The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUÉLLAR).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, March 10, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Henry CUÉLLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, as these lawmakers take their sides on this factional bill before them, we pray Your mercy.

Forgive them—all of them—for when called upon to respond to a once-in-a-century pandemic that has rocked our country, upended its economy, and widened the chasm of partisan opinion, they have missed the opportunity to step above the fray and unite to attend to this national crisis.

In failing to address the acrimony and divisions which have prevailed in this room, the servants You have called to lead this country have contributed to the spread of an even more insidious contagion of bitterness and spite.

Rather than employing the preventive measures of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, this armor has been set aside in favor of argument, disparaging words, and divisiveness.

You have warned us that a house divided against itself cannot stand. And now we stand in need of healing and reconciliation.

From 2008 to 2017, Dr. Blair served as board chairman for BAPAC, an organization that strives to ensure the Black community in San Diego County remains a relevant economic, social force in southern California.

In 2017, he was elected as BAPAC’s president, where he continued his work in civil and human rights and used his stature to promote quality leadership in the community.

We are very lucky to have a leader like Dr. Blair, who paved the way for future changemakers. All of us who knew Dr. Blair loved him and respected him dearly. We are saddened by his passing.

TAKING AWAY EMPLOYEE CHOICE

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

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, last year, I stood right here and argued against the many concerns I have with the PRO Act. Thirteen months later, nothing has been done to address those concerns or earn bipartisan support.

The PRO Act is a dangerous example of power for union leaders without necessary protections for union members. One of the biggest glaring failures of this legislation is taking away employee choice, effectively repeating right-to-work laws across the country, like in my home State of Oklahoma, where we choose to empower employees and employers alike. Where workers have previously had the freedom to choose whether or not to pay fees and join unions, they will now be forced to pay membership fees or lose their job.

American workers and American ingenuity made our country what it is
today. If my colleagues insist on moving forward with legislation that empowers union bosses and strips independence from our workers, we will lose to countries like China, who profit from sweatshops and child labor.

Many of the ideas in this bill have already been rejected in the court system, making this bill pointless and a waste of time.

THIS PANDEMIC REQUIRES A BOLD INVESTMENT

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic requires bold investment, and that is what the American Rescue Plan is.

This bill invests $20 billion to get shots in arms and make sure everyone knows where, when, and how to get a vaccine.

Many students are back in school or are going back soon. California will get $15 billion to reopen safely and keep schools open to make up for lost time.

We also invested in the backbone of our economy: small businesses. In fact, economists believe this bill can bring us back to near full employment in about a year.

To ensure local governments can keep providing essential services, this bill delivers over $259 million to cities and counties in my district alone.

Finally, this package invests in the American people. Direct payments, unemployment benefits, tax credits, and healthcare subsidies will help lift 12 million people out of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to voting for this bill.

SPENDING BILL IS NOT TARGETED, TIMELY, NOR TIED TO COVID RELIEF

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the partisan $1.9 trillion spending bill before us today. It is shameful that Democrats have disregarded their obligation to provide real COVID relief to the American people and are instead attempting to use this process to jam through partisan agenda items.

This bill is not targeted, timely, nor tied to COVID relief. We need to focus this process to jam through partisan measures, nearly half won’t even be spent on COVID-19, and outside of stimulus payments, nearly half won’t even be spent this year. It is simply unfathomable that Democrats want to spend money years down the road when we have so many pressing needs to address today.

We have worked in a bipartisan manner to pass five—five—relief measures, and I am disappointed that the Democrats have decided to be so egregiously partisan in a time of crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

A MAJORITY OF AMERICANS SUPPORT UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, more than 90 percent of Americans support universal background checks for those purchasing guns. Today, I urge my colleagues to do the same by supporting H.R. 8 and H.R. 1446. These bills will keep guns out of the hands of those who aren’t allowed to have them in the first place.

For years, I have introduced a bill to prevent people from skipping the background check process by purchasing guns at gun shows, and I am very glad that H.R. 8 accomplishes this. If you can’t buy a gun from a licensed dealer, you shouldn’t be able to buy a gun anywhere, especially at a gun show.

H.R. 1446 closes the Charleston loophole, which allows individuals to buy guns before their background check is completed. Ensuring community safety shouldn’t have a back door.

With gun deaths and gun sales surging in 2020, we must act now to close these loopholes and meaningfully combat gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on these two votes today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GLENNNA FOUBERG

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, Glenna Fouberg was a force of nature. Her list of accomplishments makes that clear.

She made real and lasting contributions to at-risk youth, the board of education, the Indian Education Summit, Teach for America, YMCA, Northern State, and her church. She was named Sisseton Teacher of the Year in 1994, and she was a member of the South Dakota Hall of Fame. As I said, she was a force of nature.

But Glenna Fouberg was not a list of accomplishments to me, Mr. Speaker. She was a friend. For 20 years, she gave me advice and counsel. Like a good teacher, she always gave it to me straight.

She gave gifts like that to so many. Earlier this week, I was talking to my friend Tom, who said that during the pandemic, 18-year-old Gianna Foubert, a force of nature and a legend, had been teaching his 12-year-old daughter how to knit.

When Glenna died in January, she left behind her loving family and thousands of us to whom she had taught so much.

TODAY WE ARE HELPING MAIN STREET

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, the House will vote to approve the American Rescue Plan for poor and middle America.

The false choice of Wall Street or Main Street is no more. This plan helps the neighborhoods and the homes where real people live and struggle every day.

This plan is supported by 75 percent of the American people. It will help the cities of Niagara Falls and Buffalo, the county of Erie; will return the American economy to full employment; and will grow that economy by 6 percent, a rate not seen in many, many decades. This is a good plan that provides direct assistance to the people of this country who need it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this plan.

HONORING THE SELFLESS BRAVERY OF TIMOTHY CHADWICK, SR.

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the selfless bravery and service of a member of my community in New York’s 22nd Congressional District, Timothy Chadwick, Sr.

Mr. Chadwick served our country in the Air Force during the Vietnam war. Timothy’s story is shared by so many Vietnam veterans across our country. While serving in Laos, Timothy was exposed to Agent Orange, which has plagued his health ever since.

Many U.S. servicemembers who were stationed in Vietnam were exposed to the toxic herbicide known as Agent Orange. As a result, our veterans are at an increased risk of developing cancer, Parkinson’s disease, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, and many other deadly illnesses.

These brave veterans risked everything to defend our freedom, and they deserve our support as they overcome the effects of their service. I will never stop standing up and fighting for veterans like they stood up and fought for us.

God bless men like Timothy Chadwick and so many others who served our Nation honorably, and God bless all the men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

SALUTING ALIYAH BOSTON

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor Aliyah Boston, a 16-year-old student at the University of California–San Diego, who was in the 10th floor of her dormitory when the fire started. Aliyah received Hero of the Year award for her selfless action in risking her life to save the lives of her peers.

Now, on this March 10, 2021, let us all think of the sacrifices that our men and women in uniform have made for our country and the sacrifices that the families of those who have served have made.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.
minute and to revise and extend her remarks.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, this month is not only Women’s History Month, but it is also Virgin Islands History Month, and what better way to celebrate it than today for me to salute Virgin Islands native and basketball upcoming star, Aliyah Boston, who had another dominant performance in South Carolina’s 67–62 win over Georgia in the SEC tournament final.

Boston put up 2 points and 10 rebounds for her 15th double-double of the year, and was named the tournament MVP as South Carolina captured its sixth championship in the last 7 years.

“Aliyah was huge,” said Coach Dawn Staley after the game, “She has to be that dominant in order for us to win these kind of basketball games.”

Aliyah, you are huge. You are dominant. And what better way to recognize Women’s History Month and Virgin Islands History Month by a Virgin Islander and a woman making history.

Mr. Speaker, just over 1 year ago, we entered a COVID crackdown. Businesses and schools shut their doors—some of them, sadly, for good. Communities across the Nation continue to feel this pain.

For more than 365 days, far too many of our Nation’s school children have been confined to virtual learning—forced to sit at home behind a computer instead of a classroom.

The implications of students being left out of the classroom are much bigger than parents being inconvenienced or students missing their friends. Every day that we wait to reopen our schools is another day we look the other way as youth mental health continues to plummet.

Every day we wait to reopen our schools is another day our students fall behind.

Mr. Speaker, allowing American school children to return to the classroom is long overdue. It is time to listen to the science. It is time to put the students first. And it is time to reopen our schools.

A PLEA TO ALL TEXANS

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

Mr. Speaker, this morning I make a personal plea to my fellow Texans.

I recognize that there has been an overload of tiredness and desire to go back to work and maybe a desire to party. Unfortunately, with bad advice and political emphasis, the mask order will be lifted today on March 10 in our State.

Our State is being plagued by the United Kingdom variant. We are still on the hot list for the number of deaths. We have not reached a certain number in terms of lowering the infection rate, and we haven’t reached any kind of level in terms of vaccination.

Removing the restrictions and having remove-mask parties is going to be a disaster.

I make this plea: Wear your mask, socially distance. Restaurants and other businesses be responsible.

We are on the way with a rescue, but I beg of my fellow Texans, let us not go backwards to create more deaths, to create more hospitalizations, more loved ones that we will not have at the dinner table.

This is not a time to go backwards. This is a time to go forward. Wear your mask. Let’s be responsible.

I ask my constituents on Washington Avenue: Do not have a remove-mask party tonight because you will be walking into a destiny of death.

EXCUSES

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, after enactment of five bipartisan COVID relief bills last year totaling $4 trillion in assistance for healthcare workers, businesses, schools, testing, and vaccines, with over $1 trillion in already appropriated funds still unspent, with an unprecedented level of monetary stimulus from the Fed already in the pipeline with no end in sight, with massive point-up in the economy poised for full recovery, with the success of Operation Warp Speed delivering multiple safe and effective vaccines in record time, with literally millions of Americans benefiting from the mass distribution of those vaccines every single day, with all of these heroic efforts to defeat this virus already in place, why is it that Democrats in Congress are so determined at all costs to ram through this hyperpartisan $2 trillion spending spree with zero bipartisan support?

The answer is that they are exploiting this pandemic as an excuse:

An excuse to force passage of this budget-busting monstrosity, 90 percent of which is totally unrelated to COVID-19.

An excuse to bail out mismanaged State and local governments for liabilities unrelated to COVID.

An excuse to use taxpayer funds to fund Planned Parenthood.

An excuse to send stimulus checks to prisoners and illegal immigrants.

An excuse to expand the welfare state and pay people not to work.

In sum, an excuse to advance an unrelated liberal agenda Democrats call the “most progressive bill in American history” that will lead to huge tax increases.

I urge all my colleagues to vote “no.”

REOPEN AMERICA

(Mrs. GREENE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and the good gentleman here for explaining why $1.9 trillion in spending is reckless, irresponsible, and the wrong thing to do.

We still have $1 trillion set aside for COVID relief and spending. There is no need to enslave the American people, our children, our grandchildren, our great grandchildren, and generations going forward in more debt.

We are $28 trillion in debt. This Congress is ramming through unbelievable things at a rapid pace.

This must be stopped. We have to give pause and consideration to what we are doing. This is a waste of money and a complete waste of time.

Reopening America is a much better way to go.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn. The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(8) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 149, nays 235, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 71]

YEAS—149

Aderholt
Allen
Armstrong
Crawford
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Bonta
Bergman
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Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
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Carlson
Carter (GA)
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Chabot
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Greene (GA)
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Harrington
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Hilliard
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SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of Contents.

TITLE I—COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Subtitle A—Agriculture

Sec. 1001. Food supply chain and agriculture pandemic response.
Sec. 1002. Emergency rural development grants for crops, livestock, and aquaculture.
Sec. 1003. Pandemic program administration funds.
Sec. 1004. Funding for the USDA Office of Inspector General.
Sec. 1005. Farm loan assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.
Sec. 1006. USDA assistance and support for socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, forest land owners and operators, and groups.

Sec. 1007. Use of the Commodity Credit Corporation for commodities and associated expenses.

Subtitle B—Nutrition

Sec. 1101. Supplemental nutrition assistance program.
Sec. 1102. Additional assistance for SNAP online purchasing and technology improvements.
Sec. 1103. Additional funding for nutrition assistance programs.
Sec. 1104. Commodity supplemental food program.
Sec. 1105. Improvements to WIC benefits.
Sec. 1106. WIC program modernization.
Sec. 1107. Meals and supplements reimbursements for individuals who have not attained the age of 25.
Sec. 1108. Pandemic EBT program.

TITLE II—COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Subtitle A—Education Matters

PART I—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Sec. 2005. Outlying areas.
Sec. 2007. Student aid administration for individuals who have not attained the age of 25.
Sec. 2010. Institute of Education Sciences.
Sec. 2011. Program administration.
Sec. 2013. Modification of revenue requirements for proprietary institutions of higher education.
Sec. 2014. Funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

PART II—MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY

Sec. 3001. Maternal, infant, and early childhood health programs.
Sec. 3002. National Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.
Sec. 3003. Pandemic preparedness and response.

Subtitle B—Labor Matters

Sec. 3001. Funding for Department of Labor worker protection activities.
Sec. 3002. Human Services and Community Support.

Sec. 4001. Child Care and Development Block Grant Program.
Sec. 4002. Child Care Stabilization.
Sec. 4003. Head Start.
Sec. 4004. Programs for survivors.
Sec. 2901. Additional enhanced benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

Sec. 2902. Extended unemployment benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

Sec. 2903. Extension of waiver of the 7-day waiting period for benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.


Subtitle K—Ratepayer Protection

Sec. 2911. Funding for LIHEAP.

Sec. 2912. Funding for water assistance programs.

Subtitle L—Assistance for Older Americans, Grandfamilies, and Kinship Families

Sec. 2921. Supporting older americans and their families.

Sec. 2922. National Technical Assistance Center on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families.

TITLED—COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Subtitle A—Defense Production Act of 1950

Sec. 3001. COVID–19 emergency medical supplies enhancement.

Subtitle B—Housing Provisions

Sec. 3201. Emergency rental assistance.

Sec. 3202. Emergency housing vouchers.

Sec. 3203. Emergency assistance for rural housing.

Sec. 3204. Housing counseling.

Sec. 3205. Homelessness assistance and supportive services program.

Sec. 3206. Homemaker Assistance Fund.

Sec. 3207. Relief measures for section 502 and 504 direct loan borrowers.

Sec. 3208. Fair housing activities.

Subtitle C—Small Business (SSBIC)

Sec. 3301. State Small Business Credit Initiative.

Subtitle D—Public Transportation

Sec. 3401. Federal Transit Administration grants.

TITLED—COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Sec. 4001. Emergency Federal Employee Leave Fund.

Sec. 4002. Funding for the Government Accountability Office.

Sec. 4003. Pandemic Response Accountability Committee funding availability.

Sec. 4004. Funding for the White House.


Sec. 4006. Funeral assistance.

Sec. 4007. Emergency food and shelter program funding.

Sec. 4008. Humanitarian relief.

Sec. 4009. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Sec. 4010. Appropriation for the United States Digital Service.

Sec. 4011. Appropriation for the Technology Modernization Fund.

Sec. 4012. Appropriation for the Federal Citizen Services Fund.

Sec. 4013. AFG and SAFER program funding.

Sec. 4014. Emergency management performance grant funding.

Sec. 4015. Extension of reimbursement authority for Federal contractors.

Sec. 4016. Eligibility for workers' compensation benefits for Federal employees diagnosed with COVID–19.

TITLED—COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURIHPERSHIP

Sec. 5001. Modifications to paycheck protection program.

Sec. 5002. Targeted EIDL advance.

Sec. 5003. Support for restaurants.

Sec. 5004. Community navigator pilot program.

Sec. 5005. Shuttered venue operators.

Sec. 5006. Direct appropriations.

TITLED—COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Sec. 6001. Economic adjustment assistance.

Sec. 6002. Funding for pollution and disparate impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic.

Sec. 6003. United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

TITLED—COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Subtitle A—Transportation and Infrastructure

Sec. 7001. Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.

Sec. 7002. Relief for airports.

Sec. 7003. Emergency FAA Employee Leave Fund.

Sec. 7004. Emergency TSA Employee Leave Fund.

Subtitle B—Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection

Sec. 7005. Definitions.

Sec. 7006. Payroll support program.

Subtitle C—Airlines

Sec. 7011. Air Transportation Payroll Support Program Extension.

Subtitle D—Consumer Protection and Commerce Oversight

Sec. 7021. Funding for consumer product safety fund to protect consumers from potentially dangerous products related to COVID–19.

Sec. 7022. Funding for E-Rate support for emergency educational connections and devices.

Sec. 7023. Funding for Department of Commerce Inspector General.

Sec. 7024. Federal Trade Commission funding for COVID–19 related work.

Subtitle E—Science and Technology

Sec. 7031. National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Sec. 7032. National Science Foundation.

Subtitle F—Corporation for Public Broadcasting

Sec. 7041. Support for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

TITLED—COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

Sec. 8001. Funding for claims and appeals processing.

Sec. 8002. Funding availability for medical care and health needs.

Sec. 8003. Funding for supply chain modernization.

Sec. 8004. Funding for State homes.

Sec. 8005. Funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General.

Sec. 8006. Covid–19 veteran rapid retraining assistance program.

Sec. 8007. Prohibition on copayments and cost sharing for veterans during emergency relating to COVID–19.

Sec. 8008. Emergency Department of Veterans Affairs Employee Leave Fund.

TITLED—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Subtitle A—Crisis Support for Unemployed Workers

PART I—EXTENSION OF CARES ACT UNEMPLOYMENT PROVISIONS

Sec. 9011. Extension of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

Sec. 9012. Extension of emergency unemployment relief for governmental entities and nonprofit organizations.

Sec. 9013. Extension of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation.

Sec. 9014. Extension of full Federal funding of the first week of compensable regular unemployment for States with no waiting week.

Sec. 9015. Extension of emergency State staffing flexibility.

Sec. 9016. Extension of pandemic emergency unemployment compensation.
Sec. 9017. Extension of temporary financing of short-time compensation payments in States with programs in law.

Sec. 9018. Extension of temporary financing of short-time compensation agreements for States without programs in law.

PART 2—EXTENSION OF FFCCA UNEMPLOYMENT PROVISIONS

Sec. 9021. Extension of temporary assistance for States with advances.

Sec. 9022. Extension of full Federal funding of extended unemployment compensation.

PART 3—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FUNDING FOR TIMELY, ACCURATE, AND EQUITABLE PAYMENT

Sec. 9031. Funding for administration.

Sec. 9032. Funding for fraud prevention, equitable access, and timely payment to eligible workers.

PART 4—OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec. 9041. Extension of limitation on excess business losses of noncorporate taxpayers.

Sec. 9042. Suspension of tax on portion of unemployment compensation.

Subtitle B—Emergency Assistance to Families Through Home Visiting Programs

Sec. 9101. Emergency assistance to families through home visiting programs.

Subtitle C—Emergency Assistance to Children and Families

Sec. 9201. Pandemic Emergency Assistance.

Subtitle D—Elder Justice and Support Guarantee

Sec. 9301. Additional funding for aging and disability services programs.

Subtitle E—Support to Skilled Nursing Facilities in Response to COVID–19

Sec. 9401. Provision for infection control support to skilled nursing facilities through contracts with quality improvement organizations.

Sec. 9402. Funding for strike teams for resident and employee safety in skilled nursing facilities.

Subtitle F—Preserving Health Benefits for Workers

Sec. 9501. Preserving health benefits for workers.

Subtitle G—Promoting Economic Security

PART 1—2021 RECOVERY RELATES TO INDIVIDUALS

Sec. 9601. 2021 recovery rebates to individuals.


Sec. 9612. Application of child tax credit in possession.

PART 3—EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

Sec. 9621. Strengthening the earned income tax credit for individuals with no qualifying children.

Sec. 9622. Taxpayer eligible for childless earned income credit in case of qualifying children who fail to meet certain identification requirements.

Sec. 9623. Credit allowed in case of certain separated spouses.

Sec. 9624. Modification of disqualified investment income test.

Sec. 9625. Application of earned income tax credit in possessions of the United States.

Sec. 9626. Temporary special rule for determining earned income for purposes of earned income tax credit.

PART 4—DEPENDENCY CARE ASSISTANCE

Sec. 9631. Refundability and enhancement of child and dependent care tax credit.

Sec. 9632. Increase in exclusion for employer-provided dependent care assistance.

PART 5—CREDITS FOR PAID SICK AND FAMILY LEAVE

Sec. 9634. Payroll credits.

Sec. 9642. Credit for sick leave for certain self-employed individuals.

Sec. 9643. Credit for family leave for certain self-employed individuals.

PART 6—EMPLOYER RETENTION CREDIT

Sec. 9651. Extension of employee retention credit.

PART 7—PREMIUM TAX CREDIT

Sec. 9661. Improving affordability by expanding premium assistance for consumers.

Sec. 9662. Temporary modification of limitations on reconciliation of tax credits for coverage under a qualified health plan with advances payments of such credit.

Sec. 9663. Application of premium tax credit in case of individuals receiving unemployment compensation during 2020.

PART 8—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 9701. Temporary delay of designation of multijob employers as in endangered, critical, or declining status.

Sec. 9702. Temporary extension of the funding improvement and rehabilitation periods for multijob employer pension plans in critical and endangered status for 2020 or 2021.

Sec. 9703. Adjustments to funding standard account rules.

Sec. 9704. Special financial assistance program for financially troubled multijob employer plans.

Sec. 9705. Extended amortization for single employer plans.

Sec. 9706. Extension of pension funding stabilization percentages for single employer plans.

Sec. 9707. Modification of special rules for minimum funding standards for community hospital plans.

Sec. 9708. Expansion of limitation on excessive employee remuneration.

Subtitle I—Child Care for Workers

Sec. 9800. Child care assistance.

Sec. 9801. Child care assistance.

Sec. 9811. Mandatory coverage of COVID–19 vaccines and administration and treatment under Medicaid.

Sec. 9812. Modifications to certain coverage under Medicaid for pregnant and postpartum women.

Sec. 9813. State option to provide qualifying community-based mobile crisis intervention services.

Sec. 9814. Temporary increase in FMAP for medical assistance under State Medicaid plans which begin to exceed amounts for certain mandatory individuals.

Sec. 9815. Extension of 100 percent Federal medical assistance percentage to Urban Indian Health Organizations and Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems.

Sec. 9816. Sunset on limit of maximum rebate amount for single source drugs and innovator multiple source drugs.

Sec. 9817. Additional support for Medicaid home and community-based services during the COVID–19 emergency.

Sec. 9818. Funding for State strike teams for resident and employee safety in nursing facilities.

Sec. 9819. Special rule for the period of a declared public health emergency related to coronavirus.

Subtitle K—Children’s Health Insurance Program

Sec. 9821. Mandatory coverage of COVID–19 vaccines and administration and treatment under CHIP.

Sec. 9822. Modifications to certain coverage under CHIP for pregnant and postpartum women.

Subtitle L—Medicare

Sec. 9831. Floor on the Medicare area wage index for hospitals in all-urban States.

Sec. 9832. Secretarial authority to temporarily waive or modify application of certain Medicare requirements with respect to ambulance services furnished during certain emergency periods.

Sec. 9833. Funding for Office of Inspector General.

Subtitle M—Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Sec. 9901. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Sec. 9902. Extension of customs user fees.

TITLE X—COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Sec. 10001. Department of State operations.

Sec. 10002. United States Agency for International Development operations.

Sec. 10003. Global response.

Sec. 10004. Humanitarian response.

Sec. 10005. Multilateral assistance.

TITLE XI—COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Sec. 11001. Indian Health Service.

Sec. 11002. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Sec. 11003. Housing assistance and supportive services programs for Native Americans.

Sec. 11004. COVID–19 response resources for the preservation and maintenance of Native American languages.

Sec. 11005. Bureau of Indian Education.

Sec. 11006. American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native education.

TITLE I—COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Subtitle A—Agriculture

Sec. 1001. FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN AND AGRICULTURE PANDEMIC RESPONSE.

(a) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $4,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out actions.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall use the amounts made available pursuant to subsection (a)—

(1) to purchase food and agricultural commodities; and

(2) to purchase and distribute agricultural commodities (including fresh produce, dairy, seafood, eggs, and meat) through contracts with organizations and through restaurants and other food...
related entities, as determined by the Secretary, that may receive, store, process, and distribute food items; and
(3) to make grants and loans for small mid-size processors or distributors, seafood processing facilities and processing vessels, farmers markets, producers, or other organizations to respond to COVID-19, including for measures to protect workers against COVID-19; and
(4) to make loans and grants and provide other assistance to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency.

(c) Animal Health.—
(1) COVID–19 ANIMAL SURVEILLANCE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct monitoring and surveillance of susceptible animals for incidence of SARS-CoV-2.
(2) FUNDING.—Out of the amounts made available under subsection (a), the Secretary shall use $300,000,000 to carry out this subsection.

(d) Overtime Fees.—
(1) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT; VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT DEFINITIONS.—The terms "small establishment" and "very small establishment" have the meaning given those terms in the final rule entitled "Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems" published in the Federal Register on July 25, 1996 (61 Fed. Reg. 3886).

(2) OVERTIME INSPECTION COST REDUCTION.—Notwithstanding section 10703 of the Farm Security and Rural Development Act of 2002 (2 U.S.C. 2219a), the Act of June 5, 1948 (21 U.S.C. 695), section 306(a)(26) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act of 2002 (21 U.S.C. 468b), and section 24 of the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1033), and any regulations promulgated by the Department of Agriculture implementing such provisions of law and subject to the availability of funds under paragraph (3), the Secretary of Agriculture shall reduce the amount of overtime inspection fees for very small establishments and very small establishments engaged in meat, poultry, or egg products processing and subject to the requirements of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 431 et seq.), or the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.), for inspection activities carried out during the period of fiscal years 2021 through 2030.

(3) FUNDING.—Out of the amounts made available under subsection (a), the Secretary shall use $50,000,000 to carry out this subsection.

SEC. 1002. EMERGENCY RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS FOR RURAL HEALTH CARE.

(a) GRANTS.—(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, for the purpose of carrying out this section referred to as the "Secretary," shall use the funds made available by this section to establish an emergency pilot program for rural development, under which the Department shall make grants to eligible applicants (as defined in section 3570.61(a) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations) to be awarded by the Secretary based on a request for rural development needs related to the COVID–19 pandemic.

(b) USE.—An eligible applicant to whom a grant is awarded under this section may use the grant funds for costs, including those incurred prior to the issuance of the grant, as determined by the Secretary, of facilities which primarily serve low-income, very low-income, or extremely low-income persons, including facilities serving residents of rural areas, the elderly, or children.

SEC. 1003. PANDEMIC PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there are appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $300,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, to carry out this section, of which not more than 3 percent may be used by the Secretary for administrative purposes and not more than 2 percent may be used by the Secretary for technical assistance associated with carrying out this subsection.

SEC. 1004. FUNDING FOR THE USDA OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR OVERSIGHT OF COVID–19–RELATED PROGRAMS.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $2,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for audits, investigations, and other oversight activities of projects and activities carried out with funds made available to the Department of Agriculture related to the COVID–19 pandemic.

SEC. 1005. FARM LOAN ASSISTANCE FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS.

(a) PAYMENTS.—
(1) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there are appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021, out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary, for the cost of loan modifications and payments under this section.

(2) PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall provide a payment in an amount up to 120 percent of the outstanding balance of a loan to a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher as of January 1, 2021, to pay off the loan directly or to the socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher (or a combination thereof) of the loan; and

(A) direct farm loan made by the Secretary to the socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher; and

(B) farm loan guaranteed by the Secretary for the socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:—

(1) FARM LOAN.—The term "farm loan" means—

(A) a loan administered by the Farm Service Agency under subtitle A, B, or C of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.); and

(B) a Commodity Credit Corporation Farm Storage Program loan guaranteed by the Secretary under section 4801 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103(f)), to—

(1) increase capacity for vaccine distribution; or

(2) provide medical supplies to increase medical surge capacity;

(3) reimburse for revenue lost during the COVID–19 pandemic, including nutritional assistance to vulnerable individuals, as approved by the Secretary.

(4) FUNDING.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there are appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $500,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, to carry out this section, of which not more than 3 percent may be used by the Secretary for administrative purposes and not more than 2 percent may be used by the Secretary for technical assistance associated with carrying out this subsection.

SEC. 1006. USDA ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS, RANCHERS, FOREST LAND OWNERS, AND OPERATORS, AND GROUPS.

(a) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there are appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $1,010,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out this section.

(b) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall use the amounts made available pursuant to subsection (a) for purposes described in this subsection by—

(1) using not less than 5 percent of the total amount of funding provided under subsection (a) to provide outreach, mediation, financial training, capacity building training, cooperative development training and support, and other technical assistance on issues concerning food, agriculture, agricultural credit, agricultural extension, rural economic development, and other issues related to social disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, or forest landowners, or other members of socially disadvantaged groups;

(2) using not less than 5 percent of the total amount of funding provided under subsection (a) to provide grants and loans to improve land access for socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, or forest landowners, or other members of socially disadvantaged groups;

(3) using not less than 0.5 percent of the total amount of funding provided under subsection (a) to fund the activities of one or more equity commissions that will address racial equity issues and other issues related to heirs' property in a manner as determined by the Secretary;

(4) using not less than 5 percent of the total amount of funding provided under subsection (a) to support and supplement agricultural research, education, and extension, as well as scholarships and programs that provide internships and pathways to Federal employment, by—

(A) using not less than 1 percent of the total amount of funding provided under subsection (a) at colleges or universities eligible to receive funding under the Act, commonly known as the "Second Morrill Act" (7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including Tuskegee University;

(B) using not less than 1 percent of the total amount of funding provided under subsection (a) at historically black colleges and universities, or other historically black educational institutions;

(C) using not less than 1 percent of the total amount of funding provided under subsection (a) at Alaska Native serving institutions and Native Hawaiian serving institutions eligible to receive grants under subsections (a) and (b), respectively, of section 1421B of the National Agricultural Construction and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3156);

(D) using not less than 1 percent of the total amount of funding provided under subsection (a) at Hispanic-serving institutions eligible to receive grants under section 1455 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3361);

(E) using not less than 1 percent of the total amount of funding provided under subsection (a) at institutions of higher education located in the United States, as referred to in section 1489 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3361); and

(5) using not less than 2 percent of the total amount of funding provided under subsection (a) to provide financial assistance to socially
SEC. 1100. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR SNAP ONLINE PURCHASING AND TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) FUNDING.—In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $250,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2024, to carry out this section.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may use the amounts made available pursuant to subsection (a) to:

(1) to make technological improvements to improve online purchasing in the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under title IV of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.);

(2) to modernize electronic benefit transfer technology;

(3) to support the mobile technologies demonstration projects and the use of mobile technologies authorized under section 7(h)(14) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2001(h)(14)); and

(4) to provide technical assistance to educate retailers on the process and technical requirements for the online acceptance of the supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits, for mobile payments, and for electronic benefit transfer modernization initiatives.

SEC. 1101. SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) VALUE OF BENEFITS.—Section 702(a) of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) is amended by striking “July 31, 2021” and inserting “September 30, 2021”.

(b) SNAP ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is hereby appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $1,150,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, with amounts to be obligated for each of fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023, for the costs of State administrative expenses associated with carrying out this section and administering the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.), of which—

(1) $15,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses of the Department of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) for management and oversight of the program; and

(2) $1,135,000,000 shall be for the Secretary to make grants to each State agency for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2023 as follows:

(A) 75 percent of the amounts available shall be allocated to States based on the share of each State of households that participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program as reported by the Department of Agriculture for the most recent 12-month period for which data are available, adjusted by the Secretary (as of the date of the enactment of this Act) for participants in disaster programs under section 5(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)); and

(B) 25 percent of the amounts available shall be allocated to States based on the increase in the number of households that participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program as reported by the Department of Agriculture for the most recent 12-month period for which data are available, adjusted by the Secretary (as of the date of the enactment of this Act) for participants in disaster programs under section 5(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)).
reimburse institutions that are emergency shelter
under section 17(t) (42 U.S.C. 1766(t)) for meals and
supplements served to individuals who, at the time of
such service—
(1) have not attained the age of 25; and
(2) are receiving assistance, including non-res-
idential assistance, from such emergency shelter.

(b) PARTICIPATION BY EMERGENCY SHEEL-
ters.—Beginning on the date of enactment of
this section, notwithstanding paragraph (5)(A)
of section 17(t) of the Richard B. Russell Na-
tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766(t)), dur-
ing the health emergency declared under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d), the Secretary shall reimburse emergency shelters under such section 17(t) for meals and supple-
ments served to individuals who, at the time of such
service have not attained the age of 25.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—
(1) EMERGENCY SHELTER.—The term "em-
ergency shelter" has the meaning given the term
under section 17(t)(1) of the Richard B. Russell
National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766(t)).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the
Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 1108. PANDEMIC EBT PROGRAM.

Section 1101 of the Families First Coronavirus
Response Act (7 U.S.C. 2011 note; Public Law
116–127) is amended—
(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) by striking "During fiscal years 2020 and
2021" and inserting "In any school year in
which there is a public health emergency des-
ignation"; and
(B) by inserting "or in a covered summer pe-
riod following a school session" after "in ses-

(2) in subsection (g), by striking "During fis-
cal year 2020, the" and inserting "The";

(3) in subsection (h)(1)—
(A) by inserting "either" after "at least 1 child
enrolled in such a covered child care facil-
ity"; and
(B) by inserting "or a Department of Agri-
culture grant-funded nutrition assistance pro-
gram in the Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, or American Samoan" before "shall be eligible to receive as-

(4) by redesigning subsections (i) and (j) as
sections (i) and (k), respectively;

(5) by inserting after subsection (h) the fol-
loving:

"(i) EMERGENCIES DURING SUMMER.—The Sec-
retary, in consultation with the Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention, may permit a State agency
to extend a State agency plan approved under
subsection (b) for not more than 90 days for the
purpose of operating the plan during a covered
summer period, during which time schools par-
ticipating in the school lunch program under the
Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act or
the school breakfast program under section 4 of
the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773 )
and covered child care facilities shall be deemed closed for purposes of this sec-

(6) in subsection (i) as so redesignated
(A) by redesigning paragraphs (2) through
(6) as paragraphs (3) through (7), respectiv-
ely;

(7) in subsection (j) (as so redesignated), by
inserting "Federal agencies," before "State
agencies".

TITLE II—COMMITTEE ON HEALTH,
EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Subtitle A—Education Matters

PART 1—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SEC. 2001. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts oth-
erwise available through the Education Sta-
bilization Fund, there is appropriated to the De-
partment of Education for fiscal year 2021, out
of any money in the Treasury not otherwise ap-
propriated, $122,774,800,000, to remain available
through September 30, 2023, to carry out this section.

(b) GRANTS.—From funds provided under sub-
section (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) use $800,000,000 for the purposes of identi-
fying homeless individuals and families and pro-
viding homeless children and youth with—
(A) wrap-around services in light of the chal-
genuses of COVID–19;

(b) assistance needed to enable homeless chil-
dren and youth to attend school and participate
fully in school activities; and

(2) from the remaining amounts, make grants
to each State educational agency in accordance
with this section.

