, the fisheries, commercial fishery sector—I like to call Alaska the superpower of seafood. Over 60 percent of all seafood harvested in America comes from the waters of the great State of Alaska, the most sustainable, best managed fishery probably in the world but a huge driver of our economy.

Also, there is the issue of access to our lands. Sixty-six percent of Alaska is Federal land. We need access to help have a strong economy. It is an issue that the President is more than happy to have all of us just sit on the fence and say: Hey, give us some money. It is an issue that the President, I don't think, is going to talk about. He wants to see these things happen.

In the last administration, we made a lot of progress on this issues for our economy, on oil and gas, ANWR, access to those lands, legislation by the Congress. Our tourism sector had been doing great. Our commercial fishing sector had been doing great. We even made progress on other access issues, like the Tongass, something that for 25 years Democrats and Republicans, whether Senators from Alaska, whether Governors from Alaska, we were trying to get access to those lands. It is really important, and we were able to do that.

So there was progress, and then the pandemic that has hurt everybody. It certainly hurt the energy sector. It certainly hurt, crushed the tourism sector. Last year, Alaska was going to have 1.5 million people show up in our State with regard to tourism, a new record just on the cruise ships, but none of them showed up because of the pandemic. The commercial fishing sector, which has had a tough time with this pandemic—markets, international markets, markets domestically.

So I am very concerned about my State's economy, about working families, and about the average Alaskan who is struggling right now. The new policies put forward by this administration have been shockingly negative as it relates to my State. One month in, particularly in the energy sector, every day we are waking up to a new edict saying: Men and women who produce energy in America, who produce energy in Alaska, sorry, you are not favored anymore. You are not viewed in a positive light anymore.

It is a real, real, real concern. Hundreds, if not thousands of jobs in my State during a recession are at risk.

So these are some of the issues that I raised in my discussions with Secretary Vilsack. In particular our commercial fishing economy: the commercial fishing sector.

In the previous administration, under the USDA, the Secretary of Agriculture helped implement a new trade
The relief program for fishermen. Huge progress. Hugely important. Just the way the farmers were getting this kind of relief with regard to trade and markets that have been destroyed by the pandemic, the Secretary of Agriculture undertook a new program for the farmers of Alaska while protecting our environment. And as they see Executive orders that are preferring other countries and not the U.S.A. And as they hear from the left words that are, We are not looking for unity; what we are looking for is to submit to conform to our way of doing things. What they are doing is leaving no room for discussion, even on issues of international importance.

For decades, the various schools of thought represented in this Chamber have advocated for different approaches to foreign relations. Some revere international bodies and sweeping multilateral agreements, and others approach these constructs with caution, prioritizing national sovereignty over surface-level diplomacy.

When former President Trump formally withdrew from the Paris climate accords in 2019, economists, business owners, and budget watchdogs all breathed a sigh of relief because they knew that adherence to the Paris climate accords would put the United States at a competitive disadvantage. This wasn't a partisan debate, mind you; it was U.S.-based companies—S, and companies—saying thank you for withdrawing because adhering to this, when other countries that are our competitors will not adhere, puts us at a disadvantage.

Now, with the climate accords, by 2035, we would have seen hundreds of thousands of people lose their jobs, household electric bills go up as much as 20 percent, and an aggregate GDP free fall of $2 trillion. That is the cost. That is the cost of our way or the highway. That is the cost of putting other countries ahead of us, the cost of their noncompliance.

Fast-forward to a little over a year later, and the Biden administration has thrown us back into the accords and back into that predicted economic free fall.

This week, I worked with my colleague Senator Daines to introduce two pieces of legislation that will hopefully do a little bit of damage control on that issue. The first is a bill that would prohibit taxpayer dollars from being used to rejoin the Paris Agreement. It makes sense. The reason it does is you are taking jobs away from U.S. employers. You are causing employees to become former employees or the unemployed. So it makes sense. If you want to do this, don’t use taxpayer dollars. Don’t make people pay for things that are going to take away their jobs.

The second is a resolution that would call on President Biden to submit the Paris Agreement to the Senate for approval. It makes sense. Where are treaties to come? Here. If you want unity,
send things to the Senate. If you are proud of the step you are taking, send it to the Senate. Let there be a vote of the people’s representatives. Let there be discussion. Do we fear discussion? Do we fear debate? Are we so given to the cancel culture that we just say it is our way or the highway?

I would note that submitting these types of agreements for consideration is a bare minimum standard set out in the Constitution, and there is no legitimate reason anyone in this Chamber should object to that. They should welcome respectful, robust debate.

I think we can all agree that this oversight duty is an important one, and I would ask my colleagues to join me in letting the administration know we are not going to abandon it simply because it would make things more convenient for them.

Freedom and preserving freedom are not always convenient. It takes a lot of hard work. It takes this body doing its job. It doesn’t take “my way or the highway” Executive orders coming out of the White House. On Inauguration Day, President Biden promised unity: all for it, wanted to see it, going to work for it—nice words. But so far he has done nothing but hide behind those Executive orders and be done with it, hearing that the Speaker of the House has a few people who can vote proxy for people, seeing the cancellation of the January 6th attack roll.

This is not about the current crisis. It is about the future of the country. Sign an Executive order to allow people to vote. And force through policies that even the Speaker of the House has a few people who have, for most of their lives, been members of his own party object to.

In Tennessee, I have talked to many who have, for most of their lives, been Democrats, and they are stunned—in deed, they are very concerned—about this authoritarian approach to running the country. Sign an Executive order and be done with it, hearing that the Speaker of the House has a few people who can vote proxy for people, seeing all this fencing around the Capitol causes Tennesseans to say: What in the world is going on up there? This is not how we are supposed to act.

And I will tell you, to my friends across the aisle, one day this tactic is going to come back to the millions of Americans who are standing up. They are contacting us. They are speaking to us. They are having buyer’s remorse. They are saying it is far too extreme to be dealt with, even at the local level. This is not how we work. We do not want to abandon it simply because it would make things more convenient for them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. CORNYN. 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 Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, my State is no stranger to severe weather.

In the past few years, we have experienced the devastation of major hurricanes, tropical storms, and tornadoes. But last week brought something entirely new in the form of extreme weather—winter storms, prolonged subfreezing temperatures, and treacherous road conditions across the entire State. And unlike, for example, the State of Massachusetts, where that may not be entirely uncommon, we are not used to that subzero freezing weather.

Our State was not prepared, I think its clear to say, for these low temperatures or the devastating impact they would have on our critical infrastructure. Frozen natural gas wells and wind turbines, among other issues, led to widespread power outages, and millions of Texans were left without a way to keep their family warm throughout the historic low temperatures.

Compounding matters even further, some 12 million Texans faced water disruptions due to power outages and frozen or broken water lines. Cities across the State issued boil notices, and folks whose taps are still dry to boil snow as their only option for drinking water or perhaps even to flush toilets. The weather created incredibly dangerous conditions for many across the State, especially our most vulnerable citizens. We know of nearly 80 Texans who have died due to this extreme weather. And another is likely to climb in the days ahead.

These widespread outages will prompt a necessary investigation into the high level of generation failures, as well as the overall security and reliability of our energy grid. We have a lot of work to do to ensure that these deadly mass outages never occur again—no matter what Mother Nature sends our way. There is no reason for millions of people in one of the most energy-rich States in the world to be left without reliable power.

Senator Cruz and I sent a letter to President Biden urging him to grant Governor Abbott’s request for an emergency disaster declaration, and I appreciate the President’s quick action to ensure our State could receive the full range of Federal resources to respond to this crisis.

I also worked with the Governor and the Department of Energy to secure an emergency order allowing Texas power generators to increase production, and I appreciate the fact that that, too, was quickly approved.

In times of crisis there is no red team and no blue team, and I want to thank every person who has supported the response to this crisis so far, whether they are Texans or not. I know more will be needed in the days and weeks ahead, and I want to assure the folks back home that I am listening, I am working, and I am here to help any way that I can. And I thank you for the entire Texas delegation.

I know there are still many without water and electricity, and I want to assure them that you are the Nation’s priority. But in the face of hardship—and, as I started my remarks, we have been through a lot over the last few years—I am always in awe of the way Texans show up and help one another—neighbors helping neighbors. We have seen countless inspiring stories in the past, and this disaster is no exception.

There are stories like that of Ken Everly, an 82-year-old Air Force veteran from Grande Prairie. Mr. Everly is in failing health. He relies on a needlesharing machine to keep him alive and a special air mattress that prevents bedsores to keep him comfortable. When his home lost power, Mr. Everly was in serious danger of losing his life. The breathing machine cut off, and the air mattress deflated, leaving him struggling to breathe on an iron bed frame.

His son-in-law Nate pleaded for help on Facebook, and within hours help arrived. A Sweetwater brewery, said “Help came where it came from, but a generator showed up.” Thanks to the generosity of a stranger, Mr. Everly once again had his breathing machine operating, a comfortable mattress, and heat in his home.

The best part of that story, though, is that it is not unique. In ways big and small, we have seen other examples of neighbors going out of their way to help one another.

Power drivers in North Texas teamed up to offer free rides to and from work for healthcare workers and first responders. Restaurants across the State offered free food to folks without power, and countless bars offered social media to deliver warm meals, bottles of water, and a range of other supplies to those in need.

One of the big issues that folks back home have faced is a lack of safe drinking water. Over the last several days, Gallery Furniture, its furniture business, has been open around the clock to provide food and shelter to those impacted by extreme weather. Over the last several days, Gallery Furniture, its furniture business, has been open around the clock to provide food and shelter to those impacted by extreme weather. Over the last several days, Gallery Furniture, its furniture business, has been open around the clock to provide food and shelter to those impacted by extreme weather. Over the last several days, Gallery Furniture, its furniture business, has been open around the clock to provide food and shelter to those impacted by extreme weather.

Across Texas, churches, schools, nonprofits, community centers, and local organizations opened their doors as warming centers. One of those warming centers is operated by Houston’s most beloved furniture store owner, known as “Mattress Mack.” Dating back to Hurricane Katrina, Mr. Mack has opened the doors of his stores to provide food and shelter to those impacted by extreme weather. Over the last several days, Gallery Furniture, its furniture business, has been open around the clock to provide food and shelter to those impacted by extreme weather. Over the last several days, Gallery Furniture, its furniture business, has been open around the clock to provide food and shelter to those impacted by extreme weather. Over the last several days, Gallery Furniture, its furniture business, has been open around the clock to provide food and shelter to those impacted by extreme weather. Over the last several days, Gallery Furniture, its furniture business, has been open around the clock to provide food and shelter to those impacted by extreme weather. Over the last several days, Gallery Furniture, its furniture business, has been open around the clock to provide food and shelter to those impacted by extreme weather.

These stories warm my heart, and they are a reminder of the strength and generosity of Texans and an encouraging reminder of the endless amount of goodwill that still exists in the world. The outpouring of love exemplifies a quote that I heard some time ago
from a Texas county commissioner after one particularly terrible accident in West Texas. He said: “Being a Texan doesn’t describe where you’re from; it describes who your family is.”

Well, I am grateful to those countless Texans who answered the call of duty. Healthcare workers, firefighters, we have stood in contact with State and local emergency officials about the ongoing crisis, and we have assisted local critical care facilities in need, including a large COVID testing lab in Austin. We helped connect it with local resources to provide shelter, food, and water. We have stayed in contact with our constituents, my friends and neighbors in Texas, that I will continue to do everything in my power to help our State recover and rebuild.

NOMINATION

Mr. President, on another matter, the Senate will continue to evaluate President Biden’s nominees for critical positions throughout the Federal Government. Yesterday and today the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which I am a member, met to serve, hear from Judge Merrick Garland and others who have testified in connection with his nomination. Of course, Judge Garland has been nominated to serve as the next Attorney General.

I have publicly said that Judge Garland is highly qualified for the job. He is a widely respected judge with the right experience and credentials and the right temperament to lead the Department and manage its many critical missions. I was struck by Judge Garland’s humility and his humanity. I believe he is a good man and a good person for this job.

But I have to say that I am under no illusion that he is going to be able to stop the policies of this administration, some of which I am not going to agree with, some of which I will fight and try to oppose.

I am encouraged by Judge Garland’s pledge to keep politics out of the Justice Department, which is a significant improvement over the past. I know our Democratic colleagues like to act like all of the concerns that we had about the Justice Department were just during the administration and so I did have to remind them that the Obama administration Justice Department had a few problems of their own. Nevertheless, Judge Garland, while we don’t agree on everything—and it is true of other nominees of the President that I have supported—I don’t think that is the standard by which I should provide my consent as a Senator. But I do believe he has the right experience and character to serve.

Unfortunately, I can’t offer that sort of full-throated, enthusiastic support for the President’s nominee to lead the Office of Management and Budget. The announcement of Neera Tanden’s nomination managed to do something in this transition season that wasn’t about the coronavirus. It was an article about suicide. There were more suicides by Black residents of Cook County, IL, in 2020 than over the past 10 years. All told, 437 of our neighbors in Cook County took their lives that year.

At the same time, more than 600 Cook County residents died from opioid overdoses between January and June 2020 alone—double the number from a year earlier.

While the human suffering of COVID-19 has captured our attention, as it should, two other deadly epidemics in America still rage on: opioids and the mental health crises.

Even before the virus took its toll, we had been in the midst of the worst drug overdose crisis in our Nation’s history, and we are witnessing skyrocketing rates of suicide. But COVID-19 has deepened these epidemics, which sadly feed on isolation and despair.

With the convergence of coronavirus emergencies, we are failing those most vulnerable to addiction and mental health challenges. And like the coronavirus, mental health challenges and addiction can occur with any one of us, in any family, in any neighborhood.

Earlier this month, the New York Times profiled three American mothers on the brink of chaos and crisis. The story chronicled the relentless stress and burdens of working mothers over 11 months of this pandemic—struggling to balance remote learning duties for their kids, keeping their families safe and healthy, keeping food on the table, paying the bills, and knowing that every morning they have to get up and do it all over again that day and the next day, with no end in sight.

One of the mothers described the struggle this way. She said:
We are holding together with the same tape that we have been using since March. The tape is barely working, but we are still here.

She speaks for millions of mothers. Experts and advocates warn that COVID-19 has created a perfect storm for a surge in mental health and addiction. Isolation, fear, grief, financial hardship all come together and can feel overwhelming.

At the same time, the pandemic has made it more difficult for many to connect with lifesaving care and social services. Peer recovery meetings have moved to Zoom; routine human connections have been lost; and treatment access restricted. It is trauma on the brain and body, and it fuels the alarming spikes in addiction, overdose, and suicide.

Last week, I spoke with advocates from the Illinois Society of Addiction Medicine and a group called Live4Lali, a community organization focusing on recovery and harm reduction. These community leaders provide lifesaving care through recovery programs, street medicine, handing out fentanyl test strips, and distributing the overdose reversal drug naloxone.

The statistics they shared with me on Chicago-area opioid overdose deaths during this pandemic are devastating. In the last year, opioid deaths have soared: 23 percent in Lake County, 27 percent in DuPage County, and a staggering 64 percent in McHenry County.

Every morning, we look at the posting on CNN of the deaths in America from the coronavirus. Heartbreaking. Over a half a million people dead. But we are not posting the increase in deaths from opioids during the same periods of time.

Addiction is an equal opportunity killer. But like COVID, the opioid epidemic strikes communities of color with a disproportionate ferocity. In Chicago, Black residents are dying from overdoses at seven times the rate of White residents.

Let me tell you about one person who caught my attention. A woman named Tonya, who recently moved to Lake County. When the pandemic hit, the recovery meetings for her substance abuse disorder shifted to Zoom, and the weight of the challenge left her struggling. She knew her recovery was in danger.

For years, she had been called for treatment programs, but no beds were available. Desperate, she called 9-1-1 emergency care at a hospital. Tonya was evaluated and sent home. Feeling hopeless and ashamed, she decided to take all of the pills in her mother’s bottle of blood thinner medication. She was taken unconscious back to the hospital and pronounced dead.

Too many like Tonya are being left alone in their darkest hours. And it is not just in the Chicagoland area. According to coroners, visits for suicides and overdoses spiked nationally once the pandemic gripped our Nation. By May, the country had experienced its largest 1-month spike in overdose deaths.

A new survey conducted by the CDC also found that one in four young adults had considered suicide in the past month—one in four. This should set off alarm bells in every direction. There is no vaccine against despair and addiction, but there are programs and treatments and strategies. We must give communities and healthcare providers the support they need now more than ever before.

The American Rescue Plan proposed by President Biden provides those resources. The House is expected to vote on the President’s plan this week. The Senate has to show the same sense of commitment and urgency.

The American Rescue Plan includes nearly $4 billion in addiction and mental health treatments for healthcare providers. It has $7.6 billion for Community Health Centers to address behavioral health disparities. It includes $1 billion that I crafted with Senator Ron Johnson to increase the availability of healthcare, including behavioral health treatment, by providing scholarship and loan repayment awards to build the pipeline of health professionals who agree to serve in needy areas.

Special efforts were made to recruit more people of color into these healing professions, which can help tackle disparities. There was a commitment that $4 billion in new spending would be prioritized through the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid. This money will save lives.

America has arrived at the heartbreaking milestone: half a million COVID deaths. As we work to expand vaccinations and end COVID-19, we cannot ignore the lethal epidemics of addiction and suicide, which are soaring in the cold shadows of this pandemic.

Every day we wait, more people, in every ZIP code in America, struggle. More families grieve. More lives are lost. We need to get help to the people who need it now.

Mr. President, you and I are veterans of Congress. We have been doing this for a few years. Some things happen that give you hope. A year ago, we passed the CARES Act. It was nothing short of amazing, but we did it at a moment of real fear. We just saw this pandemic starting to rise. We saw businesses close, children learning remotely, and families suffering. We were determined to get the economy back up to speed, to help pay for unemployment benefits and many other things—$900 billion, a substantial sum of money. And it passed here with 92 affirmative votes; on the floor of the Senate, 92 of 94 on the second. Still, anecdotally it was a politically divided Chamber like the U.S. Senate.

Then came the new President. I won’t put in all the other chapters that followed that seemed like an endless novel, but it was serious. But this President came in—President Biden came in and faced the reality of what we have in America today. Last night, he did it as well. He and the First Lady, as well as Vice President Harris and the First Gentleman, stood in silent prayer for the half million Americans we have lost. Not ignoring the problem but facing the problem. President Biden said: Come together, America, unite, and let’s, with common purpose, address this pandemic and the problems it has created.

It is a much different approach in his Presidency. To me, it is honest. It is refreshing. It is hopeful. But he has turned to this Congress and asked this Congress to pass the American Rescue Plan. It is a measure that costs $1.9 trillion. It is huge. It has to be. Considering what we face in America, we need nothing less. Maybe we will not need to spend every penny. I hope we don’t. But we will need to be prepared. We must pay for this care—money for more vaccine and distribution of that vaccine; money for cash payments to families who need a helping hand; money for unemployment benefits that are supposed to run out in just 2 short weeks, on March 14; money for rental assistance for people who are facing eviction; money for schools so that they can prepare the classrooms for teachers and students to return safely. The list goes on, and it is an important and valuable list and, as I mentioned, money for behavioral health treatment and addiction treatment that is still a very real challenge in America today.

The difference is this. In the CARES Act, with 96 to 0, and in the December bill, which we passed with 92 affirmative votes, those were under the Trump administration, and there was a strong bipartisan support of that legislation, as you can tell from the numbers. The roll calls tell the story. Now comes President Biden, asking for another rescue package for America, which is still languishing, fighting this pandemic. We don’t hear the same calls for bipartisanship or at least we don’t hear the same responses to the calls for bipartisanship. Why? What is different? The only thing different is we have a different President.

When it was a Republican President named Trump, Democrats, like myself and virtually all others, stood by and agreed on everything under the Sun, but when it comes to this pandemic and what it is doing to America, we are...
going to stand together, both political parties. But when President Biden makes the same proposal, we don’t hear the chorus of support from across the aisle that we once did. That is disheartening to me.

The problem is real. Sure, there are ways any legislator could perhaps write the bill better, but let’s get that done, and let’s respond, as the President has called, with the resources America needs to get back on its feet. That is where we are today.

This report is not going to pass their measure this week. And in the next couple of weeks, the Senate will get its chance. It is time for us to stand up and do something. The American people didn’t send us here to squabble or to find reasons for differences but rather to come together in a bipartisan way and solve the problems facing this country.

The President believes, and I share that belief, that a united America with the resources to conquer this challenge as it has so many in the past. We can do that, but we need to do it by coming together. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BUDGET

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor to talk about the $1.9 trillion spending bill that is under consideration before this Congress.