(c) ALLOCATIONS TO STATES.—The amount of
each grant under paragraph (b) shall be allo-
gated by the Secretary to each State in the same
proportion as each State received under part A of
section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
cation Act.

(d) SUBGRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-
cies.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall allocate not
less than 90 percent of the grant funds awarded
to the State under this section as subgrants to
local educational agencies (including charter
schools and local educational agencies in
the State in proportion to the amount of funds
such local educational agencies and charter
schools that are local educational agencies
received under part A of title I of the Elementary
and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in the
most recent fiscal year.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Each State shall
make allocations under paragraph (1) to local
educational agencies in an expedited and timely
manner and, to the extent practicable, not later
than 60 days after the receipt of such funds.

(e) USES OF FUNDS.—A local educational
agency that receives funds under this section—

(1) shall reserve not less than 20 percent of
such funds to address learning loss through the
implementation of evidence-based interventions,
such as summer learning or summer enrichment,
extended day, comprehensive afterschool pro-
grams, or other year-round programs, and ensure that such interventions are
responsive to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and
directly address the disproportionate impact of the
COVID–19 pandemic on the student subgroups described in section
6311(b)(2)(B)(ii)), students experiencing home-
lessness, and children and youth in foster care; and

(2) shall use the remaining funds for any of
the following:

(A) Any activity authorized by the Elemen-

(B) Any activity authorized by the Individ-
uals with Disabilities Education Act.

(C) Any activity authorized by the Adult Edu-
cation and Family Literacy Act.

(D) Any activity authorized by the Carl D.
Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of
2006.

(E) Coordination of preparedness and re-
sponse efforts of local educational agencies with
the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in
health, education, labor, and welfare depart-
ments, and other relevant agencies, to im-
prove coordinated responses among such entities to
prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus

(F) Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with
disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic
minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach
and service delivery will meet the needs of each
population.

(G) Developing and implementing procedures
and systems to improve the preparedness and re-
sponse efforts of local educational agencies.

(H) Training and professional development for
staff of the local educational agency on sanita-
tion and minimizing the spread of infectious dis-
eseases.

(I) Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean
the facilities of a local educational agency, in-
cluding buildings operated by such agency.

(J) Planning for, coordinating, and imple-
menting activities during long-term closures,
including providing meals to eligible students,
providing technology for all students, providing
guidance for carrying out requirements under the Individuals with Disabil-
ities Education Act and ensuring other edu-
cational services can continue to be provided
consistent with all Federal, State, and local re-

(K) Planning educational technology (in-
cluding hardware, software, and connectivity)
for students who are served by the local edu-
cational agency that aids in regular and substi-
ute educational interaction between stu-
dents and their classmates including low-income
students and children with disabilities,
which may include assistive technology or
adaptive equipment.

(L) Providing mental health services and sup-
ports, including through the implementation of
evidence-based full-service community schools.

(M) Planning and implementing activities rel-
ated to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing class-
room instruction or online learning during the
summer months and ensuring needs of low-income
students, children with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students ex-
periencing homelessness, and children in foster care.

(N) Addressing learning loss among students,
including low-income students, children with
disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic
minorities, students experiencing homelessness,
and children and youth in foster care, of the
local educational agency, including by—
(i) providing information and assistance to
parents and families on how they can effectively
support students, including in a distance learn-
ing environment; and

(ii) tracking student attendance and improv-
ing student engagement in distance education.

(O) School facility repairs and improvements
to enable operations of schools to reduce risk of
transmission of virus transmission and exposure to environ-
mental health hazards, and to support student
health needs.

(P) Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair,
replacement, and upgrade projects to improve
the indoor air quality in school facilities, in-
cluding mechanical and non-mechanical heat-
ing, ventilation, and air purification systems
including mechanical and non-mechanical
filtering, purification and other air cleaning,
fans, control systems, and window and door re-
placement.

(Q) Developing strategies and implementing
public health protocols including, to the greatest
extent practicable, policies in line with guidance
from the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
vention for the reopening of and operation of
school facilities to effectively maintain the
health and safety of students, educators, and
other staff.

(R) Other activities that are necessary to
maintain the operation and continuity of
services in local educational agencies and continue to employ existing staff of the local educational agency.

(f) STATE FUNDING.—With funds not otherwise allocated under subsection (a), a State may:

(1) reserve not less than 5 percent of the total amount of grant funds awarded to the State under this section to carry out, directly or through contracts, activities to address learning loss by supporting the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that such interventions respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on the student subgroups described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(vi) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(B)(vi)), students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, including by providing additional support to local educational agencies to fully address such impacts;

(2) shall reserve not less than 1 percent of the total amount of grant funds awarded to the State under this section to carry out, directly or through grants or contracts, the implementation of evidence-based summer enrichment programs, and ensure such programs respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on the student populations described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(vi) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(B)(vi)), students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care; and

(3) shall reserve not less than 1 percent of the total amount of grant funds awarded to the State under this section to carry out, directly or through grants or contracts, the implementation of evidence-based enrichment programs that provide services or assistance to non-public schools.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—Funds provided under subsection (a) shall not be used to provide reimbursements to any non-public school.

SEC. 2002. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

In addition to amounts otherwise available through the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools Program, there is appropriated to the Department of Education for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $2,750,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2023, for making allocations to Governors under this section to provide emergency assistance to Non-Public Schools Programs to provide services or assistance to non-public schools that enroll a significant percentage of low-income students and are most impacted by the qualifying emergency.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—Funds provided under subsection (a) shall not be used to provide reimbursements to any non-public school.

SEC. 2003. HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Department of Education for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $39,584,570,000, to remain available through September 30, 2023, for making allocations to institutions of higher education in accordance with the same terms and conditions of section 314 of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (division M of Public Law 116–260), except that—

(1) subsection (a)(1) of such section 314 shall be applied by substituting “91 percent” for “89 percent”;

(2) subsection (a)(2) of such section 314 shall be applied—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by substituting “the heading ‘Higher Education’ in the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2020” for “in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by substituting “under the heading ‘Higher Education’ in the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2020” for “in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94)”;

(3) an institution that receives an allocation apportioned in accordance with clause (iii) of subsection (a)(4) of such section 314 that has a total endowment size of less than $1,000,000 (including an institution that does not have an endowment) shall be treated by the Secretary as having a total endowment size of $1,000,000 for the purposes of such clause (iii);

(4) subsection (a)(4) of such section 314 shall be applied by substituting “1 percent” for “3 percent”;

(5) except as provided in paragraphs (7) and (9) of subsection (d) of such section 314, an institution shall use a portion of funds received under this section—

(A) implement evidence-based practices to monitor and suppress coronavirus in accordance with public health guidelines; and

(B) conduct financial aid applicants about the opportunity to receive a financial aid adjustment due to the recent unenrollment of a family member or independent student, or other circumstances, described in section 479A of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087t).

(c) DEDUCTION.—The amount shall not apply to funds provided or received in accordance with this section—

(A) subsection (b) of such section 314;

(B) paragraph (2) of subsection (c) of such section 314;

(C) paragraphs (1), (2), (4), (5), (6), and (8) of subsection (d) of such section 314;

(D) subsections (e) and (f) of such section 314; and

(E) section 316 of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (division M of Public Law 116–260); and

(7) an institution that receives an allocation under this section apportioned in accordance with paragraphs (A) through (D) of such section 314 shall use not less than 50 percent of such allocation to provide emergency financial aid grants to students in accordance with subsection (c)(3) of such section 314.

SEC. 2004. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUITY.

(a) STATE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving funds under section 2001, a State shall maintain support for elementary and secondary education and for higher education (which shall include State funding to institutions of higher education and State need-based financial aid, and shall not include support for capital projects), in accordance with clauses (ia), (ib), (ic), and (id) of title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 2801).

(b) LIMITATIONS.—Funds provided under subsection (a) shall not be used to provide reimbursements to any non-public school.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving funds under section 2001, a State educational agency shall not, in fiscal year 2022 or 2023, reduce State funding (as calculated on a per-pupil basis) for any high-need local educational agency in the State by an amount that exceeds the overall per-pupil reduction in State funds, if any, across all local educational agencies in such State in such fiscal year.

(b) HIGHEST-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—For the purposes of such clause (i), the Secretary of Education may waive any maintenance of effort requirements associated with the Education Stabilization Fund.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—As a condition of receiving funds under section 2001, a State educational agency shall not, in fiscal year 2022 or 2023, reduce State funding (as calculated on a per-pupil basis) for any high-need local educational agency in the State by an amount that exceeds the overall per-pupil reduction in State funds, if any, across all local educational agencies in such State in such fiscal year.

(a) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—As a condition of receiving funds under section 2001, a State educational agency shall not, in fiscal year 2022 or 2023, reduce State funding (as calculated on a per-pupil basis) for any high-need local educational agency in the State by an amount that exceeds the overall per-pupil reduction in State funds, if any, across all local educational agencies in such State in such fiscal year.

(a) LOW-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—For the purposes of such clause (i), the Secretary of Education may waive any maintenance of effort requirements associated with the Education Stabilization Fund.

(b) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY MAINTENANCE OF EQUITY FOR LOW-POVERTY SCHOOLS.—

(a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving funds under section 2001, a local educational agency shall not, in fiscal year 2022 or 2023—

(A) reduce per-pupil funding (from combined State and local funding) in any low-poverty school served by such local educational agency by an amount that exceeds—

(i) the total reduction in local educational agency funding (from combined State and local funding) for all schools served by the local educational agency in such fiscal year (if any); and

(ii) the number of children enrolled in all schools served by the local educational agency in such fiscal year; or
(B) reduce per-pupil, full-time equivalent staff in any high-poverty school by an amount that exceeds—

(i) the total reduction in full-time equivalent staff in such school by such local educational agency in fiscal year 2022 or 2023 that meets at least 1 of the following criteria in such fiscal year:

(A) such local educational agency has a total enrollment of 1,000 students;

(B) such local educational agency operates a single school;

(C) such local educational agency serves all students within each grade span with a single school.

(D) such local educational agency demonstrates an exceptional or uncontrollable circumstance, such as unpredictable changes in student enrollment or a precipitous decline in the financial resources of such agency, as determined by the Secretary of Education.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) ELEMENTARY EDUCATION; SECONDARY EDUCATION.—The terms ‘‘elementary education’’ and ‘‘secondary education’’ have the meaning given such terms under State law.

(2) HIGHEST POVERTY LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—‘‘Highest poverty local educational agency’’ means a local educational agency that is among the group of local educational agencies in the State that—

(A) have the highest percentages of economically disadvantaged students in the State, on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data available from the Department of Commerce that for which no such data are available, other data as the Secretary of Education determines are satisfactory, and

(B) collectively serve not less than 20 percent of the State’s total enrollment of students served by all local educational agencies in the State.

(3) HIGHER EDUCATION—LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ‘‘higher education—local educational agency’’ means a local educational agency that is among the group of local educational agencies in the State that—

(A) have the highest percentages of economically disadvantaged students in the State, on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data available from the Department of Commerce (or, for local educational agencies for which no such data are available, other data as the Secretary of Education determines are satisfactory); and

(B) collectively serve not less than 20 percent of the State’s total enrollment of students served by all local educational agencies in the State.

(4) HIGH-POVERTY SCHOOL.—(A) In general.—The term ‘‘high-poverty school’’ means, with respect to a school served by a local educational agency, a school that is in the highest quartile of schools served by such local educational agency based on the percentage of economically disadvantaged students served by such local educational agency.

(B) DETERMINATION.—In making the determination under subparagraph (A), a State shall select a measure of poverty established for the purposes of this paragraph by the Secretary of Education and apply such measure consistently to all schools served by such local educational agency.

(5) OVERALL PER-PUPIL REDUCTION IN STATE FUNDS.—The term ‘‘overall per-pupil reduction in State funds’’ means, with respect to a fiscal year—

(A) the aggregate number of children enrolled in all schools served by all local educational agencies in the State in the fiscal year for which the determination is being made.

(B) the aggregate number of children enrolled in all schools served by all local educational agencies in the State in the fiscal year for which the determination is being made.

(1) $2,580,000,000 for grants to States under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

(2) $230,000,000 for programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

(b) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—Any amount appropriated under subsection (a) is in addition to...
other amounts appropriated or made available for the applicable purpose.

PART 2—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 2021. NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $135,000,000, to remain available until expended, under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as follows:

(1) Forty percent shall be for grants, and relevant administrative expenses, to State agencies and regional arts organizations that support organizations’ programming and general operating expenses to cover up to 100 percent of the costs of the programs which the grants support, to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the coronavirus.

(2) Twenty percent shall be for direct grants, and relevant administrative expenses, that support organizations’ programming and general operating expenses to cover up to 100 percent of the costs of the programs which the grants support, to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the coronavirus.

SEC. 2022. NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $135,000,000, to remain available until expended, under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as follows:

(1) Forty percent shall be for grants, and relevant administrative expenses, to State humanities councils that support humanities organizations’ programming and general operating expenses to cover up to 100 percent of the costs of the programs which the grants support, to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the coronavirus.

(2) Twenty percent shall be for direct grants, and relevant administrative expenses, that support humanities organizations’ programming and general operating expenses to cover up to 100 percent of the costs of the programs which the grants support, to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the coronavirus.

SEC. 2023. INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $200,000,000, to remain available until expended for programs to carry out the Institute's programs. The Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services shall award not less than 8 percent of such funds to State library administrative agencies by applying the formula in section 221(b) of the Library and Educational Services Act, except that—

(A) an eligible child care provider as defined in section 658P of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858m); or

(B) a child care provider that is licensed, regulated, or registered in the State, territory, or Indian Tribe on the date of enactment of this Act and meets applicable State and local health and safety requirements.

(2) ELIGIBLE CHILD CARE PROVIDER.—The term ‘eligible child care provider’ means—

(A) an eligible child care provider as defined in section 658P of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858m); or

(B) a child care provider that is licensed, regulated, or registered in the State, territory, or Indian Tribe on the date of enactment of this Act and meets applicable State and local health and safety requirements.

(3) CHILD CARE STABILIZATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $14,990,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2021, for grants under this section in accordance with the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990.

(4) S UPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts appropriated under this section shall be in addition to any funds provided for under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858m) and this section shall be used to supplement, not supplant, other Federal, State, Tribal, and local public funds expended to carry out the program authorized under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858m).

Subtitle C—Human Services and Community Supports

SEC. 2201. CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $2,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2021, to carry out the program authorized under section 658C of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858m), without regard to requirements in subparagraphs (C) and (E) of section 658E(c)(3), and in section 658G, of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858c(c)(3), 9858e). Such grant shall be allotted in accordance with section 6580 of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858).

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $10,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2021, to carry out the program authorized under section 658C of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858m), for administrative costs. The Director of the Office of the Solicitor, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to carry out COVID–19 related worker protection activities, and for the Office of Inspector General for oversight of the Secretary’s activities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID–19.

(c) ALLOCATION OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts appropriated under this subsection (a) shall be allocated as follows:

(1) Not less than $100,000,000 shall be for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to carry out disaster relief and preparedness activities for such lead agencies to be designated by the Secretary, without regard to the requirements in subparagraphs (C) and (E) of section 658E(c)(3), and in section 658G, of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858c(c)(3), 9858e). Such grant shall be allotted in accordance with section 6580 of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858).

(d) STATE RESERVATIONS AND SUBGRANTS.—

(1) RESERVATION.—A lead agency for a State that receives a child care stabilization grant pursuant to subsection (c) shall reserve not more than 10 percent of such grant funds to administer subgrants, provide technical assistance and support for applying for and accessing the subgrant opportunity, publicize the availability of the subgrants, carry out activities to increase the supply of child care, and provide technical assistance and support to help implement policies as described in paragraph (2)(D)(i).

(2) SUBGRANTS TO QUALIFIED CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The lead agency shall use the remainder of the grant funds awarded pursuant to subsection (c) to make subgrants to qualified child care providers to provide child care support services during the COVID–19 public health emergency.

(B) QUALIFIED CHILD CARE PROVIDER.—To be qualified to receive a subgrant under paragraph (A), a lead agency shall be an eligible child care provider that on the date of submission of an application for the subgrant, was either—

(i) open and available to provide child care services; or

(ii) closed due to public health, financial hardship, or other reasons relating to the COVID–19 public health emergency.

(C) SUBGRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of such a subgrant to a qualified child care provider shall be based on the provider’s stated current operating expenses, including costs associated with providing services; or

(D) RECIPIENTS.—The lead agency shall—

(i) make available on the lead agency’s website an application for qualified child care providers that includes certifications that, for the duration of the subgrant—

(1) the provider applying will, when open and available to provide child care services, implement policies in line with guidance from the corresponding State, Tribal, and local health authorities, and in accordance with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136); and

(2) the provider will pay not less than the full compensation, including any benefits, that was provided to the employee as of the date of submission of the application for the subgrant (referred to in this subclause as “full compensation”), and will not take any action that reduces the weekly amount of the employee’s compensation below the rate of full compensation, including the involuntary reduction of any amount of full compensation, or that reduces the employee’s rate of compensation below the rate of full compensation, including the involuntary reduction of any amount of full compensation; or

(ii) for each employee, the provider will pay any amount that was reduced as of the date of submission of the application for the subgrant.
(III) the provider will provide relief from co-payments and tuition payments for the families enrolled in the provider’s program, to the extent possible, and prioritize such relief for families struggling to make either type of payment; and
(ii) accept and process applications submitted under this subparagraph on a rolling basis, and provide subgrant funds in advance of provider expenditures, except as provided in subsection (e)(2).

(E) OBLIGATION.—The lead agency shall notify the Secretary if it is unable to obligate at least 30 percent of the funds received pursuant to subsection (c) that are available for subgrants described in this paragraph within 9 months of the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) USES OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A qualified child care provider that receives funds through such a subgrant shall use the funds for at least one of the following:
(A) Personnel costs, including payroll and salaries or similar compensation for an employee (including any sole proprietor or independent contractor), employee benefits, premium pay, or costs for employee recruitment and retention.
(B) Rent (including rent under a lease agreement) or payment on any mortgage obligation, utility or facility maintenance or improvements, or insurance.
(C) Personal protective equipment, cleaning and sanitization supplies, or training and professional development related to health and safety practices.
(D) Purchases of or updates to equipment and supplies to respond to the COVID–19 public health emergency.
(E) Goods and services necessary to maintain or resume child care services.
(F) Mental health supports for children and employees.

(2) REIMBURSEMENT.—The qualified child care provider may use the subgrant funds to reimburse costs for суммы obligated or expended to provide child care services for eligible individuals.

(Supplement Not Supplant.—Amounts made available to carry out this section shall be used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, and local public funds expended to provide child care services for eligible individuals.

SEC. 2203. HEAD START.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $1,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2021, to carry out the Head Start Program, including for Federal administrative expenses. After reserving funds for Federal administrative expenses, the Secretary shall allocate all remaining amounts to Head Start agencies for one-time grants, and shall allocate to each Head Start agency an amount that bears the same ratio to the portion available for allocation as the number of enrolled children served by the Head Start agency bears to the number of enrolled children served by all Head Start agencies.

SEC. 2204. PROGRAMS FOR SURVIVORS.

(a) VOCA.—Section 303 of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (42 U.S.C. 10403) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—For the purposes of carrying out this title, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes, there are appropriated, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for fiscal year 2021, to remain available until expended except as otherwise provided in this section, the following:

(1) $100,000,000, to carry out sections 303 through 312, to be allocated in the manner described in subsection (a)(2), except that—

(2) A reference in subsection (a)(2) to an amount appropriated under subsection (a)(1) shall be considered to be a reference to an amount appropriated under this paragraph.

(3) Section 306(c)(4) and condition in section 308(d)(3) shall not apply; and

(4) Each reference in section 306(e) to the end of the following fiscal year shall be considered to be a reference to the end of fiscal year 2025;

and

(B) funds made available to a State in a grant under section 306(a) and obligated in a timely manner shall be available for expenditure, by the State or a recipient of funds from the grant, through the end of fiscal year 2025;

(2) $18,000,000 to carry out section 309;

(3) $2,000,000 to carry out section 313, of which $1,000,000 shall be allocated to support Indian community-based organizations;

(b) COVID–19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “COVID–19 public health emergency” means the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with respect to COVID–19, including any extensions.

(c) GRANTS TO SUPPORT CULTURALLY SPECIFIC POPULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, $49,500,000 for fiscal year 2021, to be available until expended, to carry out this subsection (excluding Federal administrative costs, for which funds are appropriated under subsection (e)).

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—From amounts appropriated under paragraph (1), the Secretary, through the Director of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program, shall—

(A) support culturally specific community-based organizations to provide culturally specific activities for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, to address emergent needs resulting from the COVID–19 public health emergency and other public health concerns; and

(B) support culturally specific community-based organizations that provide culturally specific activities to promote strategic partnership development and responding to the impact of COVID–19 and other public health concerns on survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

(d) GRANTS TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to the Secretary, $198,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, to be available until expended, for the Federal administrative costs, for which funds are appropriated under subsection (e).

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—From amounts appropriated under paragraph (1), the Secretary, through the Director of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program, shall assist rape crisis centers in transitioning to virtual services and meeting the emergency needs of survivors.

(e) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $2,500,000 for fiscal year 2021, to remain available until expended, for the Federal administrative costs of carrying out subsections (c) and (d).

SEC. 2205. CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the following amounts, to remain available through September 30, 2023:

(1) $250,000,000 for carrying out the program authorized under section 216 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116), which shall be allocated without regard to section 204(d) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5116d(a)) and shall be allocated to States under section 203 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5116b), except that—

(A) in subsection (b)(1)(A) of such section 203, “the Secretary” shall be deemed to be “100 percent”; and

(B) subsections (b)(1)(B) and (c) of such section 203 shall not apply; and

(2) $100,000,000 for carrying out the State grants program authorized under section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a), which shall be allocated without regard to subsection 112(a)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a).

SEC. 2206. CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AND THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST.

(a) CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to the Corporation for National and Community Service, $852,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2024, to carry out subsection (b), except that amounts to carry out subsection (b)(3) of such section shall remain available until September 30, 2026.

(b) ALLOCATION OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts provided by subsection (a) shall be allocated as follows:

(1) AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL.—$620,000,000 shall be used—

(A) to increase the living allowances of participants in national service programs; and

(B) to make funding adjustments to existing (as of the date of enactment of this Act) awards and award new and additional awards to entities to support programs described in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) of subsection (a), and subsection (b)(2), of section 122 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12572), whether or not the entities are already grant recipients under such provisions on the date of enactment of this Act, and notwithstanding section 122(a)(1)(B)(ii) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12572(a)(1)(B)(ii)), by—

(i) prioritizing entities serving communities disproportionately impacted by COVID–19 and utilizing culturally competent and multilingual strategies in the provision of services; and

(ii) taking into account the diversity of communities and participants served by such entities, including racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, linguistic, or geographic diversity.

(2) STATE COMMISSIONS.—$20,000,000 shall be used to make adjustments to existing (as of the date of enactment of this Act) awards and new and additional awards, including awards to States under section 125(a) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12573(a)).

(iv) VISTA GENERATION FUND.—$20,000,000 shall be used for expenses authorized under section 501(a)(4)(F) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12601(a)(4)(F)), which will be used to States in accordance with that Act (42 U.S.C. 12633p(d)(1)(B)), shall be for grants awarded by the Corporation for National and Community Service, under section 156(a) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12573(a)).
(5) NATIONAL SENIOR SERVICE CORPS.—$30,000,000 shall be used for the purposes described in section 200 of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 20101).

(6) PUBLIC HEALTH PREVENTION AND CONTROL.—$75,000,000 shall be used for the Corporation for National and Community Service for administrative expenses to carry out programs and activities funded by subsection (a).

(7) OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—$9,000,000 shall be used for the Office of Inspector General of the Corporation for National and Community Service for salaries and expenses necessary for oversight and audit of programs and activities funded by subsection (a).

Subtitle D—Public Health

SEC. 2301. FUNDING FOR COVID–19 VACCINE ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this subsection referred to as the ‘‘Secretary’’) for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $7,500,000,000, to remain available until expended, for administration of the National Service Trust, and for payment to the Trust for the provision of educational awards pursuant to section 140(a)(1)(A) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12690(a)(1)(A)).

(b) ALTERNATIVE ALLOCATION.—The term ‘‘alternative allocation’’ means an allocation to each State, territory, or locality calculated using the percentage derived from the allocation share of amounts described in subsection (a), provide supplemental funding to any State, locality, or territory that received less of the amounts that were appropriated under title III or division F of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and that were otherwise appropriated, $7,500,000,000, to remain available until expended, for administration of the National Service Trust, and for payment to the Trust for the provision of educational awards pursuant to section 140(a)(1)(A) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12690(a)(1)(A)).

(c) NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $148,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses of the Corporation for National and Community Service for administrative expenses, including those for the Corporation’s Office of Inspector General.

(d) USE OF FUNDS.—(1) The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in consultation with other agencies, as applicable, shall, in conducting activities referred to in subsection (a),—

(2) provide technical assistance, guidance, and support to, and award grants or cooperative agreements to, State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments for enhancement of COVID–19 vaccine distribution and administration capabilities, including—

(A) the distribution and administration of vaccine pursuant to section 321 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262) or authorized under section 564 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360b–3) and ancillary medical products and supplies related to vaccines;

(B) the establishment and expansion, including staffing support, of community vaccination centers, particularly in underserved areas;

(C) the deployment of mobile vaccination units, particularly in underserved areas;

(D) information technology, standards-based data, and reporting enhancements, including improvements necessary to support standards-based sharing of data related to vaccine distribution and administration, and systems and platforms to enhance vaccine safety, effectiveness, and uptake, particularly among underserved populations;

(E) facilities enhancements;

(F) public education and outreach with the public regarding when, where, and how to receive COVID–19 vaccines; and

(G) transportation of individuals to facilitate vaccinations, including at community vaccination centers and mobile vaccination units, particularly for underserved populations.

(e) FUNDING FOR STATE VACCINATION GRANTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) BASE FORMULA.—The term ‘‘base formula’’ means the formula that appears in the Public Health Emergency Preparationness cooperative agreement in fiscal year 2020.

(B) ALTERNATIVE ALLOCATION.—The term ‘‘alternative allocation’’ means an allocation to each State, territory, or locality calculated using the percentage derived from the allocation share of amounts described in subsection (a), provide supplemental funding to any State, locality, or territory that received less of the amounts that were appropriated under title III or division F of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and that were otherwise appropriated, $7,500,000,000, to remain available until expended, for administration of the National Service Trust, and for payment to the Trust for the provision of educational awards pursuant to section 140(a)(1)(A) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12690(a)(1)(A)).

(C) NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $7,500,000,000, to remain available until expended, for administration of the National Service Trust, and for payment to the Trust for the provision of educational awards pursuant to section 140(a)(1)(A) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12690(a)(1)(A)).

(D) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in consultation with other agencies, as applicable, shall, in conducting activities referred to in subsection (a),—

(2) provide technical assistance, guidance, and support to, and award grants or cooperative agreements to, State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments for activities to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID–19.

(f) USE OF FUNDS.—(1) In general.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $3,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses of the Corporation for National and Community Service for administrative expenses, including those for the Corporation’s Office of Inspector General.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in consultation with other agencies, as applicable, shall, in conducting activities referred to in subsection (a),—

(2) provide technical assistance, guidance, and support to, and award grants or cooperative agreements to, State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments for activities to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID–19.

(c) NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $7,500,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses of the Corporation for National and Community Service for administrative expenses, including those for the Corporation’s Office of Inspector General.

(d) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in consultation with other agencies, as applicable, shall, in conducting activities referred to in subsection (a),—

(2) provide technical assistance, guidance, and support to, and award grants or cooperative agreements to, State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments for activities to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID–19.

(e) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in consultation with other agencies, as applicable, shall, in conducting activities referred to in subsection (a),—

(2) provide technical assistance, guidance, and support to, and award grants or cooperative agreements to, State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments for activities to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID–19.

(f) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in consultation with other agencies, as applicable, shall, in conducting activities referred to in subsection (a),—

(2) provide technical assistance, guidance, and support to, and award grants or cooperative agreements to, State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments for activities to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID–19.

(g) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in consultation with other agencies, as applicable, shall, in conducting activities referred to in subsection (a),—

(2) provide technical assistance, guidance, and support to, and award grants or cooperative agreements to, State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments for activities to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID–19.

(h) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in consultation with other agencies, as applicable, shall, in conducting activities referred to in subsection (a),—

(2) provide technical assistance, guidance, and support to, and award grants or cooperative agreements to, State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments for activities to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID–19.

(i) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in consultation with other agencies, as applicable, shall, in conducting activities referred to in subsection (a),—

(2) provide technical assistance, guidance, and support to, and award grants or cooperative agreements to, State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments for activities to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID–19.

(j) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in consultation with other agencies, as applicable, shall, in conducting activities referred to in subsection (a),—

(2) provide technical assistance, guidance, and support to, and award grants or cooperative agreements to, State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments for activities to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID–19.
(ii) community-based testing sites and community-based organizations; or
(iii) mobile health units, particularly in medically underserved areas; and
(B) are used for the following:
(1) Costs, including wages and benefits, related to the recruiting, hiring, and training of individuals—
(A) to serve as case investigators, contact tracers, social support specialists, community health workers, public health nurses, disease intervention specialists, epidemiologists, program managers, informaticians, communication and policy experts, and any other positions as may be required to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID–19;
(B) who are employed by—
(i) the State, territorial, or local public health department involved; or
(ii) a nonprofit private or public organization with demonstrated expertise in implementing public health programs and established relationships with such State, territorial, or local public health departments, particularly in medically underserved areas.

(C) to develop and expand the informatics capabilities of the public health workforce; and
(D) for construction grants, the construction, alteration, or renovation of facilities to improve genomic sequencing and surveillance capabilities at the State and local level.

SEC. 2402. FUNDING FOR SARS-CoV-2 GENOMIC SEQUENCING AND SURVEILLANCE.

(a) In General.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021 out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $1,790,000,000, to remain available until expended, to strengthen and expand activities and workforce related to genomic sequencing, analytics infrastructure and data collection systems.

(b) Use of Funds.—Amounts made available to an awardee pursuant to subsection (a) shall be used for the following:
(1) Costs, including wages and benefits, related to the recruiting, hiring, and training of individuals—
(A) to serve as case investigators, contact tracers, social support specialists, community health workers, public health nurses, disease intervention specialists, epidemiologists, program managers, informaticians, communication and policy experts, and any other positions as may be required to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID–19;
(B) who are employed by—
(i) the State, territorial, or local public health department involved; or
(ii) a nonprofit private or public organization with demonstrated expertise in implementing public health programs and established relationships with such State, territorial, or local public health departments, particularly in medically underserved areas.

(c) Past Expenditures.—An awardee may use amounts awarded pursuant to subsection (a) to offset the costs of carrying out any of the activities described in subsection (b) during the period beginning on the date of the declaration of a public health emergency by the Secretary under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with respect to COVID–19 and ending on the date of such award.

SEC. 2502. FUNDING FOR NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.

(a) In General.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021 out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $800,000,000, to remain available until expended, for carrying out sections 338A, 338B, and 338I of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l–1, 254q–1) with respect to the health workforce.

(b) State Loan Repayment Programs.—(1) In General.—Of the amount otherwise available pursuant to subsection (a), $100,000,000 shall be made available for providing primary health services through grants to States under section 338(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254q–1(a)).

(2) Conditions.—With respect to grants described in paragraph (1), funds made available under such paragraph:
(A) Section 338(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254q–1(b)) shall not apply.
(B) Notwithstanding section 338(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254q–1(d)(2)), not more than 10 percent of an award to a State from such amounts, may be used by the State for costs of administering the State loan repayment program.

SEC. 2603. FUNDING FOR NURSE CORPS.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021 out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $200,000,000, to remain available until expended, for carrying out section 341 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 257n).

SEC. 2604. FUNDING FOR TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) In General.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, and notwithstanding the capped amount referenced in sections 340(b)(2) and 340(h)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b(h)(2) and (d)(2)), there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021, out...
of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $230,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for the program of payments to teaching health centers that operate graduate medical education programs under section 340H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h) and for teaching health center development grants authorized under section 749A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–21(d)).

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts made available pursuant to subsection (a) shall be used for the following activities:

(1) For making payments to establish new approved graduate medical residency training programs pursuant to section 340H(a)(1)(C) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(a)(1)(C)) of $10,000.

(2) For providing an increase to the per resident amount described in section 340H(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(a)(2)) of $10,000.

(3) For making payments under section 340H(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(a)(1)(A)) to qualified teaching health centers for maintenance of filled positions at existing approved graduate medical residency training programs.

(4) For making payments under section 340H(a)(1)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(a)(1)(B)) for the expansion of existing approved graduate medical residency training programs.

(5) For making awards under section 749A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–21) to teaching health centers for the purpose of establishing, expanding, or operating new primary care residency programs.

(6) To cover administrative costs and activities necessary for qualified teaching health centers receiving grants under section 340H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h) to carry out activities under such section.

SEC. 2605. FUNDING FOR FAMILY PLANNING.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $50,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses for making awards under section 1001 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 200).

Subtitle H—Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder

SEC. 2701. FUNDING FOR BLOCK GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this subtitle referred to as the ‘‘Secretary’’) for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $1,500,000,000, to remain available until expended, for carryout of subpart I of part B of title XIX of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h et seq.), subpart III of part B of title XIX of such Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–31 et seq.), and section 505(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 290aa–6(c)) with respect to mental health. Notwithstanding section 1952 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–62), any amount awarded to a State out of amounts appropriated by this section shall be expended by the State by September 30, 2025.

SEC. 2702. FUNDING FOR BLOCK GRANTS FOR PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $300,000,000, to remain available until expended, for carryout of subpart II of part B of title XIX of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–21 et seq.), subpart III of part B of title XIX of such Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–31 et seq.), and section 505(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 290aa–6(c)) with respect to substance abuse, and section 515(d) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–21(d)). Notwithstanding section 1952 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–21(d)), any amount awarded to a State out of amounts appropriated by this section shall be expended by the State by September 30, 2025.

SEC. 2703. FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TRAINING AND COMMUNITY CARE PROFESSIONALS, PARAPROFESSIONALS, AND PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS.

(a) In General.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $80,000,000, to remain available until expended, for purposes described in subsection (b).

(b) USE OF FUNDING.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, shall, taking into consideration the needs of rural and medically underserved communities, use amounts appropriated by subsection (a) to (1) grant awards or contracts to health professions schools, academic health centers, State or local governments, Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, or other appropriate public or private organizations (or consortia of entities, including entities promoting multidisciplinary approaches), to plan, develop, operate, or participate in health professions and nursing training programs and activities for health professionals, paraprofessionals, trainees, and public safety officers, and employers of such individuals, in evidence-informed strategies for reducing and addressing, within, mental health conditions, and substance use disorders among health care professionals.

SEC. 2704. FUNDING FOR EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS TO ENCOURAGE AGING HEALTHY WORK CONDITIONS AND USE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES BY HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

(a) In General.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $50,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the purpose described in subsection (b).

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and in consultation with the medical professional community, shall use amounts appropriated by subsection (a) to (1) encourage primary prevention of mental health conditions and substance use disorders and secondary and tertiary prevention by encouraging health care professionals to seek support and treatment for their own mental health and substance use concerns; and

(2) help such professionals to identify risk factors in themselves and others and respond to such risks.

SEC. 2705. FUNDING FOR GRANTS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH AMONG THEIR HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE.

(a) In General.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $60,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the purpose described in subsection (b).

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, shall, taking into consideration the needs of rural and medically underserved communities, use amounts appropriated by subsection (a) to (1) provide education and training for health care providers in providing mental health care, including health care providers associations and Federally qualified health centers, to establish, enhance, or expand evidence-informed programs or protocols to promote mental health among their providers, other personnel, and members.

SEC. 2706. FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY-BASED FUNDING FOR LOCAL SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES.

(a) In General.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $30,000,000, to remain available until expended, for purposes described in subsection (b).

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and in consultation with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and in consultation with States; local, Tribal, and territorial governments; Tribal organizations; nonprofit community-based organizations; and primary and behavioral health organizations to support community-based overdose prevention programs, syringe services programs, and other harm reduction services.

USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under this section to eligible entities shall be used for preventing and controlling the spread of infectious diseases and the complications of such diseases for individuals with substance use disorder, distributing opioid overdose reversal medication to individuals at risk of overdose, connecting individuals at risk for, or with a substance use disorder, to treatment, education, counseling, and health education, and encouraging such individuals to take steps to reduce the negative personal and public health impacts of substance use disorder.

SEC. 2707. FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY-BASED FUNDING FOR LOCAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS.

(a) In General.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $10,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the purpose described in subsection (b).

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, shall award grants to States, local health departments, Tribal, and territorial governments, Tribal organizations, nonprofit community-based entities, and primary and behavioral health organizations to support States; local, Tribal, and territorial governments; Tribal organizations; community-based organizations; and primary and behavioral health organizations to support increased community behavioral health needs worsened by the COVID–19 public health emergency.

(2) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under this section to eligible entities shall be used for promoting care coordination among local entities; training the mental and behavioral health workforce, relevant stakeholders, and community members; expanding evidence-based integrated models of care; addressing surge capacity for mental and behavioral health needs; providing behavioral health services to individuals with mental health needs (including co-occurring substance use disorders) as delivered by behavioral and mental health professionals utilizing telehealth services; and supporting, enhancing, or expanding mental and behavioral health preventive and crisis intervention services.

SEC. 2708. FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL CHILD TRAUMATIC STRESS NETWORK.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $10,000,000, to remain available until expended, for purposes described in subsection (b).

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, shall, taking into consideration the needs of rural and medically underserved communities, use amounts appropriated by subsection (a) to (1) provide training and technical assistance to providing mental health care, including health care providers associations and Federally qualified health centers, to establish, enhance, or expand evidence-informed programs or protocols to promote mental health among their providers, other personnel, and members.
SEC. 2709. FUNDING FOR PROJECT AWARE.
In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $30,000,000, to remain available until expended, for carrying out section 520E and 520E–2 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 18041(c)) that submits to the Secretary (A) applying for funds to own or operate a health center funded under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–19).

SEC. 2710. FUNDING FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING.
In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated, for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $100,000,000, to remain available until expended, for carrying out section 756 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294e–1).

SEC. 2711. FUNDING FOR PEDIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS.
In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $80,000,000, to remain available until expended, for carrying out section 230 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–19).

SEC. 2712. FUNDING FOR EXPANSION GRANTS FOR CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICS.
In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated, for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $420,000,000, to remain available until expended, for grants to communities and community organizations that meet the criteria for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics pursuant to section 223(a) of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note).

Subtitle I—Exchange Grant Program

SEC. 2801. ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR EXCHANGE MODERNIZATION.
(a) In general.—Out of funds appropriated under subsection (A) of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this subsection referred to as the “Secretary”) shall award grants to each American Health Benefits Exchange established under section 1321(c) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18011(b)) that submits to the Secretary an application at such time and in such manner, and containing such information, as specified by the Secretary, for purposes of enabling such Exchange to modernize or update any system, program, or technology utilized by such Exchange to ensure such Exchange is compliant with all applicable requirements.
(b) In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated, for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $20,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for carrying out this section.

Subtitle J—Continued Assistance to Rail Workers

SEC. 2901. ADDITIONS TO ENHANCED BENEFITS UNDER THE RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.
(a) In general.—Section 2(a)(5)(A) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. 532(a)(5)(A)) is amended—
(1) in the first sentence—
(A) by striking “March 14, 2021” and inserting “September 6, 2021”;
(B) by striking “or July 1, 2020” and inserting “or July 1, 2021”;
and
(C) in the second sentence—
(1) by striking “March 14, 2021” and inserting “September 6, 2021”;
(2) by striking “A clarification on authority to use funds—Funds appropriated under subsection (a) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. 532(a)–(5) shall be available to cover the cost of recovery benefits provided under such section 2(a)(5) by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a) as well as to cover the cost of such benefits provided under such section 2(a)(5) as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2902. EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS UNDER THE RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.
(a) In general.—Section 2(c)(2)(D) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. 532(c)(2)(D)) is amended—
(1) in clause (i)—
(A) in subclause (I), by striking “165 days” and inserting “330 days”;
(B) in subclause (II),—
(i) by striking “12 consecutive 14-day periods” and inserting “31 consecutive 14-day periods”;
and
(ii) by striking “6 consecutive 14-day periods” and inserting “20 consecutive 14-day periods”;
(2) in clause (ii)—
(A) by striking “120 days of unemployment” and inserting “265 days of unemployment”;
(B) by striking “12 consecutive 14-day periods” and inserting “27 consecutive 14-day periods”;
and
(C) by striking “6 consecutive 14-day periods” and inserting “20 consecutive 14-day periods”;
(3) in clause (iii)—
(A) by striking “June 30, 2021” and inserting “June 30, 2022”;
and
(B) by striking the provisions of clauses (i) and (ii) shall not apply to any employee with respect to any registration period beginning after April 5, 2021.”; and inserting “the provisions of clauses (i) and (ii) shall not apply to any employee with respect to any registration period beginning after September 6, 2021.” and
(4) in clause (e), by adding at the end the following—“In addition to the amount appropriated by the preceding two sentences, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $2,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Railroad Retirement Board; and
(b) Clarification on authority to use funds—Funds appropriated under the first, second, or third sentence of clause (e) of section 2(c)(2)(D) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act shall be available to cover the cost of additional extended unemployment benefits provided under such subparagraph, to remain available until expended.”.

SEC. 2903. EXTENSION OF WAIVER OF THE 7-DAY WAITING PERIOD FOR BENEFITS UNDER THE RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.
(a) In general.—Section 2112(a) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9030(a)) is amended by—
(A) by striking “June 30, 2021” and inserting “September 6, 2021”;
(B) by striking “265 days of unemployment” and inserting “330 days”;
(C) by striking “12 consecutive 14-day periods” and inserting “20 consecutive 14-day periods”;
(D) by striking “June 30, 2021” and inserting “July 1, 2021”;
(E) by striking “July 1, 2020, or July 1, 2021” and inserting “July 1, 2020, or July 1, 2021”;
(F) by striking “20 consecutive 14-day periods” and inserting “265 days of unemployment”; and
(G) by striking “12 consecutive 14-day periods” and inserting “27 consecutive 14-day periods”;

SEC. 2904. RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD AND OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FUNDING.
In addition to amounts otherwise available, there are appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated—
(1) $27,975,000, to remain available until expended, for the Railroad Retirement Board, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to contributions of which—
(A) $6,800,000 shall be for additional hiring and overtime bonuses as needed to administer the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act; and
(B) $21,175,000 shall be to supplement, not supplant, existing resources devoted to operations and improvements for the Information Technology Investment Initiatives of the Railroad Retirement Board; and
(2) $500,000, to remain available until expended, for the Railroad Retirement Board Office of Inspector General for audit, investigatory and review activities.

Subtitle K—Ratepayer Protection

SEC. 2911. FUNDING FOR LIHEAP.
In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $4,500,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2022, for additional funding to provide payments under section 2602(b) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8626(b)(2)(B)).

(1) $2,250,000,000 of such amounts shall be allocated as though the total appropriation for such payments for fiscal year 2021 was less than $1,975,000,000; and
(2) section 2607(b)(2)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 8626(b)(2)(B)) shall not apply to funds appropriated under this section for fiscal year 2021.

SEC. 2912. FUNDING FOR WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.
(a) In general.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) for fiscal year 2021, out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $500,000,000, to remain available until expended, for grants to States and Indian Tribes to assist low-income households, particularly those with the lowest incomes, that pay a high proportion of household income for drinking water and wastewater services, by providing funds to owners or operators of public water systems or treatment works to reduce arrearages of and rates charged to such households for such systems.
(b) Allotment.—The Secretary shall—
(1) allot amounts appropriated in this section to a State or Indian Tribe based on—
(A) the percentage of households in the State, or under the jurisdiction of the Indian Tribe, with income equal or less than 150 percent of the Federal poverty level; and
(B) the percentage of households in the State, or under the jurisdiction of the Indian Tribe, that spend more than 30 percent of monthly income on housing; and
(2) reserve up to 3 percent of the amount appropriated in this section for Indian Tribes and tribal organizations.

(c) Definitions.—In this section, the term “Indian Tribe” means each of the 50 States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Subtitle L—Assistance for Older Americans, Grandfamilies, and Kinship Families

SEC. 2921. SUPPORTING OLDER AMERICANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.
(a) Appropriation.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for—
fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $1,434,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out the Older Americans Act of 1965.

(b) Authorization of Appropriations. Amounts made available by subsection (a) shall be available as follows:

(1) $460,000,000 shall be available to carry out part C of title III of such Act.
(2) $25,000,000 shall be available to carry out title VI of such Act, including part C of such title.
(3) $145,000,000 shall be available to carry out part E of title III of such Act.
(4) $44,000,000 shall be available to carry out part D of title III of such Act.
(5) $2,500,000,000 for loans to States for assistance to eligible grantees as provided in this section.

TITLES III—COMMUNITY SERVICES

Subtitle A—Defense Production Act of 1950

SEC. 3101. COVID-19 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPLIES ENHANCEMENT.

(a) SUPPORTING ENHANCED USE OF THE DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT OF 1950.—In addition to funds otherwise available, there is appropriated, for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $152,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for the purchase of medical supplies and equipment (including—

(A) in vitro diagnostic products for the detection and identification of the virus that causes COVID-19, and the reagents and other materials necessary for producing, conducting, or administering such products, and the machinery, equipment, laboratory capacity, or other technology necessary to produce such products;
(B) face masks and personal protective equipment, including face shields, nitrile gloves, N-95 filtering facepiece respirators, and any other masks or equipment (including durable medical equipment) necessary to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including—

(i) test kits; and
(ii) other technology necessary to produce such equipment;
(C) drugs, devices, and biological products that are approved, cleared, licensed, or authorized for use in treating or preventing COVID-19 and symptoms related to COVID-19, and any materials, manufacturing machinery, additional manufacturing or fill-finish lines or facilities, technology, or equipment (including durable medical equipment) necessary to produce or use such drugs, devices, and biological products (including syringes, vials, or other supplies or equipment related to delivery, distribution, or administration).

(b) MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT.—

(1) TESTING AND PERSONAL MATERIALS.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), amounts appropriated in subsection (a) shall be used for the purchase, production (including the construction of government-owned or private facilities as necessary), or distribution of medical supplies and equipment (including durable medical equipment) related to combating the COVID-19 pandemic, including—

(A) intravenous diagnostic products for the detection and identification of the virus that causes COVID-19, and the reagents and other materials necessary for producing, conducting, or administering such products, and the machinery, equipment, laboratory capacity, or other technology necessary to produce such products;
(B) face masks and personal protective equipment, including face shields, nitrile gloves, N-95 filtering facepiece respirators, and any other masks or equipment (including durable medical equipment) designed, produced, processed, or other technology necessary to produce such products; and
(C) drugs, devices, and biological products that are approved, cleared, licensed, or authorized for use in treating or preventing COVID-19 and symptoms related to COVID-19, and any materials, manufacturing machinery, additional manufacturing or fill-finish lines or facilities, technology, or equipment (including durable medical equipment) necessary to produce or use such drugs, devices, and biological products (including syringes, vials, or other supplies or equipment related to delivery, distribution, or administration).

TITLES II—HOUSING PROVISIONS

Subtitle B—Housing Provisions

SEC. 2201. EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) FUNDING.

(1) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of HUD, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $21,550,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for making payments to eligible grantees under this section—

(2) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amount appropriated under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall reserve—

(A) $305,000,000 for making payments under this section to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa;
(B) $30,000,000 for costs of the Secretary for the administration of emergency rental assistance programs and technical assistance to recipients of any grants made by the Secretary to provide financial and other assistance to renters;
(C) $3,000,000 for administrative expenses of the Inspector General relating to oversight of funds provided in this section; and
(D) $2,500,000,000 for grants to high-need grantees as provided in this section.

(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO ELIGIBLE GRANTEES.—

(1) ALLOCATION FOR STATES AND UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount appropriated under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) that remains available after September 30, 2022, and is not otherwise reserved, shall be allocated to eligible grantees described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (f)(1) in the same manner as the amount appropriated under section 501(b)(4) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and will use the funds in a manner consistent with such section.

(B) INTRASTATE ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amount made available under subsection (a) for grantees under section 501(b)(4) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and will use the funds in a manner consistent with such section.

(T) PRO RATA ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary shall make pro rata adjustments in the amounts of the allocations determined under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph for entities described in subparagraph (F)(1)(A) of such section to ensure that the total amount of allocations made pursuant to such subparagraph does not exceed the remainder appropriated amount described in such subparagraph.

(c) ALLOCATIONS FOR TERRITORIES.—

The amount reserved under subsection (a)(2)(A) shall be allocated to eligible grantees described in subparagraph (F)(1) of such section as the amount appropriated under paragraph (1) of section 501(a)(2)(A) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and will use the funds in a manner consistent with such section.

(3) $2,500,000,000 for making payments under this section to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa;
2021, after the amount reserved under subsection (a)(2)(A); and

(B) in clause (i) of subparagraph (B), by substituting the "amount equal to 0.5 percent of the amount appropriated under subsection (a)(1)") with "the amount equal to 0.3 percent of the amount appropriated under subsection (a)(1) of section 3201 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021".

(3) HIGH-NEED GRANTEES.—The Secretary shall allocate funds reserved under subsection (a)(2)(D) to eligible grantees with a high need for assistance under this section, with the number of very low-income renter households paying more than 90 percent of their income on rent or living in substandard or overcrowded conditions, rental moratoriums in effect since February 2020 used as the factors for allocating funds.

(c) Fund Payment Schedule.—(1) In general.—The Secretary shall pay all eligible grantees not less than 40 percent of each such eligible grantee's total allocation under subsection (b) within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

(2) Subsequent Payments.—The Secretary shall pay to eligible grantees additional amounts to bring their payments made under this section to at least 75 percent of the funds already disbursed to each eligible grantee in accordance with a procedure established by the Secretary, provided that any such procedure established by the Secretary shall require that an eligible grantee must have obligated not less than 75 percent of the funds already disbursed by the Secretary pursuant to this section prior to disbursement of additional amounts.

(d) Use of Funds.—(1) In general.—An eligible grantee shall only use the funds provided from payments made under this section as follows:

(A) Financial Assistance.—In general.—Subject to clause (ii) of this subparagraph, funds received by an eligible grantee from payments made under this section shall be used to provide financial assistance to eligible households, not to exceed 18 months, including the payment of—

(I) rent;

(II) rental arrears;

(III) utilities and home energy costs;

(IV) utilities and home energy costs arrears; and

(V) other expenses related to housing, as defined by the Secretary.

(ii) Affordability.—Housing the aggregate amount of financial assistance an eligible household may receive under this section, when combined with financial assistance provided under section 501 of title V of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260), shall not exceed 18 months.

(B) Housing Stability Services.—Not more than 10 percent of the amount paid to an eligible grantee from payments made under this section shall be used to provide case management and other services intended to keep households stably housed.

(C) Administrative Costs.—Not more than 15 percent of the total amount paid to an eligible grantee from payments made under this section shall be used for administrative costs attributable to providing financial assistance, housing stability services, and other affordable rental housing and eviction prevention activities, including for data collection and reporting requirements related to such funds.

(D) Other Affordable Rental Housing and Eviction Prevention Activities.—An eligible grantee may use any funds from payments made under this section that are unobligated on October 1, 2022, for purposes in addition to those specified in subparagraph (C) if the Secretary determines that—

(i) such other purposes are affordable rental housing and eviction prevention purposes, as defined by the Secretary, serving very low-income households; and

(ii) prior to obligating any funds for such purposes, the eligible grantee has obligated not less than 75 percent of the total funds allocated to such eligible grantee in accordance with this section.

(2) Distribution of Assistance.—Amounts appropriated under subsection (a)(1) of this section shall be subject to the same terms and conditions as for fiscal year 2020, as determined by subsection (f)(2) of section 501(c) of title V of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) to amounts appropriated under section 501(b) of such Act.

(e) Reallocation of Funds.—(1) In general.—Beginning March 31, 2022, the Secretary shall disburse to each eligible grantee in accordance with subsection (b) but not yet paid in accordance with subsection (c)(2) according to a procedure established by the Secretary.

(2) Eligibility for Reallocated Funds.—The Secretary shall require an eligible grantee to have obligated 50 percent of the total amount allotted to such eligible grantee under subsection (b) to be eligible to receive funds reallocated under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(f) Payment of Reallocated Funds by the Secretary.—The Secretary shall pay to each eligible grantee for a payment of reallocated funds under this subsection the amount allocated to such eligible grantee in accordance with the procedure established by the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(g) Use of Reallocated Funds.—Eligible grantees may use any funds received in accordance with this subsection only for purposes specified in paragraph (1) of such subsection.

(h) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Eligible Grantee.—The term "eligible grantee" means the following:

(A) The 50 States of the United States and the District of Columbia.

(B) A unit of local government (as defined in section 1437f(o)).

(C) The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

(2) Eligible Household.—The term "eligible household" means a household of 1 or more individuals who are obligated to pay rent on a residential dwelling and to which the eligible grantee involved determines that—

(A) 1 or more individuals within the household has—

(i) qualified for unemployment benefits; or

(ii) experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced another financial or personal hardship directly or indirectly, to the coronavirus pandemic;

(B) 1 or more individuals within the household can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and

(C) the household is a low-income family (as such term is defined in section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(b))).

(3) Inspector General.—The term "Inspector General" means the Inspector General of the Department of the Treasury.

(4) Secretary.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Treasury.

(5) Unit of Local Government.—The term "unit of local government" has the meaning given such term in section 501 of title V of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260).

(6) Availability.—Funds provided to an eligible grantee under a payment made under this section shall remain available through September 30, 2022.

SEC. 2002. EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHERS.

(a) Appropriation.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $5,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for—

(1) incremental emergency vouchers under subsection (b);

(2) renewals of the vouchers under subsection (b);

(3) fees for the costs of administering vouchers under subsection (b) and other eligible expenses described in paragraph (1) to respond to coronavirus to facilitate the leasing of the emergency vouchers, such as security deposit assistance and other costs related to reten tion support of vouchers; and

(4) adjustments in the calendar year 2021 section 8 renewal funding allocation, including mainstream vouchers, for public housing agencies that experience a significant increase in voucher per-unit costs due to extraordinary circumstances or that, despite taking reasonable cost savings measures, would otherwise be required to terminate the lease of vouchers for families as a result of insufficient funding.

(b) Emergency Vouchers.—(1) In general.—The Secretary shall provide emergency rental assistance to vouchers under subsection (a), which shall be tenant-based rental assistance under section 8(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

(2) Qualifying Individuals or Families Defined.—For the purposes of this section, qualifying individuals or families are those who are—

(A) homeless (as such term is defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(a));

(B) risk of homelessness as such term is defined in section 401(1) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11306(1));

(C) fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, as defined by the Secretary; or

(D) recently homeless, as determined by the Secretary, and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the family’s homelessness or having high risk of housing instability.

(3) Allocation.—The Secretary shall notify public housing agencies of the number of emergency vouchers provided under this section to be allocated to the agency not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, in a formula determined by the Secretary of public housing agency capacity and ensures geographic diversity, including with respect to rural areas, among public housing agencies administering the Housing Choice Voucher program.

(4) Terms and Conditions.—(a) Election to Administer.—The Secretary shall establish a procedure for public housing agencies to accept or decline the emergency vouchers allocated to the agency in accordance with the formula under paragraph (3). On or before the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide guidelines for public housing agencies administering the Housing Choice Voucher program.

(B) Failure to Use Vouchers Promptly.—If a public housing agency fails to lease its authorized vouchers under subsection (b) on behalf of eligible families within a reasonable period of time, the Secretary may revoice and redistribute any unleased vouchers and associated funds, including administrative fees and costs referred to in subsection (a)(3), to other public housing agencies according to the formula under paragraph (3).

(5) Waivers and Alternative Requirements.—The Secretary may grant good cause determinations to public housing agencies for purposes of any waiver of the requirements under paragraphs (3) and (4) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(1)) to address the needs of families experiencing severe hardship due to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment, upon a finding that the
waiver or alternative requirement is necessary to expedite or facilitate the use of amounts made available in this section.

(6) TERMINATION OF VOUCHERS UPON FURNISHING NOTWITHSTANDING sections 212(a) and (g) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12742(a) and (g)), a grantee to which an additional five percent of its allocation for administrative expenses described in subsection (d)(1).

(3) OPERATING EXPENSES—Notwithstanding sections 212(a) and (g) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12742(a) and (g)), a grantee to which an additional five percent of its allocation for the payment of operating expenses of community housing development organizations and nonprofit organizations carrying out activities authorized under this section, but only if—

(A) such funds are used to develop the capacity or support the community housing development organizations and nonprofit organizations carrying out activities authorized under this section, and

(B) the community housing development organization or nonprofit organization does not exceed the limitation on assistance in section 234(b) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12744(b))

(4) CONTRACTING.—A grantee, when contracting with service providers engaged directly in the provision of services under paragraph (a)(3), shall, to the extent practicable, enter into contracts in amounts that cover the actual total program costs and administrative overhead to provide the services contracted.

(5) FORMULA ASSISTANCE.—Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3), the Secretary shall allocate amounts made available under this section pursuant to section 217 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12747) to grantees that received allocations for fiscal year 2021.

(6) Waivers or Alternative Requirements.—The Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12721 et seq.) or regulation of the Plan for carrying out substantial compliance with the limitation on assistance in section 234(b) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12744(b))

(7) Technical Assistance.—Up to $25,000,000 of the amounts made available under this section shall be used, without competition, to make new awards or increase prior awards to existing technical assistance providers to provide an increase in capacity building and technical assistance available to any grantees implementing activities or projects consistent with this section.

(8) OTHER COSTS.—Up to $50,000,000 of the amounts made available under this section shall be used for the administrative costs to oversee and administer implementation of this section and the HOME program generally, including information technology, financial reporting, and other costs.

(9) Waivers or Alternative Requirements.—The Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12721 et seq.) or regulation of the Plan for carrying out substantial compliance with the limitation on assistance in section 234(b) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12744(b))

(10) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—The Corporation may retain a portion of the amounts provided under this section in a proportion consistent with its standard rate for program administration in order to cover its expenses related to program administration and oversight.

(11) Housing Counseling Services Defined.—For the purposes of this section, the term ‘housing counseling services’ means—

(a) Target housing counseling services to minority and low-income populations facing housing instability; or

(b) Provide housing counseling services in neighborhoods with high concentrations of minority and low-income populations.

(c) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount provided to NeighborWorks organizations under this section shall not exceed 15 percent of the total amount of grant funds made available by subsection (a).

(d) ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT.—The Corporation may retain a portion of the amounts provided under this section, in a proportion consistent with its standard rate for program administration in order to cover its expenses related to program administration and oversight.

(e) HOUSING COUNSELING SERVICES DEFINED.—For the purposes of this section, the term ‘housing counseling services’ means—

(1) Housing counseling provided directly to households facing housing instability, such as eviction, default, foreclosure, loss of income, or homelessness;

(2) Education, outreach, training, technical upgrades, and other program related support; and

(3) Operational oversight funding for grantees and subgrantees that receive funds under this section.

SEC. 3205. HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM.

(a) Appropriation.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the ‘Secretary’) for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, except that amounts authorized under subsection (d)(3) shall remain available until September 30, 2029, for assistance under section 212 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11380 et seq.) and the HOME program generally, including in information technology, financial reporting, and other costs.

(b) Qualifying Individuals or Families Defined.—For the purposes of this section, qualifying individuals or families are those who—

(1) Are homeless, as defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(a));

(2) Are at-risk of homelessness, as defined in section 401(d) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11301(d));

(3) Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, as defined by the Secretary; or

(4) In other neighborhoods where providing supportive services or assistance under section 212(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12742(a)) would provide the families or members serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability; or

(5) Veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meet one of the preceding criteria.

(c) Terms and Conditions.—The terms and conditions in section 212(e) (42 U.S.C. 12742(e)), the commitment requirements in section 218(g) (42 U.S.C. 12748(g)), the matching requirements in section 220 (42 U.S.C. 12750), and the set-aside for housing development, sponsored, or owned by community housing development organizations required in section 231 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12771) shall not apply for amounts made available in this section.

(d) Administrative Costs.—Notwithstanding sections 212(c) and (d)(1) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12742(c) and (d)(1)), a portion of the amounts made available in this section for carrying out activities authorized in this section, a grantee may use up to fifteen percent of its allocation for administrative and planning costs.

(e) Operating Expenses.—Notwithstanding sections 212(a) and (g) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12742(a) and (g)), a grantee to which an additional five percent of its allocation for the payment of operating expenses of community housing development organizations and nonprofit organizations carrying out activities authorized under this section, but only if—

(A) such funds are used to develop the capacity of the community housing development organization or nonprofit organization to carry out activities authorized under this section; and

(B) the community housing development organization or nonprofit organization does not exceed the limitation on assistance in section 234(b) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12744(b))

(f) Contracting.—A grantee, when contracting with service providers engaged directly in the provision of services under paragraph (a)(3), shall, to the extent practicable, enter into contracts in amounts that cover the actual total program costs and administrative overhead to provide the services contracted.

(g) Allocation.—

(1) Formula Assistance.—Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3), the Secretary shall allocate amounts made available under this section pursuant to section 217 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12747) to grantees that received allocations for fiscal year 2021.

(2) Technical Assistance.—Up to $25,000,000 of the amounts made available under this section shall be used, without competition, to make new awards or increase prior awards to existing technical assistance providers to provide an increase in capacity building and technical assistance available to any grantees implementing activities or projects consistent with this section.

(3) Other Costs.—Up to $50,000,000 of the amounts made available under this section shall be used for the administrative costs to oversee and administer implementation of this section and the HOME program generally, including information technology, financial reporting, and other costs.

(4) Waivers or Alternative Requirements.—The Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12721 et seq.) or regulation of the Plan for carrying out substantial compliance with the limitation on assistance in section 234(b) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12744(b))

(5) Principles.—For the purposes of any requirements under this section, the term ‘conforming loan limit’ means the applicable limitation specified in the following:

(a) Conforming loan limits shall be not less than the applicable conforming loan limit for the program or activity for which the mortgage is secured by a 1-family residence, a mortgage secured by a 2-family residence, or a mortgage secured by a 1-4 family residence, as determined and adjusted annually under section 390(b)(2) of the Federal National Housing Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1437f(b)(2)).

(2) OF THE ACT.—The term ‘‘dwelling’’ means any building, structure, or portion thereof which is occupied as, or designed or intended for occupancy as, a residence by one or more individuals.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘‘eligible entity’’ means—
(A) a State; or
(B) any entity eligible for payment under subsection (f).

(4) MORTGAGE.—The term ‘‘mortgage’’ means any contract, deed of trust, or other consensual security interest on a principal residence of a borrower that is (I) a 1-to-4 residential real property that includes a 1-to-4 unit dwelling; and
(B) the unpaid principal balance of which was, at the time of origination, not more than the conforming loan limit.

(5) FUND.—The term ‘‘Fund’’ means the Homeowner Assistance Fund established under subsection (c).

(6) SECRETARY.—The term ‘‘Secretary’’ means the Secretary of the Treasury.

(7) STATE.—The term ‘‘State’’ means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.

(8) TERRITORY.—The term ‘‘Territory’’ means—
(A) American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas;
(B) Guam; and
(C) the Northern Mariana Islands.

(9) TRIBAL ENTITY.—The term ‘‘Tribal entity’’ means a tribe as defined in section 3 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 460b).

(10) TRIBAL SET-ASIDE.—The term ‘‘Tribal set-aside’’ means amounts made to each eligible entity allocated under subsection (c).

(11) TRIBAL SET-ASIDE.—The term ‘‘tribal set-aside’’ means amounts made to each eligible entity allocated under subsection (c).

(12) FUND.—The term ‘‘Fund’’ means the Homeowner Assistance Fund established under subsection (c).

(13) FUND.—The term ‘‘Tribal assistance fund’’ means the fund established under section 105 of the Housing for Indian Communities Act (25 U.S.C. 1705).

(a) A PPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the ‘‘Secretary’’), out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $20,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for direct loans made under sections 502 and 504 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472, 1474).

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Secretary may use not more than 3 percent of the amounts appropriated under this section for administrative purposes.

SEC. 3209. FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITIES.

(a) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the ‘‘Secretary’’) for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury, $20,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program under section 361 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987 (42 U.S.C. 3616a) to ensure fair housing organizations have additional resources to address fair housing inquires, complaints, investigations, education outreach activities, and other activities that are reasonably related to fair housing or adapting services, during or relating to the coronavirus pandemic.
end of the 6-year period beginning on the date that the Secretary approves the State for participation.

(b) REALLOCATION.—Any amount deemed by the Secretary in an incentive program to be allocated to the State and no longer available to such State under subparagraph (A) may be reallocated by the Secretary to other participating States. In making such reallocations, the Secretary may not take into account the minimum allocation requirements under subsection (b)(2)(B) or the specific allocation for Tribal governments described under subparagraph (B).

(2) TER MINATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUND.—(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to amounts appropriated under subparagraph (A) may be reallocated by the Secretary to other participating States. In making such a reallocation, the Secretary shall—

(b) require Tribal governments that individually or jointly wish to participate in the Program to file a notice of intent with the Secretary not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of subsection (d); and

(D) EMPLOYMENT DATA.—If the Secretary determines that employment data with respect to a participating State’s allocated amount that has not been used as of the date of enactment of section 306(d); and

(E) in paragraph (1), by striking “‘2007’” and inserting “‘2019’”; and

(f) INCENTIVE ALLOCATIONS TO SUPPORT BUSINESS ENTERPRISES OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.—Section 3003(d) of the State Small Business Credit Initiative Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5707(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

(G) in section 306(b), by striking “date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “date of enactment of section 306(d)”;

(2) APPROPRIATION.—(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is hereby appropriated to the Secretary of the Treasury for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $10,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, to provide support to small businesses responding to and recovering from the economic effects of the COVID–19 pandemic, and to provide technical assistance to help small businesses applying for various support programs, and to pay reasonable costs of administering such Initiative.

(2) contract with legal, accounting, and financial advisory firms, with priority given to business enterprises owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, to very small businesses and business enterprises owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals applying for—

(A) State programs under the Program; and

(B) other State or Federal programs that support small businesses; and

(C) other Federal programs that support small businesses; and

(D) allocate such amounts to States based on the needs of business enterprises owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, to very small businesses and business enterprises owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals applying for—

(A) State programs under the Program; and

(B) other State or Federal programs that support small businesses.

(A) require Tribal governments that individually or jointly wish to participate in the Program to file a notice of intent with the Secretary not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of subsection (d); and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “(i)” and inserting “(ii)”;

(iii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “the proportion the Secretary determines appropriate, including with consideration to available employment and economic data regarding such Tribal government”;

(iv) in paragraph (3), by striking “the Secretary may use not more than 3 percent of the amounts appropriated under paragraph (2).”;

(v) in paragraph (4), by striking “no later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “date of the enactment of section 300(d)”;

(2) APPROPRIATION.—(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is hereby appropriated to the Secretary of the Treasury for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $10,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, to provide support to small businesses responding to and recovering from the economic effects of the COVID–19 pandemic, and to provide technical assistance to help small businesses applying for various support programs, and to pay reasonable costs of administering such Initiative.

(B) RECISSION.—With respect to amounts appropriated under subparagraph (A)—

(i) the second 1⁄3 of a State’s allocated amount that has not been transferred to the State before the end of the 3-year period beginning on the date that the Secretary approves the State for participation;

(ii) the last 1⁄3 of a State’s allocated amount that has not been transferred to the State before the end of the 6-year period beginning on the date that the Secretary approves the State for participation.

(iii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “no later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “date of the enactment of section 306(d)”;

(iv) in section 3007(b), by striking “March 31, 2011” and inserting “March 31, 2022”;

(v) in section 3009, by striking “date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “date of enactment of section 306(d)”;

(D) in section 306(b)(4), by striking “date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “date of the enactment of section 306(d)”;

(E) in section 3007(b), by striking “March 31, 2011” and inserting “March 31, 2022”;

(F) in section 3009, by striking “date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “date of enactment of section 306(d)”;

(G) a Tribal government, or a group of Tribal governments, that has entered into a contract with legal, accounting, and financial advisory firms, with priority given to business enterprises owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, to very small businesses and business enterprises owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals applying for—

(A) State programs under the Program; and

(1) require Tribal governments that individually or jointly wish to participate in the Program to file a notice of intent with the Secretary not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of subsection (d); and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “(i)” and inserting “(ii)”;

(E) in section 3007(b), by striking “March 31, 2011” and inserting “March 31, 2022”;

(F) in section 3009, by striking “date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “date of enactment of section 306(d)”;

(G) in section 306(b)(4), by striking “date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “date of the enactment of section 306(d)”;

(H) APPROPRIATION.—(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is hereby appropriated to the Secretary of the Treasury for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $10,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, to provide support to small businesses responding to and recovering from the economic effects of the COVID–19 pandemic, and to provide technical assistance to help small businesses applying for various support programs, and to pay reasonable costs of administering such Initiative.

(B) RECISSION.—With respect to amounts appropriated under subparagraph (A)—

(i) the second 1⁄3 of a State’s allocated amount that has not been transferred to the State before the end of the 3-year period beginning on the date that the Secretary approves the State for participation;

(ii) the last 1⁄3 of a State’s allocated amount that has not been transferred to the State before the end of the 6-year period beginning on the date that the Secretary approves the State for participation.

(iii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “no later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “date of the enactment of section 306(d)”;

(iv) in section 3007(b), by striking “March 31, 2011” and inserting “March 31, 2022”;

(v) in section 3009, by striking “date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “date of enactment of section 306(d)”;

(G) a Tribal government, or a group of Tribal governments, that has entered into a contract with legal, accounting, and financial advisory firms, with priority given to business enterprises owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, to very small businesses and business enterprises owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals applying for—

(A) State programs under the Program; and

(B) other State or Federal programs that support small businesses; and

(C) other Federal programs that support small businesses; and

(D) other Federal programs that support small businesses.
(A) FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION APPROPRIATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there are appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $30,461,354, to remain available until September 30, 2024, that shall—

(A) be for grants to eligible recipients under sections 5307, 5309, 5310, and 5311 of title 49, United States Code, for operating expenses of transit agencies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus; and

(B) not be subject to any prior restriction on the total amount of funds available for implementation of provisions contained in the National Transit Data Base fiscal year 2019, except that projects open for revenue service in that year shall receive an amount equal to 20 percent of such State’s 2018 rural operating costs.