As President Biden has said repeatedly, if you want to know someone’s values, look at one’s budget. Well, that is what we are doing, because I believe that what is right is right. The American people want to know the Democrats’ values, all we need to do is look at the budget. The Democrats are making clear what they stand for. It seems that they are standing for teachers unions and job-crushing mandates on American businesses. The Republicans stand for ending the pandemic, for getting people back to work, and for getting kids back to school. The differences could not be more clear.

The debate on the Democratic budget—we did it a couple of weeks ago—and we voted on many amendments. Every Senator had a chance to propose and make some changes to the budget that was brought forth. Every single Senator went on record on a number of amendments and items related to the budget for the United States of America. Now we know where we stand.

I introduced an amendment that had to do with energy production in my home State of Wyoming. Wyoming feels like we are being targeted by President Biden because of his ban on oil and gas exploration on public lands. You know, those projects are a major source of jobs in my home State. They fund our schools, our roads, our bridges, our teachers, our students, and additional services for working families.

My amendment would provide funding for our public schools—schools that have been punished by this ban announced by President Biden. That amendment on this floor received 98 votes out of 100. It got the support of every single member of the U.S. Senate, so I am grateful for my colleagues for that support of the amendment to protect our students and our schools and our teachers. Yet I have to say that by voting for my amendment, the 98 people in this body—specifically the Democrats—are admitting that there is a problem created by the actions of President Biden. They are admitting that President Biden’s Executive order, signed on the day he was inaugurated, is hurting families all across the country.

So, to my Democratic colleagues, keep working with us to address the needs of the Nation. Stand up to these overreaching, radical proposals by the Biden administration. On issue after issue, the truth has opened the debate.

Many of my Republican colleagues, on this side of the aisle, offered good ideas that the Democrats refused to support. Senator BLUMENTHAL introduced an amendment to reopen America’s schools. Now, that is an idea that science has supported for months. Every Republican voted yes. Every Democrat voted no. I have yet to hear one of my Democratic colleagues make the case for keeping the schools closed; yet that is how they voted when it came to the budget. Just like President Biden, they are trying to have it both ways. They say they want the schools open; yet they don’t do what needs to be done.

President Biden has claimed time and again he wants the schools open; yet his Chief of Staff says there is no money to reopen them. Well, that is absolutely wrong. Last year, President Trump signed into law $68 billion for our schools, specifically tied to coronavirus relief. Only $5 billion of that money has been spent. That leaves $63 billion still available. In the Democrats’ budget being proposed right now, almost all of the money for schools is not even for this year; Ninety-five percent of the money is for the years 2022 through 2028—after the coronavirus will be behind us.

The Democrats are still putting the teachers unions ahead of students. Joe Biden has surrendered to the teachers unions. They have written to him a ransom note, and he has been happy to pay it. Teachers are putting politics ahead of science, and so is this administration.

I joined with Senator SCOTT of South Carolina to introduce another amendment to the budget bill of the Democrats. It said that if we give money to States—and there is a lot of money in this proposal to give money to States: New York, Illinois, California—that the States have to give the American people accurate data about the coronavirus specifically in their nursing homes. People want to know answers about the coronavirus and the impact on nursing homes because there is a real problem there.

New York now admits that it gave the public false information. The numbers were not just wrong; they were nearly off by half. The Governor’s top aide was convoluted of being investigated by Bill Barr’s Justice Department. They were afraid that President Trump would make it a political football.

Don’t the people of New York have a right to know the truth about what is happening in the nursing homes in that State when people are losing parents and grandparents and when people with the coronavirus are being moved from the hospital back into those nursing homes to spread the disease to others?

The Governor of New York wanted to cover it up. People would agree it sounds like a coverup, so Senator SCOTT and I came to the floor and said that it was unacceptable, that States that have voted for the Democrats are admitting that there is a real problem there.

The House is going to pass their budget. It said that if we give money to nursing homes, people’s hard-earned taxpayer dollars and giving it to people who are in the country illegally.

For example, Senator YOUNG of Indiana had an amendment so that money that would go to American citizens, not to illegal immigrants. Eight Democrats voted in agreement with that. They said you shouldn’t be sending checks to illegal immigrants. A few hours later, they voted to strip it out. So every Democrat in the Senate is now on the record. Everyone Democrat in the Senate has voted in favor of taking people’s hard-earned taxpayer dollars and giving it to people who are in the country illegally.

Senator Daines brought up an amendment on a different topic. He said we should proceed with the Keystone Pipeline. Remember, President Biden, with an Executive order on the day he was inaugurated, stopped work on the Keystone Pipeline, resulting in the loss of hundreds and hundreds and likely thousands of jobs. Several Democrats voted and said we should reopen the pipeline. Let it go. Let it work. A few hours later, in the wee hours of the morning, they reversed themselves and voted to strip it out.

Senator BRAUN of Indiana introduced an amendment to prevent President Biden from banning fracking. This
is something that President Biden promised to do during the campaign. Of course, that would end millions of jobs across America, and it would put us at a disadvantage from the standpoint of energy. Seven Democrats voted with Senator ONAUX to protect American jobs. However, they flip-flopped and took it out of the bill.

The Democrats keep trying to have it both ways. They want to look like moderates, pretend to be moderates, while fighting their low-taxed spending bill through. They are not playing it straight with the American people. It is not going to work. The people in their States aren’t going to be fooled. They are going to remember the votes, and they will certainly be reminded of those votes in the future.

So we have talked about what the Senate Democrats blocked. Now let’s take a look at some of the things the Senate Democrats support.

The bill includes a mandate from Washington, DC, to double the minimum wage. It has nothing to do with the coronavirus. In fact, it would actually make things worse. The Congressional Budget Office took a look at this and said that 1.4 million people who have jobs right now would lose their jobs if the Federal Government were to come in with a mandate to double the minimum wage. It is not a stimulus.

According to one report, the new Washington mandate would also raise the cost of childcare by about 21 percent. Those are the priorities of the Senate Democrats. Not jobs and not opening our schools. The priorities are mandates and bailouts.

Only about $1 of every $20 in this entire proposal goes for public health, but it does contain $4.5 billion for Senator SCHUMER’s New York City Subway system. It does provide $12 million for a subway system in Silicon Valley. It does provide $2.9 billion in funding for the arts as America faces $12 billion in foreign aid. This is supposed to be for the coronavirus in America, here.

So what does $1.9 trillion get for you? I am asked at home in Wyoming. What does it do for people at home—yes, the American people? When you look at this Democratic shopping list. It is a wish list of liberal priorities. As President Biden says, if you want to know somebody’s values, look at one’s budget. We have just done that. If the American people want to see the contrast between Republicans and Democrats, they should look no further than this bill. The Republicans are offering the American people jobs, a vaccine, reopening our schools. The Democrats are offering excuses and the liberal wish list.

We still have time to fix the final bill, so I would urge my Democratic colleagues to join with us. Work with the Republican coronavirus relief. Help our small communities and small businesses keep their doors open. Get our kids back in school. Target the funding to the American citizens who need it the most. We have done five bipartisan bills for coronavirus relief. A sixth coronavirus relief bill should be done in a bipartisan way as well. That is what the American people, with a 50–50 Senate, are asking us to do.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. 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.

TRIBUTE TO GLYNIS JOHNS, JUSTAN PARKER FIELDS, AND DR. ALA STANFORD

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise tonight and, again, it is my privilege to come before the Senate, as I have since my very first year here, to celebrate Black History Month in a particular way by paying tribute to a number of Pennsylvanians.

I am honored again to have the opportunity to highlight the extraordinary leadership of Pennsylvanians who dedicate their lives to improving their communities and who wake up every day to rededicate themselves to that effort. This year I am grateful to be able to recognize three honorees—Glynis Johns, Justan Parker Fields, and Dr. Ala Stanford—and to recognize each of these individuals in a very personal way by paying tribute to their communities in Pennsylvania. Each of them are having a remarkable impact in their communities.

The theme of this year’s recognition is “Bending the Arc: Celebrating Catalysts for Change.” We know that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke of “bending the arc” on many occasions, but, most notably, in his address at the commemoration of the Selma to Montgomery March in 1965 in March of that year, when he said:

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.

Our late and beloved colleague here in the Congress, Congressman John Lewis, said, “You have a dream, or you don’t have a chance.” He lived it, and he believed that we will get there someday, get there to a better day for justice. Congressman Lewis also said:

We will redeem the soul of America, and in doing so, we will inspire people around the world to stand up and speak out.

We know that justice, of course, takes hard work. In the face of adversity and exhaustion, to be the voice that stands up and speaks out, as John Lewis, Congressman Lewis, and Dr. King suggested, is an act of faith that a person makes once and then just follows a well-worn path. It, of course, requires perseverance. It requires hope and faith.

Dr. King reminds us that justice is the—use his words—is the “fierce urgency of now.” Dr. King and Congressman Lewis understood that while the arc of the moral universe does bend toward justice, this is not something to which one can attach themselves as a elective project. To bend that arc toward justice requires strenuous exertion that often gets you enemies before it makes you any friends. It does not bend on its own but bends only—only—under the weight of acts of courage and the hard work of those who have committed themselves to the struggle for justice and equality.

President Obama, as well, in his work every day of his Presidency, did work to bend the arc on issues of racial, economic, and global justice, and he continued to do so in his years as a former President. Congressman Lewis not only gave all of us words to live by and inspiration, he also gave all of himself to the cause of justice. But his example, the example of John Lewis, still serves as an inspiration for the next generation of leaders. It is why Dr. King spent his entire life fighting for racial equality, voting rights, nonviolence, and the rights of the poor. King’s work for the life of others was his own. We should honor his sacrifice daily and not simply during Black History Month.

But we know that behind every man and every woman leading the fight for justice stands a multitude. Behind Dr. King, millions labored and labor still for civil rights and voting rights. We saw that this summer when millions of Americans across our Nation took to the streets to condemn the mistreatment of Black Americans at the hands of law enforcement. Not just last month when African Americans voted in extraordinary numbers in the Georgia special elections to send Rev.
Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff to the U.S. Senate.

For every leader who rises to national prominence—Dr. King, President Obama, Congressman Lewis, Vice President Kamala Harris, Stacey Abrams, and many others—there are leaders and communities across the country who are themselves doing transformational work, who are doing their part to bend the arc of the moral universe, and to bend it, of course, toward justice.

Today, it is my privilege to highlight three such leaders from Pennsylvania. I will start in my home region and in my hometown, Scranton, PA, Glynis Johns.

First, I speak as a son of Scranton, the city I was born in and still live in. I was proud to honor a daughter—or I should say am proud, tonight, to honor a daughter from Scranton, Glynis Johns. Glynis is the founder and CEO of the Black Scranton Project, a nonprofit that serves families in need in the greater Lehigh Valley. They have hosted food drives, delivered emergency food relief packages to families, hosted a Friendsgiving Dinner for the city, and sponsored Christmas presents for over 100 children. Justan said that if there is anything this pandemic taught him, it was that anyone, any family was just a call away from needing serious help.

Through his work with both Change Now and Black Lives Matter Lehigh Valley, Justan continues to make Allentown and the Greater Lehigh Valley a better place to live. And I thank him, and I know I speak on behalf of so many Pennsylvanians in thanking him for the many contributions to his community and to our Commonwealth.

Third and final, going further south to the southeastern corner of our State in the Philadelphia region, Dr. Ala Stanford. As we recognize changemakers this year, I am honored to recognize the contributions of Dr. Stanford.

She is an experienced physician, board certified by the American Board of Surgery in both general adult and pediatric general and thoracic surgery. She founded the Black Doctors COVID Consortium. It goes by the acronym BDCC. So many people have heard about them in our State and beyond. This consortium is an initiative established to provide African Americans, particularly African American women, with testing and education. Her work has been an especially important part of the response to the coronavirus pandemic.

We know that in March of 2020, she named one of the most “Influential Women of Northeastern Pennsylvania” in History. Glynis was also named a “Top 20 under 40 Young Business Professionals” as part of the 2019 honors, and that was in the North-eastern Pennsylvania Business Journal. Glynis has already accomplished so much, and I am looking forward to watching her contributions to our hometown over the years to come.

Our second honoree for Black History Month is Justan Parker Fields from the Lehigh Valley. Justan's activism has led him to become one of the leading voices for racial justice, for equity, and for equality. He was a plaintiff in the case challenging the constitutionality of a Pennsylvania voter suppression law.

Following the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor just last year, Justan decided to gather a few of his friends in the city of Allentown, in the downtown, to bring attention to these and other injustices against the African-American community. This gathering gained attention across the city and throughout Pennsylvania, including the mayor of Allentown, the police chief, and elected officials from across the Lehigh Valley. This event gave the residents of Allentown an opportunity to express their thoughts and frustrations surrounding racial injustice, and from there, Justan and his colleagues founded Black Lives Matter Lehigh Valley. They founded it in order to create a platform to initiate real change in their community.

Since then, Justan's activism has only increased. He worked to form a collective with other local community and nonprofit leaders in the area to brainstorm about new initiatives for racial justice, for equity, and for equality for Black and Brown residents of the Lehigh Valley, and his work is not going unnoticed.

I spoke with Justan and his colleagues shortly after their first event, and over the past year, he has remained in regular communication with my office and is excited about the progress that has been made. Black Lives Matter Lehigh Valley is making in Allentown and in surrounding communities. He has also provided testimony to the Pennsylvania House Democratic Policy Committee, partnered with the city of Allentown to review their use of force policy, and he has also worked with the Allentown City Council to draft recommendations for police reform in the city.

His activism has been inspiring to me and to so many others, and I know that that same inspiration draws other young people to his work. His hope is that those who attend his rallies or follow Black Lives Matter Lehigh Valley on social media are motivated to jump-start their activism and their fight for equality.

Justan lives in Allentown with his partner Kevin and children, Shyilee and Shamaer. There is no doubt that Justan’s work in Allentown is creating a healthier and more inclusive community for his children and others like him.

Justan and Kevin have founded Change Now, a local nonprofit that serves families in need in the greater Lehigh Valley. They have hosted food drives, delivered emergency food relief packages to families, hosted a Friendsgiving Dinner for the city, and sponsored Christmas presents for over 100 children. Justan said that if there is anything this pandemic taught him, it was that anyone, any family was just a call away from needing serious help.

Through his work with both Change Now and Black Lives Matter Lehigh Valley, Justan continues to make Allentown and the Greater Lehigh Valley a better place to live. And I thank him, and I know I speak on behalf of so many Pennsylvanians in thanking him for the many contributions to his community and to our Commonwealth.

Rahel Warnecek and Jon Ossoff to the U.S. Senate.
She has provided her subject matter expertise to my office countless times, and she has been an unrelenting and passionate advocate for the communities, the people, and the families whom she serves.

It is important to note that Dr. Stanford founded the Black Collegiate Consortium, BDCC, with her own funds, her own money, which is a true testament to her commitment to delivering quality care to Black Americans. Dr. Stanford stepped up at an extremely volatile and uncertain time for the people of our State. This speaks volumes about her leadership and her dedication to addressing the enormous disparity in healthcare, both healthcare access and healthcare outcomes, for African Americans.

Last month, I was honored to, again, participate in the annual celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. King at Girard College, where BDCC set up a testing site, which they have done in every neighborhood throughout the city of Philadelphia. At that event, someone shared a powerful yet sobering quotation of Dr. King. Here is that quotation:

In March of 1966, at a press conference ahead of his address to the Medical Community for Human Rights in Chicago, Dr. King said that—

"If all of the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most humbling to me because it often results in physical death."

So said Dr. King about the terrible inequity in healthcare.

Visionary leaders and health experts like Dr. Stanford are on the frontlines every single day, working to fix a broken system—a system, frankly, that has been unfair to so many communities of color. However, Dr. Stanford is committed—committed—to making change happen in our healthcare system so it can better serve the African-American community.

She and her team have made national headlines and garnered the well-deserved attention and support of many across the Nation as a result of the work of this consortium. So I thank Dr. Stanford for being an advocate, for being an anchor for the community, and, of course, a trusted leader.

As I conclude, I think it goes without saying that this year has been a long, difficult, and dark year. I have to say, thought about all of that darkness and all of the pain—we just left the front of the Capitol in remembrance of the 500,000 Americans who have died from COVID–19—despite all that pain, all that loss, all that darkness, this month of February, which just happens to be Black History Month, gives me some hope. In so many ways, I think our hope can be renewed.

While the pandemic still rages, especially in those communities that are spoken to we also see that with continued education and leadership and courage, such as someone like Dr. Stanford provides, and, of course, with vaccines available, COVID–19 will begin to recede, and we will once again be able to hug our friends and family members and to move on from this pandemic. So we commend and salute people like Dr. Stanford who are helping us through this difficult time, providing some light in these darkness.

Leaders like Justin Parker Fields have stood up to confront injustice and to proclaim to law enforcement and elected officials that the lives of Black men and women matter and are deserving of the same protection as any other life.

As we saw people go through the polls this fall voting, and then others voting in January in Georgia, all of these Americans refusing to be intimidated by misinformation and threats, I was more hopeful. Young leaders in communities of color have insisted on telling their own stories and writing them into the book of history that for too long has been kept hidden from them, just as Glynis Johns is doing in our hometown.

Each of our honorees, and so many like them, have indeed bent the arc of the moral universe toward justice, and for those brave acts, for those courageous acts, we honor them today in Black History Month. May God bless their work.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and 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.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, "Remember this day forever." That is what Donald Trump said on January 6, in a tweet to his supporters after they had attacked the U.S. Capitol. I certainly will never forget what happened that day. I will remember the Vice President being removed from the Chair and whisked off the floor of the Senate by the Secret Service. I will remember the law enforcement officers, holding automatic weapons, standing guard in the well of the Senate while the mob spread through the Capitol building.

The entire country and the world will remember the now infamous images of a murderous mob ransacking the barricades, attacking police officers, breaking into this building, and rampaging through these hallows halls.

We will remember the incredible acts of heroism by Officer Eugene Goodman and other Capitol police officers who risked their lives to keep Congress and the visitors safe. We will remember the incredible acts of heroism by Officer Brian Sicknick, and the 140 police officers who were injured in this attack.

On February 3, Officer Sicknick’s ashes rested in honor in the Rotunda of this Capitol. He died defending this building and this democracy. I have thought about Officer Sicknick and his family often in the last few weeks.

During the week of February 8, Senators served as jurors in the second impeachment trial of Donald Trump. Former President Trump was impeached on January 13 by the House of Representatives in a bipartisan vote, 10 Republicans joining with Democrats to impeach.

The Senate had a constitutional obligation to conduct a trial on this Article of Impeachment. We also had an obligation to make clear for the record and for history what happened on January 6 and the days leading up to it.

What did the record show over the course of this trial?

First, it showed Donald Trump’s big lie: his claim that the only way he could lose an election was if it were stolen. When he lost the 2020 election in a landslide to Joe Biden, Donald Trump refused to accept the will of the American people. He tried to challenge the election in the court over 60 times. He tried to bully State officials into overturning their States’ election results.

And when that failed, he invited his followers to come to Washington, DC, on January 6, the day on which Congress would assemble to certify the States’ electoral votes. He invited them to come to DC to interrupt that process and, in his words, “stop the steal.”

Donald Trump knew what his extremist followers were capable of. Over the summer, when armed extremists stormed and occupied State capitols, demanding an end to COVID–19 safety restrictions, he had cheered them on.

On January 6, he whipped his followers into a frenzy. “We have to fight like hell,” he told the crowd he had invited and assembled. “If you don’t fight like hell, you’re not going to have a country anymore.” Then he told his followers—angry, inflamed, many of them armed—to go to the Capitol where the Vice President and Congress were certifying the votes.

Donald Trump was not shocked what happened that day. He was excited. We now know that he ignored pleas from Members of Congress, Capitol police officers, and the Secret Service—members of his own party—who begged him to calm the mob and stop the attack.

To this day, Donald Trump has not showed one ounce of remorse or regret. He later described his speech on January 6 as “totally appropriate.”

For 5 days, the House Managers meticulously laid out an overwhelming case for conviction. The managers had the facts, the law, the Constitution, and a mountain of evidence on their side. The former President’s defense team did not have much work to do. They only spent a couple of hours making their case and spent much of that
time showing cartoonish videos on repeat. The House Managers effectively rebutted all of the former President’s defenses. The managers’ case was clear, and it was compelling.

That is why I voted to convict Donald Trump for inciting an insurrection against government. I regret that more of my Republican colleagues did not join me in voting to convict and disqualify Donald Trump from holding future office. I wish the Senate had not equivocated in its message that it is unacceptable for Presidents to incite violence in order to stop the peaceful transition of power. But that said, history will show that this was the most bipartisan impeachment vote against a President in American history.

And it should not be lost that a majority of Senators—including seven Senators from the President’s own party—voted to convict him. Donald Trump is no longer President of the United States, but the poison he has injected into our national bloodstream remains, and it is still toxic.