(ii) any State that does not receive an allocation under clause (i) that received an amount for similar activities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus that is equal to or greater than 10 percent of the combined 2018 rural operating costs of the recipients and subrecipients in that State shall receive an amount equal to 10 percent of such State’s 2018 rural operating costs.

(iii) any State that does not receive an allocation under clauses (i) or (ii) shall receive an amount equal to 5 percent of such State’s 2018 rural operating costs.

(3) FORMULA GRANTS FOR RURAL AREAS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available under subsection (a), $77,244,013 shall be for grants to recipients or subrecipients eligible under section 5311 of title 49, United States Code, and shall be apportioned in accordance with such section.

(B) ALLOCATION RATIO.—Amounts made available under subparagraph (A) shall be allocated in the same ratio as funds were provided under section 5311 of title 49, United States Code, for fiscal year 2020.

(C) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—For amounts made available under section 5311 of title 49, United States Code, funds under this paragraph may be used by such State or territory for any expense eligible under section 5311 of title 49, United States Code.

(4) PLANNING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available under subsection (a), $25,000,000 shall be available for grants to recipients of section 5310 of title 49, United States Code, for the planning of public transportation associated with
the restoration of services as the coronavirus public health emergency concludes and shall be available in accordance with such section.

(B) **Availability of Funds for Route Planning.**—Amounts available under subparagraph (A) shall be available for route planning designed to—

(i) increase ridership and reduce travel times, while maintaining or expanding the total level of vehicle revenue miles of service provided in the planning period;

(ii) make service adjustments to increase the quality or frequency of service provided to low-income riders and disadvantaged neighborhoods or communities;

(iii) Chapter 1 of chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, unless the recipient provides to the Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID–19;

(c) **Additional Assistance.**—

(1) In general.—Of the amounts made available under subsection (a) or (3), as applicable.

(2) In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $77,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

(d) **Restrictions.**—Amounts made available under this section may only be provided to and expended by transportation agencies related to the response to the COVID–19 public health emergency.

(e) **State Applicants.**—A State may apply for assistance under this paragraph on behalf of an eligible recipient or subrecipient or a group of eligible recipients or subrecipients.

(f) **Unobligated Funds.**—If amounts made available under this paragraph remain unobligated on September 30, 2022, such amounts shall be available for any purpose eligible under sections 5307 or 5311 of title 49, United States Code.

**TITRE IV—COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND APPROPRIATIONS.**

**SEC. 4001. EMERGENCY FEDERAL EMPLOYEE LEAVE FUND.**

(A) **Establishment; Appropriation.**—There is established in the Treasury the Emergency Federal Employee Leave Fund (in this section referred to as the ‘‘Fund’’), to be administered by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, for the purposes set forth in subsection (b). In addition to amounts available under this Act pertaining to the Coronavirus pandemic.

(B) **Use of Fund.**—Amounts in the Fund shall be available for reimbursement to an agency for the use of paid leave by an eligible employee of the agency who is unable to work because the employee—

(i) is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID–19;

(ii) has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID–19;

(iii) is caring for an individual who is subject to such an order or has been so advised;

(iv) is experiencing symptoms of COVID–19 and seeking a medical diagnosis;

(v) is caring for a son or daughter of such employee if the school or place of care of the son or daughter has been closed, if the school or place of care of the son or daughter has been closed, or if the child care provider of the son or daughter is unavailable, due to COVID–19 precautions;

(vi) is experiencing any other substantially similar condition;

(vii) is caring for a member of the employee’s household to meet disaster-related funeral expenses; and

(viii) is obtaining immunization related to COVID–19 or is recovering from any injury, disability, illness, or condition related to such immunization.

(C) **Limitations.**—

(1) **Period of Availability.**—Paid leave under this section may only be provided to and used by an employee during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on September 30, 2021.

(2) **Total Hours; Amount.**—Paid leave under this section shall—

(A) be provided to an employee in an amount not to exceed 600 hours of paid leave for each full-time employee, 300 hours of paid leave for each part-time employee, employee on an uncommon tour of duty, or employee with a seasonal work schedule, in an amount not to exceed the pro-rata equivalent of 600 hours to the extent amounts made available in September 30, 2021.

(B) shall be paid at the same hourly rate as other leave provided under this section.

(C) may not be provided to an employee if the leave would result in payments greater than $2,800 in aggregate for any biweekly pay period for a full-time employee or the pro-rata equivalent biweekly leave time for a part-time employee.

(D) **Unobligated Funds.**—If amounts made available under this paragraph remain unobligated on September 30, 2021, such amounts shall be available for any purpose eligible under section 5307 or 5311 of title 49, United States Code.

**Title V—Committee on Homeland Security and Appropriations.**

**SEC. 4002. FUNDING FOR THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.**

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee to carry out its duties under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Fund Act. The Fund is available for the purposes set forth in subsection (a). In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the purpose of the Disaster Relief Fund to carry out the provisions of the Disaster Relief Fund Act.

**SEC. 4003. PANDEMIC RESPONSE ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE FUNDING AVAILABILITY.**

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $12,800,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for the purposes of the Disaster Relief Fund Act to carry out the provisions of the Disaster Relief Fund Act and to carry out the purposes of the Disaster Relief Fund Act for costs associated with major disaster declarations.

**SEC. 4004. FUNDING FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.**

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $50,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for the purposes of the Disaster Relief Fund for costs associated with major disaster declarations.

**SEC. 4005. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS.**

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $40,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee to carry out its duties under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Fund Act. The Fund is available for the purposes of the Disaster Relief Fund Act to carry out the provisions of the Disaster Relief Fund Act to carry out the purposes of the Disaster Relief Fund Act for costs associated with major disaster declarations.

**SEC. 4006. FUNDING FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.**

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $40,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for the purposes of the Disaster Relief Fund for costs associated with major disaster declarations.

**SEC. 4007. EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM FUNDING AVAILABILITY.**

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $12,800,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for the purposes of the Disaster Relief Fund Act for costs associated with major disaster declarations.

**SEC. 4008. FUNDING FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.**

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $12,800,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for the purposes of the Disaster Relief Fund Act for costs associated with major disaster declarations.

**SEC. 4009. FUNDING FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.**

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $12,800,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for the purposes of the Disaster Relief Fund Act for costs associated with major disaster declarations.

**SEC. 4010. FUNDING FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.**

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $12,800,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for the purposes of the Disaster Relief Fund Act for costs associated with major disaster declarations.

**SEC. 4011. FUNDING FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.**

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $12,800,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for the purposes of the Disaster Relief Fund Act for costs associated with major disaster declarations.

**SEC. 4012. FUNDING FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.**

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $12,800,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for the purposes of the Disaster Relief Fund Act for costs associated with major disaster declarations.

**SEC. 4013. FUNDING FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.**

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $12,800,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for the purposes of the Disaster Relief Fund Act for costs associated with major disaster declarations.

**SEC. 4014. FUNDING FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.**

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $12,800,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for the purposes of the Disaster Relief Fund Act for costs associated with major disaster declarations.
out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $400,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for the emergency food and shelter program.

SEC. 4008. HUMANITARIAN RELIEF.

In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is appropriated to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $190,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for the emergency food and shelter program for the purposes of providing humanitarian relief to families and individuals encountered by the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 4009. CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY.

In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $300,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency for cybersecurity risk mitigation.

SEC. 4010. APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNITED STATES DIGITAL SERVICE.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money not otherwise appropriated, $200,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, for the United States Digital Service.

SEC. 4011. APPROPRIATION FOR THE TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION FUND.

In addition to amounts otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated to the General Services Administration for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $1,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to carry out the purposes of the Technology Modernization Fund.

SEC. 4012. APPROPRIATION FOR THE FEDERAL CITIZEN SERVICES FUND.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the General Services Administration for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $150,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to carry out the purposes of the Federal Citizen Services Fund.

SEC. 4013. AFG AND SAFER PROGRAM FUNDING.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $300,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which $100,000,000 shall be for grants to the Federal Government for which not more than $200,000,000 shall be for staffing for adequate fire and emergency response grants.

SEC. 4014. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT FUNDING.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for emergency management performance grants.

SEC. 4015. EXEMPTION OF REIMBURSEMENT AUTHORITY FOR FEDERAL CONTRACTORS.

Section 3010 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136; 134 Stat. 414) is amended by striking “September 30, 2020” and inserting “September 30, 2021”.

SEC. 4016. ELIGIBILITY FOR WORKERS’ COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES DIAGNOSED WITH COVID–19.

(a) In General.—Subject to subsection (c), a covered employee shall, with respect to any claim made by or on behalf of the covered employee for benefits under subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, be deemed to have an injury proximately caused by exposure to the novel coronavirus arising out of the nature of the covered employee’s employment.

Such covered employee, or a beneficiary of such an employee, shall be entitled to such benefits for such claim, including disability compensation, medical services, and survivor benefits.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered employee” means—

(i) who is an employee under section 8101(1) of title 5, United States Code, employed in the Federal service on a fiscal year basis beginning on January 27, 2020, and ending on January 27, 2023;

(ii) who is diagnosed with COVID–19 during such period; and

(iii) who, during a covered exposure period prior to such diagnosis, carries out duties that—

(I) require contact with patients, members of the public, or other employees;

(II) include a risk of exposure to the novel coronavirus;

(III) TELEWORKING EXCEPTION.—The term “covered employee” does not include any employee otherwise covered by subparagraph (A) who is exclusively teleworking during a covered exposure period, regardless of whether such employment is full time or part time.

(2) COVERED EXPOSURE PERIOD.—The term “covered exposure period” means, with respect to a diagnosis of COVID–19, the period beginning on a date to be determined by the Secretary of Labor.

(3) NOVEL CORONAVIRUS.—The term “novel coronavirus” means SARS-CoV or any novel coronavirus declared to be a pandemic by public health authorities.

(c) LIMITATION.—

(1) DETERMINATIONS MADE ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—This section shall not apply with respect to a covered employee who is determined to be entitled to benefits under subchapter I of chapter 81 of United States Code, for a claim described in subsection (a) if such determination is made on or before the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) LIMITATION ON DURATION OF BENEFITS.—No funds are authorized to be appropriated to pay, and no benefits may be paid for, claims approved on the basis of subsection (a) after September 30, 2030. No administrative costs related to any such claim may be paid after such date.

(3) EMPLOYEES’ COMPENSATION FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In general, benefits for claims approved on the basis of subsection (a) that are payable under section 8147(b) of title 5, United States Code, shall be paid from the Employees’ Compensation Fund.

(B) FAIR SHARE PROVISION.—Costs of administration for claims described in paragraph (1)—

(I) may be paid from the Employees’ Compensation Fund; and

(II) shall not be subject to the fair share provision in section 8147(c) of title 5, United States Code.

(d) TITLE V—COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SEC. 5001. MODIFICATIONS TO PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(a)(36) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

(A) in clause (ii), by adding at the end the following:

“(T) ELIGIBILITY OF ADDITIONALED COVERED NONPROFIT ENTITIES.—An additional covered nonprofit entity shall be eligible to receive a covered loan if—

(I) the additional covered nonprofit entity does not receive more than 15 percent of its receipts from lobbying activities; and

(II) the lobbying activities of the additional covered nonprofit entity do not comprise more than 15 percent of the total activities of the organization;”;

(2) ELIGIBILITY FOR SECOND DRAW LOANS.—Paragraph (37)(A)(i) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), as added by the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Impacted Venues Act (title III of division N of Public Law 116–260), is amended by inserting “additional covered nonprofit entity” after “the terms”;

(3) ELIGIBILITY OF INTERNET PUBLISHING ORGANIZATIONS FOR COVERED LOANS UNDER THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM.—Section 7(a)(36)(D) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(36)(D)), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

(A) in clause (iii), by adding at the end the following:

“(IV) ELIGIBILITY OF INTERNET PUBLISHING ORGANIZATIONS.—A business concern or other organization that was not eligible to receive a covered loan the day before the date of enactment of this subclause, is assigned a North American Industry Classification System code of 519131 that certifies in good faith as an Internet news publisher that publishes business news and information if—

(I) the business concern or organization employs not more than 500 employees, or the size standard established by the Administrator for that North American Industry Classification code per physical location of the business concern or organization; and

(II) the business concern or organization makes a good faith certification that proceeds of the covered loan shall be used to support the component of the business concern or organization that supports local or regional news.”;

H1217

March 10, 2021 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE
(B) in clause (iv)—
   (i) in subclause (III), by striking “and” at the end;
   (ii) in subclause (IV)(b), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;
   (iii) by adding at the end following:
   “(V) any business concern or other organization that is majority owned or controlled by a business concern or organization; and”.

(bb) is majority owned or controlled by a business concern or organization that is assigned a North American Industry Classification code, per physical location of the business concern or organization; and

(bb) is majority owned or controlled by a business concern or organization that is assigned a North American Industry Classification code, per physical location of the business concern or organization; and

(aa) is majority owned or controlled by an entity that is majority owned or controlled by an entity that is majority owned or controlled by an entity that is majority owned or controlled by an entity that is majority owned or controlled by an entity that is majority owned or controlled by an entity; and

(ii) an amount based on a formula determined by the Administrator.

(ii) is majority owned or controlled by an entity that is majority owned or controlled by an entity that is majority owned or controlled by an entity that is majority owned or controlled by an entity that is majority owned or controlled by an entity that is majority owned or controlled by an entity; and

(C) by striking “business concern made eligible by clause (ii)(II) of clause (iv) of this subparagraph” and inserting “business concern made eligible by subclause (II) or (IV) of clause (iii) or (IV) of clause (ii) of this subparagraph”;

(i) in subclause (III), by striking “and” at the end of item (aa); and

(ii) in subclause (IV)(i), by striking “business concern or organization; or” and inserting “business concern or organization; and”;

(by) strikes out the words “provided that such affiliation shall be determined by the Administrator.”

(b) in subsection (iv)—
   (i) in clause (I), by striking “$806,450,000,000”;

(ii) in clause (V)(A), by striking “$15,000,000,000”;

(iii) in clause (V)(B), by striking “$7,250,000,000”;

(iv) in clause (V)(C), by striking “$2,750,000,000”;

(B) in clause (ii)—
   (i) in subclause (III), by striking “and” at the end;
(h) RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION FUND.—
(I) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the Restaurant Revitalization Fund.
(2) DISTRIBUTION.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Restaurant Revitalization Fund for fiscal year 2021—
(i) $75,000,000,000, to remain available until expended.
(B) DISTRIBUTION.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available under subparagraph (A)—
(i) $5,000,000,000 shall be available to eligible entities that received grants during 2019 of not more than $500,000; and
(ii) $23,600,000,000 shall be available to the Administrator to award grants under subsection (c) in an equitable manner to eligible entities of different sizes based on annual gross receipts.
(ii) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Administrator may make adjustments as necessary to the distribution of funds under clause (ii)(1) based on demand and the relative local costs in the markets in which eligible entities operate.
(C) GRANTS AFTER INITIAL PERIOD.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (B) and (3), the Administrator shall prioritize awarding grants under subsection (c) in an equitable manner to eligible entities of different sizes based on annual gross receipts.
(3) RETURN TO TREASURY.—Any amount of a grant made under this subsection that is greater than the actual gross receipts of the eligible entity in 2020 shall be returned to the Treasury.
(4) USE OF FUNDS.—During the covered period, an eligible entity that receives a grant under this subsection may use the grant funds for the following expenses incurred as a direct result of, or during, the COVID–19 pandemic:
(A) Payroll costs.
(B) Payments of principal or interest on any mortgage obligation (which shall not include any prepayment of principal on a mortgage obligation).
(C) Rent payments, including rent under a lease agreement (which shall not include any prepayment of rent).
(D) Utilities.
(E) Maintenance expenses, including—
(i) construction to accommodate outdoor seating; and
(ii) walls, floors, deck surfaces, furniture, fixtures, and equipment.
(F) Supplies, including protective equipment and cleaning materials.
(G) Food and beverage expenses that are within the scope of the normal business practice of the eligible entity before the covered period.
(H) Construction to accommodate outdoor seating, walls, floors, deck surfaces, furniture, fixtures, and equipment.
(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this section, another period of time determined by the Administrator, the Administrator may reserve amounts appropriated under subparagraph (A) to any eligible entity regardless of the annual gross receipts of the eligible entity.
(ii) RESTRICTED FUNDS.—The Administrator shall use amounts in the Fund to make grants described in subsection (c).
(iii) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall award grants to eligible entities in the order of applications are received by the Administrator.
(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b) and paragraph (2), the Administrator shall award grants to eligible entities in the order of applications are received by the Administrator.
(2) A DMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.
(3) COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR.—The term ''community navigator'' means a community navigator that is designated in accordance with section 3(n)(9) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(36)(A)) to provide free community navigator services to eligible businesses.
(4) COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR PILOT PROGRAM.—)
(3) CALL CENTER.—The Administrator shall establish a telephone hotline to offer information about Federal programs to assist eligible businesses and offer referral services to resources provided by community navigators, potential lenders, and other persons that the Administrator determines appropriate for current or prospective owners of eligible businesses.
(2) COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR PILOT PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall establish a telephone hotline to offer information about Federal programs to assist eligible businesses and offer referral services to resources provided by community navigators, potential lenders, and other persons that the Administrator determines appropriate for current or prospective owners of eligible businesses.
(3) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.—The Administrator shall develop and implement a program to promote community navigator services to current or prospective owners of eligible businesses.
(2) CALL CENTER.—The Administrator shall establish a telephone hotline to offer information about Federal programs to assist eligible businesses and offer referral services to resources provided by community navigators, potential lenders, and other persons that the Administrator determines appropriate for current or prospective owners of eligible businesses.
(3) OUTREACH.—The Administrator shall—
(A) conduct outreach and education, in the 10 most commonly spoken languages in the United States, to current or prospective owners of eligible businesses on community navigator services and other Federal programs to assist eligible businesses;
(B) improve the website of the Administration to describe such community navigator services and other Federal programs; and
(C) implement an education campaign by advertisement in media targeted to current or prospective owners of eligible businesses.
(4) APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Administrator for fiscal year 2021—
(A) $50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for carrying out this section.
(B) RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION FUND.—
(I) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the Restaurant Revitalization Fund for fiscal year 2021—
(i) $75,000,000,000, to remain available until expended.
(ii) $100,000,000,000, to remain available until expended.
(iii) $300,000,000, to remain available until expended.
(iv) $23,600,000,000 shall be available to the Administrator to award grants under subsection (c) in an equitable manner to eligible entities of different sizes based on annual gross receipts.
(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator shall—
(A) conduct outreach and education, in the 10 most commonly spoken languages in the United States, to current or prospective owners of eligible businesses on community navigator services and other Federal programs to assist eligible businesses;
(d) SUNSET.—The authority of the Administrator to make grants under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2023.

SEC. 5005. SHUTTERED VENUE OPERATORS.

(a) In General.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $1,250,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out section 324 of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act (title III of division N of Public Law 116–260), of which $500,000 shall be used to provide technical assistance to help applicants access the System for Award Management (or any successor thereto) or to assist applicants with an alternative grant application system.

(b) REDUCTION OF SHUTTERED VENUES ASSISTANCE.—For new PPP recipients.—Section 324 of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act (title III of division N of Public Law 116–260), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(C), by striking "subclauses (I), (II), and (III)" and inserting "subclauses (I) and (II)"; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking "a grant" and inserting "Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), a grant"; and

(3) by striking at the end of the following—

"(C) REDUCTION FOR RECIPIENTS OF NEW PPP LOANS.—"

"(1) In General.—The otherwise applicable amount of a grant under subsection (b) to an eligible person or entity shall be reduced by the total amount of loans guaranteed under paragraph (36) or (37) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) that are received on or after December 27, 2020 by the eligible person or entity.

"(II) Application to Governmental Entities.—For purposes of applying clause (i) to an eligible person or entity owned by a State or a political subdivision of a State, the relevant entity terrified.—

"(I) shall be the eligible person or entity; and

"(II) shall not include entities of the State or political subdivision other than the eligible person or entity.

(b) BUSINESS ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $3,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, to the Department of the Treasury to provide economic adjustment assistance as authorized by sections 209 and 703 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3149 and 2323) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to economic injury as a result of coronavirus.

(c) BONDS.—The funds provided by this section, up to 2 percent shall be used for Federal costs to administer such assistance utilizing temporary Federal personnel as may be necessary consistent with the requirements applicable to such administrative funding in fiscal year 2020 to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus and which shall remain available until September 30, 2021.

(d) OF THE FUNDS.—Of the funds provided by this section, 25 percent shall be for administrative expenses of the Federal Government for carrying out this section and which shall remain available until September 30, 2021.

(e) USE OF FUNDS.—Not less than $500,000,000 of the aggregate amounts made available under subsections (a) and (b) shall be for grants to States, communities, and economic development organizations to carry out the provisions of this section.

(f) REDUCTION OF ELIGIBLE USES.—For purposes of this section, eligible uses of the funds made available under subsections (a) and (b) shall not include—

(1) an activity that is otherwise available under this Act, or an activity that is otherwise available under any other Act of Congress or under the laws of any State, political subdivision or any or entity.

(g) PROVISIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $100,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out the provisions of section 42(a) of title 18, United States Code, and the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3711–3717).

TITLE VII—COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Subtitle A—Transportation and Infrastructure

SEC. 7101. GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION.

(a) NORTHEAST CORRIDOR LOBBY PROTECTION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $970,988,195, to remain available until September 30, 2024, for grants as authorized under section 1110(a) of the FAST Act (Public Law 114–94) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

(b) NATIONWIDE NETWORK APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $979,611,840, to remain available until September 30, 2024, for grants as authorized under section 1110(b) of the FAST Act (Public Law 114–94) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

(c) LONG-DISTANCE SERVICE RESTORATION AND EMPLOYEE RECALLS.—Not less than $156,926,000 of the aggregate amounts made available under subsections (a) and (b) shall be for use by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation to restore, not later than the date of enactment of this Act, the frequency of rail service on long-distance routes (as defined in section 24102 of title 49, United States Code) that the National Railroad Passenger Corporation reduced the frequency of on or after July 1, 2020, and continue to operate such service at such frequency and—

(1) recall and manage employees furloughed on or after October 1, 2020, as a result of efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus;

(2) use of funds in lieu of capital payments.—Not less than $109,685,000 of the aggregate amounts made available under subsections (a) and (b) shall be for use by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation in lieu of capital payments from States and commuter rail passenger transportation providers that are subject to the cost allocation policy under section 24105(c) of title 49, United States Code; and

(3) use in lieu of payments.—Not less than $54,641,000 and 24965(c)(1)(A)(I) of title 49, United States Code, such amounts do not constitute cross-subsidization of commuter rail passenger transportation.

(d) HUMAN RESOURCES LOGISTICS IN ADJUSTMENT PROVISIONS.—Not less than $16,988,000 of the amounts made available under this section shall be for use by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation to offset amounts required to be paid by States for covered State-supported routes.

SEC. 7102. INCENTIVES FOR WORKLING ON CRITICAL SPECIES AND COVID–19.

(a) GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $21,150,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out the provisions of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) through direct expenditures from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for—

(1) $10,000,000 shall be for wildlife inspections, interdictions, investigations, and related activities, and for efforts to address wildlife trafficking;

(2) $30,000,000 shall be for the care of captive species listed under the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and who were relocated due to the COVID–19 pandemic, and for the care of Federal trust species in facilities experiencing lost revenues due to COVID–19; and

(3) $45,000,000 shall be for research and extension activities to strengthen early detection, rapid response, and science-based management to address wildlife diseases that have capacity to jump the species barrier and pose a risk in the United States, including the development of a national wildlife disease database.

(b) BEXCO ACT PROVISIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $30,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out the provisions of section 42(a) of title 18, United States Code, and the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3711–3717).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE March 10, 2021

H1220
FUNDING SHARE.—The share of funding provided under paragraph (1) with respect to a covered State-supported route shall be distributed as follows:

(A) The covered State-supported route shall receive 7 percent of the costs allocated to the route in fiscal year 2019 under the cost allocation methodology adopted pursuant to section 209 of the Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-410).

(B) Any remaining amounts after the distribution described in subparagraph (A) shall be apportioned to each covered State-supported route in proportion to the passenger revenue of such route and other revenue allocated to such route in fiscal year 2019 by the total passenger revenue and other revenue allocated to all covered State-supported routes in fiscal year 2019.

COVERED STATE-SUPPORTED ROUTE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “covered State-supported route” means a State-supported route, as such term is defined in section 47102 of title 49, United States Code, but does not include a State-supported route for which service was terminated on or before February 1, 2020.

USE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT REPAYMENT OR PREPAYMENT.—Not more than $100,885,000 of the aggregate amounts made available under subsections (a) and (b) shall be—

(1) for the repayment or prepayment of debt incurred by any railroad passenger corporation under financing arrangements entered into prior to the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) may required reserves, costs, and fees related to such debt, including for loans from the Department of Transportation and loans that would otherwise have been paid from National Railroad Passenger Corporation revenues.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT.—Not more than $2,000,000 of the aggregate amounts made available under subsections (a) and (b) shall be used to authorize any amount under section 11101(c) of the FAST Act (Public Law 114-94).

SECT. 7102. RELIEF FOR AIRPORTS.

(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $8,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, for assistance to sponsors of airports, as such terms are defined in section 47102 of title 49, United States Code, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

(2) REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS.—Amounts made available under this section—

(A) may be used for any purpose not directly related to the airport; and

(B) may not be provided to any airport that was awarded a terminal improvement grant under section 108(b)(6)(C) of title 49, United States Code, for costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, janitorial services, combating the spread of pathogens at the airport, and debt service payments.

(3) DISTRIBUTION.—The amounts made available under this subparagraph shall be distributed to the sponsor of each primary airport (as such term is defined in section 47102 of title 49, United States Code) on a pro rata basis, based on the number of enplanements compared to the total passenger enplanements of all such primary airports in calendar year 2019.

(4) CONDITIONS.—As a condition of approving a grant under this paragraph—

(i) the sponsor shall provide such relief from the date of enactment of this Act until the sponsor has provided relief in accordance with the grant amount, to the extent permissible under State laws, local laws, and applicable trust indentures; and

(ii) the sponsor shall provide relief from rent and minimum annual guarantees to airport concessions, of which at least $640,000,000 shall be available to provide relief to eligible small airport concessions and of which at least $1,000,000,000 shall be available to provide relief to eligible large airport concessions located at primary airports.

(5) DISTRIBUTION.—The amounts made available under this subparagraph shall be distributed to the sponsor of each primary airport (as such term is defined in section 47102 of title 49, United States Code) based on each such airport’s passenger enplanements compared to the total passenger enplanements of all such primary airports in calendar year 2019.

SEC. 7103. EMERGENCY FAA EMPLOYEE LEAVE FUND.

(A) ESTABLISHMENT; APPROPRIATION.—There is established in the Federal Aviation Administration the Emergency FAA Employee Leave Fund (in this section referred to as the “Fund”), to be administered by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, for the purposes set forth in subsection (b). In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $9,000,000, which shall be deposited into the Fund and remain available through September 30, 2022.

(B) PURPOSE.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available to the Administrator for use of paid leave under this section by any employee of the Administration who is unable to work because the employee—

(1) is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19; or

(2) has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19.

(C) ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES.—Any employee of the Administration who is unable to work—

(i) who is caring for a family member with a mental or physical disability or who is 55 years of age or older and incapable of self-care, without regard to whether another member of the family is available to care for such family member, if the place of care for such family member shall continue to employ, through September 30, 2021, at least 90 percent of the number of individuals employed (after making adjustments for retirements or voluntary employee separations) by the airport on March 27, 2020.

(WAIVER OF RETENTION REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall waive the workforce retention requirement if the Secretary determines that—

(i) the airport is experiencing economic hardship as a direct result of the requirement; or

(ii) the requirement reduces aviation safety or security.

(C) EXCEPTION.—The workforce retention requirement shall not apply to nonhub airports or secondary airports receiving funds under this section.

(D) NONCOMPLIANCE.—Any financial assistance provided under this section to an airport that fails to comply with the workforce retention requirement described in subparagraph (A), and does not otherwise qualify for a waiver or exception under this paragraph, shall be subject to clawback by the Secretary.

(D) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE LARGE AIRPORT CONCESSION.—The term “eligible large airport concession” means a concession as defined in section 47114(c)(1)(C) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, that is terminal and has maximum gross receipts, averaged over the previous three fiscal years, of more than $56,420,000.

(2) ELIGIBLE SMALL AIRPORT CONCESSION.—The term “eligible small airport concession” means a concession as defined in section 23.3 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 7104. FEDERAL AIRCRAFT HANGAR LEASE FUND.

(A)的技术性细节，具体请参阅文献中的相关部分。
member is closed or the direct care provider is unavailable due to COVID–19; or
(b) is obtaining immunization related to COVID–19 or is recovering from any injury, disability, illness, or condition related to such immunization.

(c) LIMITATIONS.—
(1) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—Paid leave under this section may only be provided to and used by an employee of the Administration during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this section and ending on September 30, 2021.
(2) TOTAL HOURS; AMOUNT.—Paid leave under this section—
(A) shall be provided to an employee of the Administration in an amount not to exceed 600 hours of paid leave for each full-time employee, and in the case of a part-time employee, employee on a seasonal work schedule, in an amount not to exceed the proportional equivalent of 600 hours to the extent amounts in the Fund remain available for reimbursement;
(B) shall be paid at the same hourly rate as other leave payments; and
(C) may not be provided to an employee if the leave would reduce the employee’s total base compensation and benefits being provided to an eligible employee group, subject to the employer’s right to discipline or terminate an employee in accordance with employer policy, between the date of application and the date on which such a corporation, firm, or other business entity enters into an agreement with the Secretary under this subtitle; and
(H) that—
(i) in the case of a corporation, firm, or other business entity including any parent company or holding company of such a corporation, firm, or other business entity, that holds any type or production certificate or similar authorization issued under section 44704 of title 49, United States Code, with respect to a type or category airplane covered under part 25 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, certificated with a passenger seating capacity of 50 or more, agrees to refrain from conducting involuntary furloughs or layoffs exceeding 10 percent of the workforce that is not included in an eligible employee group for the duration of an agreement under this subtitle; and
(ii) in the case of corporation, firm, or other business entity not specified under subparts (i) and (ii) of paragraph (8), agrees to refrain from conducting involuntary furloughs or layoffs, or reducing pay rates and benefits, for the eligible employee group, subject to the employer’s right to discipline or terminate an employee in accordance with employer policy from the date of agreement until September 30, 2021, or the duration of the agreement and receipt of public contributions under this subtitle, whichever period ends later; or
(ii) in the case of corporation, firm, or other business entity not specified under subparts (i) and (ii) of paragraph (8), agrees to refrain from conducting involuntary furloughs or layoffs, or reducing pay rates and benefits, for the eligible employee group, subject to the employer’s right to discipline or terminate an employee in accordance with employer policy from the date of agreement until September 30, 2021, or the duration of the agreement and receipt of public contributions under this subtitle.

(2) TOTAL COMPENSATION LEVEL.—The term “total compensation level” means the level of total base compensation and benefits being provided to an eligible employee group employee,
excluding overtime and premium pay, and excluding any Federal, State, or local payroll taxes paid, as of April 1, 2020.

SEC. 7202. PAYROLL SUPPORT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a payroll support program and enter into agreements with employers who meet the eligibility criteria specified in subsection (b) and are not ineligible under paragraph (c), to provide public contributions to supplement compensation of an eligible employee group. There is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of amounts in this Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $3,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for the Secretary to carry out the payroll support program authorized under the preceding subsection for which 1 percent of the funds may be used for implementation costs and administrative expenses.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement and provide public contributions, for a term no longer than 6 months, solely with an employer that agrees to use the funds received under an agreement exclusively for the continuation of employee wages, salaries, and benefits, to maintain the total compensation level for the eligible employee group as of April 1, 2020 for the duration of the agreement, and to facilitate the recall, rehire, or recall of employees of the employer, except that such funds may not be used for back pay of returning rehired or recalled employees.

(c) ELIGIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary may not enter into any agreement under this section with an employer who was allowed a credit under section 2301 of the CARES Act (26 U.S.C. 6311 note) for the immediately preceding calendar quarter ending before such agreement is entered into, who received financial assistance under section 4112 of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(36)), who has expended financial assistance under the paycheck protection program established under section 7(a)(36) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(36)), as of the date the employer submits an application under the payroll support program established under subsection (a).

(d) REDUCTIONS.—To avoid any shortfall in assistance that would otherwise be provided under this subtitle, the Secretary shall reduce, on a pro rata basis, the financial assistance provided under this subtitle.

(e) AGREEMENT DEADLINE.—No agreement may be entered into by the Secretary under the payroll support program established under subsection (a) after the last day of the 6 month period that begins on the effective date of the first agreement entered into under such program.

Subtitle C—Airlines

SEC. 7301. AIR TRANSPORTATION PAYROLL SUPPORT PROGRAM EXTENSION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—The definitions in section 40102(a) of title 49, United States Code, shall apply with respect to terms used in this section, except that—

(1) the term “catering functions” means preparation, assembly, or both, of food, beverages, provisions and related supplies for delivery, and the delivery of such items, directly to aircraft or to a person on near airport property for subsequent delivery to aircraft;

(2) the term “contractor” means—

(A) a person that performs, under contract with a passenger air carrier conducting operations under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations—

(i) catering functions; or

(ii) functions on the property of an airport that are directly related to the air transportation of persons, property, or mail, including the loading or unloading of property on aircraft, assistance to passengers under part 382 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, security, airport ticketing and check-in functions, ground-handling of aircraft, or aircraft cleaning and sanitization functions and waste removal; or

(B) a subcontractor that performs such functions;

(3) the term “employee” means an individual, other than a corporate officer, who is employed by an air carrier;

(4) the term “eligible air carrier” means an air carrier that—

(A) received financial assistance pursuant section 402(a)(2) of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260);

(B) provides air transportation as of March 31, 2021;

(C) has not conducted involuntary furloughs or reduced pay rates or benefits between March 31, 2021, and the date on which the air carrier makes a certification to the Secretary pursuant to subparagraph (D); and

(D) certifies to the Secretary that such air carrier will—

(i) refrain from conducting involuntary furloughs or reducing pay rates or benefits until September 30, 2021, the date on which assistance provided under this section is exhausted, whichever is later;

(ii) refrain from purchasing an equity security of the contractor or the parent company of the contractor that is listed on a national securities exchange that is received before September 30, 2021;

(iii) refrain from paying dividends, or making other capital distributions, with respect to common stock (or equivalent interest) of the contractor through September 30, 2022;

(iv) during the 2-year period beginning April 1, 2021, and ending April 1, 2023, refrain from paying—

(I) any officer or employee of the contractor whose total compensation exceeded $425,000 in calendar year 2019 (other than an employee whose compensation is determined through an existing collective bargaining agreement entered into prior to the date of enactment of this Act)—

(aa) 50 percent of the excess over $3,000,000 of the total compensation received by the officer or employee from the contractor in calendar year 2019; or

(bb) severance pay or other benefits upon termination of employment with the contractor which exceeds twice the maximum total compensation received by the officer or employee from the contractor in calendar year 2019; and

(b) eligible carriers, in an aggregate amount of $14,000,000,000; and

(C) ELIGIBLE CONTRACTORS.—The Secretary shall apportion funds made available under paragraph (1)(A) to each eligible air carrier in the ratio that—

(I) the amount received by the air carrier pursuant to section 402(a) of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) bears to

(ii) $15,000,000,000.

(C) ELIGIBLE CONTRACTORS.—The Secretary shall apportion funds to each eligible contractor, an amount equal to the total amount such contractor received pursuant to section 402(a) of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260).

(3) IN GENERAL.—

(A) FORMS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall provide financial assistance to an eligible air carrier or eligible contractor under this section in the same form and on the same terms and conditions as determined by pursuant to section 403(b)(4) of title IV of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. No. 116–260).

(B) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall publish streamlined and expedited procedures not later than 5 days after the date of enactment of this section for eligible air carriers and eligible contractors to submit requests for financial assistance under this section.

(C) DEADLINE FOR IMMEDIATE PAYROLL ASSISTANCE.—Not later than 10 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall provide financial assistance to eligible carriers and contractors that submit requests for financial assistance approved by the Secretary.

(D) TAXPAYER PROTECTION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the financial instrument is issued by recipients of financial assistance under this section in the same form and amount, and under
the same terms and conditions, as determined by the Secretary under section 408 of subtitle A of title IV of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. No. 116–200). (5) A PPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated to the Consumer Product Safety Commission for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $15,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the purposes described in subsection (b). (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section— (1) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services; (2) the term “covered regulations” means regulations promulgated under section 254(h) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254(h)); (3) the term “COVID–19 emergency period” means the period during which a public health emergency declared pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) with respect to COVID–19, including any renewal of such declaration, is in effect; and (4) unless the context otherwise requires, the term “eligible school or library” means an elementary school or library (including a Tribal elementary school, Tribal secondary school, or Tribal library) that— (A) was in the case of a library, a patron of the library at locations that include locations other than the library; and (B) in the case of a library, patrons of the library at locations that include locations other than the library.

SEC. 7402. FUNDING FOR E-RATE SUPPORT FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION AND Commerce Oversight

SEC. 7401. FUNDING FOR CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY FUND TO PROTECT CONSUMER SAFETY FROM POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS PRODUCTS RELATED TO COVID–19.

(a) A PPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Consumer Product Safety Commission for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, for the purposes described in subsection (b).

(b) PURPOSES.—The funds made available in subsection (a) shall be used for purposes of the Consumer Product Safety Commission to— (1) carry out the requirements in title XX of division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (division F of Pub. L. No. 116–93); (2) enhance targeting, surveillance, and screening of consumer products, particularly COVID–19 products, entering the United States at ports of entry, including ports of entry for de minimis shipments; (3) enhance monitoring of internet websites for the offering for sale new and used consumer products, particularly COVID–19 products, and coordination with retail and resale websites to improve identification and elimination of listings of such products; (4) increase awareness and communication particularly of COVID–19 product related risks and other consumer product safety information; and (5) improve the Commission’s data collection and analysis system especially with a focus on consumer product safety risks resulting from the COVID–19 pandemic affecting socially disadvantaged individuals and other vulnerable populations.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section— (1) the term “Commission” means the Consumer Product Safety Commission; (2) the term “consumer products” means consumer products in violation of an applicable consumer product safety standard under the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2051 et seq.) or any similar rule, regulation, standard, or ban under any other Act enforced by the Commission; (3) the term “COVID–19 emergency period” means the period during which a public health emergency declared pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) with respect to COVID–19, including any renewal of such declaration, is in effect; and (4) the term “covered regulated entity” means a regulated entity that— (A) makes or sells consumer products, as defined by section 2(a)(5) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2052(a)(5)), whose risks have been significantly affected by COVID–19 or whose risks have materially increased during the COVID–19 emergency period as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic;

SEC. 7403. FUNDING FOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE INSPECTOR GENERAL

SEC. 7404. FEDERAL TRIBAL COMMUNICATIONS FUNDING FOR COVID–19 RELATED WORK.

(a) A PPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Federal Trade Commission out of any money in the Treasury for fiscal year 2021, $2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, for the purposes described in subsection (b).

(b) PURPOSES.—The funds made available under subsection (a), the Federal Trade Commission shall use— (1) $4,400,000 to process and monitor consumer complaints received into the Consumer Sentinel Network, including increased complaints received regarding unfair or deceptive acts or practices related to COVID–19; (2) $2,000,000 for consumer-related education, including in connection with unfair or deceptive acts or practices related to COVID–19; and (3) $50,000,000 to fund awards for research, development, and testbeds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. None of the funds provided by this section shall be subject to cost share requirements.

SEC. 7405. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.

In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there are appropriated to the National Institute of Standards and Technology for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, to support research and development and to support research and development related to COVID–19; and

SEC. 7406. FEDERAL TRIBAL LIBRARY FUND.

In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there are appropriated to the National Science Foundation for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $600,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, to fund new and extended awards for research, cooperative agreements, scholarships, fellowships, and apprenticeships, and related administrative expenses to

H1224 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

March 10, 2021
SEC. 8001. FUNDING FOR CLAIMS AND APPEALS.
In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $275,000,000, to remain available until expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including for fiscal stabilization grants to public telecommunications entities under section 306 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 306), where such capacity includes only veterans who are veterans of the covered public health emergency, as certified by the veteran, as of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8002. FUNDING AVAILABILITY FOR MEDICAL CARE AND HEALTH NEEDS.
In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $14,482,000,000, to remain available until expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including for fiscal stabilization grants to public telecommunications entities under section 306 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 306), where such capacity includes only veterans who are veterans of the covered public health emergency, as certified by the veteran, as of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8003. FUNDING FOR SUPPLY CHAIN MODERNIZATION.
In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $1,482,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023.

SEC. 8004. FUNDING FOR STATE HOMES.
In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there are appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $300,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for the State homes for veterans.

SEC. 8005. FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.
In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there is appropriated to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs from any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $10,000,000, to remain available until expended, for audits, investigations, and other oversight of programs and activities carried out by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 8006. COVID–19 VETERAN RAPID RETRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.
(a) In general.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a program under which the Secretary shall provide up to 12 months of retraining assistance to an eligible veteran for the pursuit of a covered program of education.

(b) Eligibility.—(1) In general.—In this section, the term ‘‘eligible veteran” means a veteran who—
(A) is a veteran as defined in section 3001 note.
(B) receives any educational assistance under this Act.
(C) is enrolled in an accredited program of education.
(D) does not have a covered program of education.
(E) is not a member of the Armed Forces.
(F) is not the beneficiary of any program of education.
(G) is not receiving any other assistance under this Act.

(c) Authorization of appropriation.—There is authorized to be appropriated, $232,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for the program of education under this section.

(d) Amount of assistance.—(1) Retraining assistance.—The Secretary shall provide retraining assistance under this section to an eligible veteran if the Secretary determines that the veteran meets the eligibility requirements for such assistance.

(2) Payment for retraining assistance.—The Secretary shall pay the educational institution a pro-rated amount based on the number of months the veteran pursued the program of education in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of section 3337 of title 38, United States Code.

(3) Payment for housing stipend.—The Secretary shall pay the veteran a housing stipend in an amount not to exceed $1,500 per month for each month the veteran pursues the program of education.

(4) Refusal to provide assistance.—In the case of a veteran who fails to meet the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b), the Secretary may refuse to provide retraining assistance to such veteran.

(5) Reimbursement.—The Secretary shall reimburse the educational institution for any amounts paid under this section to a veteran who fails to meet the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b).

(6) Payment for unemployment compensation.—In the case of a veteran who fails to meet the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b), the Secretary shall pay the veteran an amount equal to one-half of the unemployment compensation paid under section 3337(c)(2)(A) of title 38, United States Code, for each month the veteran pursued the program of education under this section.

(7) Limitation on payments.—In the case of a veteran who fails to meet the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b), the Secretary shall not pay more than $50 per month for each month the veteran pursued the program of education.

(8) Payment for housing stipend.—In the case of a veteran who fails to meet the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b), the Secretary shall not pay more than $50 per month for each month the veteran pursued the program of education.

(e) Definition of eligible veteran.—In this section, the term ‘‘eligible veteran” means a veteran who is an eligible veteran as defined in section 3337(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code.

(f) Authorization of appropriation for unemployment compensation.—There is authorized to be appropriated, $500,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the program of education under section 3337 of title 38, United States Code.

(g) Authorization of appropriation for housing stipend.—There is authorized to be appropriated, $500,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the program of education under section 3337 of title 38, United States Code.

(h) Implementation.—The Secretary shall implement the program of education under this section in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of section 3337 of title 38, United States Code.

(i) Determination of high-demand occupations.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall determine the high-demand occupations needed by veterans.

(j) Certification.—In carrying out the program of education under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that the educational institution offering the program of education is certified by the Secretary to provide education in a high-demand occupation.

(k) Eligibility for benefits.—In carrying out the program of education under this section, the Secretary shall not make any determination of eligibility for benefits under title 38, United States Code, for any period preceding the date of the enactment of this Act.

(1) Determination of high-demand occupations.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall determine the high-demand occupations needed by veterans.

(m) Authorization of appropriation for retraining assistance.—There is authorized to be appropriated, $180,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the program of education under this section.

(n) Amount of assistance.—(1) Initial assistance.—The Secretary shall provide retraining assistance under this section to an eligible veteran if the Secretary determines that the veteran meets the eligibility requirements for such assistance.

(2) Payment for retraining assistance.—The Secretary shall pay the educational institution a pro-rated amount based on the number of months the veteran pursued the program of education in accordance with this paragraph.

(o) Authorization of appropriation for unemployment compensation.—There is authorized to be appropriated, $140,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the program of education under section 3337 of title 38, United States Code.

(p) Amount of assistance.—(1) Retraining assistance.—The Secretary shall provide retraining assistance under this section to an eligible veteran if the Secretary determines that the veteran meets the eligibility requirements for such assistance.

(2) Payment for retraining assistance.—The Secretary shall pay the educational institution a pro-rated amount based on the number of months the veteran pursued the program of education in accordance with this paragraph.

(q) Authorization of appropriation for housing stipend.—There is authorized to be appropriated, $140,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the program of education under section 3337 of title 38, United States Code.

(r) Amount of assistance.—(1) Initial assistance.—The Secretary shall provide retraining assistance under this section to an eligible veteran if the Secretary determines that the veteran meets the eligibility requirements for such assistance.

(2) Payment for retraining assistance.—The Secretary shall pay the educational institution a pro-rated amount based on the number of months the veteran pursued the program of education in accordance with this paragraph.
(B) in the case of a covered program of education other than a program of education leading to a degree at an institution other than an institution of higher learning pursued on more than a half-time basis, the amount specified under subsection (c)(3)(A)(ii) of such section; or
(C) in the case of a covered program of education pursued on less than a half-time basis, or a covered program of education provided only through distance learning on more than a half-time basis, the amount specified under subsection (c)(1)(B)(iii) of such section.

(4) FULL REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary shall not make a payment under paragraph (1)(C) with respect to an eligible veteran who completes or fails to complete a program of education under the retraining assistance program under this section if the veteran fails to find employment in a field related to the program of education within the 180-period beginning on the date on which the veteran withdraws from or completes the program.

(e) No TRANSFERABILITY.—Retraining assistance provided under this section may not be transferred to another individual.

(f) LIMITATION.—Not more than 17,250 eligible veterans may receive retraining assistance under this section.

(g) TERMINATION.—No retraining assistance may be paid under this section after the date that is 21 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(h) FUNDING.—In addition to amounts otherwise available there is appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $386,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out this section.

SEC. 8007. PROHIBITION ON COPAYMENTS AND COST SHARING FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES RECEIVED UNDER EMERGENCY RELATING TO COVID-19

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs—

(1) shall provide for any copayment or other cost sharing for health care under the laws administered by the Secretary received by a veteran during the period specified in subsection (b); and

(2) shall reimburse any veteran who paid a copayment or other cost sharing for health care under the laws administered by the Secretary received by a veteran during such period the amounts paid by the veteran.

(b) PERIOD SPECIFIED.—The period specified in this subsection is the period beginning on April 6, 2020, and ending on September 30, 2021. In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $1,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out this section, except for health care furnished pursuant to section 170c(2)(c)-(d)(4) of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 8008. EMERGENCY HOMESTATION VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEE LEAVE FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT; APPROPRIATION.—There is established in the Treasury the Emergency Department of Veterans Affairs Employee Leave Fund (in this section referred to as the “Fund”), to be administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, for the purposes set forth in subsection (b). In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $80,000,000, which shall be deposited into the Fund and remain available through September 20, 2022.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Any amounts in the Fund shall be available for payment to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the use of paid leave by any covered employee who is unable to work because of the emergency.—

(1) is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19;

(2) has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19;

(3) is caring for an individual who is subject to such an order;

(4) is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis;

(5) is caring for a son or daughter of such employee if the school or place of care of the son or daughter has been closed, if the school of such son or daughter requires or makes optional a virtual learning instruction model or requires or makes optional a hybrid of in-person and virtual learning instruction models, or the child care provider of such son or daughter is unavailable, due to COVID-19 precautions;

(6) is experiencing any other substantially similar condition;

(7) is caring for a family member with a mental or physical disability who is 55 years of age or older and incapable of self-care, without regard to whether another individual other than the employee is available to care for such family member if the employee is closed or the direct care provider is unavailable due to COVID-19; or

(8) is obtaining immunization related to COVID-19 or to recover from any injury, disability, illness, or condition related to such immunization.

(c) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—Paid leave under this section may only be provided and used by a covered employee during the period beginning on March 14, 2021, and ending on September 30, 2021.

(2) TOTAL HOURS; AMOUNT.—Paid leave under this section—

(A) shall be provided to a covered employee in an amount not to exceed 600 hours of paid leave for each full-time employee, and in the case of a part-time employee, employee on an uncom- mon tour of duty, or employee with a seasonal work schedule, in an amount not to exceed the proportional equivalent of 600 hours to the ex- tent amounts in the Fund remain available for reimbursement;

(B) shall be paid at the same hourly rate as other leave payments; and

(C) may not be used by a covered employee if the leave would result in payments greater than $2,800 in aggregate for any biweekly pay period for a full-time employee, or a proportion- ally equivalent biweekly limit for a part-time employee.

(3) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LEAVE.—Paid leave under this section—

(A) is in addition to any other leave provided to a covered employee; and

(B) may not be used by a covered employee concurrently with other leave.

(4) CALCULATION OF RETIREMENT BENEFIT.—Any paid leave provided to a covered employee under this section shall reduce the total service used to calculate any Federal civilian retirement benefit.

(d) COVERED EMPLOYER DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered employer” means an employer of the Department of Veterans Affairs appointed under chapter 74 of title 38, United States Code.

TITLE IX—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Subtitle A—Crisis Support for Unemployed Workers

PART I—EXTENSION OF CARES ACT UNEMPLOYMENT PROVISIONS

SEC. 9011. EXTENSION OF PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2102(c) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9021(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “March 14, 2021” and inserting “July 11, 2021”;

(2) by striking “June 27, 2021” and inserting “June 25, 2022”;

(3) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking “March 14, 2021” and inserting “December 20, 2021”;

(b) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF WEEKS.—Section 2102(c)(2) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 9021(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “50 weeks” and inserting “79 weeks”;

(2) by striking “50-week period” and inserting “79-week period”.

(c) HOLD HARMLESS FOR PROPER ADMINISTRATION.—In the case of an individual who is eligi- ble to receive pandemic unemployment assistance under section 2102 of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9021) as of the day before the date of enactment of this Act and on the date of enactment of this Act becomes eligible for pandemic emergency unemployment compensation under section 2107 of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9025) by reason of the amendment made by section 9016(b) of this title, any payment of pandemic unemployment assistance under such section 2102 made after the date of enactment of this Act to such individual during an appropriate period of time, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, that should have been made under such section 2102 shall not be considered to be an overpayment of assistance under such section 2102, except that an individual may not receive payment for assistance under section 2102 and a payment for assistance under section 2107 for the same week of unemployment.

SEC. 9012. EXTENSION OF FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2104(c)(2) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9023(e)(2)) is amended by striking “March 14, 2021” and inserting “September 6, 2021”.

(b) INCREASE IN REIMBURSEMENT RATE.—Section 2103(i)(1)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1103(i)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting “and except as otherwise provided in this subpara- graph” after “as determined by the Secretary of Labor”; and

(2) by inserting after the first sentence the fol- lowing: “With respect to the amounts of such compensation paid for weeks of unemployment ending on or before September 6, 2021, the preceding sentence shall be applied by substituting ‘75 percent’ for ‘one-half’.”.

SEC. 9014. FULL FEDERAL FUNDING OF THE FIRST WEEK OF COMPENSABLE REGULAR UNEMPLOY- MENT FOR STATES WITH NO WAITING WEEK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2105(e)(2) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9024(e)(2)) is amended by striking “March 14, 2021” and inserting “September 6, 2021”.

(b) AMOUNT.—Section 2105(h)(1)(A)(i) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 9024(h)(1)(A)(i)) is amended by striking “March 14, 2021” and inserting “September 6, 2021”.

SEC. 9013. EXTENSION OF FEDERAL FUND- ING OF THE FIRST WEEK OF COMPENSABLE REGULAR UNEMPLOY- MENT FOR STATES WITH NO WAIT- ING WEEK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2105(e)(2) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9024(e)(2)) is amended by striking “March 14, 2021” and inserting “September 6, 2021”.

(b) FULL REIMBURSEMENT.—Paragraph (3) of section 2105(e) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 9024(e)) is repealed and such section shall be applied to weeks of unemployment to which an agreement under section 2105 of such Act applies as if such paragraph had not been enacted. In imple- menting the preceding sentence, a State may, if necessary, reenter the agreement with the Sec- retary under section 2105 of such Act, and retro- actively pay for the first week of regular compen- sation without a waiting week consistent
with State law (including a waiver of State law) and receive full reimbursement for weeks of employment that ended after December 31, 2020.

SEC. 9015. EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION. If a State modifies its unemployment compensation law and policies, subject to the succeeding sentence, with respect to personnel standing in a new capacity on an emergency temporary basis as needed to respond to the spread of COVID–19, such modifications shall be disregarded for the purposes of applying section 203 of the Social Security Act and section 3304 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to such State law. Such modifications shall only apply through September 6, 2021, and shall be limited to emergency temporary base or former employees on a non-competitive basis, and other temporary actions to quickly process applications and claims.

SEC. 9016. EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2107(g) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9025(g)) is amended to read as follows:

"(g) APPLICABILITY.—An agreement entered into under this section shall include a waiver of unemployment compensation for eligible workers.

"(1) beginning on the date on which such agreement is entered into; and

"(2) ending on or before September 6, 2021.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply as if included in the CARES Act.

(c) C OORDINATION OF PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION WITH EXTENDED COMPENSATION.—Section 2107(a)(5)(B) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 9025(b)(5)) is amended by striking "24" and inserting "53".

SEC. 9021. FUNDING FOR FRAUD PREVENTION, EQUITABLE ACCESS, AND TIMELY PAYMENT TO ELIGIBLE WORKERS. Subtitle A of title II of division A of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 2118. FRAUD PREVENTION, EQUITABLE ACCESS, AND TIMELY PAYMENT TO ELIGIBLE WORKERS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Labor for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $8,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses to carry out Federal activities related to the administration of unemployment compensation programs extended under subtitle A of title IX of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

"(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts made available under subsection (a) shall—

"(1) for Federal administrative costs related to the purposes described in subsection (a);

"(2) for systemswide infrastructure investment and development related to such purposes; and

"(3) to make grants to States or territories administering unemployment compensation programs extended under subtitle A of title IX of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

"(c) RESTRICTIONS ON GRANTS TO STATES AND TERRITORIES.—As a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (b), each State or territory may require that a State or territory receiving such a grant—

"(1) use such program integrity tools as the Secretary may specify; and

"(2) as directed by the Secretary, conduct user accessibility testing on any new system developed by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (b)(2).

PART 4—OTHER PROVISIONS

SEC. 9041. EXTENSION OF LIMITATION ON EXCESS BUSINESS LOSSES OF NONCORPORATE TAXPAYERS. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 461(h)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "January 1, 2022" and inserting "January 1, 2023".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021.

SEC. 9042. SUSPENSION OF TAX ON PORTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 55 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR 2020.—

"(1) in general.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in 2020, if the adjusted gross income of the taxpayer for such taxable year is less than $150,000, the gross income of such taxpayer shall not include so much of the unemployment compensation received by such taxpayer (or, in the case of a joint return, received by each spouse) as does not exceed $10,200.

"(2) Applicability of paragraph (1), the adjusted gross income of the taxpayer shall be determined—

"(A) after application of sections 86, 135, 137, 219, 221, 222, and 469, and

"(B) without regard to this section.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

"(1) Section 74(d)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting "85(c)," before "86.

"(2) Section 86(a)(2)(A) of such Code is amended by inserting "85(c)" before "135".

"(3) Section 135(c)(4)(A) of such Code is amended by inserting "85(c)" before "137".

"(4) Section 137(b)(2)(A) of such Code is amended by inserting "85(c)" before "137".

"(5) Section 219(g)(3)(A)(ii) of such Code is amended by inserting "85(c)" before "137".

"(6) Section 215(b)(2)(C)(i) of such Code is amended by inserting "85(c)" before "137".

"(7) Section 222(b)(2)(C)(ii) of such Code, as in effect before the date of enactment of the Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020, is amended by inserting "85(c)" before "219".

"(8) Section 469(i)(3)(E)(ii) of such Code is amended by striking "135 and 137" and inserting "85(c), 135, and 137".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2019.

SubTitle B—Emergency Assistance to Families Through Home Visiting Programs

SEC. 9043. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES THROUGH HOME VISITING PROGRAMS. Effective 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act, title V of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701–713) is amended by inserting after section 511 the following:

"SEC. 511A. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES THROUGH HOME VISITING PROGRAMS.

"(a) SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Secretary $150,000,000, to remain available until expended, to enable eligible entities to conduct programs in accordance with section 511 and subsection (c) of this section.

"(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDS.—To be eligible to receive funds made available by subsection (a) of this section, an entity shall—

"(1) as of the date of enactment of this section, be conducting a program under section 511;

"(2) ensure the modification of grants, contracts, and other agreements, as applicable, executed under section 511, such that the program is conducted as necessary to provide that, during the period that begins with the date of the enactment of this section and ends with the last day of the 2nd succeeding fiscal year after the funds are awarded, the entity shall—

"(A) not reduce funding for, or staffing levels of, the program on account of reduced enrollments in the program; and

"(B) when using funds to provide emergency supplies to eligible families receiving grant services under section 511, ensure coordination with local public banks to the extent practicable; and

"(3) reaffirm that, in conducting the program, the entity will focus on priority populations (as defined in section 511(d)(4)).

"(c) USES OF FUNDS.—An entity to which funds are awarded by this section shall use the funds—

"(1) to serve families with home visits or with virtual visits, that may be conducted by the use of electronic information and telecommunication technologies, in a service delivery model described in section 511(d)(2)(A);

"(2) may award grants to other entities to which funds are awarded by this section; and

"(3) to serve families with home visits or with virtual visits, that may be conducted by the use of electronic information and telecommunication technologies, in a service delivery model described in section 511(d)(2)(A).
for families served, and may include training on how to safely conduct intimate partner violence screenings, and training on safety and planning for families served to support the family outcome improvement. It is included in section 511(d)(2)(B).

“(4) for the acquisition by families served by programs under section 511 of such technological means as are needed to conduct and support a virtual health visit program under section 511 for the purpose of enabling the family to meet the emergency needs of the family.”.

Subtitle C—Emergency Assistance to Children and Families

SEC. 9201. PANDEMIC EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.

Section 1102 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397–1397h) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) PANDEMIC EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, $1,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out this subsection.

“(2) RESERVATION OF FUNDS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Of the amount specified in paragraph (1), $2,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be reserved for technical assistance to States and Indian tribes with respect to the use of funds provided under this subsection.

“(3) ALLOTMENTS.—

“(A) 50 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—

“(i) TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE ALLOCATED.—The Secretary shall allot a total of 92.5 percent of the amount specified in paragraph (1) that is not reserved under paragraph (2) as the Secretary shall allot among the territories and States that are not territories for basic assistance, non-recurrent short term benefits, and emergency assistance in fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise available.

“(ii) FORMULA.—The Secretary shall allot to each such State and territory the sum of the following percentages of the total amount described in clause (i):

“(DD) 50 percent, multiplied by—

“(aa) the population of children in the State, determined on the basis of the most recent population estimates as determined by the Bureau of the Census, divided by—

“(bb) the total population of children in the States that are not territories, as so determined; plus

“(DD) 50 percent, multiplied by—

“(aa) the total amount expended by the State for basic assistance, non-recurrent short term benefits, and emergency assistance in fiscal year 2019, as reported by the State under section 411; divided by—

“(bb) the total amount expended by the States that are not territories for basic assistance, non-recurrent short term benefits, and emergency assistance in fiscal year 2019, as so reported by the States.

“(B) TERRITORIES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—The Secretary shall allot among the territories and Indian tribes otherwise eligible for a grant under this part such portions of 7.5 percent of the amount specified in paragraph (1) that are not reserved under paragraph (2) as the Secretary deems appropriate based on the needs of the territory or Indian tribe involved.

“(C) EXPENDITURE COMMITMENT REQUIREMENT.—To receive the full amount of funding payable under this subsection, a State or Indian tribe shall inform the Secretary as to whether it intends to expend the amount specified in this paragraph and provide that information—

“(i) in the case of a State that is not a territory, within 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

“(ii) in the case of a territory or an Indian tribe, within 90 days after such date of enactment.

“(D) GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide funds to each State and Indian tribe to which an amount is allotted under paragraph (3), from the amount so allotted.

“(B) TREATMENT OF UNFUNDED STATES.—(-1) The Secretary shall reallocate in accordance with paragraph (3) all funds provided to any State or Indian tribe under this subsection that are unused, among the other States and Indian tribes eligible for funds under this subsection. For purposes of paragraph (3), the Secretary shall treat the funds as if included in the amount specified in paragraph (1).

“(ii) PROVISION.—The Secretary shall provide funds to each such other State or Indian tribe in an amount equal to the amount so reallocated.

“(E) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State or Indian tribe to which funds are provided under this subsection may use the funds only for non-recurrent short term benefits, whether in the form of cash or in other forms.

“(B) LIMITATION ON USE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A State or Indian tribe shall not use funds provided under this subsection to exceed more than 15 percent of the funds for administrative purposes.

“(F) NONSUPPLANTATION.—Funds provided under this subsection shall be used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, or tribal funds for services and activities that promote the purposes of this part.

“(G) EXPENDITURE DEADLINE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), a State or Indian tribe to which funds are provided under this subsection shall expend the funds not later than the end of fiscal year 2022.

“(ii) EXCEPTION FOR REALLOTTED FUNDS.—A State or Indian tribe to which funds are provided under paragraph (4)(B) shall expend the funds within 12 months after receipt.

“(H) SUSPENSION OF TERRITORY SPENDING CAP.—Section 1102(b) shall not apply with respect to any funds provided under this subsection.

“(I) APPLICABLE PERIOD.—The term ‘applicable period’ means the period that begins with April 1, 2021, and ends with September 30, 2022.

“(J) NON-RECURRENT SHORT TERM BENEFITS.—The term ‘non-recurrent short term benefits’ has the meaning given the term in OMB approved Form ACF-1968, published on July 31, 2014.

“(K) FUNDING FOR STRIKE TEAMS.—

“(1) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $200,000,000, to remain available until expended, for purposes of requiring multiple organizations described in paragraph (1) to provide to skilled nursing facilities (as defined in section 1819(a)) infection control and vaccination uptake support relating to the prevention or mitigation of COVID–19, as determined appropriate by the Secretaries.

“(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts made available under paragraph (1), $188,000,000 shall be made available to carry out the programs described in subsection (b) in fiscal year 2021, of which not less than an amount equal to $100,000,000 of the amount previously provided in fiscal year 2021 to carry out subsection (b) shall be made available to carry out such section, and $20,000,000 shall be made available to carry out the programs described in subsection (b) in fiscal year 2022, of which not less than $100,000,000 shall be for activities described in subsection (b).

Subtitle E—Support to Skilled Nursing Facilities in Response to COVID–19

SEC. 9401. PROVIDING FOR INFECTION CONTROL SUPPORT TO SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES THROUGH CONTRACTS WITH QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 1862(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y(g)) is amended—

“(1) by striking ‘‘the Secretary’’ and inserting—

“(1) ‘‘the Secretary’’;” and

“(2) by adding at the end the following new provision:

“(2) in addition to any funds otherwise available, there are appropriated to the Secretary, out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $200,000,000, to remain available until expended, for purposes of requiring multiple organizations described in paragraph (1) to provide to skilled nursing facilities (as defined in section 1819(a)) infection control and vaccination uptake support relating to the prevention or mitigation of COVID–19, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

SEC. 9402. FUNDING FOR STRIKE TEAMS FOR RESIDENT AND EMPLOYEE SAFETY IN SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES.

Section 1819 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l–3) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(k) FUNDING FOR STRIKE TEAMS.—(1) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $200,000,000, to remain available until expended, for purposes of requiring multiple organizations described in paragraph (1) to provide to skilled nursing facilities (as defined in section 1819(a)) infection control and vaccination uptake support relating to the prevention or mitigation of COVID–19, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

Subtitle F—Preserving Health Benefits for Workers

SEC. 9501. PRESERVING HEALTH BENEFITS FOR WORKERS.

(a) PREMIUM ASSISTANCE FOR COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES.—

“(1) PROVISION OF PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.—(A) REDUCTION OF PREMIUMS.—In the case of any premium for a period of coverage during the period beginning on the first day of the first month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, and ending on September 30, 2021, for COBRA continuation coverage with respect to any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3), such individual shall be entitled to have the premium reduced by a percentage, calculated using the premium for the first month after the date of the enactment of this Act, equal to the product of the percentage of Federal assistance that is applicable to the individual and the premium for the month of coverage in full.

Subtitle G—Additional Funding for Aging and Disability Services Programs

SEC. 9301. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES PROGRAMS.

(a) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, $276,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out the programs described in subtitle B.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—(1) of the amounts made available by subsection (a) shall be available to carry out the programs described in subtitle B in fiscal year 2021, of which not less than an amount equal to $100,000,000 of the amount previously provided in fiscal year 2021 to carry out out section 2042(b) shall be made available to carry out such section; and

(2) of the amounts made available by subsection (a) shall be made available to carry out the programs described in subtitle B in fiscal year 2022, of which not less than $100,000,000 shall be for activities described in section 2042(b).”.
(B) PLAN ENROLLMENT OPTION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subsection, the COBRA continuation provisions shall be applied such that any assistance eligible individual enrolled in coverage under a plan offered by a plan sponsor may, not later than 90 days after the date of notice of the plan enrollment option described in this subparagraph, elect to enroll under such plan sponsored by such plan sponsor that is different than coverage under the plan in which such individual was enrolled at the time of such qualifying event occurred; or

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—Any assistance eligible individual may elect to enroll in different coverage as described in clause (i) only if—

(I) the employer involved has made a determination that such employer will permit such assistance eligible individual to enroll in different coverage as provided under this subparagraph;

(II) the premium for such different coverage does not exceed the premium for coverage in which such individual was enrolled at the time such qualifying event occurred; and

(iii) the different coverage in which the individual elects to enroll is offered to similarly situated active employees of the employer at the time at which such election is made;

(iv) the different coverage in which the individual elects to enroll is not—

(aa) coverage that provides only excepted benefits (as defined in section 9832(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

(bb) a qualified small employer health reimbursement arrangement (as defined in section 9831(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986); or

(cc) a flexible spending arrangement (as defined in section 106(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

(2) LIMITATION OF PERIOD OF PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.—

(A) ELIGIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL COVERAGE.—

Paragraph (1)(A) shall not apply with respect to any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3) of months of coverage beginning on or after the earlier of—

(I) the first date that such individual is eligible for coverage under any other group health plan (other than coverage consisting of only excepted benefits (as defined in section 9832(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; section 733(c) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and section 2791(c) of the Public Health Service Act; or

(ii) any coverage beginning on or after the earlier of—

(aa) the first date such individual is identifiable with respect to any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3) of months of coverage beginning on or after the earlier of—

(bb) the expiration of the maximum period of continuation coverage required under paragraph (3) of months of coverage beginning on or after the earlier of—

(cc) the date following the expiration of the period of continuation coverage allowed under paragraph (3) of months of coverage beginning on or after the earlier of—

(B) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Any assistance eligible individual shall notify the group health plan with respect to which paragraph (1)(A) applies if such paragraph ceases to apply by reason of clause (i) of subparagraph (A) (as applicable). Such notice shall be provided to the group health plan in such time and manner as may be specified by the Secretary of Labor.

(C) ASSISTANCE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this section, the term “assistance eligible individual” means, with respect to a period of coverage during the period beginning on the first day of the first month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, and ending on September 30, 2021, any individual that is a qualified beneficiary under—

(A) is eligible for COBRA continuation coverage by reason of a qualifying event specified in section 6031(d)(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, section 4980B(f)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or section 2293(b)(2) of the Public Health Service Act, except for the voluntary termination of such individual’s employment by such individual; and

(B) elects such coverage.

(3) EXTENSION OF ELECTION PERIOD AND EFFECT ON COVERAGE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of applying section 6055(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, section 4980B(f)(5)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or section 2293(b)(2) of the Public Health Service Act, in the case of—

(i) an individual who does not have an election of COBRA continuation coverage in effect on the first day of the first month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act but who would have been an assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3) if such election were so in effect; or

(ii) an individual who elected COBRA continuation coverage and discontinued from such coverage before the first day of the first month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, such individual may elect the COBRA continuation coverage provisions containing such provisions during the period beginning on the first day of the first month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, and ending 60 days after the date on which the notification required under paragraph (5)(C) is provided to such individual.

(B) COMMENCEMENT OF COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE.—Any COBRA continuation coverage elected by a qualified beneficiary during an extended election period under subparagraph (A)—

(i) shall commence (including for purposes of applying the premium payments under paragraph (1)(A) and any cost-sharing requirements for items and services under a group health plan) with the first period of coverage beginning on or after the first day of the first month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(ii) shall not extend beyond the period of COBRA continuation coverage that would have been required under the applicable COBRA continuation coverage had the individual been elected as required under such provision or had not been discontinued.

(C) EFFECT ON COVERAGE.—

(i) FORM.—The requirement of the additional notice under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3) if such individual was enrolled at the time such qualifying event occurred.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—Each additional notification under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(aa) a description, displayed in a prominent manner, of the qualified beneficiary’s right to a subsidized premium and any conditions on entitlement to the subsidized premium; and

(bb) a description, displayed in a prominent manner, of the qualified beneficiary’s right to enroll in different coverage if the employer permits such beneficiary to elect to enroll in such different coverage under paragraph (3).