As Americans reflect on the horrific, deadly events of January 6 and Donald Trump’s role in inciting them, I hope we will remember that democracy and our Constitution do not defend themselves. They must be protected, preserved, and defended by “We the People.”

On January 6, that greatest tradition of American democracy, the peaceful transition of power that had taken place in every Presidential transition since George Washington’s, was broken. Our democracy, our Constitution, and this Capitol building were attacked on January 6, 2021. Brave Americans were wounded and killed defending them. And thanks to that bravery, our democracy endures.

We must learn our lessons from this. We will remember January 6, 2021, forever. We must not repeat it.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the terrible events of January 6, the impeachment vote, and the need to hold people accountable for their actions.

While the U.S. Senate did not achieve the two-thirds vote necessary to convict former President Donald Trump, this will go down in history as the largest bipartisan vote ever to hold a President accountable for high crimes and misdemeanors under our Constitution.

Former President Donald Trump spent months pushing a big lie—that the November election was stolen from him. He inspired, encouraged, and incited a deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol in order to stop the certification of the electoral college vote, and then he did nothing to stop the violence, which caused massive injury and loss of life.

I wish to convey my personal and deep gratitude to all of the Capitol police and military police who courageously put their lives on the line to protect all of us that day, and I join with my colleagues in grieving the loss of life and injuries that so many suffered as a result of this violent insurrection.

This wasn’t just an attack on a building. It was an attack on all of the people who work there. It was an attack on our form of government. It was an attack on our Constitution. It was an attack on “We the People.”

This bipartisan vote sent an important message: In America, no President is above the law. And inciting violence against our government is illegal and dangerous.

Now, as a nation, we must move forward. We must do everything we can to bring down the temperature of our debates, find common ground on issues we care about, and reduce the divide in our families and communities. And we must continue to strive for accountability and justice. Our democracy demands no less.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, the first few weeks of the Biden administration produced a select number of Executive orders, soft talk on China policy, and the threat of open borders. These actions left the American people confused and diluted their faith in our institutions, but nothing made the American people feel more unsettled than the second impeachment and trial of former President Donald J. Trump.

Impeachment is inherently political. The fallout is everything but. Last week, I was able to spend time talking to Tennesseans who saw and heard during the trial, and I was struck by how fiercely most of them spoke out against the very idea of it.

The House Managers didn’t just fail to prove their case against the former President. They failed to convince the American people that the Members of the House of Representatives who supported impeachment acted in good faith when they drafted their single Article and transmitted it to the Senate for consideration.

Tennesseans saw no serious inquiry into the alleged connection between the former President’s words and the actions of the dangerous rioters who breached the Capitol on January 6, 2021. They remain unpersuaded by the arguments the House Managers offered to prove the constitutionality of the trial itself. In fact, the only thing they remain firmly convinced of is that this second impeachment culminated in nothing more than a spectacle designed to humiliate the former President and wipe the voices of more than 70 million Americans from the pages of history.

The Senate’s vote to acquit the former President of these spurious charges put an end to the House Managers’ charade, but it will take more than an entry into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to help the country rise above the enmity that fueled it. It is our duty to lead by example and to work on behalf of our Constitution of Americans living under this cloud of anxiety, fear, and mistrust. I encourage my colleagues to quiet their hearts in the coming weeks and commit to doing the work that will put us on the path to economic recovery, quality in-person schooling, and a strong national defense. Only then will we be justified in asking those we serve to once again put their faith in us.

I would be remiss if I did not associate myself with the comments of the Republican Leader honoring Officer Eugene Goodman for his actions during the January 6, 2021 riot at the United States Capitol.

On that day, Officer Goodman found himself alone, facing off against a rushing tide of violence. Without blinking, he lured the mob away from the Senate chamber, protecting us from what we now know was an all but inevitable tragedy.

I was honored to celebrate these acts of bravery and self-sacrifice by joining the Senate’s unanimous vote in support of S. 35, to award Officer Goodman the Congressional Gold Medal. I thank him for his courage and his commitment to duty, and for his willingness to continue to serve here in the Capitol.

REMEMBERING KAREN LEWIS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, I would like to recognize the life of an exceptional woman: Karen Lewis. Most remember Karen as the fiery president of the Chicago Teachers Union who led the 2012 strike. Karen was always fought for what she believed. She devoted her career to education and people. Her commitment to her beloved teachers was her North Star.

Most will remember that Karen was a no-nonsense leader. She attended Mount Holyoke College before transferring to Dartmouth College as a member of the first coeducational class in the institution’s history. She had the courage to try her hand at medical school before finding her calling in teaching. As a new member in her teachers union, Karen did not hesitate to stand up when she thought something could be done better and ran for union offices as a member of the Caucus of Rank and File Educators, CORE.

However, this was only one side of Karen Lewis. In many ways she was a true renaissance woman. In Karen’s love of opera, her musical skill playing both flute and piano, her love of languages, her conversion to Judaism, and her pursuit of a career in medicine, you could see the many facets of her life.

But, above all else, I will remember Karen as a friend to both Loretta and me.

In 2014, she was diagnosed with glioblastoma, a cancerous brain tumor. I remembered her diagnosis when many months later my colleague, Senator John McCain, faced the same challenge. I asked Karen what she believed if she would speak with John and she, of course, did. The conversation took place, but I thought that these two heroes of much different wars could become unusual allies in
the common struggle each of us will face.

The word "legendary" is overused, but when it comes to Karen Lewis, it falls short of describing an amazing life journey. I am reminded of a quote from Confucius that roughly translates to: "If your plan is for one year, prepare a plow; if your plan is for ten years, plant trees; if your plan is for one hundred years, educate children." I am thankful for Karen's 100-year plan. Let us honor her memory by continuing her work to educate the children of America.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION RULES OF PROCEDURE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, the Committee on Rules and Administration has adopted rules governing its procedures for the 117th Congress. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, on behalf of myself, Senator BURNT, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the committee rules be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, and any who so desires.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

Rule 1. The regular meeting dates of the Committee shall be the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 10:00 a.m., in room SR–301, Russell Senate Office Building. Additional meetings of the Committee may be called by the Chair as he or she may deem necessary or pursuant to the provision of paragraph 6 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Rule 2. Meetings of the Committee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by the Committee on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion of a majority of the Committee and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in subparagraphs (a) through (f) would require the meeting to be closed, if speaking obligatorily by a recorded vote in open session by a majority of the Members of the Committee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings:

(a) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of foreign relations of the United States;
(b) will relate solely to matters of the Committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;
(c) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;
(d) will disclose the identity of any former or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;
(e) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if:

(1) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or
(2) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or
(f) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under the provisions of law or Government regulations (Paragraph 5(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

Rule 3. Written notices of Committee meetings will be sent by the Committee's staff director to all Members of the Committee at least a week in advance. In addition, the Committee will telephone or e-mail reminders of Committee meetings to all Members of the Committee or to the appropriate assistants in their offices.

Rule 4. A copy of the Committee's intended agenda enumerating separate items of legislative business and Committee business will normally be sent to all Members of the Committee and released to the public at least 1 day in advance. This does not preclude any Member of the Committee from discussing appropriate non-agenda topics.

Rule 5. After the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member, the presiding order shall be based on order of arrival, alternating between Majority and Minority Members, unless otherwise directed by the Chair.

Rule 6. Any witness who is to appear before the Committee in any hearing shall file with the clerk of the Committee at least 3 business days before the date of his or her appearance a written statement of or her proposed testimony and an executive summary thereof, in such form as the Chair may direct, unless the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member waive such requirement for good cause.

Rule 7. In general, testimony will be restricted to 5 minutes for each witness. The time may be extended by the Chair, upon the Chair's own direction or at the request of a Member. Each round of questions by Members will also be limited to 5 minutes.

Rule 8. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, a majority of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the reporting of legislative measures:

Rule 9. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, one-third of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, including action on amendments to measures prior to voting to report the measure to the Senate.

Rule 10. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(2) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, 2 Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony not under oath; provided, however, that in either instance once a quorum is established, any one Member can continue to take such testimony.

Rule 11. Under no circumstances may proxies be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

VOTING

Rule 12. Voting in the Committee on any issue will normally be by voice vote.

Rule 13. Any Member may present so demand a roll call vote instead of a voice vote, a record vote will be taken on any question by roll call.

Rule 14. The votes of roll call votes taken in any meeting upon any measure, or any amendment thereto, shall be stated in the Committee report on that measure unless previously announced by the Committee, and such report or announcement shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor of and opposed to such measure and amendment by each Member of the Committee. (Paragraph 7(b) and (c) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

Rule 15. Proxy votes may be allowed on all matters and measures before the Committee. However, the vote of the Committee to report a measure or matter shall require the affirmative vote of each of the Members of the Committee who are physically present at the time of the vote. Proxies will be allowed in such cases solely for the purpose of recording a vote in the question and then only in those instances when the absent Committee Member has been informed of the question and has affirmed, for a Member to offer a motion to record. (Paragraph 7(a)(3) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

AMENDMENTS

Rule 16. Provided at least five business days' notice of the agenda is given, and the text of the proposed bill or resolution has been made available at least five business days in advance, it shall not be in order for the Committee to report any amendment that in the first degree proposed to any measure under consideration by the Committee unless such amendment has been delivered to the office of the Committee by at least 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the scheduled start of the meeting and circulated to each of the offices by 6:00 p.m.

Rule 17. In the event that the Chair introduces a substitute amendment or a Chair's mark, the requirements set forth in Rule 16 shall be considered waived unless such substitute amendment or Chair's mark has been made available at least five business days in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Rule 18. It shall be in order, without prior notice, to move to strike a single section of any bill, resolution, or amendment under consideration.

Rule 19. This section of the rule may be waived by agreement of the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Rule 20. The Chair is authorized to personal sign or direct an appropriate staff member to actually sign or sign by delegation all necessary vouchers and routine papers for which the Committee's approval is required and to decide on the Committee's behalf all routine business.

Rule 21. The Chair is authorized to engage commercial reporters for the preparation of transcripts of Committee meetings and hearings.

Rule 22. The Chair is authorized to issue, on behalf of the Committee, regulations normally promulgated by the Committee at the beginning of each session.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO COMMITTEE

CHAIR AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

Rule 23. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member, acting jointly, are authorized to approve and sign all necessary vouchers and routine papers for which the Committee's approval is required, provided advance notice of their intention to do so is given to Members of the Committee.

Rule 24. The Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, is authorized to subpoena the attendance of witnesses and the production of correspondence, books, papers, documents, and other materials. Regardless of whether a subpoena has been served in the presence of the Ranking Minority Member, the committee may be authorized by vote of the Members of the Committee. When a subpoena is authorized,
either by a vote of the Committee or by the Chair with the concurrence of the Ranking Member, the subpoena may be issued upon the signature of the Chair or of any other Member of the Committee designated by the Chair.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, in accordance with rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I submit the rules governing the procedure of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

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

RULES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

GENERAL RULES

Rule 1. The Standing Rules of the Senate, as supplemented by these rules, are adopted as the rules of the Committee and its Subcommittees.

MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

Rule 2. (a) The Committee shall meet on the third Thursday of each month while the Congress is in session for the purpose of conducting business,unless, for the convenience of Members, the Chairman shall set some other day for a meeting. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman as he or she may deem necessary.

(b) Hearings of any Subcommittee may be called by the Chairman of such Subcommittees provided that no hearing shall be held until the Chairman has notified by letter each Member of the Subcommittee involved, either by a vote of the Committee or any Subcommittee at least one week in advance of such hearing unless the Chairman of the full Committee or the Subcommittee involved determines that the hearing is non-controversial or that special circumstances require expedited procedures and a majority of all the Members of the Committee or the Subcommittee involved concurs. In no case shall a hearing be conducted with less than twenty-four hours’ notice. Any document or report that is the subject of a hearing shall be printed in the RECORD. Subcommittees involved at least 72 hours before the hearing unless the Chairman and Ranking Member determine otherwise.

(b) Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or any Subcommittee shall file with the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee, at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing, a written statement of his or her testimony in as many copies as the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee directs.

(c) Each Member shall be limited to five minutes in the questioning of any witness unless the Committee or Subcommittee otherwise decides.

(d) No staff member may question a witness at a hearing.

BUSINESS MEETING PROCEDURES

Rule 5. (a) A legislative measure, nomination, or other matter shall be included on the agenda of the next following business meeting of the Committee if a written request by a Member of the Committee for such inclusion has been filed with the Chairman of the Committee at least one week prior to such meeting. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to limit the authority of the Chairman of the Committee to include a legislative measure, nomination, or other matter on the agenda in the absence of such request.

(b) The agenda for any business meeting of the Committee shall be provided to each Member and made available to the public at least three days prior to such meeting, and no new items may be added after the agenda is so published except by the approval of a majority of all the Members of the Committee on matters not included on the public agenda. The Staff Director shall promptly notify absent Members of any action taken by the Committee on matters not included on the published agenda.

(c) As warranted, the Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Member, may impose a filing deadline for first degree amendments for any legislative business meeting of the Committee.

QUORUMS

Rule 6. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), seven Members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business of the Committee.

(b) No measure shall be ordered reported from the Committee unless 11 Members of the Committee are actually present at the time such action is taken.

(c) One Member designate a quorum for the purpose of conducting a hearing or taking testimony on any measure or matter before the Committee or any Subcommittee.

Rule 7. (a) A roll call of the Members shall be taken upon the request of any Member. Any Member who does not vote on any roll call at the time the roll is called, may vote by proxy upon filing a written proxy with the Clerk. A proxy shall be effective only for the period indicated, unless the Committee determines otherwise.

(b) Proxy voting shall be permitted on all matters except that proxies may not be counted for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum. Unless further limited, a proxy shall be excused only upon the day for which it is given and upon the items published in the agenda for that date.

(c) Each Committee report shall set forth the vote of the motion to report the measure or matter involved. Unless the Committee directs otherwise, the report will not set out any votes on amendments offered by any Member of the Committee. Any Member who did not vote on any roll call shall have the opportunity to have his her or her position recorded in the appropriate Committee record of proceedings.

(d) The Committee vote to report a measure to the Senate shall also authorize the staff of the Committee to make necessary technical and clerical corrections in the measure.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Rule 8. (a) The number of Members associated with each Subcommittee and the division between Majority and Minority Members shall be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

(b) Assignment of Members to Subcommittees shall, insofar as possible, reflect the preferences of the Members. No Member will receive an assignment to a Subcommittees until, in order of seniority, all Members of the Committee have chosen assignments to one Subcommittees, and no Member shall receive an assignment to a third Subcommittees until, in order of seniority, all Members have chosen assignments to two Subcommittees.

(c) Any Member of the Committee may sit with any Subcommittee during its hearings but shall not have the authority to vote on any matters before the Subcommittee unless he or she is a Member of such Subcommittee.

NOMINATIONS

Rule 9. At any hearing to confirm a Presidential nomination, the testimony of the nominee and, at the request of any Member, any witness shall be printed in the RECORD. Each nominee shall submit the financial disclosure report filed pursuant to title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978. Such report is made available to the public.

INVESTIGATIONS

Rule 10. (a) Neither the Committee nor any of its Subcommittees may undertake an investigation unless specifically authorized by the Chairman, or the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member or a majority of all the Members of the Committee.

(b) A witness called to testify in an investigation shall be informed of the nature or matters under investigation, given a copy of these rules, given the opportunity to make a brief and relevant oral statement before or after questioning, and be permitted to have counsel of his or her choosing present during his or her testimony at any public or closed hearing, or at any unsworn interview, to advise the witness of his or her legal rights.

(c) For purposes of this rule, the term “investigation” shall not include a review or study undertaken pursuant to paragraph 8 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate or a preliminary inquiry, undertaken at the direction of the Chairman or the Ranking Member, intended to determine whether there is substantial credible evidence that would warrant an investigation.

SWORN TESTIMONY

Rule 11. Witnesses in Committee or Subcommittee hearings may be required to give testimony under oath whenever the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee deems such to be necessary. If one or more witnesses at a hearing are required to testify under oath, all witnesses at such hearing shall be required to testify under oath.

SUBPOENAS

Rule 12. The Chairman shall have authority to issue subpoenas to any witness or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or other materials (1) with the agreement of the Ranking Minority Member and (2) when the majority of all the Members of the Committee, or (3) when within the scope of an investigation authorized under Rule 10(a).

CONFIDENTIAL TESTIMONY

Rule 13. No confidential testimony taken by or any report of the proceedings of a closed Committee or Subcommittee meeting
shall be made public, in whole or in part or by way of summary, unless authorized by a majority of all the Members of the Committee at a business meeting called for the purpose of making such a determination.

DEFAMATORY STATEMENTS

Rule 14. Any person whose name is mentioned or who is specifically identified in, or who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at, an open Committee or Subcommittee meeting tends to defame him or her or otherwise adversely affect his or her reputation may file with the Committee for its consideration and action a sworn statement of facts relevant to such testimony or evidence.

BROADCASTING OF HEARINGS OR MEETINGS

Rule 15. Any meeting or hearing by the Committee or any Subcommittee which is open to the public may be covered in whole or in part by web, television, radio broadcast, or still photography. Photographers and reporters using mechanical recording, filming, or broadcasting devices shall position their equipment so as not to interfere with the seating, vision, and hearing of Members and staff on the dais or with the orderly process of the meeting or hearing.

AMENDING THE RULES

Rule 16. These rules may be amended only by vote of a majority of all the Members of the Committee in a business meeting of the Committee or at a Subcommittee meeting that no vote need be taken on any proposed amendment unless such amendment is reproduced in full in the Committee agenda for such meeting at least three days in advance of such meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF LINDA THOMAS-GREENFIELD

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, in times of conflict and peace, nations should discuss and make such disputes. We cannot expect to achieve peace without effort and dialogue. The post of Ambassador to the United Nations is a position where engagement is of the utmost importance. Throughout Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield’s career, I believe she will tackle international challenges and engage with friends and adversaries, alike, and I support her nomination.

CONFIRMATION OF THOMAS J. VILSACK

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, today, I voted to oppose the confirmation of Tom Vilsack as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. While I appreciate Mr. Vilsack’s willingness to again serve in this capacity after holding this same role in President Obama’s administration, his stance on USDA’s assistance programs and climate change give me pause. During his confirmation hearing, Mr. Vilsack stated that one of his main priorities is expanding eligible food stamps to people not necessarily in need. Mr. Vilsack’s willingness to expand eligibility for these programs will require more federal spending and add to the national debt.

Perhaps even more concerning is Mr. Vilsack’s willingness to use his position at USDA to further President Biden’s aggressive climate change agenda, which will undoubtedly lead to more regulations on the agriculture industry. In his confirmation hearing, Mr. Vilsack stated, “If confirmed, USDA will lead the federal government in . . . investing in renewable energy . . . embracing sustainable and regenerative practices that enhance soil health . . . and delivering science-based solutions to help mitigate and reduce climate change.” Additionally, he said, “I share the president’s vision of a net-zero emission opportunity for U.S. agriculture . . .” Cumbersome regulations based on climate alarmsism will inevitably lead to higher food prices for consumers. Farmers should be able to exercise their own sound judgment and operate without the burden of cumbersome Federal regulations. For these reasons, I opposed his confirmation.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, VA.
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding transmittal No. 0D–21. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 14–59 of December 11, 2014.

Sincerely,
Heidi H. Grant, Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0D–21
Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(B)(5)(A), AECA).
(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Greece.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 14–59.
Date: December 11, 2014.
Military Department: Army.

(iii) Description: On December 11, 2014, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 14–59 of the proposed sale under Title 22 of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA) of ten (10) CH–47D Model Chinook Helicopters to include twenty-three (23) T55–GA–714A Engines (12 engine and 1 spare), twelve (12) AN/VRC–90 Very High Frequency (VHF) AM/FM Radios, twelve (12) AN/ARC–118 Transponders, three (3) AN/ APX–118A Transponders, twelve (12) AN/ APR–39(A)/V Radio Signal Detecting Sets, mission equipment, communication equipment, maintenance Work Orders/Engineering Change Proposals (MWO/ECPs), aircraft hardware and software support, repair and return, spare and repair parts, publications and technical documentation, support equipment, minor modifications, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. government and contractor technical and engineering support services, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated cost was $450 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted $57.2 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the addition of eight (8) T55–GA–714A engines in support of Greece’s CH–47D helicopters. The total cost of the new MDE articles is $14 million. The total MDE value increases to $71.2 million. The total estimated cost increases to $164 million.

(iv) Significance: The Hellenic Army General Staff plans to use these helicopters for firefighting, search and rescue, disaster relief, humanitarian support, counter-terrorism, and combat operations.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives by helping to improve the security of a NATO ally, which is an important partner for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The statement contained in Congressional certification transmittal number 14–59 applies to the MDE items reported here.


ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed...
in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

The current version of the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 20–48 concerning the Army’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA) for defense articles and services estimated to cost $65 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

HEIDI H. GRANT,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 20–48
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

(i) Prospective Purchaser: NATO Communica
tions and Information Agency (NCIA).
(iii) Description and Quantity or Quan
tities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:
Non-MDE: Also included are crypto fill de
tices, man-portable ancillaries, vehicular an
cillaries, deployed Headquarters ancillaries, power support, and operator and maintenance training, and other related elements of program, technical and logistics support.
(iv) Military Department: Army (K–B–V–A).
(v) Prior Related Cases: If any: None.
(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Of
ered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.
(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION
NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA)—UHF SATCOM Radio Systems

The NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA) has requested to buy five hundred thirty (530) AN/PRC–158 Manpack UHF SATCOM radio systems. Also included are crypto fill devices, man-portable ancillaries, vehicular ancillaries, deployed Headquarters ancillaries, power support, and operator and maintenance training, and other related elements of program, technical and logistics support. The total estimated program cost is $65 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of NATO allies and partner nations that are an important force for ensuring peace and sta
tility in Europe.

This proposed sale will ensure NATO warfighters have access to the latest C3I sys
tems and technologies, and will be interoperable with U.S. forces. An updated UHF TACSite radios in the hands of NATO allies and partners will offer significant C3I capa
cilities at all echelons, from the operational level down to the lowest small unit tactical formations. This equipment will increase secure communication effectiveness and efficiency and enhance military decision making. NCIA will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its current forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Collins Aerospace, Cedar Rapids, IA. There are no known offset agreements in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require one (1) or two (2) contractor re
presentatives to travel to the specified NATO country to conduct the Operator and Mainte
nance OCONUS for a period of two (2) months.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

HEIDI H. GRANT,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 20–48
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii
(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The UHF SATCOM terminal provides voice or data connectivity. The device itself is CCI but is not classified until it is keyed with the proper keying material to enable secure communications.

2. The highest level of information re
cquired to furnish the equipment, training, and data associated with this proposed sale is UNCLASSIFIED.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the infor
mation could be used to develop counter
toaches that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capa
bilities.

4. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objective outlined in the enclosed Policy Justification. A determination has been made that the NCIA can provide the same degree of protection for the sensitive tech
nology being released as the U.S. Govern
ment.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for re
lease and export to the NCIA.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. This provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the noti
fication of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s in
intention to send that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 20–48 concerning the Navy’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Egypt, for defense articles and services estimated to cost $197 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

HEIDI H. GRANT,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 20–48
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Egypt.
(iii) Description and Quantity or Quan
tities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:
Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Five hundred sixty-eight (568) ASCC Kit 2 Guided Missile Round Pack Tri-Pack ship
ping and storage containers, operator manuals and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical support.
(v) Prior Related Cases: If any: EG–P–GJG.
(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Of
ered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.
(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION
Egypt—Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM) Block 2 Tactical Missiles

The Government of Egypt has requested to buy up to one hundred sixty-eight (168) RIM–116C Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM) Block 2 tactical missiles. Also included are: RAM Guided Missile Round Pack Tri-Pack shipping and storage containers; operator manu
als and technical documentation; U.S. Gov
ernment and contractor engineering, tech
nical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total program cost is $197 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of Egypt—Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM) Block 2 Tactical Missiles

The Government of Egypt has requested to buy up to one hundred sixty-eight (168) RIM–116C Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM) Block 2 tactical missiles. Also included are: RAM Guided Missile Round Pack Tri-Pack shipping and storage containers; operator manu
als and technical documentation; U.S. Gov
ernment and contractor engineering, tech
nical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total program cost is $197 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of
The proposed sale will support the Egyptian Navy’s Fast Missile Craft ships and provide significantly enhanced area defense capabilities over Egypt’s coastal areas and approaches to the Suez Canal. Egypt will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces since Egypt already operates previously procured RAM Block 1A missiles.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missiles & Defense (RMD), Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed with this potential sale. Implementation of this sale will not require the assignment of any U.S. or contractor representatives to Egypt.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

**ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION**

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In accordance with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter referred to in a classified annex, the text of the annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

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

**DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, VA.**

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the report requirements of Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21–16 concerning the Army’s proposed Letter of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Finland for defense articles and services estimated to cost $91.2 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

HEID H. GRANT, Director.

Enclosures.

**TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–16**

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology: The Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) is an autonomous (i.e., “fire and forget”) lightweight, supersonic, surface-to-air-tactical system self-defense against current and evolving anti-ship cruise missile threats. Advanced technology in the RAM–16C includes dual-mode RF/IR radio frequency/infrared guidance with IR all-the-way capability for non-emitting threats.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Government of Egypt can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Egypt.

**POLICY JUSTIFICATION**

Finland—Extended Range Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System

The Government of Finland has requested to buy twenty-five (25) M30A2 Extended Range Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Systems—Alternative Warhead (ER GMLRS–AW) Pods; Ten (10) M31A2 Extended Range Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Systems—Unitary (ER GMLRS–U) Pods. Non-MDE: Also included is an ER GMLRS Materiel Release Package; Stockpile Reliability Program (SRP) support; Quality Assurance Testing (QAT) services; technical publications; U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of program and logistics support.

The proposed sale will supplement the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a trusted partner which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist Finland in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

Finland intends to use these defense articles and services to modernize its armed forces. Finland intends to expand its existing anti-ship cruise missile capabilities over Egypt’s coastal areas and approaches to the Suez Canal. This will contribute to the Finland military’s goal to upgrade its capability while enhancing interoperability between Finland and United States Allies. Finland will have no difficulty absorbing these missiles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin Corporation, Missile and Fire Control, Grand Prairie, TX. There are no known offset agreements associated with this potential sale. Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Finland.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

**TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–16**


1. The ER GMLRS provides a persistent, responsive, all-weather, rapidly deployed, long range, surface-to-surface, area- and point-precision strike capability. The AW variant (XM403) also referred to as M30A2) carries a 200-pound fragmentation assembly filled with high explosives which, upon detonation, accelerates two layers of perforated penetrators optimized for effectiveness against large area and imprecisely located targets. The Unitary variant (XM404, also referred to as M51A2) is a unitary with a steel blast-fragmentation case, designed for low collateral damage against point targets. The ER GMLRS maintains the accuracy and effectiveness demonstrated by the baseline GMLRS out to a maximum range of 150 km (double of GMLRS capability) while also including a new Height Of Burst (HOB) capability.

2. The highest level of classified information associated with the sale of this equipment is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Finland can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Finland.

**ARMs SALES NOTIFICATION**

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In accordance with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter referred to in a classified annex, the annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.
has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In the House the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY, COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, VA.

Hon. Robert Menendez, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Chairman: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 38(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 20–50 concerning the Air Force’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Jordan for defense articles and services estimated to cost $60 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

Heidi H. Grant, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 20–50
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 38(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Jordan.
(ii) Total Estimated Value: $60 million.

 Majesty Defense Equipment • $0 million.
Other Equipment • $60 million.
Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing (FMF).

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales Case JO–18QBN A2, implemented on January 22, 2018, for an F–16 Air Combat Training Center at $51.2 million, was at the time below congressional notification threshold. Jordan has requested the case be amended to include additional devices and support. This amendment will push the case above Jordan’s current notification threshold and thus requires notification of the entire case.

Major Defense Equipment (MOE): None.

Non-MDE: Includes an F–16 Air Combat Training Center and Devices comprised of full mission combat tactics trainers, instructor/operator stations, tactical environment simulators, brief/ debrief stations, scenario generation stations, database generation stations, mission observation centers, and other training center equipment and support; software and software support; publications and technical documentation; maintenance of equipment and repair parts and services; U.S. and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of program support.

(v) For Related Cases, if any: JO–D–QCU.
(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.
(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Jordan—F–16 Air Combat Training Center

The Government of Jordan has requested to buy an F–16 Air Combat Training Center and Devices including full mission trainers, combat tactics trainers, instructor/operator stations, tactical environment simulators, brief/ debrief stations, scenario generation stations, database generation stations, mission observation centers, and other training center equipment and support; software and software support; publications and technical documentation; maintenance, spares and repair parts and services; U.S. and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of program support. The estimated total cost is $60 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that is an important partner in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Jordan’s capability to meet current and future threats by ensuring Jordan’s pilots are effectively trained to the highest standards. It will enhance Jordan’s security and friendship with the United States by helping to improve the security of the United States.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin Corporation Rotary & Mission Systems, Orlando, FL. There are no known offsets agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of two U.S. Lockheed Martin contractor representatives to Jordan for a duration of 2 years to support training.

The proposed sale would enhance U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

HONORING THE LIVES OF IDAHO NATIONAL GUARDSMEN

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, along with my colleagues Senator Jim Risch, Representative Mike Simpson, and Representative Russ Fulcher, I rise today to honor the lives and service of CW4 Jesse Anderson, CW4 Matthew Peltzer, and CW3 Matthew Peltzer. These three fallen Idaho Army National Guard personnel were participating in a routine training flight when their UH–60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed near Boise on February 23, 2021.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Anderson, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Laubhan, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Peltzer answered the call of duty to serve our State and our Nation with honor, distinction, and courage. CW4 Jesse Anderson, of Boise, was a senior instructor pilot. He had served in the Idaho Army National Guard since 2008, and he first joined the U.S. Army as a aviation warrant officer candidate in 2000. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Anderson is survived by his wife and four children. While in the Idaho Army National Guard, CW4 Anderson served as a UH–60 A/L pilot, a UH– 60 A/L instructor pilot, C–12 fixed wing pilot, C–12 operations officer, company and battalion aviation standardization officer, and medical evacuation pilot.

He served in multiple deployments, including two deployments to Afghanistan. He also participated in local search and rescue operations, wildland fire fighting missions in California, and civil support operations in Guatemala.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Anderson earned a long list of awards and decorations for his honorable service that include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the NATO Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, the Master Aviator Badge, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the California Achievement Medal, the Idaho Emergency Duty Ribbon, and the Idaho Service Ribbon.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Laubhan, of Boise, was an instructor pilot, who is survived by his wife and two children.

In January 2010, CW3 Laubhan enlisted in the Idaho Army National Guard as an AH–64 attack helicopter repairer with D Company, 1st Battalion of the 183rd Aviation Regiment. He went on to serve as an AH–64 Apache and UH–60 Black Hawk pilot, a UH–60 instructor pilot, and a medical evacuation pilot while with the battalion. His service included deploying in 2019 as a Black Hawk pilot to Guatemala in support of Operation Beyond the Horizon, and he is credited with flying a lifesaving mission in support of Idaho search and rescue operations. He also flew in support of wildland firefighting operations in California. The awards and decorations he earned for his admirable service include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Airman’s Badge, the California Achievement Medal, and the Idaho Service Ribbon.

CW3 Matthew Peltzer, a resident of Nampa, was a UH–60 A/L Black Hawk pilot, having served in the Idaho Army National Guard since 2005. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Peltzer is survived by his wife and two children. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Peltzer enlisted into the Idaho
February 23, 2021

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Army National Guard’s 1st Battalion of the 183rd Aviation Regiment as an officer candidate in July 2005. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Peltzer served as an AH-64 Apache pilot in command, a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot, an aviation mission survivability officer, an aviation safety officer, and a medical evacuation helicopter pilot all while with the battalion. His service also included serving in Guatemala as a Black Hawk pilot in support of Operation Beyond the Horizon. The many recognitions he earned for his remarkable service include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, the Senior Aviator Badge, the Idaho Adjutant General’s Outstanding Unit Award, and the Idaho Service Ribbon.

Our citizen-soldiers embody a spirit of service and sacrifice befitting of American patriotism, and this loss is felt deeply throughout Idaho. All three were soldiers, husbands, and fathers who left an enduring legacy of service and strength. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Anderson’s, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Laubhan’s, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Peltzer’s service and sacrifices will not be forgotten, and their selflessness will continue to serve as an example for all of us. We extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of these three heroes, including their fellow guardsmen. Our prayers are with their wives and children, friends and loved ones, and fellow soldiers in the Idaho National Guard as they grieve this tragic loss. Each of us owes a deep debt of gratitude to our Idaho Army National Guardsmen. Their service on behalf of Idaho and the Nation is second to none, and we thank them for their countless sacrifices to keep us safe. Our State and our country mourn the passing of three of our heroes.

In closing, the following poem titled “Above the Purple Sage” was written by Major Andrew Whipple, retired, an Idaho veteran, to pay tribute to the pilots and help lift the hearts of those mourning their loss:

“From field and farm,
From small town and large,
Their dreams all the same,
To answer the charge.
Their dreams of the feel of wind in their faces,
To roam the places of old story book Aces.
Leaving the ground the Flying Knights rose,
The city lights behind them,
Their nerves so composed.
Above the Purple Sage they soared;
Their friendships and bonds not easily forged.
While many lay dreaming and safe in their beds,
The three Knights rose higher.
From the ground they had shed.
The Purple Sage below them,
They flew higher and higher;
Their shadows passed them,
There was nothing else finer.
These three Knights of the Air,
Together they flew;
But alas all was quiet,
Except the coming of the dawning dew.
Their journey to soar,
To protect those behind;
It came to an end,
But forever entwined.
Their journey continues,
Their service goes on.
With Aces and others dreamers,
Fly on—Fly on!”

REMEMBERING BARBARA A. O’MALLEY

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute and honor the life of the late Mrs. Barbara O’Malley, a soldier and a public servant who proudly served Maryland and our Nation as a congressional staffer for Senator Barbara Mikulski for over three decades.

Born in Fort Wayne, IN, Barbara’s love of public service was nurtured early on by her father, Joseph Suelzer, a World War I veteran who served as the chair of the Democratic Party in Indiana’s Allen County. She got an early start in politics as a congressional staffer and then moved to Washington, DC, where she met her future husband, Thomas Martin O’Malley, at the Young Democrats’ headquarters in our Nation’s Capital. The O’Malleys made a home in Maryland, where Barbara spent 33 years as a stay-at-home mother before her inclination towards politics called her into service once more, this time with an opportunity to work for one of the only two female Senators in Congress at that time, Senator Barbara Mikulski.

In Congress, Barbara found a second home. To all those fortunate enough to work in the Senate and especially to those who worked on the fifth floor of the Senate Hart Building, including myself, Barbara was simply known as “Mrs. O.” She worked as a receptionist for Senator Mikulski and was the friendly face who welcomed constituents, colleagues, friends, and even Senators to the office. With her warmth and kindness, she made you feel right at home. And with her deep knowledge of Maryland’s democratic politics, you knew she meant business. She cherished working for Congress, and as a lover of history, she did not take for granted how special it was to walk the same Capitol halls as many of our former great leaders.

Even though Barbara was committed to serving the people of Maryland, she was also equally committed to her family—her husband, her six children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. In their family, Barbara and her husband, Thomas, a World War II veteran, instilled a sense of duty and public service, so it came as no surprise that their son, Martin O’Malley, went on to become the mayor of Baltimore and Governor of their beloved State of Maryland.

Dedication and commitment to public service defined Barbara’s career in Congress, and we are so lucky she chose the Senate as one of the places to make her mark in this world.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL BRIAN WINSKI

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of America’s finest, MG Brian Winski, who served a 24-month tour as the commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division and Fort Campbell, KY. Major General Winski’s unparalleled mastery across the tactical, operational, and strategic spectrums in combination with his infectious and inspirational leadership provided a continuous source of motivation for soldiers and public alike.

In a time of uncertainty, Major General Winski exhibited the most valued traits of a leader. As the senior commander of Fort Campbell, KY, Major General Winski oversaw support services for 33,000 soldiers, 50,000 family members, 10,000 civilian employees, and 150,000 retirees. Prior to the global Covid-19 pandemic, Major General Winski shaped the way in which the 101st Airborne Division plans and executes emergency deployment readiness exercises leading the 531st Hospital Center EDRE and later watched their successful domestic deployment to New York to provide help in crisis.

Major General Winski’s impressive contributions enabled mission success in some of the toughest and most challenging conditions. The distinctive accomplishments of Major General Winski reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the XVIII Airborne Corps, the U.S. Army, and the Department of Defense. I join my fellow Kentuckians in honoring Major General Brian Winski with the Award of Distinguished Service Medal as he served his country with class and courage.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE KLAMATH TRIBES

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, the Klamath Tribes in Oregon have a saying: “We help each other; We will live good.” These words are neither hollow nor trivial to the members of these Tribes. They live them each and every day and never more so than when disaster strikes. When the Two Two Four Two Fire surged through the Chetco Ranger District of the Fremont-Winema National Forest last September, scorching over 14,000 acres, destroying homes and traditional hunting and fishing sites, members of the Tribes pulled together, opening their doors, their hearts, and their wallets to help their fellow Oregonians in a time of great need.

They brought those eight words—“We help each other; We will live good”—to life.

When emergency personnel needed a large, open area to establish an evacuation shelter for all those who had to
flee their homes ahead of the inferno. The Tribes immediately offered up the parking lot the Kla-Mo-Ya Casino for their use.

When the firefighters tasked with containing the fire needed a massive open space to stage their ample equipment, those same expansive parking lots were readily provided to them.

At the same time, the doors of their hotel were thrown open to anyone displaced by the fire, to Tribal and non-Tribal members alike who were in need of shelter. In the middle of a pandemic, with all manner of precautions in place to keep folks healthy and safe, that was no easy feat, but they did it, all while also welcoming the Red Cross inside to set up a response center, as well.

As the forests burned around it, the Kla-Mo-Ya Casino stood there like the eye of a hurricane. It became a center of help, a place to get a change of clothes, a place to gather in safety. Had they just done those things, the Klamath Tribes would have already gone far above and beyond to support Tribal members and community members alike. They didn’t stop, however, with providing the use of their hotel and its facilities to first responders and those in need.

No, Klamath Tribal Behavioral Health went out and provided assistance and services to anyone who had been affected and displaced, free of charge. Whether they were Tribal members or not, it didn’t matter. Those who needed help were able to get it. They helped feed the firefighters risking their lives fighting the infernos, emergency volunteers helping others, and even evacuees.

And even now, some 5 months after the worst of the fire’s carnage, the Klamath Tribes are still doing what they can to help those whose lives were turned upside down by it. A GoFundMe account has been set up to help any family who lost their home or their property to the Two Four Two Fire rebuild and start to get back up on their feet again. The distribution of the money raised by the account is still a work in progress. The Tribes are fine-tuning the priority system and how folks will apply for it. But once all of that is worked out, this is going to be a tremendous help to so many of their friends and neighbors who have endured such heartbreak and hardship.

“We help each other; We will live good.” There is no question that the members of the Klamath Tribes have helped those in need across southern Oregon through an unimaginably difficult time. We are all deeply grateful for everything they have done, both during the Two Four Two Fire both afterward. And we will all be better off as a State and as a community because of their kindness and generosity of spirit.

RECOGNIZING GENEVA’S SHEAR PERFECTION BARBER & BEAUTY SALON

• Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, this month our country is joining together in celebration of Black History Month. It is a month for all of us to recognize the indescribable impact that Black Americans have on our Nation; to recommit ourselves to the struggle to achieve and ensure racial justice throughout our land; and, of course, to celebrate Black culture and all of its contributions to America past, present, and future. Institutions are more connected or have been more central to Black culture than the barbershop and beauty salon. As described by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, “families, communities, and women have been going to these businesses not just for hair care, but for the sense of community and security they provide. Black Americans go to spend time among peers, playing cards or chess, sharing the latest local news and engaging in passionate debates about politics. Men and women go in to these businesses for friendship and mentorship and to be engaged in the affairs of their neighbors and their community. For 30 years, this was particularly true of Geneva’s Shear Perfection Barber & Beauty Salon in northeast Portland. Since opening its doors in 1991, Geneva’s has been a hub for Portland’s African-American community, welcoming over 1,000 people through its doors every month. Folks from Michael Jordan and Muhammed Ali, to members of the Portland Trailblazers, sat in its chairs. But more importantly, it stood as the heart for three generations of Black Portlanders who first walked through Geneva’s doors as children with their parents and then went on to bring their own sons and daughters for their first haircuts, even as the area around this local institution underwent the kind of gentrification that pushed Black families further and further away.