(iii) NOTICE IN CONNECTION WITH EXTENDED ELECTION PERIODS.—In the case of any assistance eligible individual described in paragraph (3), the individual involved, provide rules requiring the provision of the notice required under subparagraph (A) and failure to provide such notice shall be treated as a failure to meet the notice requirements under the applicable COBRA continuation provision.

(D) MODEL NOTICES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, or any individual who became entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage before the first day of the first month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, the administrator of the applicable group health plan (or other entity) shall provide (within 60 days after such first day of such first month) for the additional notice required to be provided under subparagraph (A) and failure to provide such notice shall be treated as a failure to meet the notice requirements under the applicable COBRA continuation provision.

(E) NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF PERIOD OF PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any assistance eligible individual, subject to subparagraph (B), the requirements of section 6061(a)(4) (provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1166(a)(4)), and section 4980B(f)(6)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or section 2293(d)(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 180m-4(d)), with respect to individuals who, during the period described in paragraph (3), become entitled to COBRA continuation coverage, the requirements of such provisions shall not be treated as met unless such notice contains—

(aa) a description of the option of the qualified beneficiary to enroll in different coverage if the employer permits such beneficiary to enroll in such different coverage under subparagraph (D)(3); and

(bb) such other information as may be necessary to make such notice clear and understandable language of—
(C) provides to such individual a written notice in clear and understandable language—

(i) that the premium assistance for such individual will expire soon and the prominent identification number of the plan providing such assistance; and

(ii) that such individual may be eligible for coverage without any premium assistance through—

(I) COBRA continuation coverage; or

(II) coverage under a group health plan.

(B) EXCEPTION.—The requirement for the group health plan administrator to provide the written notice under subparagraph (A) shall be waived if the premium assistance for such individual expires pursuant to clause (i) of paragraph (1).

(C) PERIOD SPECIFIED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the period specified in this subparagraph is, with respect to the date of expiration of premium assistance for any assistance eligible individual pursuant to a limitation requiring a notice under this paragraph, the period beginning on the day that is 45 days before the date of such expiration and ending on the day that is 15 days before the date of such expiration.

(D) MODEL NOTICES.—Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, with respect to any assistance eligible individual, the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall establish models for the notification required under this paragraph.

(V) VITAL STATISTICAL FUNDS.—The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall prescribe regulations to carry out the provisions of this section, except that the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall treat as a reference to a monthly or shorter period any period prescribed for any assistance under this section.

(G) STATE.—The term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(H) PERIOD OF COVERAGE.—Any reference in this subsection to a period of coverage shall be treated as a reference to a 3-month period beginning on the day that is 45 days before the date of expiration of such coverage unless the period is otherwise prescribed in regulations of the Secretary.

(I) PLANS OF CONGRESSIONAL EMPLOYEES.—(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “plan” includes—

(i) the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program; and

(ii) any other plan described in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of section 458 of the Tax Reform Act of 1986.

(B) DEFERRAL OF PREMIUMS.—For purposes of paragraph (A)(i) with respect to any Thi.

(C) TREATMENT OF DEPOSITS.—The Secretary shall waive any penalty under section 6656 for any failure to make a deposit of the tax imposed by section 3111(b), or so much of the taxes imposed under section 3221(a) as are attributable to the rate in effect under section 3111(b), if the Secretary determines that such failure was due to the mistake of the credit allowed under this section.

(D) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—For purposes of section 4412 and this section, any amounts due to an employer under this paragraph shall be treated in the same manner as a refund due from a credit provision referred to in section 3111(b). Any overpayment of such provision shall be treated as an underpayment by such person with respect to any calendar quarter.

(E) OVERSTATEMENTS.—Any overstatement of the credit to which a person is entitled under this section (and any amount paid by the Secretary as a result of such overstatement) shall be treated as an underpayment by such person of the taxes described in paragraph (1) and may be assessed and collected by the Secretary in the same manner as such taxes.

(F) GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘person’ includes the United States, any State or any political subdivision thereof, any Indian tribal government (as defined in section 1396g(c)(1)), any agency or instrumentality of any of the foregoing, and any instrumentality of the United States (as defined in section 3101(c)(1)) and exempt from taxation under section 501(a)(1) with respect to which such credit is allowed.

(G) DEVALUATION OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—For purposes of chapter 1, the gross income of any person allowed a credit under this section shall be increased for the taxable year which includes the calendar quarter to which such credit is applicable, with respect to which such credit is allowed by the amount of such credit.

(H) PAYMENT OF TAX.—The Secretary shall provide that any failure to make any deposit of the tax imposed under section 3221(a) with respect to any calendar quarter shall be treated as a failure to make such deposit within the meaning of section 6091(b), or so much of the taxes imposed under section 3221(a) as are attributable to the rate in effect under section 3111(b), if the Secretary determines that such failure was due to the mistake of the credit allowed under this section.

(I) EXTENSION OF LIMITATION ON ASSESSMENT.—Notwithstanding section 6501, the limitation on the period of assessment of any amount attributable to a credit claimed under this section shall not expire before the date that is 5 years after the date of the filing of the original return which includes the calendar quarter with respect to which such credit is determined.

(J) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply to any calendar quarter beginning after December 31, 2020.
(g) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue such regulations, or other guidance, forms, instructions, and publications, as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out this section, including—

(i) the requirement to report information or the establishment of other methods for verifying the correct amounts of reimbursements under this section;

(ii) the application of this section to group health plans that are multiemployer plans (as defined in section 3(37) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974);

(iii) the application of this section to group health plans that are multiemployer plans (as defined in section 3(2) of the Medicare Benefits Act of 1980) who fail to make such a reimbursement within a reasonable time period after the date on which such reimbursement was required under this section;

(iv) to provide for the reconciliation of such advance payment with the amount of the credit at the time of filing the return of tax for the applicable quarter or taxable year, and

(v) allowing the credit to third party payors (including professional employer organizations, certified professional employer organizations, or agents under section 3594).

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 65 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

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"(1) REDUCTION OF REFUNDABLE CREDIT.—The amount of the credit which would (but for this paragraph) be allowable under subsection (a) shall be reduced by the amount that would be allowed as a credit to the taxpayer (or, except as otherwise provided by the Secretary, any dependent of the taxpayer) under subsection (g) with respect to a joint return, half of such reduced amount with respect to a joint return made or allowed to each individual filing such return.

"(2) ADVANCE REFUNDS AND CREDITS.—

"(i) In general.—Subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each individual who was an eligible individual for such individual’s first taxable year beginning after December 31, 2019, shall be treated as having been made or allowed to each individual filing such return.

"(ii) Treatment of deceased individuals.—For purposes of determining the advance refund amount with respect to such taxable year:

(A) any individual who was deceased before January 1, 2021, shall be treated for purposes of applying subsection (e)(2) in the same manner as if the valid identification number of such person under section 6428, 6428A, and 6428B as of the time of issuance of such card, such card was issued if, as of the time of the return of tax for the taxable year for purposes of applying subsection (e)(2)(B) with respect to such joint return and

(B) no amount shall be determined under subsection (e)(2) with respect to any dependent of the taxpayer if the taxpayer (both spouses in subsection (e)(2) with respect to any dependent return, and

(3) TIMING AND MANNER OF PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall, subject to the provisions of this title and with rules similar to the rules of subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 6428A(f)(3), refund or credit any overpayment attributable to this subsection as rapidly as possible, after the rapid effort to make payments attributable to such overpayments electronically if appropriate. No refund or credit shall be made or allowed under this section after December 31, 2021.

"(4) NO INTEREST.—No interest shall be allowed on any overpayment attributable to this subsection.

"(5) APPLICATION TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE FILED A RETURN OF TAX FOR 2020.—"(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘return of tax’ means a return of tax filed by reason of section 6428, 6428A, and 6428B as of the time of the return of tax for the taxable year for purposes of applying subsection (e)(2)(B) with respect to such joint return and

(B) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any individual who files, before the additional payment determination date, a return of tax for such individual’s first taxable year beginning in 2020, the Secretary shall make a payment (in addition to any payment made under paragraph (1) to such individual by reason of this section) equal to the lesser of—

(1) the amount which would be determined under paragraph (1) (after the application of subparagraph (A)) by applying paragraph (1) as if such individual’s taxable year were the calendar year filing deadline, or

(2) the amount with respect to such individual under paragraph (2)(A) with respect to the calendar year filing deadline,

"(6) ADVANCE REFUND AMOUNT.—

"(A) In general.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the advance refund amount is the amount that would have been allowed as a credit to the Secretary, in the case of a refund made under paragraph (1), by reason of carrying out the plan described in such paragraph, or

(B) who is eligible for a payment under a plan described in paragraph (2), by reason of carrying out the plan described in such paragraph, or

(C) B$500,000 ($10,000,000 in the case of Puerto Rico). The amount described in subparagraph (A) shall be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury based on information provided by the government of the respective possession.

"(7) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations or other guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section, including—

\(\text{(1)}\) regulations or other guidance providing taxpayers the opportunity to provide the Secretary information sufficient to allow the Secretary to make a payment under subsection (g) (including the determination of the amount of such payment) if such information is not otherwise available to the Secretary, and

\(\text{(2)}\) regulations or other guidance to ensure the maximum extent administratively practicable that, in determining the amount of any credit under subsection (a) and any credit or refund under subsection (g), an individual is not taken into account more than once, including by different taxpayers and including by reason of a change in joint return status or dependent status between the taxable year for which an advance refund amount is determined and the taxable year for which a credit under subsection (a) is determined.
(a) In general.—Section 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding after the end of any other provision after section 13215 of such Code the following new section:

"SEC. 6428B. 2021 recovery rebates to individuals.

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make payments to each individual who is claimed as a qualifying child by the Secretary (as defined in section 1368B) for any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2020, and before January 1, 2023, but only if—

"(A) the status of the taxpayer as a taxpayer to which the Secretary has made an offer, refund, or payment, and the taxpayer has elected not to receive such offer, refund, or payment, and the taxpayer has elected not to receive such offer, refund, or payment, and

"(B) any other factor which the Secretary may determine is relevant to the modification of the payment or related activity.

"(2) PAYMENTS.—Payments under this section shall be made as soon as practicable after the date on which the Secretary has made the offer, refund, or payment, and the taxpayer has elected not to receive such offer, refund, or payment.

"(3) LIMITATION.—No payment shall be made under this section if—

"(A) the status of the taxpayer as a taxpayer to which the Secretary has made an offer, refund, or payment, and the taxpayer has elected not to receive such offer, refund, or payment, and

"(B) any other factor which the Secretary may determine is relevant to the modification of the payment or related activity.

"(4) REBATE.—The Secretary shall determine the amount of the rebate to be paid to each individual under this section, and such amount shall be paid as a rebate of tax to the individual in such amount, and in such manner, as the Secretary shall determine.
such calendar year, and such other information as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(“e) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

(1) APPLICATION OF ELECTRONIC FUNDS PAYMENT.—The provisions made by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be made by electronic funds transfer to the same extent and in the same manner as if such payments were Federal payments not made under this title.

(2) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN RULES.—Rules similar to those set forth in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 6428A(c)(2) shall apply for purposes of this section.

(3) EXCEPTION FROM REDUCTION OR OFFSET.—No deduction from or offset by any individual under this section shall not be—

(A) subject to reduction or offset pursuant to subsection (c), (d), (e), or (f) of section 6402 or any similar authority permitting offset, or

(B) reduced or offset by other assessed Federal taxes that would otherwise be subject to levy or collection.

(4) APPLICATION OF ADVANCE PAYMENTS IN THE POSSESSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The advance payment amount determined under this section shall be determined—

(i) by applying section 24(k)(1) without regard to the phrase ‘or is a bona fide resident of Puerto Rico (within the meaning of section 24(k)(1))’,

(ii) without regard to section 24(k)(3)(C)(ii)(I),

(B) MIRROR CODE POSSESSIONS.—In the case of any possession of the United States with a mirror code tax system (as defined in section 6428B) whose modified adjusted gross income (as defined in section 6428B) is less than 200% of the applicable income threshold, the amount determined under this section shall be increased by $300,000 if the plan described in section 7527A is in effect.

(C) APPLICATION.—The advance payment shall be made—

(i) in the case of a taxpayer whose modified adjusted gross income (as defined in section 6428B) is less than 200% of the applicable income threshold, the safe harbor amount otherwise in effect under clause (i) shall be reduced by the amount which bears the same ratio to such amount as such excess bears to the applicable income threshold.

(ii) APPROPRIATIONS TO CARRY OUT ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—

(1) MIRROR CODE POSSESSIONS.—In the case of any possession described in subparagraph (B) which makes the election described in such subparagraph, the amount otherwise paid by the Secretary to such possession under section 24(k)(1)(A) with respect to taxable years beginning in 2021 shall be increased by $300,000 if such possession has a plan, which has been approved by the Secretary, for making advance payments consistent with such election.

(2) MIRROR CODE POSSESSIONS.—In the case of any possession described in subparagraph (B) of section 24(k)(3) with respect to taxable years beginning in 2021 shall be increased by $300,000 if the plan described in subparagraph (B) of such section includes a program, which has been approved by the Secretary, for making advance payments under rules similar to the rules of this section.

(iii) TIMING OF PAYMENT.—The Secretary may pay, upon the request of the possession of the United States to which the payment is to be made, an amount of the increase determined under clause (i) or (ii) immediately upon approval of the plan referred to in such clause, respectively.

(iv) APPLICATION.—No payments shall be made under the program established under subsection (a) with respect to—

(1) any period before July 1, 2021, or

(2) any period after December 31, 2021.

(v) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue such regulations or other guidance as the Secretary determines necessary or appropriate to—

(A) carry out the purposes of this section and subsections (i)(1) and (j) of section 24, including regulations or other guidance which provides for the treatment of such provisions with respect to the filing status of the taxpayer for a taxable year different from the status used for determining the annual advance amount.

(B) MIRROR CODE TAX SYSTEM.—Section 24 of such Code, as amended by the preceding provision of this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking ‘‘24(d)’’ and inserting ‘‘24’’ before ‘‘25A’’, and

(2) by striking ‘‘6428B’’ and inserting ‘‘6428B and 7527A’’.

(2) Application of refundable credit to residents of Puerto Rico, see section 7527A(e)(4)(A).

(3) Table of chapters.

(a) Table of chapters—

(i) For carrying out section 7527A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking ‘‘25A’’, ‘‘25A’’, and

(3) by striking ‘‘6428B’’ and inserting ‘‘6428B, and 7527A’’.

(4) The table of chapters for section 77 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking ‘‘Sec. 7527A’’ and inserting ‘‘Sec. 7527A. Advance payment of child tax credit’’.

(5) Appropriations to carry out advance payments.—Immediately after the enactment of this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available, there are appropriated for fiscal year 2021, and are available for any succeeding fiscal year for such purpose—

(A) $397,200,000 to remain available until September 30, 2022, for necessary expenses for the Bureau of the Fiscal Service to carry out this section (and the amendments made by this section), which shall supplement and not supplant any other appropriations that may be available for this purpose.

(B) $16,200,000 to remain available until September 30, 2022, for necessary expenses for the Bureau of the Fiscal Service to carry out this section (and the amendments made by this section), which shall supplement and not supplant any other appropriations that may be available for this purpose.

(6) Effective date.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall be effective as of December 31, 2021.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVANCE PAYMENT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary’s designee) shall establish the program described in section 7527A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, except that the Secretary shall ensure that the timing of the establishment of such program does not interfere with carrying out section 6428B(g) as rapidly as possible.

SEC. 9612. APPLICATION OF CHILD TAX CREDIT IN POSSESSIONS.

(a) In General.—Section 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

(‘‘K’’ APPLICATION OF CREDIT IN POSSESSIONS.—

(1) MIRROR CODE POSSESSIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(i)For application of refundable credit to residents of Puerto Rico, see section 7527A(e)(4)(A).
"(B) APPLICATION TO TAXABLE YEARS AFTER 2021.—In the case of any bona fide resident of Puerto Rico (within the meaning of section 931(a)) for any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2021—

(i) the credit determined under this section shall be allowed to such resident, and

(ii) subsection (d)(1)(B)(ii) shall be applied without regard to the phrase ‘but not attained age 25’."

(3) AMERICAN SAMOA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall pay to American Samoa amounts estimated by the Secretary as being equal to the aggregate benefits that would have been provided to residents of American Samoa under the application of this section for taxable years beginning after 2020 if the provisions of this section had been in effect in American Samoa (applied as if American Samoa were the United States and without regard to the application of this section to bona fide residents of Puerto Rico under subsection (1)(i)).

(B) DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply unless American Samoa has a plan, which has been approved by the Secretary, under which American Samoa will promptly distribute such payments to its residents.

(C) COORDINATION WITH CREDIT ALLOWED AGAINST UNITED STATES INCOME TAXES.—

(i) the case of a taxable year with respect to which a plan is approved under subparagraph (B), this section (other than this subsection) shall not apply to any individual eligible for a distribution under such plan.

(ii) APPLICATION OF SECTION IN EVENT OF ABSENCE OF APPROVED PLAN.—In the case of a taxable year with respect to which a plan is not approved under subparagraph (B),—

(1) if such taxable year begins in 2021, subsection (c)(1) shall be applied by substituting ‘bona fide resident of Puerto Rico or American Samoa’ for ‘bona fide resident of Puerto Rico’, and

(2) if such taxable year begins after December 31, 2021, rules similar to the rules of paragraph (2)(B) shall apply with respect to bona fide residents of American Samoa (within the meaning of section 931(a)).

(4) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—For purposes of section 1324 of title 31, United States Code, the payments under this subsection shall be treated in the manner as if from a credit provision referred to in subsection (b)(2) of such section.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2020.

III. EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

SEC. 9621. STRENGTHENING THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH NO QUALIFYING CHILDREN.

(a) SPECIAL RULES FOR 2021.—Section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end of the following subsection:

"(n) SPECIAL RULES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH NO QUALIFYING CHILDREN.—

(1) in the case of a specified student (other than a qualified former foster youth or a qualified homeless youth), age 19, and

(2) in the case of a specified student (other than a qualified former foster youth or a qualified homeless youth), age 24, and

(3) in the case of a specified former foster youth or a specified homeless youth, age 25, and

(4) in the case of a specified student, the term ‘specified student’ means, with respect to any taxable year, an individual who is an eligible student (as defined in section 25A(a)(3)) during at least 5 calendar months during the taxable year.

(b) RULES FOR 2022 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—

(1) the term ‘qualified former foster youth’ means an individual who—

(i) on or after the date that such individual attained age 19, was in foster care provided under the supervision or administration of an entity administering (or eligible to administer) a plan under part B or part C of title IV of the Social Security Act (without regard to whether Federal assistance was provided with respect to such child under such part E), and

(ii) provides (in such manner as the Secretary may provide) consent for entities which administer a plan under part B or part C of title IV of the Social Security Act to disclose to the Secretary information relevant to the status of such individual as a qualified former foster youth.

(2) the term ‘qualified homeless youth’ means—

(i) an individual who is an eligible student (as defined in section 25A(a)(3)) during at least 5 calendar months during the taxable year, and

(ii) at the end of the taxable year, is a homeless child or youth, or is unaccompanied, at risk of homelessness, and self-supporting.

(3) the term ‘qualified former foster youth’ means—

(i) the credit determined under this section shall not apply and

(ii) the term ‘specified matching amount for such group’ means the aggregate benefits that would have been provided to residents of American Samoa under the application of this section for taxable years beginning after 2020 if the provisions of this section had been in effect in American Samoa (applied as if American Samoa were the United States and without regard to the application of this section to bona fide residents of Puerto Rico under subsection (1)(i)).

(4) the term ‘specified matching amount for such group’ means the aggregate benefits that would have been provided under the supervision or administration of an entity administering (or eligible to administer) a plan under part B or part C of title IV of the Social Security Act (without regard to whether Federal assistance was provided with respect to such child under such part E), and

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2020.

SEC. 9622. TAXPAYER ELIGIBLE FOR CHILDESS EDUCATION TAX CREDIT IN CASE OF QUALIFYING CHILDREN WHO FAIL TO MEET CERTAIN IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subparagraph (F).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2020.

SEC. 9623. LIMITATION ON CREDIT OF CERTAIN SEPARATED SPOUSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in the case of "married individuals"—

(i) by striking "MARRIED INDIVIDUALS." and inserting "MARRIED INDIVIDUAL (or the Secretary as being equal to the aggregate benefits that would have been provided to residents of American Samoa under the application of this section for taxable years beginning after 2020 if the provisions of this section had been in effect in American Samoa (applied as if American Samoa were the United States and without regard to the application of this section to bona fide residents of Puerto Rico under subsection (1)(i))."

...
(3) SPECIFIED MATCHING AMOUNT.—For purposes of this subsection—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'specified matching amount' means, with respect to any calendar year, the lesser of—

(i) the excess (if any) of—

(I) the cost to American Samoa of the earned income tax credit for taxable years beginning in or with such calendar year, over

(II) the base amount for such calendar year,

or

(ii) the product of 3, multiplied by the base amount for such calendar year.

(B) BASE AMOUNT.—

(i) BASE AMOUNT FOR 2021.—In the case of calendar year 2021, the term 'base amount' means the greater of—

(I) 200% of the average annual wage for fiscal year 2021, determined by substituting 'calendar year 2021' in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

Any amount determined under this clause shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of $1,000,000.

(ii) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of any calendar year after 2021, the base amount means the dollar amount determined under clause (i) increased by an amount equal to—

(I) such dollar amount, multiplied by—

(II) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under subparagraph (A) for such calendar year, determined by substituting 'calendar year 2020' for 'calendar year 2016' in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

Any amount determined under this clause shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of $1,000,000.

(4) RULES RELATED TO PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall make payments under paragraph (1) for any calendar year—

(A) after receipt of such information as the Secretary may require to determine such payments, and

(B) except as provided in clause (i), within a reasonable period of time before the due date for individual income tax returns (as determined under the laws of Puerto Rico) for taxable years which began on the first day of such calendar year.

(B) INFORMATION.—The Secretary may require the reporting of such information as the Secretary may require to carry out this subsection.

(C) DETERMINATION OF COST OF EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT.—For purposes of this subsection, the cost to Puerto Rico of the earned income tax credit shall be determined by the Secretary on the basis of the laws of Puerto Rico and shall include reductions in revenues received by Puerto Rico by reason of such credit and refunds attributable to such credit, but shall not include any administrative costs with respect to such credit.

(b) POSSESSIONS WITH MIRROR CODE TAX SYSTEMS—

(I) IN GENERAL.—With respect to calendar year 2021 and each calendar year thereafter, the Secretary shall, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, make payments to American Samoa equal to—

(A) the lesser of—

(i) the cost to American Samoa of the earned income tax credit for taxable years beginning in or with such calendar year, over

(ii) $20,000,000,

or

(B) in the case of calendar years 2021 through 2025, the lesser of—

(i) $20,000,000, plus

(ii) $26,000,000, plus

(B) in the case of calendar years 2021 through 2025, the lesser of—

(i) the expenditures made by American Samoa during such calendar year for education efforts with respect to individual taxpayers and tax return preparers relating to such earned income tax credit, or

(ii) $50,000.

(2) REQUIREMENT TO ENACT AND MAINTAIN AN EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT.—The Secretary shall not make any payments under paragraph (1) with respect to any calendar year unless American Samoa has in effect an earned income tax credit for taxable years beginning in or with such calendar year which allows a refundable tax credit to individuals on the basis of the taxpayer's earned income which is designed to substantially increase workforce participation.

(3) SPECIFIED MATCHING AMOUNT.—For purposes of this subsection—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to calendar year 2021 and each calendar year thereafter, the Secretary shall, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, make payments to American Samoa equal to—

(A) the lesser of—

(i) the cost to American Samoa of the earned income tax credit for taxable years beginning in or with such calendar year, over

(II) the base amount for such calendar year,

or

(ii) the product of 3, multiplied by the base amount for such calendar year.

(B) BASE AMOUNT.—

(i) BASE AMOUNT FOR 2021.—In the case of calendar year 2021, the term 'base amount' means the greater of—

(I) 200% of the average annual wage for fiscal year 2021, determined by substituting 'calendar year 2021' in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

Any amount determined under this clause shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of $1,000,000.

(ii) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of any calendar year after 2021, the base amount means the dollar amount determined under clause (i) increased by an amount equal to—

(I) such dollar amount, multiplied by—

(II) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under subparagraph (A) for such calendar year, determined by substituting 'calendar year 2020' for 'calendar year 2016' in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

Any amount determined under this clause shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of $1,000,000.

(4) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN RULES.—Rules similar to the rules of subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of subsection (a)(4) shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

(c) SPECIFIC RULES.—

(1) ERRONEOUS TREATMENT AS MATHEMATICAL ERRORS.—For purposes of section 6213 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, an incorrect use on a return of earned income pursuant to subsection (a) shall be treated as a mathematical or clerical error.

(2) NO EFFECT ON DETERMINATION OF GROSS INCOME.—Returns that are otherwise provided in this subsection, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied without regard to any substitution under subsection (a).

(d) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN POSSESSIONS.—

(1) PAYMENTS TO POSSESSIONS WITH MIRROR CODE TAX SYSTEMS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to each possession of the United States which has its own mirror code tax system, amounts equal to the loss (if any) to that possession by reason of the application of the provisions of this section (other than this subsection) under section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Such amounts shall be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury based on information provided by the government of the respective possession.

(2) PAYMENTS TO OTHER POSSESSIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to each possession of the United States which does not have a mirror code tax system amounts estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury as being equal to the aggregate benefits (if any) that would have been provided to residents of such possession by reason of the provisions (other than this subsection) with respect to section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 if a mirror code tax system had been in effect in such possession. The preceding sentence shall not apply unless the respective possession has a plan, which has been approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, under which such possession will promptly distribute such payments to its residents.

(e) MIRROR CODE TAX SYSTEM.—For purposes of this section, the term 'mirror code tax system' means, with respect to any possession of the United States, the income tax system of such possession if the income tax liability of the residents of such possession under such system is determined by reference to the income tax laws of the United States as if such possession were the United States.

(3) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—For purposes of section 324 of title 31, United States Code, the payments under this section shall be treated in the same manner as a refund due from a credit provision referred to in subsection (b)(2) of such section.

PART 4—DEPENDENT CARE ASSISTANCE

SEC. 9631. REFUNDABILITY AND ENHANCEMENT OF CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

(2) SPECIAL RULES FOR 2021.—In the case of any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2020, and before January 1, 2022—

(A) CREDIT MADE REFUNDABLE.—If the taxpayer (in the case of a joint return, either spouse) has a principal place of abode in the United States (determined as provided in section 32) for more than one-half of the taxable year, the credit allowed under subsection (a) shall be treated as a credit allowed under subpart C (and not allowed under this subpart).

(B) INCREASE IN DOLLAR LIMIT ON AMOUNT CREDITABLE.—Subsection (c) shall be applied—

(A) by substituting '$6,000' for '$5,000' in paragraph (1) thereof, and

(B) by substituting '$12,000' for '$10,000' in paragraph (2) thereof.

(C) INCREASE IN APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—Subsection (a)(2) shall be applied—

(A) by substituting '50 percent' for '35 percent' and

(B) by substituting '$125,000' for '$110,000'.

(4) APPLICATION OF PHASEOUT TO HIGH INCOME INDIVIDUALS.—

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a)(2) shall be applied by substituting 'the phaseout percentage' for '20 percent'.
“(B) PHASEOUT PERCENTAGE.—The term ‘phaseout percentage’ means 20 percent reduced (but not below zero) by 1 percentage point for each $2,000 (or fraction thereof) by which the taxpayer’s adjusted gross income for the taxable year exceeds $400,000.”

(b) APPLICATION OF CREDIT IN POSSESSIONS.—Section 3131 of title 31, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) APPLICATION OF CREDIT IN POSSESSIONS.—

“(1) PAYMENT TO POSSESSIONS WITH MIRROR CODE TAX SYSTEMS.—The Secretary shall pay to each possession of the United States with a mirror code tax system an amount equal to the loss (if any) to that possession by reason of the application of this section (determined without regard to this subsection) with respect to taxable years beginning in or with 2021 if a mirror code tax system shall be determined by the Secretary based on information provided by the government of the respective possession.

“(2) PAYMENTS TO OTHER POSSESSIONS.—The Secretary shall pay to each possession of the United States which does not have a mirror code tax system amounts estimated by the Secretary as being equal to the aggregate benefits that would have been provided to residents of such possession by reason of this section with respect to taxable years beginning in or with 2021 if a mirror code tax system had been in effect in such possession. The preceding sentence shall not apply unless the respective possession has a plan, which has been approved by the Secretary, under which such possession will promptly distribute such payments to its residents.

“COORDINATION WITH CREDIT ALLOWED AGAINST UNITED STATES INCOME TAXES.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in or with 2021, no credit shall be allowed under this section for any individual under the following:

“(A) to whom a credit is allowable against taxes imposed by a possession with a mirror code tax system in this section;

“(B) who is eligible for a payment under a plan described in paragraph (2).

“MIRROR CODE TAX SYSTEM.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘mirror code tax system’ means, with respect to any possession of the United States, the income tax system of such possession if the income tax liability of the residents of such possession under such system is determined by reference to the income tax laws of the United States as if such possession were the United States.

“APPLICATION OF PAYMENTS.—For purposes of section 3124 of title 31, United States Code, the payments under this subsection shall be treated in the same manner as a refund due from credit allowed under such section as if the payments referred to in subsection (b) of such section were paid in full on the date payments under such section are made.

“CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 3121(b)(4)(A) of such Code, as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is amended by inserting ‘21 by reason of subsection (g) thereof’ before ‘24’.

“(2) Section 3124 of title 31, United States Code (as amended by the preceding provisions of this title), is amended by inserting ‘21, before ‘24’.

“DEFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2020.

SEC. 9631. PAYROLL CREDIT FOR PAID SICK AND FAMILY LEAVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

“Subchapter D—Credits

“Sec. 3131. Credit for paid sick leave.

“Sec. 3132. Payroll credit for paid family leave.

“Sec. 3133. Special rule related to tax on employer.

“Sec. 3131. CREDIT FOR PAID SICK LEAVE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an employer, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by chapter 21 by reason of subchapter D of this chapter, for calendar year 2021, an amount equal to 100 percent of the qualified sick leave wages paid by such employer with respect to such calendar year.

“(b) LIMITATIONS AND REFUNDABILITY.

“(1) WAGES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.—The amount of qualified sick leave wages taken into account under subsection (a), plus any increases under subsection (e), with respect to any individual shall not exceed $2,000 in the case of any day any portion of which is paid sick time described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of section 5000(b)(1) of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act, applied with the modification described in subsection (c)(2)(A)(i) for any day (or portion thereof) for which the individual is paid qualified sick leave wages.

“(2) OVERALL LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF DAYS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.—The aggregate number of days taken into account under paragraph (1) for any calendar quarter shall not exceed the excess (if any) of—

“(A) 10, over

“(B) the aggregate number of days so taken into account under paragraph (1) for each calendar quarter in such calendar year (other than the first quarter of calendar year 2021).

“(C) CREDIT LIMITED TO CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT TAXES.—The credit allowed by this subsection, with respect to any calendar quarter shall not exceed the applicable employment taxes for such calendar quarter on the wages paid with respect to the employment of all employees of the employer.

“(D) REFUNDABILITY OF EXCESS CREDIT.—

“(1) CREDIT IS REFUNDABLE.—If the amount of the credit exceeds the limitation of paragraph (3) for any calendar quarter, such excess shall be treated as an overpayment that shall be refunded under sections 6402(a) and 6411.

“(2) ADVANCING CREDIT.—In anticipation of the credit, including the refundable portion under subparagraph (A), the credit shall be advanced, according to forms and instructions provided by the Secretary, to an amount calculated under subsection (a), subject to the limits under paragraph (1) and (2), all calculated through the most recent payroll period in the quarter.

“(E) QUALIFIED SICK LEAVE WAGES.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified sick leave wages’ means wages paid by an employer which would be required to be paid by reason of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act as if such Act applied after March 31, 2021.

“(2) RULES OF APPLICATION.—For purposes of determining whether wages are qualified sick leave wages under paragraph (1)—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act shall be applied—

“(1) in the case of an employer who is seeking or ascertaining the results of a diagnostic test for, or a medical diagnosis of, COVID–19 and such employee has been exposed to COVID–19 or the employer has reason to believe the employee has COVID–19 or has been exposed to COVID–19 or recovering from any injury, disability, illness, or condition related to COVID–19 or medical diagnosis in section 5000(b)(3) thereof, and

“(ii) by applying section 5000(b)(1) of such Act separately against each calendar quarter after 2020, and, in the case of calendar year 2021, without regard to the first quarter thereof.

“(B) LEAVE MUST MEET REQUIREMENTS.—If an employer fails to comply with any requirement of such Act (determined without regard to section 5109 thereof) with respect to paid sick time (as defined in section 5110 of such Act), amounts paid by such employer with respect to such paid sick time shall not be taken into account as qualified sick leave wages. For purposes of the preceding sentence, any action described in section 5014 of such Act shall be treated as failing to meet a requirement of such Act.

“(C) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT FOR CERTAIN HEALTH PLAN EXPENSES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of the credit allowed under subsection (a) shall be increased by so much of the employer’s qualified health plan expenses as are properly allocable to the qualified sick leave wages for which such credit is so allowed.

“(2) QUALIFIED HEALTH PLAN EXPENSES.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘qualified health plan expenses’ means amounts paid by the employer related to the maintenance of a group health plan (as defined in section 5000(b)(1)), but only to the extent that such amounts are excluded from the gross income of employees by reason of section 106(a).

“(3) ALLOCATION RULES.—For purposes of this section, qualified health plan expenses shall be allocated to qualified sick leave wages in such manner as the Secretary shall prescribe. Except as otherwise provided by the Secretary, such allocation shall be treated as properly made if made on the basis of being pro rata among covered employees and pro rata on the basis of periods of coverage (relative to the time periods of leave to which such wages relate).

“(D) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT FOR AMOUNTS PAID UNDER CERTAIN COLLECTIVELY BARGAINED AGREEMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of the credit allowed under subsection (a) shall be increased by the sum of—

“(A) so much of the employer’s collectively bargained defined benefit pension plan contributions as are allocable to the qualified sick leave wages for which such credit is so allowed, plus

“(B) so much of the employer’s collectively bargained apprenticeship program contributions as are properly allocable to the qualified sick leave wages for which such credit is so allowed.

“(E) COLLECTIVELY BARGAINED DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN CONTRIBUTIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘collectively bargained defined benefit pension plan contributions’ means, with respect to any calendar quarter, contributions which—

“(A) are paid or incurred by an employer during the calendar quarter on behalf of its employees to a defined benefit plan (as defined in section 414(i)), which meets the requirements of section 410(a),

“(B) are made based on a pension contribution rate, and

March 10, 2021 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE H1237
“(iii) are required to be made pursuant to the terms of a collective bargaining agreement in effect with respect to such calendar quarter.

(b) Pension Contribution Rate.—The term ‘pension contribution rate’ means the contribution rate that the employer is obligated to pay on behalf of its employees under a defined benefit plan under such agreement, as such rate is applied to contribution base units (as defined by section 4001(a)(11) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1301(a)(11)).

(c) Allocation Rules.—The amount of collectively bargained defined benefit pension contributions allocated to qualified sick leave wages for any calendar quarter shall be the product of—

(i) the pension contribution rate (expressed as an hourly rate), and

(ii) the number of hours for which qualified sick leave wages were provided to employees covered under the collective bargaining agreement in subsection (a) during the calendar quarter.

(3) Collectively Bargained Apprenticeship Program Contributions.—For purposes of this section—

(A) in general.—The term ‘collectively bargained apprenticeship program contributions’ means the amount in cash or in kind that the employer is obligated to pay on behalf of its employees under a collective bargaining agreement for benefits under a registered apprenticeship program, as such rate is applied to contribution base units (as defined by section 4001(a)(11) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1301(a)(11)).

(B) in general.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘applicable employers’ means an apprenticeship registered under the National Apprenticeship Act; 50 Stat. 664, Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the ‘National Apprenticeship Act’; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 633, 29 U.S.C. 664, et seq.) that meets the standards of subpart A of part 29 and part 30 of title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(4) Extension of Limitation on Assessment.—Notwithstanding section 6501, the limitation on the time period for the assessment of a tax imposed under section 3301 shall apply to so much of the qualified sick leave wages paid by an eligible employer as such employer elects (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may prescribe) to not take into account for purposes of this section.

(5) Certain Governmental Employers.—No credit shall be allowed under this section to the Government of any State or political subdivision thereof, or to any agency or instrumentality thereof. The preceding sentence shall not apply to any organization described in section 501(c)(1)(A) and exempt from tax under section 501(c)(3) of title 26 of the United States Code.

(6) Extension of Limitation on Assessment.—Notwithstanding section 6501, the limitation on the time period for the assessment of a tax imposed under section 3301 shall apply to so much of the qualified sick leave wages paid by an eligible employer as such employer elects (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may prescribe) to not take into account for purposes of this section.

(7) Treatment of Deposits.—In the case of an employer, the amount of any deposit made with respect to any calendar quarter shall be treated as paid on the last day of any such quarter.

(8) Coordination with Certain Programs.—

(A) in general.—This section shall not apply to so much of the qualified sick leave wages paid by an eligible employer as are taken into account as payroll costs in connection with—

(i) a covered loan under section 7(a)(37) or 7A of the Small Business Act,

(ii) a grant under section 324 of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Non-Profits, and Venues Act, or

(iii) a covered revenue restoration grant under section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

(B) Application Where PPP Loans Not Forgiven.—In the case of an employer that is an eligible employer with respect to such PPP loans, the Secretary shall issue guidance providing that payroll costs paid during the covered period shall not be treated as qualified sick leave wages under this section by reason of subparagraph (A)(i) to the extent that—

(i) a covered loan of the taxpayer under section 7(a)(37) of the Small Business Act is not forgiven by reason of a decision under section 7(a)(37)(B) of such Act, or

(ii) a covered loan of the taxpayer under section 7A of the Small Business Act is not forgiven by reason of a decision under section 7(a)(7) of such Act.

Terms used in the preceding sentence which are also used in section 7(a)(9) or 7(a)(37)(B) of the Small Business Act when applied in connection with either such section, have the same meaning as when used in such section, respectively.

(b) Limitations and Refundability.—

(1) Wages Taken Into Account.—The amount of qualified sick leave wages paid by an eligible employer as such employer elects (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may prescribe) to not take into account for purposes of this section shall be treated as paid when an eligible employer is reimbursed by reason of subparagraph (A)(i) to the extent that—

(i) a covered loan of the taxpayer under section 7(a)(37) of the Small Business Act is not forgiven by reason of a decision under section 7(a)(37)(B) of such Act, or

(ii) a covered loan of the taxpayer under section 7A of the Small Business Act is not forgiven by reason of a decision under section 7(a)(7) of such Act.

(c) Refundability of Excess Credit.—The credit allowed by subsection (a) with respect to any calendar quarter shall not exceed the applicable employment taxes for such calendar quarter (reduced by any credits allowed under section 3111(b)) on the wages paid during such quarter to the employment of all employees of the employer.

(d) Advancing Credit.—In anticipation of the credit, including the refundable portion under subparagraph (A), the credit may be advanced, according to the procedures and forms and instructions provided by the Secretary, up to an amount calculated by the Secretary based on the limits under paragraph (1) and (2), all calculated through the end of the most recent payroll period in the quarter.

(e) Qualified Family Leave Wages.—

(1) in general.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘qualified family leave wages’ means—

(i) wages paid to an employee with respect to such calendar quarter, which are—

(A) for any day (or portion thereof) for which qualified family leave wages under this section are taken into account as payroll costs in connection with another employer, and

(B) in the aggregate with respect to all calendar quarters, $12,000.

(2) credit limited to certain employment taxes.—The credit allowed by subsection (a) with respect to any calendar quarter shall not exceed the applicable employment taxes for such calendar quarter (reduced by any credits allowed under section 3111(b)) on the wages paid during such quarter to the employment of all employees of the employer.

(3) Refundability of Excess Credit.—The credit allowed by subsection (a) with respect to any calendar quarter shall be treated as paid when an eligible employer is reimbursed by reason of subparagraph (A)(i) to the extent that the amount of the credit under subsection (a) exceeds the limitation of paragraph (2) for any calendar quarter, such excess shall be treated as an overpayment that shall be refunded under sections 6432(a) and 6413(b).

(b) Advancing Credit.—In anticipation of the credit, including the refundable portion under paragraph (A), the credit may be advanced, according to the procedures and forms and instructions provided by the Secretary, up to an amount calculated by the Secretary based on the limits under paragraph (1) and (2), all calculated through the end of the most recent payroll period in the quarter.
means wages paid by an employer which would be required to be paid by reason of the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (including the amendments made by such Act) as if any such amendment had been made by such Act) applied after March 31, 2021.

(2) RULES OF APPLICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of determining whether qualified family leave wages under paragraph (1)—

(i) section 110(a)(2)(A) of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 shall be applied by inserting ‘employer’ for ‘employee’ as described in section 502(a)(1) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, or the employee is seeking or awaiting coverage for a diagnosis of, or a medical diagnosis of, COVID–19 and such employee has been exposed to COVID–19 or the employee’s employer has requested such test or diagnosis, or the employee is obtaining immunization related to COVID–19 or recovering from any injury, disability, illness, or condition related to such immunization after ‘public health emergency’;

(ii) subsection (b)(2)(A) thereof;

(iii) by substituting ‘$12,000’ for ‘$10,000’ in paragraph (2)(B)(ii) thereof; and

(B) LEAVE MUST MEET REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of determining whether wages would be required to be paid under paragraph (1), if an employee fails to comply with any requirement of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 or the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (determined without regard to any time limitation under section 102(a)(1)(F) of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1994) with respect to any leave provided for a qualified family leave wage for which such credit is so allowed.

(3) QUALIFIED HEALTH PLAN EXPENSES.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘qualified health plan expenses’ means wages paid by an employer which would be required to be paid by reason of the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (including the amendments made by such Act) as if any such amendment had been made by such Act) applied after March 31, 2021.

(4) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT FOR CERTAIN HEALTHCARE EXPENSES.—For purposes of subsection (a), the term ‘qualified health plan expenses’ means amounts paid or incurred by the employer to provide and maintain a group health plan (as defined in section 300B(b)(1)) that, on the day that is 90 days after the day on which the election required under subsection (a) is first made, provides substantially all of the benefits and rights provided under such plan to all employees of such employer who are employed at a worksite that is located within a service area that has a high unemployment rate.

(5) ALLOCATION RULES.—For purposes of this section, the amount of collectively bargained apprentice program contributions allocated to qualified family leave wages for which credit is so allowed.

(6) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT FOR EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS.—For purposes of this subsection, employer contributions paid by an eligible employer such as described in section 110(b) of such Act shall be increased by the following:

(i) the fraction of the employer contribution rate (as defined in section 3131(e)(2), expressed as a hourly rate, and

(ii) the number of hours for which qualified family leave wages were provided to employees covered under the collective bargaining agreement described in section 3131(e)(2)(A)(iii) during the calendar quarter.

(7) PROHIBITION ON DOUBLE BOLTED CREDIT.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘applicable employment taxes’ means the following:

(A) The taxes imposed under section 3111(b).

(B) So much of the taxes imposed under section 3221(a) as are attributable to the rate in effect under section 3111(b).

(C) WAGES.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘wages’ includes compensation (as defined in section 3121(e)), determined without regard to the sentence in paragraph (1) thereof which begins ‘Such term does not include remuneration’.

(8) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘applicable employment taxes’ means the following:

(A) The taxes imposed under section 3111(b).

(B) So much of the taxes imposed under section 3221(a) as are attributable to the rate in effect under section 3111(b).

(C) WAGES.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘wages’ includes compensation (as defined in section 3121(e)), determined without regard to the sentence in paragraph (1) thereof which begins ‘Such term does not include remuneration’.

(9) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘applicable employment taxes’ means the following:

(A) The taxes imposed under section 3111(b).

(B) So much of the taxes imposed under section 3221(a) as are attributable to the rate in effect under section 3111(b).

(C) WAGES.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘wages’ includes compensation (as defined in section 3121(e)), determined without regard to the sentence in paragraph (1) thereof which begins ‘Such term does not include remuneration’.

(10) DEFERMENT OF BENEFITS.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘qualified leave wages’ means wages paid by an eligible employer such as described in section 110(b) of such Act.

(11) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT FOR AMOUNTS PAID UNDER CERTAIN COLLECTIVELY BARGAINED AGREEMENTS.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘quali-
the period beginning on April 1, 2021, and ending on September 30, 2021.

“(i) TREATMENT OF DEPOSITS.—The Secretary shall waive any penalty under section 6656 for any failure to deposit applicable employment taxes if the Secretary determines that such failure was due to the anticipation of the credit allowed under this section.

“(j) DISREGARD REQUIRYMENT.—No credit shall be allowed under this section to any employer for any calendar quarter if such employer, with respect to the availability of the qualified sick leave wages, or qualified family leave wages, for which such credit is allowed under such section 3131 or 3132 (respectively).

“(k) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—For denial of double benefit with respect to the credit increase described in subsection (a), see sections 3131(f)(3) and 3132(f)(3).

“(l) REFUNDS.—Paragraph (2) of section 1324(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting ‘‘3131, 3132,’’ before ‘‘6428’’.

CURRENT LAW.—The table of subchapters for chapter 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

‘‘SUBCHAPTER D—CREDITS’’.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to amounts paid with respect to calendar quarters beginning after March 31, 2021.

SEC. 9642. CREDIT FOR SICK LEAVE FOR CERTAIN SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.

(a) In General.—In the case of an eligible self-employed individual, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by chapter 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for any taxable year an amount equal to the qualified sick leave equivalent amount with respect to the individual.

(b) Eligible Self-Employed Individual.—For purposes of this section—

(1) In General.—The term ‘‘eligible self-employed individual’’ means an individual who—

(A) regularly carries on any trade or business within the meaning of section 1402 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and

(B) would be entitled to receive paid leave during the taxable year pursuant to the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act if—

(i) the individual were an employee of an employer (other than himself or herself), and

(ii) such Act is amended after March 31, 2021.

(2) Rules of Application.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), in determining whether an individual would be entitled to receive paid leave under—

(A) section 110(a)(2)(A) of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993; or

(B) section 3102(a)(1) of such Act;

such Act shall be applied—

(A) by inserting ‘‘, the employee is seeking or awaiting the results of a diagnostic test for, or a medical certification for COVID-19 or is unable to work pending the results of such test or diagnosis, or the employee is obtaining immunization related to COVID-19 or recovering from any injury, disability, illness, or condition related to such immunization’’ after ‘‘medical diagnosis’’ in section 3102(a)(1) of such Act, and

(B) by applying section 3102(b)(1) of such Act separately with respect to each taxable year.

(c) Qualified Sick Leave Equivalent Amount.—For purposes of this section—

(1) In General.—The term ‘‘qualified sick leave equivalent amount’’ means, with respect to any eligible self-employed individual, an amount equal to—

(A) the number of days during the taxable year (but not more than 10) that the individual would be entitled to receive paid leave described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of section 3102(a) of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act, multiplied by

(B) the lesser of—

(i) $200 ($210 if the individual is a qualified health care provider) for the case of any day of paid sick time described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of section 3102(a) of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act, applied with the modification described in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, or

(ii) 67 percent (100 percent in the case of any time of paid sick time described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of section 3102(a) of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act) of the qualified sick leave equivalent amount described in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(2) Average Daily Self-Employment Income.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘‘average daily self-employment income’’ means an amount equal to—

(A) the net earnings from self-employment of the individual for the taxable year, divided by

(B) 260.

(3) Election to Use Prior Year Net Earnings for Self-Employment Income.—In the case of an eligible self-employed individual for any taxable year the Secretary may provide that the application of this section, paragraph (2)(A) shall be applied by substituting ‘‘the prior taxable year’’ for ‘‘the taxable year’’.

(4) Election Not to Take Days into Account.—Any day shall not be taken into account under paragraph (2)(A) if the eligible self-employed individual elects (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may prescribe) not to take such day into account for purposes of such paragraph.

(d) Credit Refundable.—

(1) In General.—The credit determined under this section shall be treated as a credit allowed to the taxpayer under subpart C of part IV of chapter 1 of such Code.

(2) Treatment of Payments.—For purposes of section 3134 of title 31, United States Code, any refund due from the credit determined under this section shall be treated in the same manner as a refund due from a credit provision referred to in subsection (b)(2) of such section.

(e) Special Rules.—

(1) Documentation.—No credit shall be allowed under this section unless the individual maintains such documentation as the Secretary may prescribe (which documentation must be maintained in a form that is acceptable for the purposes of this section, including—

(i) regulations or other guidance to effectuate the purposes of this section, and

(ii) regulations or other guidance to minimize compliance and record-keeping burdens under this section.

(f) Section 1324.—The term ‘‘Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act’’ means—

(A) section 110(a)(2)(A) of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended after March 31, 2021.

SEC. 9643. CREDIT FOR FAMILY LEAVE FOR CERTAIN SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.

(a) In General.—In the case of an eligible self-employed individual, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by chapter 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as amended after March 31, 2021) and in section 3102(a) of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act of the average daily self-employment income of the individual for the taxable year.

(b) Eligible Self-Employed Individual.—For purposes of this section—

(1) In General.—The term ‘‘eligible self-employed individual’’ means an individual who—

(A) regularly carries on any trade or business which—

(i) the individual would be entitled to receive paid leave under—

(B) section 110(b) of such Act shall be applied—

(i) without regard to paragraph (1)(B), and
(ii) by striking “after taking leave after such section for 10 days” in paragraph (2)(A) thereof.

(4) Qualified family leave equivalent amount.—For purposes of this section—

(A) a reference to the term “qualified family leave equivalent amount” means, with respect to any eligible self-employed individual, an amount equal to the product of—

(i) 67 percent of the average daily self-employment income of the individual for the taxable year, or

(ii) $200.

(3) Medical leave expansion act.—Any reference to the Medical Leave Expansion Act, the qualified family leave equivalent amount with respect to any eligible self-employed individual. includes a reference to the amendments made by section 9642 of title 31, United States Code.

(4) Coordination with credit for sick leave.—Any day taken into account in determining the qualified sick leave equivalent amount with respect to any eligible self-employed individual under section 9642 shall not be taken into account in determining the qualified family leave equivalent amount with respect to any such individual under this section.

(c) Credit refundable.—

(1) In general.—The credit determined under this section shall be treated as a credit allowed under subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code.

(2) Treatment of payments.—For purposes of this section, in the case of an eligible employer for any calendar quarter, any refund due from the credit determined under this section shall be treated as a refund due from a credit provision referred to in subsection (d)(2) of such section.

(b) Special rules.—

(1) Documentation.—No credit shall be allowed under this section unless the individual maintains a sufficient record of such individual as an eligible self-employed individual.

(2) Denial of double benefit.—In the case of an individual who receives wages (as defined in section 3121(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) as added by section 9641, as amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 3134. ELIGIBILITY FOR EMPLOYERS SUBJECT TO CLOSURE DUE TO COVID–19.

"(a) In general.—Subchapter D of chapter 21 of title 26, United States Code, as added by section 9641, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 3134. EMPLOYER RETENTION CREDIT FOR EMPLOYERS SUBJECT TO CLOSURE DUE TO COVID–19.

"(a) In general.—Subchapter D of title 26, United States Code, as added by section 9641, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(ii) the last sentence of subparagraph (A) shall be applied by substituting ‘the corresponding calendar quarter in calendar year 2019’ for ‘the calendar quarter in calendar year 2019’.

An election under this subparagraph shall be made at such time and in such manner as the Secretary shall prescribe.

(3) Qualified wages.—

(A) In general.—The term ‘qualified wages’ means—

(i) in the case of an eligible employer for which the average number of full-time employees (within the meaning of section 4980H) employed by such eligible employer during 2019 was greater than 50, wages paid by such eligible employer for each calendar quarter, (ii) the amount of the credit allowed under subsection (b) on the wages paid with respect to the employment of the all the employees of the eligible employer with respect to which the credit is determined under subsection (a), and

(iii) the amount of the credit allowed under subsection (a) exceeds the limitation of paragraph (2) for any calendar quarter, such excess shall be treated as an overpayment that shall be refunded under sections 6402(a) and 6413(b).

(2) Coordination with credit for sick leave.—For purposes of this section—

"(A) The taxes imposed under section 3111(b).

"(B) So much of the taxes imposed under section 3221(a) as are attributable to the rate in effect under section 3111(b).

(3) Eligible employer.—(A) In general.—The term ‘eligible employer’ means any employer—

(i) which was carrying on a trade or business during the calendar quarter for which the credit is determined under subsection (a), and

(ii) with respect to any calendar quarter, for which—

(I) the operation of the trade or business described in clause (ii) by substituting ‘the corresponding calendar quarter’ for ‘for such calendar quarter’.

An election under this subparagraph shall be made at such time and in such manner as the Secretary shall prescribe.

(4) Special rules.—

(1) Payments to possessions with mirror tax systems.—The Secretary shall pay to each possession of the United States which has a mirror code tax system amounts equal to the loss (if any) to that possession by reason of the application of the provisions of this section.

(2) Payments to other possessions.—The Secretary shall pay to the United States, if the United States has not established a mirror code tax system, amounts estimated by the Secretary based on information provided by the government of the respective possession.

(3) Coordination with credit system.—The Secretary shall coordinate with respect to any eligible self-employed individual.

(1) Payments to possessions with mirror code tax systems.—The Secretary shall pay to each possession of the United States which has a mirror code tax system amounts equal to the loss (if any) to that possession by reason of the application of the provisions of this section.

(2) Payments to other possessions.—The Secretary shall pay to the United States, if the United States has not established a mirror code tax system, amounts estimated by the Secretary based on information provided by the government of the respective possession.

(3) Coordination with credit system.—The Secretary shall coordinate with respect to any eligible self-employed individual.

(1) Payments to possessions with mirror code tax systems.—The Secretary shall pay to each possession of the United States which has a mirror code tax system amounts equal to the loss (if any) to that possession by reason of the application of the provisions of this section.

(2) Payments to other possessions.—The Secretary shall pay to the United States, if the United States has not established a mirror code tax system, amounts estimated by the Secretary based on information provided by the government of the respective possession.

(3) Coordination with credit system.—The Secretary shall coordinate with respect to any eligible self-employed individual.
wages paid by such eligible employer with respect to an employee during any period described in such clause, or

(‘’(ii) with respect to an eligible employer described in subsection (ii) of such paragraph, wages paid by such eligible employer with respect to an employee during such quarter.

(B) SPECIAL RULE FOR EMPLOYERS NOT IN EXISTENCE IN 2019. - In the case of any employer that was not in existence in 2019, subparagraph (A) shall be applied by substituting ‘2020’ for ‘2019’ each place it appears.

(C) SEVERELY FINANCIALLY DISTRESSED EMPLOYERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL. — Notwithstanding subpara graph (A) or subsection (m) or (o) of section 52, or subsection (B), in the case of a severely financially distressed employer, the term ‘qualified wages’ means wages paid by such employer with respect to an employee during any calendar quarter.

(2) DEFINITION.—The term ‘severely financially distressed employer’ means an eligible employer as defined in paragraph (2), determined by substituting ‘less than 10 percent’ for ‘less than 95 percent’ in subparagraph (A)(i)(II) thereof.

(D) EXCEPTION.—The term ‘qualified wages’ shall not include any wages taken into account under sections 41, 45A, 45P, 45S, 51, 1396, 3131, 3134, and 3122.

(E) DEDUCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL. — Such term shall include wages (as defined in section 3121(a)) and compensation (as defined in section 3231(e)). For purposes of the preceding sentence, in the case of any entity described in subsection (f)(2), wages as defined in section 3121(a) shall be determined without regard to paragraphs (5), (6), (7), (10), and (13) of section 3121(a) except with respect to services performed in a penal institution by an inmate thereof.

(B) ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN HEALTH PLAN EXPENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL. — Such term shall include amounts paid by the eligible employer to provide and maintain a group health plan (as defined in section 5000(b)(1)), but only to the extent that such amounts are excluded from the gross income of employees by reason of section 106(a).

(2) ALLOCATION RULES.—For purposes of this section, amounts treated as wages under clause (i) shall be treated as paid with respect to any employee (and with respect to any period) to the extent that such amounts are properly allocable to such employee (and to such period) in such manner as the Secretary may prescribe.

(C) OTHER TERMS.—Any term used in the preceding sentence which is not defined for purposes of this section shall have the same meaning as when used in such section, respectively.

(3) RECONCILIATION OF CREDIT WITH ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of credit allowed under this section shall be treated as a payable under section 3131(b) (including professional employer organizations, or other third party payors to accurately report any failure to so reduce the credit shall be treated as arising out of a mathematical or clerical error and assessed according to section 6213(b)(1).

(2) ADVANCE PAYMENTS TO SMALL EMPLOYERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Under rules provided by the Secretary, the credit allowed under this section shall not expire before the date that is 5 years after the date that is—

(i) the date on which the original return which includes the calendar quarter with respect to which such credit is determined is filed, or

(ii) the date on which such return is treated as filed under section 6501(b)(2).

(B) EXCESS ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall issue such forms, instructions, regulations, and other guidance as are necessary—

(1) to allow the advance payment of the credit under subsection (a) as provided in subsection (j)(1), subject to the limitations provided in this section, based on such information as the Secretary shall require,

(2) with respect to the application of the credit under subsection (a) to third party payors (including professional employer organizations, certified professional employer organizations, or other third party payors to accurately report any failure to so reduce the credit shall be treated as arising out of a mathematical or clerical error and assessed according to section 6213(b)(1).

(2) WITH RESPECT TO THE APPLICATION OF THE CREDIT UNDER SUBSECTION (A) TO THIRD PARTY PAYORS (INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS, CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS, OR OTHER THIRD PARTY PAYORS TO ACCURATELY REPORT ANY FAILURE TO SO REDUCE THE CREDIT SHALL BE TREATED AS ARISING FROM A MATHEMATICAL OR CLERICAL ERROR AND ASSESSED ACCORDING TO SECTION 6213(b)(1)).

(3) TO PREVENT THE AVOIDANCE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE LIMITATIONS UNDER THIS SECTION, INCLUDING THROUGH THE USE OF LEASEBACK EMPLOYEES.

Any forms, instructions, regulations, or other guidance described in paragraph (2) shall require the customer to be responsible for the accounting of the credit and for any liability for improperly claimed credits and shall require the certified professional employer organization or other third party payor to accurately report any failure to so reduce the credit shall be treated as arising out of a mathematical or clerical error and assessed according to section 6213(b)(1).

(4) EXTENSION OF LIMITATION ON ASSESSMENT. — Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting on the time period for the assessment of any amount attributable to a credit claimed under this section shall not expire before the date that is 5 years after the date that is—

(1) the date on which the return which includes the calendar quarter with respect to which such credit is determined is filed, or

(2) the date on which such return is treated as filed under section 6501(b)(2).

(E) EFFECTIVE DATE. — The amendments made by this section shall apply to calendar quarters beginning after June 30, 2021.
PART 7—PREMIUM TAX CREDIT

SEC. 9661. IMPROVING AFFORDABILITY BY EXPANDING PREMIUM ASSISTANCE FOR CONSUMERS.

(a) In General.—Section 36B(b)(2)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(A) Joint return requirement.—Paragraph (1)(A) shall not affect the application of subparagraph (C)(i).”

(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2020.

SEC. 9662. TEMPORARY MODIFICATION OF LIMITATIONS ON RECONCILIATION OF TAX CREDITS FOR COVERAGE UNDER A QUALIFIED HEALTH PLAN WITH PREMIUM PAYMENTS OF SUCH CREDIT.

(a) In General.—Section 36B(b)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(B) HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND AFFORDABILITY.—Paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to any determination of household income for purposes of paragraph (2)(C)(ii)(I) or (4)(C)(ii) of subsection (c).”

(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2020.

PART 8—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS


(a) In General.—Section 6050W(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended as follows:

“(B) Households that receive such amounts, included in the gross income of the person that receives such amounts, (2) no deduction shall be denied, no tax attributable to such exclusion shall be reduced, and no basis increase shall be denied, by reason of the exclusion from gross income provided by paragraph (1), and (3) in the case of a partnership or S corporation that receives such amounts—

(A) any amount excluded from income by reason of paragraph (1) shall be treated as tax exempt income for purposes of sections 701 and 1366 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and

(B) the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary’s delegate) shall prescribe rules for determining a partner’s distributive share of any amount described in subparagraph (A) for purposes of section 705 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 9672. TAX TREATMENT OF TARGETED EIDL ADVANCES.

For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986—

(1) amounts received from the Administrator of the Small Business Administration in the form of a targeted EIDL advance under section 331 of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act (title III of division N of Public Law 116–260) shall not be included in the gross income of the person that receives such amounts,

(2) no deduction shall be denied, no tax attributable to such exclusion shall be reduced, and no basis increase shall be denied, by reason of the exclusion from gross income provided by paragraph (1), and

(3) in the case of a partnership or S corporation that receives such amounts—

(A) any amount excluded from income by reason of paragraph (1) shall be treated as tax exempt income for purposes of sections 701 and 1366 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and

(B) the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary’s delegate) shall prescribe rules for determining a partner’s distributive share of any amount described in subparagraph (A) for purposes of section 705 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 9673. TAX TREATMENT OF RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION GRANTS.

For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986—

(1) amounts received from the Administrator of the Small Business Administration in the form of a restaurant revitalization grant under section 5003 shall not be included in the gross income of the person that receives such amounts,

(2) no deduction shall be denied, no tax attributable to such exclusion shall be reduced, and no basis increase shall be denied, by reason of the exclusion from gross income provided by paragraph (1), and

(3) in the case of a partnership or S corporation that receives such amounts—

(A) except as otherwise provided by the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary’s delegate), any amount excluded from income by reason of paragraph (1) shall be treated as tax exempt income for purposes of sections 701 and 1366 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and

(B) the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary’s delegate) shall prescribe rules for determining a partner’s distributive share of any amount described in subparagraph (A) for purposes of section 705 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 9674. MODIFICATION OF EXCEPTIONS FOR REPORTING OF THIRD PARTY NET-WORK TRANSACTIONS.

(a) In General.—Section 6050W(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended as follows:

“(B) De Minimis Exception for Third Party Settlement Organizations.—A third party settlement organization shall not be required to report any information under subsection (a) with respect to third party network transactions of any participating payee if the amount which would otherwise be reported under subsection (a)(2) with respect to such transactions does not exceed $600.”

(b) Clarification That Reporting Is Not Required on Transactions Which Are Not for Goods or Services.—Section 6050W(c)(3) of such Code is amended by inserting “described in subsection (d)(4)(A)(ii)” after “any transaction”.

(c) Effective Date.—(1) In General.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to returns for calendar years beginning after December 31, 2021.

(2) Clarification.—The amendment made by subsection (b) shall apply to transactions after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 9675. MODIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS.

(a) In General.—Section 108(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) SPECIAL RULE FOR DISCHARGES IN 2021 THROUGH 2025.—Gross income does not include any amount which (but for this subsection) would be includible in gross income by reason of the discharge (in whole or in part) after December 31, 2030, and before January 1, 2021, of—

(A) any loan provided expressly for postsecondary educational expenses, regardless of whether provided through the educational institution or directly to the borrower, if such loan was made, insured, or guaranteed by—

(i) the United States, or an instrumentality or agency thereof,

(ii) a State, territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia, or any political subdivision thereof, or

(iii) an eligible educational institution (as defined in section 45D); and

(B) any private education loan (as defined in section 158(a)(7) of the Truth in Lending Act).

(c) any loan made by any educational organization described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii) if such loan is made—
“(i) pursuant to an agreement with any entity described in subparagraph (A) or any private educational lender (as defined in section 140(a) of the Truth in Lending Act) under which the funds for the designated educational organization were provided to such educational organization, or

“(ii) pursuant to a program of such educational organization which is designed to encourage contributions in occupations with unmet needs or in areas with unmet needs and under which the services provided by the students (or former students) are for or under the direction of the governmental unit or an organization described in section 501(c)(3) and exempt from tax under section 501(a), or

“(DD) by an educational organization described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(i) or by an organization exempt from tax under section 501(a) to refinance a loan to an individual to assist the individual in attending any such educational organization but only if the refinancing loan is pursuant to a program of the re-financing organization which is described as described in subparagraph (C)(ii).

The preceding sentence shall not apply to the discharge of a loan made by an organization described in subparagraph (C) or made by a private educational lender (as defined in section 160(a)(7) of the Truth in Lending Act) if the discharge is on account of services performed for either such organization or for such private educational lender.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to discharges of loans after December 31, 2020.

H1244 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE March 10, 2021

SEC. 9701. TEMPORARY DELAY OF DESIGNATION OF MULTIEmployer PLANS AS IN ENDANGERED, CRITICAL, OR CRITICAL AND ENDANGERING STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the actuarial certification under section 305(b)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 or section 432(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, if a plan sponsor of a multiemployer plan elects the application of this section, then, for purposes of section 305 of such Act and section 432 of such Code—

(1) the status of the plan for its first plan year beginning during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on February 28, 2021, or the next succeeding plan year (as designated by the plan sponsor in such election), shall be the same as the status of such plan under such sections for the plan year preceding such designated plan year, and

(2) in the case of a plan which was in endangered or critical status for the plan year preceding the plan year described in paragraph (1), the plan shall not be required to update its plan or schedules under section 305(c)(6) of such Act and section 432(c)(6) of such Code, or section 305(c)(3)(B) of such Act and section 432(c)(3)(B) of such Code, whichever is applicable, until the plan year following the designated plan year described in paragraph (1).

(b) EXCEPTION FOR PLANS BECOMING CRITICAL DURING ELECTION.—If—

(1) an election was made under subsection (a) with respect to a multiemployer plan, and

(2) during the plan year described in paragraph (1), the plan was not certified by the plan actuary under section 305(b)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 432(b)(3) of the Code of 1986 to be in critical status for the designated plan year described in subsection (a)(1), then such plan shall be treated as a plan in critical status for such plan year even if such plan is described as a plan in critical status under subparagraph (A) of section 432(g)(1)(A) of such Code, section 432(b)(3) of such Act (without regard to the second sentence thereof), (c) ELECTION AND NOTICE.—

(1) ELECTION.—An election under subsection (a)

(A) shall be made at such time and in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury or the

Secretary’s delegate may prescribe and, once made, may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary, and

(B) if made before the date the annual certification is submitted to the Secretary or the Secretary’s delegate under section 305(b)(3) of such Act and section 432(c)(3)(B) of such Code, shall be included with such annual certification, and

(ii) after such date, shall be submitted to the Secretary or the Secretary’s delegate not later than 30 days after the date of the certification.

(2) NOTICE TO PARTICIPANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 305(b)(3)(D) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 432(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, if, by reason of an election made under subsection (a), the plan is in neither endangered nor critical status,

(i) the plan sponsor of a multiemployer plan shall not be required to provide notice under such sections, and

(ii) the plan sponsor shall provide to the participants and beneficiaries, the bargaining parties, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and the Secretary of the Treasury (in consultation with the Secretary of Labor) a notice of the election under subsection (a) and such other information as the Secretary of the Treasury (in consultation with the Secretary of Labor) may require.

(I) if the election is made before the date the annual certification is submitted to the Secretary or the Secretary’s delegate under section 305(b)(3) of such Act and section 432(b)(3) of such Code, not later than 30 days after the date of the certification, and

(II) if the election is made after such date, not later than 30 days after the date of the election.

(B) NOTICE OF ENDANGED STATUS.—Notwithstanding section 305(b)(3)(D) of such Act and section 432(b)(3) of such Code, if the plan is certified to be in critical status for any plan year but is in endangered status by reason of an election made under subsection (a), the notice provided under such sections shall be the notice which would have been provided if the plan had been certified to be in endangered status.

SEC. 9702. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF THE FUNDING IMPROVEMENT AND REHABILITATION PERIODS FOR MULTIEmployER PLANS IN CRITICAL AND ENDANGERED STATUS FOR 2020 OR 2021.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If a plan sponsor of a multiemployer plan which is in endangered or critical status for a plan year beginning in 2020 or 2021 (determined after application of section 305(b)(3)(B) of such Act and section 432(b)(3)(B) of such Code, the Secretary shall rely on the plan sponsor’s previous election of subparagraph (A) both in subparagraph (B)(i), and

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment.

(2) AMENDMENT TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Section 431(b)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end of such section the following new subparagraph:

“(F) RELIEF FOR 2020 AND 2021.—A multiemployer plan with respect to which the solvency test under subparagraph (C) is met as of February 29, 2020, may elect to apply this paragraph (without regard to the plan previously elected the application of this paragraph)—

(i) by substituting ‘February 29, 2020’ for ‘August 31, 2008’ each place it appears in subparagraphs (A)(i), (B)(i)(I), and (B)(i)(II),

(ii) by inserting ‘and other losses related to the virus SARS-CoV-2 or coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID–19) (including experience losses related to reductions in contributions, reductions in employment, and deviations from anticipated retirement rates, as determined by the plan sponsor)’ after ‘net investment losses’ in subparagraph (A)(i), and

(iii) by substituting ‘this subparagraph or subparagraph (A)’ for ‘this subparagraph’ in subparagraph (B) both in subparagraph (B)(i).”

The preceding sentence shall not apply to a plan to which special financial assistance is granted under section 4262. For purposes of the application of this subparagraph, the Secretary of the Treasury shall rely on the plan sponsor’s previous elections of subparagraphs (A) and (B).
SEC. 4262. SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY THE CORPORATION.

(a) Special financial assistance—

(1) in general.—The corporation shall provide special financial assistance to an eligible multiemployer plan under this section, upon the application of a plan sponsor of such a plan for such assistance.

(2) Inapplicability of certain repayment obligation.—A plan receiving special financial assistance under this section shall not be subject to repayment obligations with respect to such special financial assistance.