But it wasn’t only the barbershop itself that is considered an institution of the Portland community—so is the Knauls family who owned and operated it for three decades. Geneva Knauls, who passed away in 2014, was our State’s first Black female barber. Throughout her years as a businesswoman, Geneva supported all different kinds of local grassroots projects and organizations, and became one of the most beloved people in the northeast Portland community. Her status is only equaled by her husband’s, Mr. Paul Knauls, Sr., who is affectionately known around town as the Mayor of Northeast Portland. From 1963 to 1970, Mr. Knauls owned and ran the Cotton Club, which was the place for jazz and soul music, welcoming such big names as Ray Charles, Johnny Mathis, Marion Ford, Sammy Davis, Jr., to its stage to serenade music-loving Portlanders. He sold the Cotton Club in 1970 and went on to open a series of others throughout town before finally opening Geneva’s. All the while, throughout all of his business adventures, Paul has been active in other ways throughout the community. He worked with the Junior Achievement Program at Rosa Parks, the Hum- boldt and Jefferson Schools, tutored in the HOSTS—Help One Student to Succeed—program at King School, and served for 6 years on the board of the Urban League.

Last year, Mr. Knauls and his son, Paul Jr., decided it was finally time to take a break and close the doors of Geneva’s. It was also a decision made out of recognition of the difficult new realities of trying to operate a personal care business in the midst of an unprecedented national and global pandemic. Sadly, the Knauls and Geneva’s are not alone. Many businesses have been forced to confront life amid the COVID pandemic and BIPOC-owned businesses and communities have been disproportionately impacted. Last year’s announcement of the closure of Geneva’s Shear Perfection Barber & Beauty Salon was understandably met with an emotional outpouring from local Portlanders. Men and women who had been going to the barbershop for decades took to the shop’s Facebook page to thank the Knauls family for their contributions to the community and to share some fond memories. Statements came from local leaders and celebrities to tout Geneva’s legacy, as one person put it, as “one of the most important examples of a black business that represented more than the community than just a place to get a haircut.”

And a year after its closing, that legacy continues to endure. Geneva’s Facebook page is brimming with pictures of young men in graduation robes in front of the salon, of a turkey giveaway in its parking lot that took place this past Thanksgiving to help provide for families in need, and announcemnts from other local Black business owners who are moving into the space to continue the Knauls family’s entrepreneurial spirit. And the legacy of “The Mayor” and his iconic standing in the community remains as strong today as it ever has; even after celebrating Mr. Knauls’s 90th birthday age and the pandemic have not stopped Paul Knauls, Sr., from putting on two masks to go out for daily walks in his neighborhood. And, announce-ments from other local Black business owners who are moving into the space to continue the Knauls family’s entre-preneurial spirit. And the legacy of "The Mayor" and his iconic standing in the community remains as strong today as it ever has; even after celebrating Mr. Knauls’s 90th birthday age and the pandemic have not stopped Paul Knauls, Sr., from putting on two masks to go out for daily walks in his neighborhood. And announce-ments from other local Black business owners who are moving into the space to continue the Knauls family’s entre-preneurial spirit.

I know that Portlanders everywhere will join me in expressing the immense gratitude to Geneva’s Shear Perfection Barber & Beauty Salon and to the Knauls family for all that they have done for our community. Mr. Paul Knauls certainly don’t buy the same without Geneva’s, but everyone who walked through those doors over the last 30 years has had their lives
touched and impacted by it in ways both big and small. And it is reassuring to know that, through each of them, Geneva’s legacy, the legacy of the Black barbershop and salon, the legacy of community and friendship and looking out for one another, will continue to endure.

REMEMBERING MEL RICHARD ANTOenen

Mr. THUNE, Mr. President, I would like to include in the RECORD the following obituary for Mel Antonen, a native South Dakotan and longtime Major League Baseball reporter for USA Today and elsewhere, who passed away on August 21, 2021. Through his work, Charles Raasch, also a native South Dakotan, of USA Today with an obituary upon his death. I extend my deepest sympathy to the Antonen family.

The material follows:

Mel Antonen, well known to the world, and renowned sports journalist, died Saturday of a rare acute auto-immune disease and complications from COVID-19. He was a reporter for USA TODAY Sports and MASN-TV baseball reporter who covered nearly three dozen World Series. In a half century in journalism, he reveled and excelled at telling others’ stories.

He was 64.

Mel Antonen’s own story became the best of all. It began in the tiny town of Lake Norden, South Dakota, on Aug. 25, 1956, when he was the third of four children born to Ray and Valda Antonen.

Lake Norden, a town of 2,200 people, is 225 miles from the nearest major league ballpark and has never been populated with more than 550 people, but on soft summer evenings fans from counties away came to Memorial Park to watch Norden’s home games to two newspapers, the Watertown Daily Republican, which paid him as a high schooler 15 cents a copy inch; and the Sioux Falls Argus Leader, where he got his first job after graduation from Augustana University, eventually covering the sports, farm and political beats.

He joined USA TODAY in 1986, where one of his earliest assignments was covering the Tonya Harding Olympic figure-skating scandal. Antonen became a MLB reporter and columnist, covering history from Cal Ripken Jr.’s milestones to the Mark McGwire-Sammy Sosa race-breaking human race and the steroid scandals that followed. The story he often said was missed in the midst of the earthquake-interrupted 1989 World Series. There, sitting in a press box high above San Francisco’s Candlestick Park, he watched as the earthquake struck erroneously during the destructive Loma Prieta quake. Antonen filed a story, then headed out for days to cover the aftermath, focusing on the human costs.

Hall of Famer Ripken told USA TODAY Sports’ Bob Nightengale that Antonen “was our fixture on the field for many years, and it was clear that he had a passion for baseball. He was a thorough and thoughtful reporter and left his mark on his profession.”

Along with the World Series, Antonen covered three Olympics, and professional bowling is another love. “I can’t imagine being anything other than a reporter, an ink-stained wretch,” he told his Hall of Fame audience.

Freeman, a journalism professor at USA TODAY’s pioneeering sports section, said Antonen’s knowledge of baseball, reverence for its history, and his love of stories, was evident from the first day.

“It became clear to me right away the understanding he had of baseball, and a lot of that was because of his father,” said Freeman.

Freeman said one of his favorite stories involved Antonen at the 1985 Olympic Games in Seoul. Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson won the 100 meters in world-record time, but failed a drug test, was stripped of his gold medal and ordered to be sent home. USA TODAY received a tip that Johnson had reservations on one of several potential flights out of South Korea, and Freeman immediately sent Antonen to the airport to find Johnson and to do anything necessary to get an interview.

Carrying nothing but a walkie-talkie and a legal pad, Antonen was the first person to be interviewed out for the airport and quickly discovered that Ben Johnson was booked on a flight to Toronto. Antonen bought a ticket, went aboard and found Johnson and then talked to him about the need for caution, but also hope, in a pandemic. “You’ve got to go on with your life, but that doesn’t mean you have to deplete yourself of all the pleasures,” Fauci told him.

Antonen’s final column for MASN, written after the Dodgers won the World Series in October, paid homage to the comforting and reassuring next-year ritual of baseball. It ended this way: “World Series 2021 prediction: The Padres in six over the White Sox.”

Mel Richard Antonen is survived by his son, Emmett, 14, and his wife, Lisa Nipp, a photojournalist, whom he married in 2001, along with three siblings and their families. Lisa embraced the many characters in Mel’s baseball orbit, once holding the phone for Mel with the crusty, late Hall-of-Fame pitcher Bob Feller by discussing the beauty of hollyhocks.

From Joe DiMaggio to Dusty Baker and Barry Bonds, Freeman, 70, has been a part of baseball’s fabric and knows the importance of sharing the stories of those who make the game great. He and his wife, Lisa Nipp, a photojournalist, whom he married in 2001, along with three siblings and their families. Lisa embraced the many characters in Mel’s baseball orbit, once holding the phone for Mel with the crusty, late Hall-of-Fame pitcher Bob Feller by discussing the beauty of hollyhocks.

Using persistence and personality, Antonen scored a rare interview with the notoriously press-shy DiMaggio, late in the legendary player’s life, after learning that DiMaggio was staying at a hotel near the baseball park in San Francisco. The man considered “ungettable” by many sportswriters talked for several hours with Antonen, and they finished with Clinton from a distance. DiMaggio loved the history of baseball.

Antonen years later told the Argus-Leader.

He was a sports broadcaster for MASN’s Mid-Atlantic Sports Report, and radio analyst on Sirius-XM in the last decade of his career, and also wrote for Sports Illustrated and other publications. He did a radio interview on the baseball Hall of Fame voting from his hospital bed before his death. He especially loved talking baseball with long-haul truckers on his late-night satellite radio show.

Antonen’s mother died when he was 12. His father, himself enshrined in the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame, raised Mel and his sisters, Kathy and Carmen, and brother, Rusty, with the field at Memorial Park becoming a refuge.

“Mel’s life reflects the power of baseball,” he said in that 2017 speech. “One of my earliest memories of Lake Norden baseball was the summer of 1969. . . . In March of that year my mom died after a year-long battle with cancer. But it was baseball, and Lake Norden baseball, with hot dogs and a 10-cent glass of pop and chasing batting-practice foul balls or watching a foul sumnoent cavorted and made a diversion from fearful images of three months prior—of my mom’s tan casket, crying adults, the hearse in front of Trinity Lutheran, an overcast day when there were piles of snow in one of South Dakota’s worst winters.”

Antonen kept reporting and writing throughout his illness with COVID–19 and an auto-immune disease so rare that his doctors told him he may have been the only person on Earth with that combination.

Months after being diagnosed with both diseases, Mel scored an interview with Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious diseases expert and big baseball fan. Fauci talked about the need for caution, but also hope, in a pandemic. “You’ve got to go on with your life, but that doesn’t mean you have to deplete yourself of all the pleasures” Fauci told him.

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Mel Richard Antonen is survived by his son, Emmett, 14, and his wife, Lisa Nipp, a photojournalist, whom he married in 2001, along with three siblings and their families. Lisa embraced the many characters in Mel’s baseball orbit, once holding the phone for Mel with the crusty, late Hall-of-Fame pitcher Bob Feller by discussing the beauty of hollyhocks.
REMEMBERING JANE ANNE BOORMAN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to Ms. Jane Anne Boorman, a native South Dako-
tan and dedicated public servant, who passed away in December. Jane was deeply respected among her peers and by
beyond, having earned a superb reputation for her hard work and integrity. Jane was active and well-known in South
 Dakota Republican Party politics, and she was a thought-leader and mentor to many. In her memory, she
inspired countless leaders and support important efforts to improve our great State. I extend my deep condolences
and prayers to the Boorman family.

The following is Jane's obituary honoring the life of this great South Dako-
tan.

The material follows:

Jane Anne Boorman (1932 to 2020), a retired federal employee, Congressional aide, and newspaper editor died on December 11, 2020, at Arbor Place Retirement Home in Rock-
ville, Maryland. She was 88.

Jane was born in Lemmon, South Dakota to Anne Sutton Boorman and Lloyd Bruce (LB) Boorman. She graduated from Lemmon High School in 1950.

Jane's life straddled South Dakota and Washington, DC. Born and raised on the high plains in Lemmon, South Dakota, Jane em-
bodied the flinty independence of its early settlers. She was hard to know and always pushed for perfection, but once you were in
her life you had a steadfast, loyal, and loving friend.

In Lemmon, Jane was editor and held other roles at the Lemmon Leader—the family-owned newspaper—where she worked until 1973. She also was named co-editor for “Dakota Panorama”—an history of South Dakota published by the South Dakota Ter-
ritory Centennial observance in 1961.

Jane's passion for Republican party politi-
cles started early in her life. She was se-
lected Outstanding Young Republican Woman in South Dakota and represented South Dakota as the state's Young Repub-
lican National Committee woman in 1961. In
1963 she was elected Vice Chairman of the National Federation of Republican Women.

In 1973, she moved from Lemmon to Wash-
ington, D.C. to be a Press Secretary for then
Congressman James Abdnor when he was elected U.S. Representative. She followed Abdnor to the U.S. Senate in
1963 she was elected Vice Chairman of the
Republican party Association, the S.D. Historical Soci-
ety, and in championing growth for her

She retired from the SBA in 2015.

Boorman joined the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in 1987 as Director of Communications after President Ronald Reagan appointed Abdnor as Administrator of the SBA. During her 28 years at the Agen-
cy, Jane held various positions including
Managing the agency's relationship with Federal Aviation Administration, Department of

Although she lived in Washington DC, Jane maintained a strong foothold in South Da-

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-448. A communication from the Man-
agement and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of
Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthi-
ness Directives: Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG (Type Certificate Previously
Hold by Rolls-Royce plc) Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39-21346” ((RIN2120-Aa64)
(Docket No. FAA-2020-0781)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on
February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-449. A communication from the Man-
agement and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of
Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthi-
ness Directives: Airbus SAS Aircraft; Amendment 39-21370” ((RIN2120-Aa64)
(Docket No. FAA-2020-0781)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on
February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-450. A communication from the Man-
agement and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of
Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthi-
ness Directives: Airbus SAS Aircraft; Amendment 39-21373” ((RIN2120-Aa64)
(Docket No. FAA-2020-1135)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on
February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-451. A communication from the Man-
agement and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of
Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthi-
ness Directives: Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes; Amendment 39-21365” ((RIN2120-Aa64)
(Docket No. FAA-2020-0683)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on
February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-452. A communication from the Man-
agement and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of
Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthi-
ness Directives: Sikorsky Aircraft Corpora-
tion Helicopters; Amendment 39-21368” ((RIN2120-Aa64)
(Docket No. FAA-2020-0796)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on
February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-453. A communication from the Man-
agement and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of
Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthi-
ness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes; Amendment 39-21367” ((RIN2120-Aa64)
(Docket No. FAA-2020-0683)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on
February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-454. A communication from the Man-
agement and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of
Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthi-
ness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG (Type Certificate Previously
Hold by Rolls-Royce plc) Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39-21346” ((RIN2120-Aa64)
(Docket No. FAA-2020-0781)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on
February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-455. A communication from the Man-
agement and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of
Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthi-
ness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes; Amendment 39-21365” ((RIN2120-Aa64)
(Docket No. FAA-2020-0683)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on
February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-456. A communication from the Man-
agement and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of
Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthi-
ness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes; Amendment 39-21367” ((RIN2120-Aa64)
(Docket No. FAA-2020-0683)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on
February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-457. A communication from the Deputy
Secretary of the Securities and Exchange
Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Investment Ad-
viser Marketing” (RIN2335-AM08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office
of the President of the Senate on Feb-
ruary 11, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-458. A communication from the Direc-
tor of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit
Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursu-
tant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Net
able to the SBA, and was a long-time or-
member of the S.D. Women's Press Asso-
ated with her hard work and integrity.

During her 28 years at the Agen-

Although she lived in Washington DC, Jane

the S.D. News-


during adjournment of the Senate in the Office

EC-459. A communication from the Direc-
tor of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit
Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursu-
tant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Removal of Transferred OTS Regulations Re-
garding Prompt Corrective Action Directives” (RIN3069-FA38) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the
EC–483. A communication from the Yeoman Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Narragansett Bay, Quonset, Rhode Island" ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2020–0093)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–484. A communication from the Yeoman Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Pipeline Testing; Tampa Bay, Gibsonston, Florida" ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2020–0166)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–485. A communication from the Yeoman Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Blueprint, San Francisco Bay, Oakland, California" ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2020–0171)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–486. A communication from the Yeoman Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Oakland Ship-to-Shore Crane Arrival, San Francisco Bay, Oakland, California" ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2020–0166)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–487. A communication from the Yeoman Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Narragansett Bay, Quonset, Rhode Island" ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2020–0093)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–488. A communication from the Yeoman Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Oakville, Missouri" ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2020–0093)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 11, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–489. A communication from the Yeoman Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace, Warroad, Minnesota" ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0071)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–490. A communication from the Yeoman Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace, Pineywoods, Texas; Marquette, Michigan" ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0080)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–491. A communication from the Yeoman Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace, Kalamazoo, Michigan" ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0080)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–492. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Homestead, Florida" ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0080)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–493. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Datsun, Montana" ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0071)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–494. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Dubious, Pennsylvania" ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2020–0080)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. REED, for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nominations beginning with Col. Anthony F. Angelo and ending with Col. Michael A. Battle, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Bonnie Joy Bosler, to be Brigadier General.


Army nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Richard E. Angle and ending with Brig. Gen. Darren L. Werner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Mr. REED, Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the ex- pense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that the nominations be laid at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nominations beginning with Trevor D. Bellicchi and ending with Paul S. Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with John D. Caldwell and ending with Marion R. Sletten, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Joel R. Bischoff and ending with Wayne T. Sletten, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Andrew C. Gordon and ending with Richard G. Wofford, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Andrew C. Gordon and ending with Richard G. Wofford, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Andrew C. Gordon and ending with Richard G. Wofford, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.
Thompson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Army nomination of Thomas E. Shaw, to be Lieutenant Colonel of the Air Force.

Nomination of Michael D. Vickers and ending with Donna L. Scott, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Army nomination of Robert Field and ending with Kristine M. Jordan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Army nomination of Gaye A. Warren and ending with Bruce H. Jordan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Army nomination of Benjamin R. Denton and ending with Vincent F. Vella, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Army nomination of Arthur D. Brown and ending with John M. Schwab, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Army nomination of J. Michael W. Kiniry and ending with Yalitza M. Lugo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Army nomination of Kristine M. Jordan and ending with John H. Minch, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Army nomination of Vincent F. Vella and ending with John M. Schwab, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Army nomination of Michael D. Vickers and ending with Donna L. Scott, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Army nomination of Gaye A. Warren and ending with Bruce H. Jordan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Army nomination of Benjamin R. Denton and ending with Vincent F. Vella, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Army nomination of Arthur D. Brown and ending with John M. Schwab, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 357. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a rulemaking to consider establishing a process under which the Commission would maintain a list of numbers that a voice service provider cannot make available to other parties; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 358. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to modify the distribution of funds under the Tribal transportation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. HỌVEN (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 359. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to modify prevented planting coverage; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 360. A bill to amend title 51, United States Code, to modify the national space flight program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 361. A bill to establish a 90-day limit to file a petition for judicial review of a permit, license, or approval for a highway or public transportation project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 362. A bill to amend the FAST Act to improve the Federal permitting process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 363. A bill to amend chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code, to increase the requirement for American-made content, to strengthen the waiver provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. TENENHAUS, Mr. WHITE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. DAINES, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 364. A bill to require the use of funds to provide for the United States to become a party to the Paris Agreement; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BLACKBURN (for herself, Ms. CORTES MASTO, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 365. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to authorize the President to enter into agreements to regulate data to the Cyber9/11 pipeline related to online sexual exploitation of children to preserve the contents of such report for 180 days, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 366. A bill to remove all statues of individuals who gratuitously served the Confederate States of America from display in the United States Capitol; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 367. A bill to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to James H. Neill, a warrant officer in the United States Army, Wisconsin, and most recently of Colleyville, Texas, before his death on April 2, 2020, for acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. WICKER, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 368. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program related to the COVID–19 public health emergency; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 369. A bill to authorize and appropriate funding for grant programs to address the restoration of long-distance routes and the rehiring of employees furloughed as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. MERRICK, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. ROSS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 370. A bill to amend the Poultry Products Inspection Act and the Federal Meat Inspection Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a process under which the Commission would maintain a list of numbers that a voice service provider cannot make available to other parties; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 371. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take certain actions in Pinal County, Arizona, into trust for the benefit of the Gila River Indian Community, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. COONS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 372. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract or other agreement with a third party to review appointees in the Veterans Health Administration who had a lapse of at least 90 days in their service for cause by a State licensing board for care or services rendered at a non-Veterans Health Administration facility and to provide individuals treated by such an appointee with notice if it is determined that an episode of care or services that they received was below acceptable standards of care; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 373. A bill to strengthen the use of patient-experience data within the benefit-risk framework for approval of new drugs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. GILLIBRAND, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 374. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the submission by issuers of data relating to diversity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. IHARO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 375. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the submission by issuers of data relating to diversity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 376. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study of motor vehicles in use for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. COTTON):  
S. 377. A bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY:  
S. 380. A bill to reauthorize the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area, the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Area, and the Oil Region National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. RUIKIO):  
S. 379. A bill to advance a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Libya and support the people of Libya; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):  
S. 380. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve access to health care through expanded health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. WHITTINGHOUSE):  
S. 381. A bill to establish the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARNER, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):  
S. 382. A bill to establish the Office of the Ombudsperson for Immigrant Children in Government Custody, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. WARNER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CARPER, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. SANDERS):  
S. 383. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding proprietary institutions of higher education in order to protect students and taxpayers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARNER, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):  
S. 386. A bill to establish the National Heritage Areas Foundation, to support the development of heritage areas; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BROWN):  
S. 388. A bill to suspend certain United States sanctions that are being implemented to address the proliferation of advanced conventional weapons of mass destruction; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. RUIKIO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MANCIN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. CARDIN):  
S. 389. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reauthorize and expand the National Threat Assessment Center of the Department of Homeland Security, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Cardin, and Mr. Warner):  
S. 390. A bill to direct the National Institutes of Health to prioritize the development of vaccines to prevent COVID-19, to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. BURDICE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CASTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAIN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOM, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHERAEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARGO, Ms. WARNEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):  
S. 393. A bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. WHITME, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. MURRAY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):  
S. 394. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require reporting to the Federal Election Commission and the Federal Bureau of Investigation of offers by foreign nationals to make prohibited contributions, and to provide that contributions, expenditures, or disbursements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. LEAHY):  
S. 395. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that of certain credits related to electric cars, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. young, Ms. MURPHY, and Mr. BROWN):  
S. 396. A bill to promote registered apprenticeships, including registered apprenticeships within in-demand industry sectors, through the support of workforce intermediaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):  
S. 397. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to include an act of unregulated custody transfer in the definition of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY:  
S. 398. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to clarify that utility line technicians qualify as emergency response providers; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):  
S. 399. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from charging veterans copayments for preventive services relating to COVID-19, to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):  
S. J. Res. 8. A joint resolution providing for the appointment of Robert M. Barnett as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:  
S. Res. 70. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021, October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022, and through February 28, 2023; from the Committee on Rules and Administration; placed on the calendar.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 68

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 68, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 85

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 85, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the limitation on the deduction for certain taxes, including State and local property and income taxes.
At the request of Ms. Sinema, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. Manchin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 89, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to secure medical opinions for veterans with service-connected disabilities, who die from COVID-19 to determine whether their service-connected disabilities were the principal or contributory causes of death, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Shaheen, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. Schatz) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny the deduction for advertising and promotional expenses for prescription drugs.

At the request of Mr. Cruz, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Braun) was added as a cosponsor of S. 152, a bill to allow States to approve the use of diagnostic tests during a public health emergency.

At the request of Mr. Cornyn, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Tillis) was added as a cosponsor of S. 153, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and improve health savings accounts, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Cruz, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Braun) was added as a cosponsor of S. 153, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and improve health savings accounts, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Thune, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Marshall) was added as a cosponsor of S. 172, a bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Cornyn, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Tillis) was added as a cosponsor of S. 209, a bill to provide for assistance to rural water, wastewater, and waste disposal systems affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Thune, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. Ernst) was added as a cosponsor of S. 218, a bill to approve certain advanced biofuel registrations, to require the consideration of certain advanced biofuel pathways, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Moran, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) was added as a cosponsor of S. 221, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a grant program to increase cooperation on post-traumatic stress disorder research between the United States and Israel.

At the request of Ms. Klobuchar, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Heinrich) was added as a cosponsor of S. 225, a bill to reform the antitrust laws to better protect competition in the American economy, to amend the Clayton Act to modify the standard for an unlawful acquisition, to deter anticompetitive exclusionary conduct that harms competition and consumers, to enhance the ability of the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to enforce the antitrust laws, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Lee, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Braun) was added as a cosponsor of S. 251, 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.

At the request of Mr. Reed, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Warnock) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) were added as cosponsors of S. 254, a bill to establish a Homeowner Assistance Fund at the Department of the Treasury.

At the request of Mr. Moran, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Bennet), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Boozman), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Casey), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Cassidy), the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Cotton), the Senator from Montana (Mr. Daines), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. Duckworth), the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Hassan), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Hawley), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. Lankford), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Markey), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Murphy), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Risch), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Rounds), the Senator from Florida (Mr. Rubio), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Shaheen), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. Sinema), the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Tillis), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) were added as cosponsors of S. 321, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

At the request of Mr. Toomey, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Ms. Capito) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Scott) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 33, a resolution supporting the contributions of Catholic schools.

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Brown), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. Duckworth), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Rounds), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Casey), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin), the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. Sinema), the Senator from Maine (Mr. King), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Portman), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Boozman) and the Senator from West Virginia (Ms. Capito) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 34, a resolution recognizing the 200th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 37, a resolution expressing solidarity with the San Isidro Movement in Cuba, condemning attacks against artistic freedoms in Cuba, and calling for the repeal of laws that violate freedom of expression and the immediate release of arbitrarily detained artists, journalists, and activists.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. Durbin (for himself, Mr. Reed, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Brown, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Warren, Mr. Schatz, Mr. Carper, Ms. Smith, and Mr. Sanders):
S. 383. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding proprietary institutions of higher education in order to protect students and taxpayers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 383

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Our Students and Taxpayers Act of 2021" or "POST Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. 85/15 RULE.

(a) In General.—Section 102(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(F) meets the requirements of paragraph (2);"

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) REVENUE SOURCES.—

"(A) In general.—In order to qualify as a proprietary institution of higher education under this subsection, an institution shall derive not less than 15 percent of the institution's revenues from sources other than Federal education assistance funds, as calculated in accordance with subparagraphs (B) and (C).

"(B) FEDERAL EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FUNDS.—In this paragraph, the term 'Federal education assistance funds' means any Federal financial assistance provided, under this Act or any other Federal law, through a grant, contract, subsidy, loan, guarantee, insurance, or loan forgiveness program to a proprietary institution, including Federal financial assistance that is disbursed or delivered to an institution or on behalf of a student or to a student directly from the institution, except that such term shall not include any monthly housing stipend provided under the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Program under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code.

"(C) IMPLEMENTATION OF NON-FEDERAL REVENUE REQUIREMENT.—In making calculations under subparagraph (A), an institution of higher education shall—

"(i) use the cash basis of accounting;

"(ii) consider as revenue only those funds generated by a program of education that is not a proprietary institution, including Federal financial assistance that is disbursed or delivered to an institution or on behalf of a student or to a student directly from the institution, except that such term shall not include any monthly housing stipend provided under the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Program under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code.

(ii) the amount and percentage of such institution's revenues received from Federal education assistance funds; and

(iii) the amount and percentage of such institution's revenues received from other sources.

(b) REPEAL OF EXISTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 487 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraph (24);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (25) through (29) as paragraphs (24) through (28), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (24)(A)(ii) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking "subsection (e)" and inserting "subsection (d)";

and

(D) in paragraph (26) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking "subsection (h)" and inserting "subsection (g)";

(2) by striking subsection (d);

(3) by redesignating subsections (e) through (j) as subsections (d) through (i), respectively;

(4) by inserting the matter preceding paragraph (1) of subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (3)), by striking "(a)(25)" and inserting "(a)(24)";

(5) in subsection (f)(1) (as redesignated by paragraph (3)), by striking "subsection (e)" and inserting "subsection (d)";

and

(6) in subsection (g)(1) (as redesignated by paragraph (3)), by striking "subsection (a)(27)" in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and inserting "subsection (a)(26)";

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 152 (20 U.S.C. 1019a)—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)(A), by striking "subsections (a)(27) and (h) of section 487" and inserting "subsections (a)(26) and (g) of section 487"; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1)(B)(i)(I), by striking "section 487(e)" and inserting "section 487(d)";

(2) in section 153(c)(3) (20 U.S.C. 1019b(c)(3)), by striking "section 487(a)(25)" each place it appears and inserting "section 487(a)(24)";

(3) in section 496(c)(3)(A) (20 U.S.C. 1009c(3)(A)), by striking "section 487(f)" and inserting "section 487(e)"; and

(4) in section 498(k)(1) (20 U.S.C. 1099c(k)(1)), by striking "section 487(f)" and inserting "section 487(e)".

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. HASSAN).

S. 391. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reauthorize and expand the National Threat Assessment Center of the Department of Homeland Security; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to reintroduce a bill that didn't get passed last Congress, a bill that deals with safety in our schools, a bill aimed at the disasters that occurred when schoolchildren were killed by shooters and to deal with this problem through a program that the Secret Service has had for decades and asking the Secret Service to see what they can do to apply the principles of that program to stop mass killings at our schools.

Three years ago, on February 14, 2018, an unspeakable tragedy occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL. In less than 4 minutes, 14 students and 3 staff members were killed, and, consequently, their families' and friends' lives were shattered forever by such a senseless act.

Today, along with my colleagues Senators RUBIO and SCOTT of Florida, Senators CORTEZ MASTO, COLLINS, MANCHIN, and HASSAN, I am proud to reintroduce legislation that will proactively mitigate threats of violence on school campuses by reauthorizing and expanding the U.S. Secret Service's program led the National Threat Assessment Center.

The National Threat Assessment Center studies targeted violence and
develops best practices and training to identify and manage threats before they result in violence like we saw at that school 3 years ago.

The bill establishes a Safe School Initiative, a national program on school violence prevention, that will include expanded research on school violence. Most importantly, this legislation allows the Secret Service to directly equip communities and schools with training and best practices on recognizing and preventing school violence.

This bill, which I hope will help us to recognize the signs of a potential attack long way before such an attack occurs, carries the name sake of those it couldn’t save, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School mascot, so this bill is called the EAGLES Act because that is the mascot of that school.

Two years ago, the Secret Service conducted a review of school shootings and made a very pivotal finding: All attackers exhibited concerning behaviors prior to engaging in an act of violence. In other words, it should be easy to identify these people, and, if identified, to stop them. It is possible that had these signs been recognized at an early enough stage, these attacks could have been stopped.

In the wake of the Parkland shooting in 2018, Congress took steps to protect schools and to prevent gun violence, including the passage of the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act, which provided funding to schools to strengthen their infrastructure to make it more difficult for shooters to enter schools.

At that same time, we passed the Fix NICS Act, a law which penalizes Federal agencies that fail to comply with legal requirements to report dangerous individuals and violent criminals to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System so that if they are so reported, then they won’t be able to purchase a gun. However, by passing the EAGLES Act, we are entering a vital third step in addition to those other two bills to protect our schools.

I would like to encourage all of my Senate colleagues to support this bipartisan and, I think, a very common-sense bill. I hope that we can focus on productive measures like these rather than unfocused efforts to undermine lawful gun ownership.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

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Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Rules and Administration; which was placed on the calendar:

Resolved, SECTION 1. AGGREGATE AUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying out the powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, the appropriate authorizing resolutions of the Senate, there is authorized for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021, in the aggregate of $69,459,540, for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022, in the aggregate of $119,122,957, and for the period October 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023, in the aggregate of $49,634,958, in accordance with the provisions of this resolution, for standing committees of the Senate, the Special Committee on Aging, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Indian Affairs.

(b) ASSIGNMENT OF AUTHORITY.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for “Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations” of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committees for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021, for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022, and for the period October 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023.

(c) EXPENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of each standing committee of the Senate, the Special Committee on Aging, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Indian Affairs under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the applicable committee of the Senate.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate, or

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

SEC. 2. COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2023, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 under this section shall not exceed $200,000, or of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 430(1))); and

(2) not to exceed $40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 under this section shall not exceed $5,438,436, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 430(1))); and

(2) not to exceed $40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2023.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023, under this section shall not exceed $2,266,015, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 430(1))); and

(2) not to exceed $40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services is authorized from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2023, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 under this section shall not exceed $8,205,538, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $35,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 430(1))); and

(2) not to exceed $11,567 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 under this section shall not exceed $5,438,538, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $60,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 430(1))); and

(2) not to exceed $40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).
SEC. 4. COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 under this section shall not exceed $3,703,929, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $15,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act);

(2) not to exceed $30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022 under this section shall not exceed $3,418,947, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $17,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act);

(2) not to exceed $50,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(3) not to exceed $17,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(4) not to exceed $3,730,507, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $11,666 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i)));

(2) not to exceed $2,664,648, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $8,334 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(3) not to exceed $10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(4) not to exceed $50,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(5) not to exceed $15,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 6. COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2023.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 under this section shall not exceed $7,869,484, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $1,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(2) not to exceed $8,383 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(3) not to exceed $8,383 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

SEC. 7. COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2023, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 under this section shall not exceed $3,340,790, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $8,395,155, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $20,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i)));

(2) not to exceed $3,278,947, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $1,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(2) not to exceed $30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022 under this section shall not exceed $5,315,718, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $17,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i)));

(2) not to exceed $8,750 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023 under this section shall not exceed $5,315,718, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $17,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i)));

(2) not to exceed $50,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).
period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 under this section shall not exceed $6,026,946, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $30,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(1))); and

(2) not to exceed $834 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(1) of that Act).

SEC. 8. COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Finance is authorized from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2023, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2023.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 under this section shall not exceed $2,511,227, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $12,500 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(1))); and

(2) not to exceed $6,250 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(1) of that Act).

SEC. 9. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Finance is authorized from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2023, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 under this section shall not exceed $5,527,337, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $4,166 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(1))); and

(2) not to exceed $834 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(1) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 under this section shall not exceed $9,475,434, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $30,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(1))); and

(2) not to exceed $8,583 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(1) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 under this section shall not exceed $3,440,073, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $150,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(1))); and

(2) not to exceed $20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(1) of that Act).

SEC. 10. COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Finance is authorized from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2023, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 under this section shall not exceed $4,816,102, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $150,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(1))); and

(2) not to exceed $20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(1) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 under this section shall not exceed $8,256,175, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $150,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(1))); and

(2) not to exceed $20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(1) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 under this section shall not exceed $3,440,073, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $150,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(1))); and

(2) not to exceed $20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(1) of that Act).

SEC. 11. COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2023, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 under this section shall not exceed $7,085,963, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(1))); and

(2) not to exceed $4,085,363 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(1))); and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.
(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 under this section shall not exceed $10,433,605, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed $20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(1) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 under this section shall not exceed $11,593,144, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed $20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(1) of that Act).

(e) INVESTIGATIONS.—

(1) GENERAL.—The committee, or any duly authorized subcommittee of the committee, is authorized to study or investigate—

(A) the efficiency and economy of operations of all branches of the Government including the possible existence of fraud, misfeasance, malfeasance, corruption, maladministration, incompetence, or unethical practices; waste; extravagances, conflicts of interest, and the improper expenditure of Government funds in transactions, contracts, and activities of the Government or of Government officials and employees and any and all such improper practices between Government personnel and corporations, individuals, companies, or persons affiliated therewith in doing business with the Government, and the compliance or noncompliance of such corporations, companies, individuals, or other entities with the rules, regulations, and laws governing the various governmental agencies and the Government’s relationships with the public;

(B) the extent to which criminal or other improper practices or activities are, or have been, engaged in the field of labor-management relations or in groups or organizations of employees, or the detriment of interests of the public, employers, or employees, and to determine whether any changes are required in the laws of the United States in order to protect such interests against the occurrence of such practices or activities;

(C) organized criminal activity which may operate between individuals or particular criminal activities of interstate or international commerce in furtherance of any transactions and the manner and extent to which, and the identity of the perpetrators or other entities with whom such utilization is being made, and further, to study and investigate the manner in which and the extent to which such criminal activity have infiltrated lawful business enterprises, and to study the adequacy of Federal laws to prevent the operations of organized crime in interstate or international commerce, and to determine whether any changes are required in the laws of the United States in order to protect against such practices or activities;

(D) all other aspects of crime and lawlessness within the United States which have an impact upon or affect the national health, welfare, or security including investment fraud schemes, commodity and security fraud, computer fraud, and the use of offshore banking and corporate facilities to evade the laws and regulations governing the allocation, conservation, or pricing of energy supplies; and

(E) to require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance of witnesses and production of correspondence, books, papers, and documents;

(F) to hold hearings;

(G) to sit and act at any time or place during the sessions, recess, and adjournment periods of the Senate;

(H) to administer oaths; and

(I) to take testimony, either orally or by sworn statement, or, in the case of staff members of the Committee and the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, by deposition in accordance with the Committee Rules of Procedure.

(4) AUTHORITY OF OTHER COMMITTEES.—Nothing contained in this subsection shall affect or impair the exercise of any other standing committee of the Senate of any power, or the discharge by such committee of any power, conferred on it by the Standing Rules of the Senate or by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946.
with its jurisdiction under rule XXXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2023, to—
(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;
(2) employ personnel; and
(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 under this section shall not exceed $1,878,570, of which amount—
(1) not to exceed $43,750 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(2) not to exceed $70,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PERIOD.—The expenses of such committee for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 under this section shall not exceed $3,368,790, of which amount—
(1) not to exceed $58,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(2) not to exceed $10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2023.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 under this section shall not exceed $1,878,570, of which amount—
(1) not to exceed $50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(2) not to exceed $10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 15. COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.
(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2023, in its discretion, to—
(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;
(2) employ personnel; and
(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 under this section shall not exceed $1,965,140, of which amount—
(1) not to exceed $50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(2) not to exceed $10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PERIOD.—The expenses of such committee for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 under this section shall not exceed $3,368,790, of which amount—
(1) not to exceed $50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(2) not to exceed $10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2023.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 under this section shall not exceed $1,878,570, of which amount—
(1) not to exceed $50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(2) not to exceed $10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 16. COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS.
(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2023, in its discretion, to—
(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;
(2) employ personnel; and
(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 under this section shall not exceed $1,678,550, of which amount—
(1) not to exceed $58,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(2) not to exceed $10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).
(as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(2) not to exceed $50,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).
(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2023.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 under this section shall not exceed $1,941,134, of which sum—
(1) not to exceed $12,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(2) not to exceed $22,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).
SEC. 17. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING.
(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions imposed by section 104 of S. Res. 4, agreed to February 4, 1977 (95th Congress), and in exercising the authority conferred on it by such section, the Special Committee on Aging is authorized from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2023, in its discretion, to—
(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;
(2) employ personnel; and
(3) with the prior consent of the Government Accountability Office, the Committee on Rules and Administration, and the Senate, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.
(b) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 under this section shall not exceed $1,744,167, of which amount—
(1) not to exceed $1,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(2) not to exceed $3,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).
(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period February 28, 2022 through September 30, 2022 under this section shall not exceed $6,991,188, of which not to exceed $7,143 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(d) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2023.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 under this section shall not exceed $2,912,995, of which not to exceed $7,143 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(e) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 under this section shall not exceed $1,941,134, of which sum—
(1) not to exceed $12,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(2) not to exceed $22,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).
SEC. 18. COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.
(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions imposed by section 165 of S. Res. 4, agreed to February 4, 1977 (95th Congress), and in exercising the authority conferred on it by such section, the Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022, in its discretion, to—
(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;
(2) employ personnel; and
(3) with the prior consent of the Government Accountability Office, the Committee on Rules and Administration, the Department of the Interior, and the Senate, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.
(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 under this section shall not exceed $32,990,879, of which amount—
(1) not to exceed $1,500 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(2) not to exceed $3,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).
(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022 under this section shall not exceed $20,000, of which amount—
(1) not to exceed $20,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(2) not to exceed $20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).
SEC. 19. COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE.
(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under S. Res. 400, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by section 5 of such S. Res. 400, the Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2023, in its discretion, to—
(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;
(2) employ personnel; and
(3) with the prior consent of the Government Accountability Office, the Committee on Rules and Administration, the Department of Justice, the Senate, and the Senate, use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.
(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 under this section shall not exceed $4,078,193, of which not to exceed $10,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(c) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 under this section shall not exceed $5,991,188, of which not to exceed $7,143 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(d) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 under this section shall not exceed $2,428,188, of which amount—
(1) not to exceed $20,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and
(2) not to exceed $20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).
SEC. 20. SPECIAL RESERVE.
(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Within the funds in the account ‘‘Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations’’, there is authorized to be established a special reserve to be available to and for the committee funders as provided in subsection (b) of which amount—
(1) for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021, an amount shall be available, not to exceed 7 percent of the amount equal to five twelfths of the appropriations for the account that are available for the period October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.
(2) for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022, an amount shall be available, not to exceed 7 percent of the amount equal to seven twelfths of the appropriations for the account that are available for that period; and
(3) for the period October 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023, an amount shall be available, not to exceed 7 percent of the amount equal to five twelfths of the appropriations for the account that are available for the period October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.
(b) AVAILABILITY.—The special reserve authorized in subsection (a) shall be available to any committee—
(1) on the basis of special need to meet unanticipated obligations incurred by that committee during the period referred to in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a); and
(2) at the request of a Chairman and Ranking Member of that committee subject to the approval of the Chairman and Ranking Members of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I have 9 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to
meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

OFFICER EUGENE GOODMAN CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

(On February 12, 2021, the Senate passed S. 35, as follows:)

S. 35

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Officer Eugene Goodman Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) On January 6, 2021, the United States Capitol Building was attacked by armed insurrectionists.

(2) Members of the United States Capitol Police force were overrun and insurrectionists breached the Capitol at multiple points.

(3) Around 2:14 in the afternoon, United States Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman confronted an angry group of insurrectionists who unlawfully entered the Capitol, according to video footage taken by Igor Bobic, a reporter with the Huffington Post.

(4) Officer Goodman, alone, delayed the mob’s advance towards the United States Senate Chamber and alerted his fellow officers to the location of the insurrectionists.

(5) Upon reaching a second floor corridor, Officer Goodman noticed the entrance to the Senate Chamber was unguarded.

(6) As the mob approached, Officer Goodman intentionally diverted attention away from the Senate entrance and led the mob to an alternate location and additional awaiting officers.

(7) At 2:15 in the afternoon, a Washington Post reporter from inside the Senate Chamber noted “Senate sealed” with Senators, staff, and members of the press inside.

(8) Officer Eugene Goodman’s selfless and quick-thinking actions doubtlessly saved lives and bought security personnel precious time to secure and ultimately evacuate the Senate before the armed mob breached the Chamber.

(9) Amidst a shocking, unpatriotic attack on the Capitol, Officer Goodman’s heroism is recognized not only by Members of Congress and staff but also by the people of the United States they represent.

(10) By putting his own life on the line and successfully, single-handedly leading insurrectionists away from the floor of the Senate Chamber, Officer Eugene Goodman performed his duty to protect the Congress with distinction, and by his actions, Officer Goodman left an indelible mark on American history.

(11) Officer Goodman’s actions exemplify the heroism of the many men and women who risked their lives to defend the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation of a medal on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to Officer Eugene Goodman.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the ‘Secretary’) shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(2) IMAGE AND NAME.—The design shall bear an image of, and inscription of the name of, Officer Eugene Goodman.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 noon, Wednesday, February 24, further, that after the cloture motion with respect to the Granholm nomination ripen at 4 p.m.; that the cloture motion on the Granholm nomination be closed; further, that upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of Jennifer Granholm to be Secretary of Energy; that the cloture motion with respect to the Granholm nomination be closed; further, that upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of Jennifer Granholm to be Secretary of Energy; that the cloture motion with respect to the Granholm nomination ripen at 4 p.m.; that the mandatory quorum call be waived; finally, that the Senate recess from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. for the all-Senators briefing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. CASEY. Mr. 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 6:51 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at 12 noon.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate February 23, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THOMAS J. VILJACK, OF IOWA, TO BE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE


LINDA THOMAS-GREENFIELD, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BOBBY WITHROW

HON. JOHN R. CARTER
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work and service of Bobby Withrow. His efforts on behalf of veterans and those in need reflect the very best of Texas values.

Since 2015, Bobby has coordinated and managed over 50 benefits and fundraisers for a host of community needs, ranging from supporting veterans and cancer patients to assisting those in their hour of need. For Bobby, there’s no task too big or too small. Whether it’s supporting those who’ve served, feeding thousands that are hungry, assisting non-profits with fundraising, or rolling up his sleeves to help families with home maintenance, Bobby’s not afraid to take on the challenges of helping others.

Public servants like Bobby Withrow make Central Texas a place that residents are proud to call home. I salute his efforts and am forever grateful for his contributions to veterans and those in need.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FRANCIS G. NEWLANDS MEMORIAL REMOVAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Ms. NORTON of Washington. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Francis G. Newlands Memorial Removal Act, which would remove the plaque and inscriptions bearing Francis G. Newlands’ name from Chevy Chase Circle, a federal park located both in the District of Columbia and Maryland. I am pleased Representative JAMIE RASKIN of Maryland joins me in introducing this bill. This bill is part of a series of statues and memorial removal bills I am introducing during Black History Month.

Newlands was a U.S. senator from Nevada, a conservationist and the founder of the Chevy Chase Land Company, which developed the Chevy Chase neighborhood that touches D.C. and Maryland. Newlands was also a segregationist. He built Connecticut Avenue and ran a streetcar up the road to the newly built Chevy Chase Lake. However, homes on Connecticut Avenue were purposely priced to keep working families out, and covenants were later added to many of the property deeds in Chevy Chase explicitly prohibiting the land from ever being owned by African Americans or Jews. These covenants have since been declared void.

Newlands went further to keep Black and white Americans separate. In the late 1800s, he and Senator William Stewart secured 2,000 acres of land for Rock Creek Park. Establishing this park not only increased property values for landowners like Newlands and Stewart, but also kept white communities distinct from emerging Black communities on what they called the “wrong side of the park.” Newlands’ racist views went even further. In 1912, he called for the repeal the 15th amendment, which gave African American men the right to vote.

The fountain was established in 1932 by Congress. In 1990, the Chevy Chase Land Company also added the plaque next to the fountain. In 2014, a resolution to remove Newlands’ name from the fountain was first introduced by the D.C. Chevy Chase Advisory Neighborhood Commission in 2014. On July 27, 2020, the commission voted unanimously to ask the National Park Service to remove the bronze plaque bearing Newlands’ name and to begin discussion on a new name for the fountain. This bill would remove Newlands’ name from the fountain and remove the plaque entirely.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENDING CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOLS ACT OF 2021

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools Act of 2021. Corporal punishment is a form of physical discipline where adults deliberately inflict pain on children in order to punish them. In schools, it typically involves the spanking or paddling of children by school officials.

Corporal punishment is harmful to long term child development. These practices are associated with physical abuse and ineffective. We as leaders should encourage our schools to adopt effective discipline strategies that will be supportive in reducing corporal punishment.

Schools must be a safe place where students are protected from harm, so that our children are able to thrive, grow, and learn. To date, corporal punishment in school is banned in 128 countries around the world. Sadly, 19 U.S. states still allow corporal punishments in their schools. Over 160,000 children in these states are subjected to corporal punishment in schools each year. This is abhorrent and unacceptable.

To end this cruel practice, the Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools Act of 2021 would prohibit any educational institution from receiving federal funding that allows school personnel to inflict corporal punishment on students and creates a new grant program to encourage improvements in school climate by promoting positive behaviors.

Madam Speaker, our schools must be a safe space for American children to learn. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this critically important bill, and hope to see its swift passage in the near future.

RECOGNIZING LINDA DAVIS

HON. YVETTE HERRELL
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge this year’s winner of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association’s Green from the Ground Up award, Linda Davis. The Cattle Growers Association awards this to individuals who display a lifetime of service to an in-sync ecosystem of land, water, wildlife, and livestock.

Linda and her husband Les have spent a lifetime tending to cattle on the Tequesquite and CS Ranch in New Mexico. Ranching has always been in her blood. Her great-grandfather established the Tequesquite Ranch in Albert, New Mexico in 1878, and she continues that legacy for future generations. Linda also remains active in her community, where she serves with the Cimarron Volunteer Ambulance Service as an Emergency Medical Technician.

This is not the first time Linda has been honored for her service. In 2000, she and her husband were inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Additionally, she has received recognition from the Cattlemen’s Beef Board, the Beef Promotion Operating Committee, the American National Cattle Women organization, The New Mexico Cattle Growers Association, and the New Mexico Beef Council. These recognitions are a testament to her hard work and leadership, and I congratulate her on this most recent award.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD FRANKLIN SHEPPARD

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Richard Franklin Sheppard, affectionately known as “Dick,” who passed away on February 12, 2021. Mr. Richard “Dick” Franklin Sheppard, born June 24, 1936, moved with his family from Oklahoma to California’s Central Valley in the early 1930s. Living near Farmersville, Dick began working in the fields around the age of seven. He later began a career in broadcasting at KRDO Radio Station while attending high school in Dinuba.

Dick managed several radio stations throughout California during his career, returning to the Central Valley as the general sales manager of KOJO FM/KRDU AM in the 1990s.
before joining the local Sanger newspaper as editor. He remained as editor for the Sanger Herald until his retirement in 2019. Dick also served his country in the U.S. Army Security Agency and the U.S. Navy Reserve in Dinuba. He enjoyed spending time with fellow veterans at the Sanger Post 7168 Veterans of Foreign Wars and the San Joaquin Post 98 AMVETS.

Renowned for his volunteer work and community involvement, Dick's legacy will not soon be forgotten. He organized an annual golf tournament fundraiser as a Golden Valley Girl Scout Council Board Member, conducted career preparation seminars for Workforce Connection, and served as a Family Self Sufficiency Board Member to help struggling families achieve economic independence. Dick was involved in several other organizations serving the Sanger and Fresno area communities: the Kiwanis Club of Dinuba, the Downtown Kiwanis Club of Fresno, the Rotary Club of the Fresno Airport, the Rotary Club in Sanger, the Sanger Unified School District Classified Employees Personnel Commission, the Sanger High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee, the Sanger Veterans Parade Committee, and the Fresno Radio Advisory Committee.

Dick was awarded several recognitions during his lifetime including the American Legion Medal for Character, the Sanger Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame, the Gold Seal award for community service presented by the Sanger Chamber of Commerce, and several journalism awards. Beloved by the Sanger community, Dick was also honored as the Grand Marshal for both the Sanger Veterans Parade and Sanger Christmas Parade in 2019.

Dick is survived by his wife Nadine; their children Mark, Cassandra and her husband Jack, and Christopher and his wife Petra; and stepson Michael and his wife Jessica. Dick is also survived by nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Richard "Dick" Franklin Sheppard. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time.

CHIEF GREEN 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Mr. BROWN. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the one-year anniversary of Chief Tiffany Green, Chief of Prince George’s County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department. In November 2018, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks appointed Chief Green who became the first African American Woman to lead a county fire department in Maryland. Upon Prince George’s County’s Fire Chief Benjamin Barksdale’s announced retirement, County Executive Alsobrooks appointed Chief Green to hold the position of fire chief in the United States of America. She inherited a department with a call volume of 152,000, a total of 638 pieces of apparatus (including command and support vehicles) with 266 specifically outfitted for fire suppression, rescue, or emergency transport.

Tiffany D. Green, a native Prince Georgian, began her career as a firefighter with the Prince George’s County Fire/EMS Department in Maryland. Tiffany recently served as a volunteer for the Oxon Hill Volunteer Fire Department for four years. As an almost 26-year fire services veteran, Tiffany holds dual bachelor’s degrees in Public Safety and Biology and a master’s degree in Emergency and Disaster Management. Climbing up the ranks, she has served in the following capacities prior to her role as a Command Staff member: Firefighter, Paramedic, Station Commander, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Public Safety, Chief of Staff for the Director of Homeland Security, Special Events Coordinator and Stadium Commander for Fed Ex field.

As Deputy Fire Chief she was responsible for Human Resources, Fiscal Affairs, Information Management, Risk Management and the Office of Service Excellence. Tiffany was recently appointed as Director of the Prince George’s County Fire/EMS Training and Leadership Academy, her primary responsibilities were training and professional development for over 900 sworn personnel and 1,200 volunteer members of the department. She also managed the Fire Department’s Cadet Program, a program for high school students who are interested in working in the Fire Services profession.

On January 15, 2020, Chief Green’s nomination was unanimously approved following a review of her exemplary over 20 years of service, her impressive record and support from many public safety and government officials.

Chief Green has made history as Prince George’s County’s first woman, first dual fire fighter/paramedic and youngest fire chief. County Executive Alsobrooks, in her nomination, made sure to emphasize Green’s wealth of experience and high ranking on each and every promotional exam—the lieutenant’s test, the captain’s exam, and battalion chief’s exam. According to County Executive Alsobrooks, Chief Green is the most qualified person to lead the Prince George’s County Fire/EMS Department at this time.

According to Chief Green, her decision to serve her community as a volunteer fire fighter “changed the trajectory of [her] life.” She recognizes the women whose shoulders she is standing on today. “Pioneers” like Maureen Hennessy, Angela Peden and the late Carla Blue who gave Chief Green their Keys to Success. And, Chief Green has vowed to “lead this department forward, to continue to be accountable, professional and community-centered.”

Her leadership of the 1,062 sworn and 1,500 volunteers has already proven to be a success on a national level. The Congressional Fire Services Institute and National Fallen Firefighters Foundation selected the Prince George’s County Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department as the combination fire department recipient of the 2020 Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award, named in honor of the late former Maryland Senator Paul Sarbanes. The award recognizes fire departments and organizations for leadership in advancing firefighter health and safety, who have developed important health and safety programs for their personnel that are based on the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives established at the 2004 Tampa Summit.

Congratulations to Chief Green on this momentous occasion, and much appreciation to her husband Alfred, and daughter Talore, for sharing her with Prince Georges County.

EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE AND STRENGTHEN MULTIEmployER PENSION PLANS

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS
OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I’d like to thank my colleague, Chairman RICHARD NEAL for his tireless work on the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2021 and for providing retirement income security for pension recipients in endangered, critical or critical and declining status multiemployer pension plans.

In Kansas, thousands of retirees currently receive pensions through the Central States Plan and they face a crisis—a severe reduction in retirement income through no fault of their own.

Without the direct relief provided in this legislation, the Central States Pension Fund would have become insolvent in 2026 and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation would have to reduce 360,000 participants’ pensions. This is unacceptable. As Chairman NEAL is all too aware, many of the participants of Central States are frontline workers who have served our country tirelessly and fearlessly in the face of the pandemic.

The present structure of these plans is unsustainable and in need of reform.

Without modernization of these plans and addressing employer liabilities, I am concerned that multiemployer pension plans and their retirees will certainly face similar circumstances in the future and require additional federal funds. This much needed relief to the plans is designed to forestall insolvency leaving important work that must follow. I believe we must seize this opportunity to reform these plans and take insolvency off the table.

I understand the Chairman is committed to working with me to modernize and strengthen multiemployer pension plans with the intent of bringing a reform package to the floor in this Congress. Could the Chairman confirm that is the case?

EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE AND STRENGTHEN MULTIEmployER PENSION PLANS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, too many workers in this nation reach retirement age without the savings they need. The retirement crisis in America is real and will only worsen unless we make saving easier and do more to encourage workers to begin planning for retirement earlier. And that’s why I’ve committed as the
Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee to addressing this crisis.

For example, about 50 percent of American workers work for an employer that does not offer a retirement plan at work. To make a significant dent in this coverage gap, it’s critical that we enact legislation that requires employers that don't currently offer a retirement plan to at a minimum provide their employees with an auto IRA option.

I’m also pleased that the American Rescue Plan Act includes the Dutch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2021, which would create a special financial assistance program under which cash payments would be made by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to financially troubled multiemployer pension plans to ensure that such plans can continue paying retirees' benefits for the next 30 years.

What we have here is a national emergency that we need to address immediately. If Congress doesn’t act, the multiemployer pension system could collapse entirely, leaving retirees in poverty, businesses in bankruptcy, and communities in crisis.

For both the multiemployer and single employer retirement plan system is a priority for the Ways and Means committee and we plan on addressing these issues this year.

I commit to working with Ms. DAVIDS on this as we move forward.

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT AS RELATED TO COVID-19

HON. GRACE MENG
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 23, 2021
Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, it has been over a year since we have seen continued COVID–19 related threats and attacks against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. As millions across our nation continue to be impacted by the coronavirus, many continue to live in fear following the dramatic increase in attacks against those of Asian descent. Recently, we have seen further escalation of horrific incidences of elderly AAPIs assaulted—resulting in even death.

Due to perpetuating anti-Asian rhetoric, misinformation, racism, discrimination, and unfounded blame for the spread of COVID–19, there has been over 3,000 reported incidents of anti-Asian hate crimes, including AAPIs being threatened, harassed, or assaulted, or having had their businesses vandalized. Just recently, in my district of Flushing, New York, a 52-year-old Asian woman was attacked and slashed across his face on a New York City subway.

It breaks my heart that, for over a year, in the midst of the COVID–19 crisis, Asian Americans have been left fighting an additional front—that of hate and bigotry. That is why I am reintroducing my resolution condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to COVID–19. This resolution denounces the anti-Asian sentiment and recognizes the safety and well-being of all Americans during these unprecedented times.

Madam Speaker, I was proud that in the last Congress, the House passed this resolution 243 to 164. However, in light of the recent dramatic increase of anti-Asian hate incidents across our country, we must coalesce and renew our efforts to condemn all manifestations of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, and anti-Asian sentiment and scapegoating. We must denounce any and all anti-Asian sentiment of any form.

Madam Speaker, the House must remain strong, and stand against the sickening intolerance, bigotry, and violence that is leaving a terrible stain on our nation’s history, especially during this moment of an unprecedented public health crisis. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to keep all Americans safe.

HONORING GARY CREED

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 23, 2021
Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Gary Creed of Shavsville, Virginia, who passed away on January 28, 2021 at the age of 74. Gary was a member of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors for several terms who worked hard for the people of the county.

Gary was the son of Melvin Lewis and Ada Mae Moore Creed. He was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2001 as the representative of District C. He promoted the Meadowbrook Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library and the Meadowbrook Community Center, supported first responders, and successfully pushed to reduce the merchants capital tax, a move that eased a burden on local businesses without depriving the county of revenue. Gary served as Chairman of the Board in 2004. He retired in 2017. In the town of Eliston, part of District C, a park currently under construction has been named after him in honor of his service.

Gary was a longtime employee at the Shelor Motor Mile auto dealership and had also worked as an auctioneer and real estate developer. He loved the sport of basketball and coached Amateur Athletic Union girls basketball.

Gary is survived by his wife, Linda Creed; son Tim Creed and wife Barbara; daughter Niki Shumate and husband John; brothers Wilford Creed and Clyde Creed; sister Elizabeth Branner; granddaughters Bridgette Bradley and husband James, Karalee Boggess and husband Mark, Karl Shumate, and great-grandchildren Jaxon, Jacob, Holt, Boone, and Allie. I offer them my condolences on their loss. Our system of government depends on citizens such as Gary Creed, who take on the tasks of local government in order to improve their communities.

RECOGNIZING DINA CHACON-REITZEL

HON. YVETTE HERRELL
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 23, 2021
Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge this year’s winner of the New Mexico Cowles Grows Association’s King Service award, Dina Chacon-Reitzel. This award is given to New Mexicans that have exhibited long standing dedication to the state’s agricultural industry and those who work within it. Born into the agricultural life, Dina grew up on a cattle ranch that has been in her family for hundreds of years. She has spent most of her career with the New Mexico Beef Council, where she fought to protect the cattle industry and pioneered implementations of consumer information programs, as well as additional research within the beef industry.

Dina’s advocacy spans from local entities, where she is involved with the New Mexico State University College of ACES, where she serves as a citizen advocate for the USDA Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching.

This is not the first time Dina’s efforts have been recognized. As a chairwoman on the New Mexico State University’s Board of Regents, she was awarded the New Mexico Outstanding Leadership Award for significant leadership towards agriculture. She was also given the Friend of Extension Award and was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award by the New Mexico State University. She was also recognized by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture with the Industry Partner Award.

Dina has exhibited the utmost dedication and leadership to the state of New Mexico and its agricultural industry, and I congratulate her on this award.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. MELVIN BANKS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 23, 2021
Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and commemorate the life and works of Dr. Melvin Banks, the founder of Urban Ministries, Incorporated. A prodigious soul, by the age of 12, Dr. Banks was already spreading the word of the gospel throughout his native state of Alabama, sharing stories of the Bible with younger children. It was when he was preaching in Birmingham that Dr. Banks heard a verse from the Book of Hosea that would change his life “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” Hearing this verse caused Dr. Banks to even further dedicate himself to spreading the gospel across the country and the world.

Dr. Banks’ study of the Bible would take him to Chicago’s Moody Bible Institute, where he was one of the institution’s few Black students, graduating in 1955. However, Dr. Banks’ educational experience was not to end there. Following his graduation, Dr. Banks continued his theological education in the Chicagoland area
They remained a “city-wide” chapter until the 1960’s.

The chapter’s first President, Vivian Osborne Marsh, went on to become Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.’s 7th National President. Throughout her life she worked to promote literacy and educational opportunities for underprivileged teenagers and children. In honor of her service and their Centennial, Kappa Chapter has created the “Vivian Osborne Marsh, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Kappa Chapter Endowed Scholarship Fund.” This is the first endowed scholarship created by any Greek Letter Organization at UC Berkeley. The $100,000 fund will generate scholarships for Black students at UC Berkeley for years to come.

Over the last 100 years Kappa Chapter and its members have continued a legacy of service to the Black community and to those in need. Current members have made exceptional efforts to promote health for women of color, social justice, professionalism, and the empowerment of Black women on campus in the greater community. Kappa Chapter has gone above and beyond to engage and inform the community by hosting programs that discuss important topics like COVID-19, Holistic Health, Black love, relationships, womanhood, empowerment, de-stigmatizing HIV/AIDS in the Black community, and social justice.

Today we celebrate 100 years of commitment to change. From the legacy of Kappa Chapter’s charter members to its current membership and newest initiates Karsyn Terry, Christine Harris, Symone Gilliam, and Robynne Oliver the legacy continues to grow.

On behalf of California’s 13th Congressional District, I want to extend my sincere congratulations on this important milestone of 100 years. I thank Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Kappa Chapter for their commitment to sisterhood, scholarship, and service. Their history of empowering black women will forever be important to Black history and I look forward to witnessing the accomplishments that will define your next 100 years.

HONORING DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY INC. KAPPA CHAPTER

HON. BARIKA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Kappa Chapter on their Centennial anniversary. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. was founded in 1913 by 22 collegiate women at Howard University and is now an international sisterhood of over 350,000 predominantly Black, collegiate women who are dedicated to providing public service through education, community outreach, and development in their communities across the globe.

On February 21, 1921, Kappa Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. was chartered. It became the first Black Greek-letter organization west of the Rocky Mountains. 100 years ago, during a time when universities across the country refused to admit Black students, seven dedicated and dauntless women from UC Berkeley, San Francisco State, and San Jose State came together to charter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Kappa Chapter. Vivian Osborne Marsh, Gladys Brown, Creola Cook, Elizabeth Gordon, Louise Thompson Patterson, Onilda Taylor, and Myrtle Price.
and service of Paul Woods who celebrated his 98th birthday on February 20, 2021. Along with defying the average lifespan and despite segregation, Paul Woods fought for our democracy in the Pacific Theater of World War II. As we celebrate Black History Month, I think there’s no better example of American courage than Paul’s own Paul Woods.

Paul Woods was born in Alabama on February 20, 1923 in an era of racial oppression and segregation. When his father died, he and siblings were split at the gravesite among relatives. Paul Woods promised that he would raise his family and for the rest of his life “Daddy” has been taking care of people.

Paul Woods joined the segregated U.S. Army in 1941 when he was just 17 years old. He often says that “A bullet knows no race, rank, or status. We were all brothers on the battlefield.” The bravery of Black units overseas belied their second-class status at home and helped lead to the abolition of racial segregation in the military in 1948 as well as the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In 2012, Paul and 30 other World War II vets were flown to the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. Five years later, Wish of a Lifetime sponsored a trip to Australia where he visited the exact location of his service during World War II and was thanked by the U.S. Consul General. Today he is the World War II Coordinator for the Jesse Clipper American Legion Post 430.

After helping to protect the Philippines, Paul Woods moved to the Buffalo region where he worked 16-hour days at Bethlehem Steel to feed his growing family. From Alabama to Australia, teenage recruit to war hero, and segregated soldier to seeing the first Black president, Paul Woods’ life has spanned continents, a world war, and the fight for racial equality. The father of 15 turned 98 on February 23, 2021 in an era of racial oppression and helped lead to the abolition of racial segregation in the military in 1948 as well as the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

As we celebrate Black History Month, I rise to pay tribute to a good man.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Phil for his service to the people of Alabama and join me in recognizing the 75th anniversary of Webb Concrete.

IN RECOGNITION OF PHIL WEBB AND THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEBB CONCRETE

HON. MIKE ROGERS
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the attention of the House to recognize Phil Webb and the 75th anniversary of Webb Concrete.

In 1946, Garth Webb started Farmers Supply Company in Heffin, Alabama. It began as a seed, fertilizer and hardware business and later a ready-mix concrete, sand and gravel company. In 1980, Phil bought the company from his father, Bobby. Since then, Phil has grown the company and added a flooring division in 2006. Today, the company offers materials to complete a project from the foundation to completion.

Webb Concrete serves East Central Alabama in six locations and has showrooms to give customers a first-hand look at everything Webb Concrete offers.

In addition to growing his family company, Phil is best known for his service to his community. He is involved on the board of directors for many organizations including Alabama Power, Greater Birmingham Association of Home Builders, also, serving as its Governmental Affairs Advocacy Vice-Chair, Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, President of University of Alabama President’s Cabinet and Capital Campaign Cabinet, JSU Foundation, JSU School of Business & Industry, Calhoun County Economic Development Council, NobleBank & Trust, The Donoho School, The Right Place and McClellan Development Authority, where he also serves as Chairman.

He is also a member of the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, YMCA of Calhoun County and Knox as well as a member of the Calhoun County Quarterback Club and Anniston Rotary Club. He previously served on the Habitat for Humanity board and has donated materials for a new Habitat home.

Phil serves as Finance Chairman for the Alabama Republican Party and a board member and past Chairman of the Board for the Greater Alabama Council Boy Scouts of America.

Phil also serves on the board of directors for the Business Council of Alabama and ProgressPAC, the Alabama Workforce Council and Nick’s Kids Foundation. He is currently a member of Leadership Alabama and on the Selection Committee for the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Phil for his service to the people of Alabama and me in recognizing the 75th anniversary of Webb Concrete.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF JUANITA VARNADO PIERCE

HON. MIKE ROGERS
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the attention of the House to recognize Juanita Varnado Pierce, Mark Loveless, and Michael O’Conner became known as the 3 musketeers in the fight against AIDS. Ben came up with the Red Ribbon Lottery Ticket as a way of raising money for HIV-AIDS awareness organizations whose budgets were 100,000 dollars or less. The first year it generated 1.4 million and the second year it generated 2.4 million, but kept working until Ben passed away.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF BILLIE HOLIDAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary achievements in the life of Billie Holiday—a gifted vocalist, a dedicated activist, and a cultural icon.

Billie Holiday’s story is one of perseverance and resiliency. Born into modest means and harsh circumstances, she suffered through a dark and difficult childhood in the face of poverty, parental absence, and trauma. But it was music—specifically, that of Louis Armstrong and Bessie Smith—that reignited her dimming spark. Through song, she found the uncanny ability to express her pain through her true voice. And what a voice it was.

Amid heightened racial tensions in the 1930s, Billie Holiday introduced a new genre of protest—melody. In her hit rendition of “Strange Fruit,” she posed an unapologetic and uncensored challenge to the injustice of lynching of black Americans at one of the darkest moments of history in our nation. Burdened by the weight of the song’s message and facing public backlash, she continued to perform and record it to reach a greater audience. Despite the vitriolic backlash, Strange Fruit quickly became the unofficial anthem of the anti-lynching movement and was an early mantra towards the success of the larger civil rights movement.

Madam Speaker, until her passing at only 44 years old, Billie Holiday had already established a legacy that would survive for generations to come. As she fortuitously predicted, her lyrics remain a main stay in modern pop culture. May we be confident in her everlasting influence, because “life dies but forever there will be music.”
The life of Juanita Varnado Pierce. She passed on February 7, 2021, at the age of 83.

Juanita (affectionately called Neat) was born to the late Howard and Maggie Lee Varnado and grew up in McComb, Mississippi. Her early education was at Pike County High School in McComb. She graduated high school at 15 and attended Henderson Business College in Memphis, Tennessee. She graduated from Tuskegee Institute, now Tuskegee University, in 1974 with a B.S. in Early Childhood Education and from Auburn University with a Master’s in Early Childhood Education in 1975.

She started teaching 2nd grade at Dean Road Elementary School in Auburn, Alabama, in August of 1975 and taught 2nd grade for 17 years. After completing her Administration Certification from the University of Alabama, she was hired as the Assistant Principal at Dean Road Elementary in the Fall of 1992 and became Principal in Fall of 1996. She retired in the Fall of 1998. As a retired educator, she volunteered throughout Tuskegee in the local school system reading to young children. To ensure all children had access to books, she founded the Bookmobile which was a remade bread truck she purchased and drove it throughout Macon County giving free books to children. Continuing in her passion of educating and reading, Juanita established the S.M.A.R.T. (Science, Math, Art, Reading and Technology) Camp in 2005. Funded by grants and donations, this free two-week camp was held at George Washington Carver Elementary School due to the large size of participants.

Juanita was a devoted member of Washington Chapel A.M.E. Church. After joining in 1960, she started teaching the pre-school Sunday School class and remained the teacher for nearly 50 years. She served in the Cathedral and Gospel Choirs, the Stewardess Board and Steward Board.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, Booker T. Pierce, Sr.; her sisters Patricia Varnado and Artis Varnado; and a brother, Charles Varnado. Remaining to continue her legacy are her three children, Booker T. Pierce, Jr. (Nashville, TN); Vincent B. Pierce, Jr. (Nashville, TN); Nicholas Bernard Grant (Newport News, VA); two grandchildren, Nicholas Bernard Grant (Newport News, VA) and Dominque Pierce (Pompano Beach, FL); her sister Lottie (Harrison) Varnado-Williams (Diamondhead, MS) and one brother Howard Varnado, Jr. (Milpitas, CA); two brothers-in-law, Fletcher (Sylvia) Pierce (McComb, SC) and James Pierce (Montgomery, AL), two sisters-in-law, Cebell Miller (Griffin, GA) and Roxanne Pierce (Bessmer, AL); and a host of devoted cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Juanita's memory. She was a humble servant who gave willingly and unconditionally to everyone she encountered. She will be missed by her family, friends and the Tuskegee Community.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY ELLA HARRIS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation.

Whereas, the Almighty God has called to her eternal rest Mrs. Mary Ella Harris, a pioneer civic, community, social, religious and political activist in the North Lawndale Community of Chicago and its environs; and

Whereas, Mary Harris and her family were some of the very first blacks to move into and reside in what was then an all white community; and

Whereas, as the community changed and as Blacks poured in, many from the rural south, Mary’s leadership shined like the bright light that she was; and

Whereas, Mary was not necessarily the loudest and most militant sounding person in the meetings she was always there and when she spoke, people listened and took action based upon what she said. For many years Carey Tercentenary AME Church was blessed to have four of its members known as leading activist and leaders in the Lawndale Community; Mrs. Nola Bright, Mrs. Jacqueline Ford, Mr. Theodis Leonard and Mrs. Mary Ella Harris.

Now, therefore be it Resolved that we cherish the life, work, contributions and legacy of Mrs. Mary Ella Harris and extend condolences to her family and friends, son, Reverend Walter Harris, daughters, Ms. Jeanetta Lee, Ms. Pamela Ella and son, James Leo Jr., grandchildren, great grandchildren and other relatives.

She served us well and now may she rest in peace.

MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS FOR THESPIAN TROUPE 3991 AT NEW JERSEY’S HIGHTSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to send my sincere congratulations and heartfelt thanks to the members of Thespian Troupe 3991 at Hightstown High School for their incredible efforts in collecting 84 pounds of food for Rise Food Pantry as part of New Jersey Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat. The dedication that they have shown to this program—from re-creating a national initiative at the state level so they can continue fighting childhood hunger, to achieving such tremendous feats in their 2020 food drive—is a true testament to the character and focus of their members.

Whether this drive is their last, their first, one of many, or the only one that they will participate in, I hope that they can feel the impact that they have had on the community they live in, and that they remember that they are always capable of such impact. I applaud them on this achievement, and I look forward to all that they will accomplish in their futures.

Again, Congratulations.

IN RECOGNITION OF RUDENE MCCOY’S 92ND BIRTHDAY

HON. MIKE ROGERS
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House’s attention to recognize Mrs. Rudene McCoy. Mrs. McCoy turned 92 on December 21, 2020.

Rudene was born in Chambers County, the daughter of L. L. and Ruby Aaron. She was raised in Lanett and is a graduate of Lanett High School. Rudene earned her B.S. degree in nursing from the University of Georgia.

Rudene had a tremendous career as a registered nurse in the area of cardiology. She was mentored by renowned cardiologist, Dr. Robert Copeland, and served as his chief cardiac nurse for over 30 years. Based on her outstanding patient care, she was named Chambers County Nurse of the Year and received numerous accolades from the Georgia Heart Clinic.

In addition to her profession, Rudene was devout in her support of her family, church and the City of Lanett. She is a life-member of the United Methodist Church of Lanett where she taught Sunday School, served on Administrative Board and was named Woman of the Year. Rudene also co-chaired the Centennial Committee that planned and prepared Lanett’s 100-year celebration in 1995.

Rudene has been known as First Lady and First Mother of the City of Lanett. Her husband, Pete, was a longtime Councilman and Mayor for the City. Her son Kyle is the current Mayor of Lanett; her daughter Valerie is a registered nurse like Rudene; and her son Skip is the County Attorney for Chambers County.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Rudene for her service to the people of Lanett and Chambers County and join me in wishing her a very happy 92nd birthday.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DETECTIVE TYRONE P. JACKSON ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT (STAR NUMBER 21175)

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 23, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, law enforcement can be one of the toughest careers, one of the most rewarding jobs and one of the areas from which one can derive a very high level of satisfaction.

Such has been the experiences of Detective Tyrone Jackson who grew up in Chicago, went to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, returned home and joined the Chicago Police Department, and is now ready to enter a new phase of life.

During his 30-year tenure with the Chicago Police Department, Detective Jackson worked with several units, from Narcotics to Organized Crime, to the SAM Unit (Stop Alcohol to Minors), Prostitution, and FBI Operations in finding missing youth in Human Trafficking.
In addition to his police work, Detective Jackson is actively involved in his community. He has been an active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity since 1977, a member of the Evergreen Park Alumni Chapter and an officer with the Apostolic Faith Church in Chicago.

Congratulations Detective Jackson on an outstanding career.

He still has much more service to perform, and I am certain that he will do it well.
HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Thomas J. Vilsack, of Iowa, to be Secretary of Agriculture.
Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine emerging technologies and their impact on national security, after receiving testimony from General Herbert J. Carlisle, USAF (Ret.), National Defense Industrial Association; Eric E. Schmidt, Schmidt Futures; and Brad L. Smith, Microsoft Corporation.

SEMIANNUAL MONETARY POLICY REPORT
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, after receiving testimony from Jerome H. Powell, Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

NOMINATION
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee began hearings to examine the nomination of Debra Anne Haaland, of New Mexico, to be Secretary of the Interior, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Heinrich and Representative Young, testified and answered questions in her own behalf, but did not complete action thereon.

Hearing recessed subject to the call and will meet again at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

NOMINATION
Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Adewale O. Adeyemo, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING
Committee on Foreign Relations: On Monday, February 22, 2021, Committee ordered favorably reported an original resolution (S. Res. 64) authorizing expenditures by the Committee, and adopted its rules of procedure for the 117th Congress.

JANUARY 6 ATTACK ON THE CAPITOL
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Committee on Rules and Administration: Committees concluded a joint hearing to examine the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol, after receiving testimony from Acting Chief Robert J. Contee, III, Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C.; Steven A. Sund, former Chief of the U.S. Capitol Police; Michael C. Stenger, former Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, U.S. Senate; and Paul D. Irving, former Sergeant at Arms, U.S. House of Representatives.

BUSINESS MEETING
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 117th Congress:

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations: Senators Ossoff (Chair), Carper, Hassan, Padilla, Johnson, Paul, Lankford, and Scott (FL).
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight: Senators Hassan (Chair), Sinema, Rosen, Ossoff, Paul, Romney, Scott (FL), and Hawley.
Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management: Senators Sinema (Chair), Carper, Padilla, Ossoff, Lankford, Johnson, Romney, and Hawley.

Senators Peters and Portman are ex-officio members of each subcommittee.

NOMINATION
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Feinstein and Padilla, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATION
Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Merrick Brian Garland, of Maryland, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice, after receiving testimony from Josh Blackman, South Texas College of Law, Houston; Donna Bucella, former Director, Executive Office for United States Attorneys and former U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, Irving, Texas; Wade Henderson, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and Andrea Tucker, both of Washington, D.C.; and Ken Starr, Waco, Texas.

HACK OF U.S. NETWORKS
Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the hack of U.S. networks by a foreign adversary, after receiving testimony from Kevin Mandia, FireEye, Inc., Reston, Virginia; Sudhakar Ramakrishna, SolarWinds Inc., Austin, Texas; Brad Smith, Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington; and George Kurtz, CrowdStrike, Sunnyvale, California.
House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 64 public bills, H.R. 1,210–1,273; and 7 resolutions, H. Res. 146, 148–153 were introduced. Pages H584–87

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H589–90

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 147, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 803) to designate certain lands in the State of Colorado as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–6). Page H584

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 146, electing a Member to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. Page H551

Recess: The House recessed at 2:11 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. Page H552

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Charlotte Street in Georgetown, South Carolina, as the “Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office Building”; H.R. 264, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Charlotte Street in Georgetown, South Carolina, as the “Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office Building”; Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 Minnetonka Avenue South in Wayzata, Minnesota, as the “Jim Ramstad Post Office”; H.R. 772, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 Minnetonka Avenue South in Wayzata, Minnesota, as the “Jim Ramstad Post Office”; and Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1050 Sunset Road Southwest in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the “Jose Hernandez Post Office Building”; H.R. 813, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1050 Sunset Road Southwest in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the “Jose Hernandez Post Office Building”; and Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 West Main Street, Suite 102 in Tupelo, Mississippi, as the “Colonel Carlyle ‘Smitty’ Harris Post Office”: H.R. 208, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 West Main Street, Suite 102 in Tupelo, Mississippi, as the “Colonel Carlyle ‘Smitty’ Harris Post Office”, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 406 yeas to 15 nays, Roll No. 32. Pages H556–57, H563–64

Recess: The House recessed at 5:25 p.m. and reconvened at 6:31 p.m. Page H563

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act: H.R. 546, to regulate monitoring of electronic communications between an incarcerated person in a Bureau of Prisons facility and that person’s attorney or other legal representative; and Pages H557–60

Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021: H.R. 1192, To impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as “PROMESA”). Pages H560–63

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appeared on pages H563–64.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Committee Meetings

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held an oversight hearing on the Internal Revenue Service. Testimony was heard from Charles P. Rettig, Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, Internal Revenue Service.

INNOVATION OPPORTUNITIES AND VISION FOR THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ENTERPRISE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems held a hearing entitled “Innovation Opportunities and Vision for the Science and Technology Enterprise”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.
NEAR-PEER ADVANCEMENTS IN SPACE AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing entitled “Near-Peer Advancements in Space and Nuclear Weapons”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PATHWAY TO PROTECTION: EXPANDING AVAILABILITY OF COVID–19 VACCINES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Pathway to Protection: Expanding Availability of COVID–19 Vaccines”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REVITALIZING THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled “Re-vitalizing the Federal Workforce”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

COLORADO WILDERNESS ACT OF 2021; EQUALITY ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 803, the “Colorado Wilderness Act of 2021”; and H.R. 5, the “Equality Act”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 7–4, a rule providing consideration of H.R. 803, the “Protecting America’s Wilderness and Public Lands Act”, and H.R. 5, the “Equality Act”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 803, the “Protecting America’s Wilderness and Public Lands Act”, under a structured rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–2, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides that following debate, each further amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. Section 3 of the rule provides that at any time after debate the chair of the Committee on Natural Resources or his designee may offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report not earlier disposed of Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their designee, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the Rules Committee report or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of the resolution. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 5, the “Equality Act”, under a closed rule. The rule provides 90 minutes of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Representatives Cicilline, Jordan, DeGette, Westerman, Plaskett, Boebert, Burgess, and Stauber.

BUILDING BACK BETTER: THE URGENT NEED FOR INVESTMENT IN AMERICA’S WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled “Building Back Better: The Urgent Need for Investment in America’s Wastewater Infrastructure”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on the Budget: business meeting to consider the nomination of Neera Tanden, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Time to be announced, S–207, Capitol.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to continue hearings to examine the nomination of Debra Anne Haaland, of New Mexico, to be Secretary of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD–366.
Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine investing in transportation while addressing climate change, improving equity, and fostering economic growth and innovation, 10:15 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, 2 p.m., SD–106.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider the nomination of Neera Tanden, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and committee rules of procedure for the 117th Congress, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine native communities’ priorities in focus for the 117th Congress, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: business meeting to consider the nomination of Isabella Casillas Guzman, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration, 2:30 p.m., SD–215.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine vaccines for vets, focusing on ending the COVID–19 pandemic, 4 p.m., SD–G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of William Joseph Burns, of Maryland, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SVC–217, 10 a.m., SR–301.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled “Future Defense Spending”, 9:30 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, budget hearing on the Judiciary, 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Ready or Not: U.S. Public Health Infrastructure”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing entitled “Health and Wellness of Employees and State of Damage and Preservation as a Result of the January 6 Insurrection”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Fanning the Flames: Disinformation and Extremism in the Media”, 12:30 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “How Invidious Discrimination Works and Hurts: An Examination of Lending Discrimination and Its Long-term Economic Impacts on Borrowers of Color”, 3 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “America Forward: Restoring Diplomacy and Development in a Fracturing World”, 1:30 p.m., Webex.


Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Legislative Proposals to Put the Postal Service on Sustainable Financial Footing”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations, hearing entitled “Perspectives from Main Street: Raising the Wage”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled “Examining Equity in Transportation Safety Enforcement”, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Webex.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
12 noon, Wednesday, February 24

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Jennifer Mulhern Granholm, of Michigan, to be Secretary of Energy, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 4 p.m.

(Senate will recess from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. for an all Senators briefing.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Wednesday, February 24

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 803—Colorado Wilderness Act of 2021 (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of H.R. 5—Equality Act (Subject to a Rule).

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