(b) Eligible multiemployer plans—

(1) in general.—For purposes of this section, a multiemployer plan is eligible if—

(A) the plan is in critical and declining status (within the meaning of section 305(b)(6)) in any plan year beginning in 2020 through 2022;

(B) a suspension of benefits has been approved with respect to the plan under section 305(e)(9) as of the date of the enactment of this section;

(C) in any plan year beginning in 2020 through 2022, the plan is certified as being in critical status (within the meaning of section 431(c)(6)(D)) of such Code and section 432(k)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as of the date the application for special financial assistance submitted to the corporation no later than December 31, 2025, and any revision application submitted to the corporation shall be submitted no later than December 31, 2026.

(c) Determinations on applications.—

(1) In general.—The corporation may specify in regulations or guidance under subsection (c) that, during a period no longer than the first 5 years following the date of enactment of this section, applications may not be filed by an eligible multiemployer plan unless—

(A) the corporation determines that such plan is insolvent or is likely to become insolvent within 5 years of the date of enactment of this section;

(B) the corporation projects the eligible multiemployer plan a ratio of active to inactive participants that the plan used in its most recently completed certification of plan status, that in critical or declining status (within the meaning of section 305(b)) for certifications of plan status completed before January 1, 2021, unless such assumptions are unreasonable, or an actuarial analysis shows that the plan is unlikely to remain solvent within 1 year after a plan’s special financial assistance payment under this section and ending on the last day of the plan year ending in 2051, in which the plan sponsor of the plan is not the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to section 432(k)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, effective as of the first month in which the date of the enactment of this section, except to the extent of a reduction in accordance with section 305(e)(8) adopted prior to the plan’s application for special financial assistance under this section and ending on the last day of the plan year ending in 2051, with no reduction in a participant’s or beneficiary’s accrued benefit unless the amount of such assumed rate or rate otherwise required under subsection (k).

(2) Preclusion of determination.—The corporation shall not pay any special financial assistance after September 30, 2030.

(d) Manner of payment.—The payment made by the corporation on an eligible multiemployer plan under this section shall be made as a single, lump sum payment.

(e) Amount and manner of special financial assistance.—

(1) in general.—The corporation shall determine the amount of special financial assistance that is to be provided under this section to an eligible multiemployer plan in accordance with the regulations or guidance under this section in accordance with the regulations or guidance issued under this section that shall be submitted to the corporation and, in the case of a plan to which section 4262(k)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 applies, the corporation shall not pay any special financial assistance after September 30, 2030.

(b) Manner of payment.—The payment made by the corporation on an eligible multiemployer plan under this section shall be made as a single, lump sum payment.

(2) Preclusion of determination.—The corporation shall not pay any special financial assistance after September 30, 2030.

(c) Determination of amount of special financial assistance.—

(1) in general.—The corporation shall determine the amount of special financial assistance under this section that is to be provided under this section to an eligible multiemployer plan in accordance with the regulations or guidance issued under this section that shall be submitted to the corporation and, in the case of a plan to which section 4262(k)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 applies, the corporation shall not pay any special financial assistance after September 30, 2030.

(d) Manner of payment.—The payment made by the corporation on an eligible multiemployer plan under this section shall be made as a single, lump sum payment.

(2) Preclusion of determination.—The corporation shall not pay any special financial assistance after September 30, 2030.

(e) Amount and manner of special financial assistance.—

(1) in general.—The corporation shall determine the amount of special financial assistance that is to be provided under this section to an eligible multiemployer plan in accordance with the regulations or guidance under this section in accordance with the regulations or guidance issued under this section that shall be submitted to the corporation and, in the case of a plan to which section 4262(k)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 applies, the corporation shall not pay any special financial assistance after September 30, 2030.

(b) Manner of payment.—The payment made by the corporation on an eligible multiemployer plan under this section shall be made as a single, lump sum payment.

(2) Preclusion of determination.—The corporation shall not pay any special financial assistance after September 30, 2030.

(c) Determination of amount of special financial assistance.—

(1) in general.—The corporation shall determine the amount of special financial assistance under this section that is to be provided under this section to an eligible multiemployer plan in accordance with the regulations or guidance issued under this section that shall be submitted to the corporation and, in the case of a plan to which section 4262(k)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 applies, the corporation shall not pay any special financial assistance after September 30, 2030.

(b) Manner of payment.—The payment made by the corporation on an eligible multiemployer plan under this section shall be made as a single, lump sum payment.

(2) Preclusion of determination.—The corporation shall not pay any special financial assistance after September 30, 2030.

(c) Determination of amount of special financial assistance.—

(1) in general.—The corporation shall determine the amount of special financial assistance under this section that is to be provided under this section to an eligible multiemployer plan in accordance with the regulations or guidance issued under this section that shall be submitted to the corporation and, in the case of a plan to which section 4262(k)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 applies, the corporation shall not pay any special financial assistance after September 30, 2030.

(b) Manner of payment.—The payment made by the corporation on an eligible multiemployer plan under this section shall be made as a single, lump sum payment.

(2) Preclusion of determination.—The corporation shall not pay any special financial assistance after September 30, 2030.
An eligible multiemployer plan that receives special financial assistance shall be segregated from other plan assets. Special financial assistance shall be invested by plans in investment-grade bonds or other investments as permitted by the corporation. In the case of a plan which has suspended benefits under section 305(e)(9), or that is otherwise based on the funded status of the plan under section 305, as permitted by subsection (d), the corporation shall consult with the Secretary of the Treasury regarding any granting of priority consideration to such plans.

(c) PREMIUM RATE INCREASE.—Section 4066(a)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1306(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) In subparagraph (A),—

(i) by inserting “, and before January 1, 2031” after “December 31,”; and

(ii) by striking “or” at the end;

(2) by adding after subsection (a) the following:

(viii) in the case of a multiemployer plan, for such interest rate limit is the rate specified in section 432(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is available for plans which are insolvent or for plans which have suspended benefits under section 4262 of such Act—

(3) RULES RELATING TO ELIGIBLE MULTIEmployER PLANS.—Section 432 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

(k) Rules Relating to Eligible Multiemployer Plans.—In the case of an eligible multiemployer plan which applies for special financial assistance under section 4262 of such Act—

(A) In General.—Such application shall be submitted in accordance with the requirements of such section, including any guidance issued thereunder by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

(B) Reinstatement of Suspended Benefits.—In the case of a plan for which a suspension of benefits has been approved under subsection (e)(9), the application shall describe the manner in which suspended benefits will be reinstated in accordance with paragraph (2)(A) and any guidance issued by the corporation if the plan receives special financial assistance.

(C) Amount of Financial Assistance.—

(1) In General.—In determining the amount of special financial assistance to be specified in its application, an eligible multiemployer plan shall—

(i) use the interest rate used by the plan in its most recently completed certification of plan status before January 1, 2021, provided that such interest rate does not exceed the interest rate limit, and

(ii) in all other assumptions, use the assumptions that the plan used in its most recently completed certification of plan status before January 1, 2021, unless such assumptions are unreasonable.

(2) Interest Rate Limit.—For purposes of clause (i), the interest rate limit is the rate specified in section 432(b)(2)(C)(iii) (disregarding modifications made under clause (i) of such section) for the month in which the application for special financial assistance is filed by the eligible multiemployer plan or the 3 preceding months, with such specified rate increased by 200 basis points.

(3) Changes in Assumptions.—If a plan determines that use of one or more prior assumptions is unreasonable, the plan may propose in its application to change such assumptions, provided that the plan discloses such changes in its application and describes why such assumptions are no longer reasonable. The plan may not propose a change to the interest rate otherwise required under this subsection for eligibility or financial assistance amount.

Plans Applying for Priority Consideration.—In the case of a plan applying for special financial assistance under rules providing for temporary priority consideration, as provided in paragraph (4)(C), such plan’s application shall be submitted to the Secretary in addition to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

(2) Plans Receiving Special Financial Assistance.—In the case of an eligible multiemployer plan receiving special financial assistance under section 4262 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, that plan shall—

(A) Reinstatement of Suspended Benefits.—The plan shall—

(i) reinstate any benefits that were suspended under subsection (e)(9) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, effective as of the first month in which
the effective date for the special financial assistance occurs, for participants and beneficiaries as of such month, and

(ii) provides payment equal to the amount of benefits previously suspended to any participants or beneficiaries in pay status as of the effective date of the special financial assistance, payable, as determined by the plan—

(I) in a lump sum within 3 months of such effective date; or

(ii) in equal monthly installments over a period of 5 years, commencing within 3 months of such effective date, with no adjustment for interest.

(B) RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Special financial assistance received by the plan may be used to make benefit payments and pay plan expenses. Such assistance shall be segregated from other plan assets, and shall be invested by the plan in investment-grade bonds or other investments as permitted by regulations or other guidance issued by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

(C) CONDITIONS ON PLANS RECEIVING SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, in consultation with the Secretary, may impose, by regulation or other guidance, reasonable conditions on an eligible multiemployer plan receiving special financial assistance relating to increases in future accrual rates or benefit increases resulting from pension project improvements, allocation of plan assets, reductions in employer contribution rates, diversion of contributions and allocation of expenses to other benefit plans, and withdrawal liability.

(ii) LIMITATION.—The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation shall not impose conditions on an eligible multiemployer plan as a condition of, or following receipt of, special financial assistance relating to—

(I) any prospective reduction in plan benefits (including benefits that may be adjusted pursuant to section 431); or

(II) plan governance, including selection of, removal of, and terms of contracts with, trustees, actuaries, investment managers, and other service providers, or

(III) any funding rules relating to the plan.

(D) ASSISTANCE DISREGARDED FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.—

(i) FUNDING STANDARDS.—Special financial assistance received by the plan shall not be taken into account for determining contributions required under section 422.

(ii) TERMINATION PLANS.—If the plan becomes insolvent within the meaning of section 431 after receiving special financial assistance, the plan shall be subject to all rules applicable to insolvent plans.

(E) INELIGIBILITY FOR SUSPENSION OF BENEFITS.—The plan shall not be eligible to apply for a new suspension of benefits under subsection (e)(9)(G).

(3) ELIGIBLE MULTIEmployER PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, a multiemployer plan is an eligible multiemployer plan if—

(i) the plan is in critical and declining status in any plan year beginning in 2020 through 2022,

(ii) a suspension of benefits has been approved with respect to the plan under subsection (e)(9) as of the date of the enactment of this subsection; and

(iii) in any plan year beginning in 2020 through 2022, the plan is certified by the plan actuary to be in critical status, has a modified funded percentage of less than 60 percent, and has a ratio of active to inactive participants which is less than 2 to 3, or

(iv) the plan became insolvent within the meaning of section 431 after December 16, 2014, and has remained so insolvent and has not been terminated as of the date of enactment of this subsection.

(B) MODIFIED FUNDED PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii), the term ‘modified funded percentage’ means the percentage equal to a fraction the numerator of which is current value of plan assets (as defined in section 431(c)(6)(D)), and the denominator of which is current liabilities (as defined in section 431(c)(6)(D)).

(C) COORDINATION WITH PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION.—In prescribing the application process for eligible multiemployer plans to receive special financial assistance under section 422 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and reviewing applications of such plans, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation shall coordinate with the Secretary in the following manner:

(A) In the case of a plan which has suspended benefits under subsection (e)(9)—

(I) in determining whether to approve the application, such corporation shall consult with the Secretary regarding the plan’s proposed method of reestablishing benefits, as described in the plan’s application and in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary, and

(ii) such corporation shall consult with the Secretary regarding the amount of special financial assistance needed based on the projected funded status of the plan as of the last day of the plan year ending in 2051, whether the plan proposes to repay benefits over 5 years or as a lump sum, as required by paragraph (2)(A)(ii), and any other relevant factors, as determined by such corporation in consultation with the Secretary, to ensure the amount of assistance shall be such that the plan as of such date is expected to be in a funded status of less than 40 percent, and is sufficient to pay benefits as required in section 4262(j)(1) of such Act.

(B) In the case of any plan which proposes in its application to change the assumptions used, as provided in paragraph (1)(C)(iii), such corporation shall consult with the Secretary regarding such proposed change in assumptions.

(C) In determining which plan or plans shall be deemed to be an insolvent plan for purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) shall each be applied by substituting ‘15-plan-year period’ for ‘7-plan-year period’.

(D) 15-YEAR AMORTIZATION.—With respect to plan years beginning after December 31, 2020 (or, at the election of the plan sponsor, plan years beginning after December 31, 2018, December 31, 2019, or December 31, 2020)—

(A) the shortfall amortization bases for all plan years preceding the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2020 (or after whichever earlier date is elected pursuant to this paragraph), and all shortfall amortization installments determined with respect to such bases, shall be reduced to zero, and

(B) subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) shall each be applied by substituting ‘15-plan-year period’ for ‘7-plan-year period’.

(E) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2018.

SEC. 9706. EXTENSION OF PENSION FUNDING STABILIZATION PERCENTAGES FOR SINGLE EMPLOYER PLANS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The table contained in subclause (II) of section 436(h)(2)(C)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Minimum Percentage</th>
<th>Maximum Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2027</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2028</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2029</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 2029</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) FLOOR ON 25-YEAR AVERAGES.—Subclause (I) of section 436(h)(2)(C)(iv) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following: ‘Notwithstanding anything in this subclause, if the average of the first, second, or third segment rate for any 25-year period is less than 5 percent, such average shall be deemed to be 5 percent.”

(b) AMENDMENTS TO EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The table contained in subclause (II) of section 303(h)(2)(C)(ii) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1083(h)(2)(C)(ii)) is amended to read as follows:
‘(if the calendar year is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>The applicable minimum percentage is</th>
<th>The applicable maximum percentage is</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>110%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>115%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>120%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>125%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>130%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>130%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<td>90%</td>
<td>130%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2029</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>130%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 2029</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>130%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any year in the period starting in 2012 and ending in 2019

Any year in the period starting in 2015 and ending in 2019.

Any year in the period starting in 2020 and ending in 2025

Any year in the period starting in 2012 and ending in 2019

(2) FLOOR ON 25-YEAR AVERAGES.—Subclause (I) of section 303(h)(2)(C)(iv) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1083(h)(2)(C)(iv)(I)) is amended by adding at the end the following: ‘Notwithstanding anything in this subsection, if the average of the first, second, or third segment rate for any 25-year period is less than 5 percent, such average shall be deemed to be 5 percent.’.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(j)(2)(D) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1021(j)(2)(D)) is amended—

(i) in clause (i) by striking ‘‘and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015’’ both places it appears and inserting ‘‘, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021’’, and

(ii) in clause (ii) by striking ‘‘2023’’ and inserting ‘‘2029’’.

(B) STATEMENTS.—The Secretary of Labor shall include the statements required under subsections (I) and (II) of section 101(j)(2)(D)(i) of such Act to conform to the amendments made by this section.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to plan years beginning after December 31, 2019.

(2) FLOOR ON 25-YEAR AVERAGES.—The amendments apply, or

(B) solely for purposes of determining the adjusted funding target attainment percentage under sections 430 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and 206(g) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 for such plan year.

A plan shall not be treated as failing to meet the requirements of sections 404(a) of such Act and 411(d)(6) of such Code solely by reason of an election under paragraph (1) if such election applies maintained as of December 31, 2019, by a member of the same controlled group as prescribed by the Secretary.

The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to all subsequent plan years unless revoked with the consent of the Secretary.

(4) ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARDS.—The alternative minimum standards described in this paragraph are the following:

(‘‘A’’) INTEREST RATES.—

(‘‘B’’) NEW BENEFIT ACCRUALS.—Notwithstanding subsection (b)(2), for purposes of determining the funding target and normal cost of a plan for all plan years, the present value of any benefits accrued or earned under the plan for any plan year with respect to which an election under paragraph (1) is in effect shall be determined on the basis of the United States Treasury obligation yield curve for the day that is the valuation date of such plan for such plan year.

(‘‘C’’) UNITED STATES TREASURY OBLIGATION YIELD CURVE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘‘United States Treasury obligation yield curve’’ means, with respect to any day, a yield curve which shall be prescribed by the Secretary for such day on interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

(5) ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARDS FOR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER PLANS.

(a) AMENDMENT TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Section 414 as of December 20, 2019, as amended, is applied.

(b) AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.—Section 414 as of December 20, 2019, is amended to read as follows:

‘‘(m) SPECIAL RULES FOR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible newspaper plan sponsor of a plan under which no participant has had the participant’s accrued benefit increased (whether because of service or compensation) after April 2, 2019, may elect to have the alternative standards described in paragraph (4) apply to such plan.

(2) ELIGIBLE NEWSPAPER PLAN SPONSOR.—The term ‘eligible newspaper plan sponsor’ means an employer which—

(A) any community newspaper plan, or

(B) any other plan sponsored, as of April 2, 2019, by a member of the same controlled group of a community newspaper plan if such member is in the trade or business of publishing 1 or more newspapers.

(3) ELECTION.—An election under paragraph (1) shall apply to a plan year, once made with respect to a plan year, shall apply to all subsequent plan years unless revoked with the consent of the Secretary.

(4) ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARDS.—The alternative minimum standards described in this paragraph are the following:

(‘‘A’’) INTEREST RATES.—

(‘‘B’’) NEW BENEFIT ACCRUALS.—Notwithstanding subsection (b)(2), for purposes of determining the funding target and normal cost of a plan for all plan years, the present value of any benefits accrued or earned under the plan for any plan year with respect to which an election under paragraph (1) is in effect shall be determined on the basis of the United States Treasury obligation yield curve for the day that is the valuation date of such plan for such plan year.

(‘‘C’’) UNITED STATES TREASURY OBLIGATION YIELD CURVE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘‘United States Treasury obligation yield curve’’ means, with respect to any day, a yield curve which shall be prescribed by the Secretary for such day on interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

(5) ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARDS FOR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER PLANS.—

(a) AMENDMENT TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Section 414 as of December 20, 2019, is amended to read as follows:

‘‘(m) SPECIAL RULES FOR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible newspaper plan sponsor of a plan under which no participant has had the participant’s accrued benefit increased (whether because of service or compensation) after April 2, 2019, may elect to have the alternative standards described in paragraph (4) apply to such plan.

(2) ELIGIBLE NEWSPAPER PLAN SPONSOR.—The term ‘‘eligible newspaper plan sponsor’’ means an employer which—

(A) any community newspaper plan, or

(B) any other plan sponsored, as of April 2, 2019, by a member of the same controlled group of a community newspaper plan if such member is in the trade or business of publishing 1 or more newspapers.

(3) ELECTION.—An election under paragraph (1) shall be made at such time and in such manner as prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. Such election, once made with respect to a plan year, shall apply to all subsequent plan years unless revoked with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury.

(4) ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARDS.—The alternative minimum standards described in this paragraph are the following:

(‘‘A’’) INTEREST RATES.—

(‘‘B’’) NEW BENEFIT ACCRUALS.—Notwithstanding subsection (b)(2), for purposes of determining the funding target and normal cost of a plan for all plan years, the present value of any benefits accrued or earned under the plan for any plan year with respect to which an election under paragraph (1) is in effect shall be determined on the basis of the United States Treasury obligation yield curve for the day that is the valuation date of such plan for such plan year.

(‘‘C’’) UNITED STATES TREASURY OBLIGATION YIELD CURVE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘‘United States Treasury obligation yield curve’’ means, with respect to any day, a yield curve which shall be prescribed by the Secretary for such day on interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

(5) ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARDS FOR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER PLANS.—

(a) AMENDMENT TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Section 414 as of December 20, 2019, is amended to read as follows:

‘‘(m) SPECIAL RULES FOR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible newspaper plan sponsor of a plan under which no participant has had the participant’s accrued benefit increased (whether because of service or compensation) after April 2, 2019, may elect to have the alternative standards described in paragraph (4) apply to such plan.

(2) ELIGIBLE NEWSPAPER PLAN SPONSOR.—The term ‘‘eligible newspaper plan sponsor’’ means an employer which—

(A) any community newspaper plan, or

(B) any other plan sponsored, as of April 2, 2019, by a member of the same controlled group of a community newspaper plan if such member is in the trade or business of publishing 1 or more newspapers.

(3) ELECTION.—An election under paragraph (1) shall be made at such time and in such manner as prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. Such election, once made with respect to a plan year, shall apply to all subsequent plan years unless revoked with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury.

(4) ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM FUNDING STANDARDS.—The alternative minimum standards described in this paragraph are the following:

(‘‘A’’) INTEREST RATES.—

(‘‘B’’) NEW BENEFIT ACCRUALS.—Notwithstanding subsection (b)(2), for purposes of determining the funding target and normal cost of a plan for all plan years, the present value of any benefits accrued or earned under the plan for any plan year with respect to which an election under paragraph (1) is in effect shall be determined on the basis of the United States Treasury obligation yield curve for the day that is the valuation date of such plan for such plan year.

(‘‘C’’) UNITED STATES TREASURY OBLIGATION YIELD CURVE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘‘United States Treasury obligation yield curve’’ means, with respect to any day, a yield curve which shall be prescribed by the Secretary for such day on interest-bearing obligations of the United States.”
(A) INTEREST RATES.—

(i) Notwithstanding the interest rate provided in paragraph (h)(2)(C) and except as provided in clause (ii), the first, second, and third segment rates in effect for any month for purposes of this section shall be .

(ii) NEW BENEFIT ACCRUALS.—Notwithstanding subsection (h)(2), for purposes of determining the funding target and normal cost of a plan for a plan year, the present value of any benefits accrued or earned under the plan for a plan year with respect to which an election under paragraph (h) shall be .

(b) SHORTFALL AMORTIZATION BASE.—

(i) APPLICABLE AMORTIZATION BASES.—The shortfall amortization rate shall be 8 percent.

(ii) EFFECT FOR ANY MONTH FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION—

(A) For purposes of this section, the term ‘United States Treasury obligation yield curve’ means, with respect to any day, the yield curve which shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury for such day on interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

(B) SHORTFALL AMORTIZATION BASE.—

(i) EFFECT ON PREMATURE 30-YEAR PERIOD.—In the case of a plan for any plan year, the annualized rate for determining the shortfall amortization installments determined with respect to such plan shall be reduced to zero under rules similar to the rules of subsection (c)(3).

(ii) EFFECT ON SHORTFALL AMORTIZATION INSTALLMENTS.—

(A) 30-YEAR PERIOD.—Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (c)(3) shall be applied as modified under subparagraph (A).

(B) EXEMPTION FROM AT-RISK TREATMENT.—Subparagraph (c)(4) shall not apply.

(c) COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER PLAN.—

(i) Definition.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘community newspaper plan’ means a plan to which this section applies and—

(A) maintains the plan on behalf of participants and beneficiaries with respect to employment in the trade or business of publishing one or more newspapers which were published by the employer at any time during the 11-year period ending December 31, 2019;

(B) the plan is a plan to which subsection (c) applies maintained as of December 31, 2018, by an employer which—

(i) is not in general circulation;

(ii) Is published (on newsprint or electronically) less frequently than 3 times per week;

(iii) Has not been regularly published on newsprint;

(iv) Does not have a bona fide list of paid subscribers;

(C) CONTROL.—A person shall be treated as controlled by another person if such person has directly or indirectly, the power to direct or cause the direction and management of such person (including the power to elect a majority of the board of directors of such person) through the ownership of voting securities.

(d) REDISTRIBUTION.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘controlled group’ means all persons treated as a single employer under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (e) of section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as of December 20, 2019.

(e) YIELD CURVE.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘United States Treasury obligation yield curve’ means, with respect to any day, the yield curve which shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury for such day on interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

III.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1905(a)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(a)(4)) is amended by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting ‘‘; and (E) during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and ending on the last day of the first calendar quarter that begins one year after the last day of the emergency period described in section 1135(g)(1)(B), a COVID–19 vaccine and any administered of the vaccine; and (F) during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and ending on the last day of the first calendar quarter that begins one year after the last day of the emergency period described in section 1135(g)(1)(B), testing and treatments for COVID–19, including specialized equipment and therapies (including preventive therapies), and, without regard to the requirements of section 1902(a)(10)(E) (relating to comparability), in the case of an individual who is hospitalized with or presumed to have COVID–19, during the period such individual has (or is presumed to have) COVID–19, the treatment of a condition that may seriously complicate the course of COVID–19 (including a condition that may seriously complicate the course of COVID–19 covered under the State plan (or waiver of such plan))’’.

(B) MAKING COVID–19 VACCINE AVAILABLE TO CERTAIN UNINSURED.—Section 1902(a)(10) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(a)(10)) is amended in the matter following subparagraph (B) by inserting ‘‘and medical assistance for vaccines described in section 1905(a)(4)(E)’’.
the administration of such vaccines during the period described in such section'' after ""(described in subsection (2)(2))''; 
(C) by inserting ""and medical assistance for vaccines described in section 1905(a)(4)(E) and the administration of such vaccines during the period described in such section'' after ""(described in subsection (1)(1))''; 
(D) by adding a new subparagraph (E) to paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (a)(1) of such section to read as follows: ""(E) TEMPORARY INCREASED FMAP FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR COVERAGE AND ADMINISTRATION OF COVID–19 VACCINES.—Section 1905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d) is amended— 
(1) by striking paragraph (4), and in paragraph (4) inserting the following new paragraph (4): 
(4) INCLUSION IN THE MEDICAID DRUG REBATE PROGRAM OF COVERED OUTPATIENT DRUGS USED FOR COVID–19 TREATMENT.—Notwithstanding the previous provisions of this section, a drug shall be included in the rebate program for purposes of this section if the drug—
(i) is a covered outpatient drug (as defined in section 1906(a)(2)(G)), 
(ii) in subparagraph (G), by striking '; and'’; and 
(iii) a covered outpatient drug (as defined in section 1906(a)(2)(G)) is that is—
(A) COVID–19 vaccines and administration of such vaccines during the period described in such section (and administration);  
(B) Drugs and biological products to which subparagraph (F) of section 1905(a)(4)(E) (and the administration of such a vaccine during the period described in such section) applies, such drug shall be deemed a prescription drug covered under the State plan (or waiver of such plan).’’. 
(2) by inserting at the end of subsection (a)(3)(H) the following new subparagraph (i): 
(i) a covered outpatient drug (as defined in section 1906(a)(2)(G)) is that is—
(A) COVID–19 vaccines and administration of such vaccines during the period described in such section (and administration);  
(B) by striking and inserting ‘‘(ii)’’; and 
(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph (j): 
(j) COVID–19 vaccines and administration of such vaccines during the period described in such section (including preventive therapies),”
equivalent, to the medical assistance available for an individual described in subsection (a)(10)(A)(i); and

(ii) be provided for the individual while pregnant and during the 12-month period ending on the last day of the individual’s pregnancy and ends on the last day of the month in which such 12-month period ends.

(C) CARRYING OUT.—A State making an election under this paragraph that covers under title XXI child health assistance for targeted low-income pregnant women, as applicable, shall also make the election under section 2102(e)(1)(J) of such title.

(b) Amendment.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to State elections made under paragraph (16) of section 1902(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396(e)) as added by subsection (a), during the 5-year period beginning on the 1st day of the 1st fiscal year quarter that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 9813. STATE OPTION TO PROVIDE QUALIFYING COMMUNITY-BASED MOBILE CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES.

Title XIX of the Social Security Act is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 1902. (a) In general.—Notwithstanding section 1902(a)(1) (relating to Statewideness), section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i) (relating to coordination), section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii) (relating to specific determination by States), section 1902(a)(10)(A)(iii) (relating to contracts for services, and other professionals or managed care arrangements), section 1902(a)(10)(A)(iv) (relating to coverage), section 1902(a)(10)(A)(v) (relating to cooperation with certain other programs), section 1902(a)(10)(A)(vi) (relating to extension of coverage to eligible individuals), section 1902(a)(10)(A)(vii) (relating to point of service), section 1902(a)(10)(A)(viii) before the date of the enactment of this subsection, the term ‘qualifying State’ means a State which has not expended amounts for all individuals described in section 1902(a)(10)(A)(vi) before the date of the enactment of this subsection.''

"(A) qualifying community-based mobile crisis intervention services under this section, to remain available until expended.''

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For each quarter occurring during the 8-quarter period beginning with the first calendar quarter during which a qualifying State (as defined in paragraph (3)) expends amounts for all individuals described in section 1902(a)(10)(A)(vi) before the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Federal medical assistance percentage determined under subsection (b) for such quarter shall, after application of any increase, if applicable, under section 6008 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, be increased by 5 percentage points, except for any quarter (and each subsequent quarter) during such period during which the State ceases to provide medical assistance to any such individual under the State plan (or waiver of such plan).

"(2) SPECIAL APPLICATION RULE.—Any increase described in paragraph (1) (or payment made for expenditures on medical assistance that are subject to such increase).

"(A) shall not apply with respect to disproportionate hospital payments described in section 1923;

"(B) shall not be taken into account in calculating the enhanced FMAP of a State under section 1902(c)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act as added by section 9813 before January 1, 2024.''

"(C) shall not be taken into account for purposes of part A, D, or E of title IV; and

"(D) shall not be taken into account for purposes of applying payment limits under subsections (j) and (k) of section 1108.

"(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘qualifying community-based mobile crisis intervention services’ means services which are received through a Native Hawaiian organization (as defined in paragraph (2) of section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act) that has a grant or contract with the Indian Health Service under title V of such Act; and, for such fiscal year quarters beginning with the first fiscal year quarter beginning after the date of the enactment of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the Federal medical assistance percentage shall also be 100 per centum with respect to amounts expended as medical assistance for services which are received through an Urban Indian organization (as defined in paragraph (2) of section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act) that has a grant or contract with the Indian Health Service under title V of such Act; and, for such fiscal year quarters, the Federal medical assistance percentage shall be 100 per centum with respect to amounts expended as medical assistance for services which are received through a Native Hawaiian Health Center (as defined in section 124 of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act) or a qualified entity (as defined in section 6(b) of such Act) that has a grant or contract with the Papa Ola Lokahi under section 1902(c)(2)(D) of such Act.''

SEC. 9815. EXTENSION OF 100 PERCENT FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS.

Section 1903(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b) is amended by inserting before the period at the end of subsections (a) and (b) the following: ‘‘as defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act’’ the following: ‘‘for the 4 fiscal year quarters beginning with the first fiscal year quarter beginning after the date of the enactment of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the Federal medical assistance percentage shall also be 100 per centum with respect to amounts expended as medical assistance for services which are received through an Urban Indian organization (as defined in paragraph (2) of section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act) that has a grant or contract with the Indian Health Service under title V of such Act; and, for such fiscal year quarters, the Federal medical assistance percentage shall be 100 per centum with respect to amounts expended as medical assistance for services which are received through a Native Hawaiian Health Center (as defined in section 124 of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act) or a qualified entity (as defined in section 6(b) of such Act) that has a grant or contract with the Papa Ola Lokahi under section 1902(c)(2)(D) of such Act.’’

SEC. 9816. SUNSET OF LIMIT ON MAXIMUM REBATE AMOUNT FOR SINGLE SOURCE DRUGS AND INNOVATOR MULTIPLE SOURCE DRUGS.

Section 1927(c)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(2)(c)(2)(D)) is amended by inserting after ‘‘December 31, 1999,’’ the following: ‘‘and before January 1, 2024.’’

SEC. 9817. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR MEDICARE HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES DURING THE COVID–19 EMERGENCY.

(a) INCREASED FMAP.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1902(a)(10)(A)(vi) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(b)) or section 1905(ff), in the case of a State that meets the HCBS program requirements under subsection (b), the Federal medical assistance percentage determined under subsection (b) for the State under section 1905(b) of such Act (or, if applicable, under section 1905(ff)) and, if applicable,
increased under subsection (g), (2), (aa), or (ii) of section 1905 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d), section 1915(k) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(k)), or section 6008(a) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 7, Title II), shall be increased by 10 percentage points with respect to expenditures of the State under the State Medicaid program for home and community-based services (as defined in paragraph (2)(B)) that are provided during the HCBS program improvement period (as defined in paragraph (2)(A)).

In no case may the application of the previous sentence result in the Federal medical assistance percentage determined for a State being more than 95 percent with respect to such expenditures. Any payment made to Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, or American Samoa for expenditures on medical assistance that are subject to the Federal medical assistance percentage increase specified under the first sentence of this paragraph shall not be taken into account for purposes of applying payment limits under subsections (f) and (g) of section 1108 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396).

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) HCBS PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PERIOD.—The term ‘‘HCBS program improvement period’’ means, with respect to a State, the period—

(i) beginning on April 1, 2021; and

(ii) ending on December 31, 2022.

(B) HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES.—The term ‘‘home and community-based services’’ means, with respect to a State, the period—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ‘‘subparagraph (E)’’ and inserting ‘‘subparagraphs (E) and (F)’’; and

(ii) at the end of the following new subparagraph:

‘‘(F) ALLOTMENTS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS TEMPORARY MEDICAID FMAP INCREASE.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Section 1923(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d–4(f)(3)) is amended—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking ‘‘subparagraph (E)’’ and inserting ‘‘subparagraphs (E) and (F)’’; and

(II) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

‘‘(J) TEMPORARY ENHANCED FEDERAL PAYMENT FOR COVERAGE AND ADMINISTRATION OF COVID–19 VACCINES.—Section 2105(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397c(e)) is amended—

(I) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ‘‘the administration of such vaccines’’ and inserting ‘‘the administration of such vaccines, testing or treatment described in subparagraph (b) [furnished during the period described in such section, or’’;

(II) in paragraph (2)(D), by striking ‘‘the administration of such vaccines, testing or treatment described in subparagraph (b) [furnished during the period described in such section, or’’;

(III) in paragraph (2)(G), by striking ‘‘the administration of such vaccines, testing or treatment described in subparagraph (b) [furnished during the period described in such section, or’’;

(IV) in paragraph (2)(H), by striking ‘‘the administration of such vaccines, testing or treatment described in subparagraph (b) [furnished during the period described in such section, or’’;

(V) in paragraph (2)(I), by striking ‘‘the administration of such vaccines, testing or treatment described in subparagraph (b) [furnished during the period described in such section, or’’;

(VI) in paragraph (2)(J), by striking ‘‘the administration of such vaccines, testing or treatment described in subparagraph (b) [furnished during the period described in such section, or’’;

(3) INCREASED FEDERAL PAYMENTS FOR COVERAGE AND ADMINISTRATION OF COVID–19 VACCINES.—Section 2105(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397c(e)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph header, by inserting ‘‘covered under the State child health plan (or a waiver of such plan).’’

(B) in paragraphs (5) and (6), by striking ‘‘the State is the payer of last resort for expenses that the State could have made for such fiscal year under subsection (a) of section 2105’’ and inserting ‘‘the State is the payer of last resort for expenses that the State could have made for such fiscal year under subsection (a) of section 2105 (beginning with fiscal year 2021) under subsection (a) of section 2105’’.

(4) MEDICAID.—The term ‘‘Medicaid program’’ means, with respect to a State, the State plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396) or (as the case may be) the plan of such plan (or a waiver of such plan) as in effect on the date of the enactment of this paragraph and any amendments made to such plan or to such waiver before the enactment of this paragraph.”
described in such subparagraph by the State, commonwealth, or territory; and

‘‘(ii) the actual amount of expenditures for such fiscal year described in subparagraph (A) by the State or territory in providing the care or services for the child health plan described in such subparagraph (A) by the State or territory in the fiscal year for which the State or territory is included under subparagraph (B)’’.

SEC. 9832. MODIFICATIONS TO CERTAIN COVERAGE UNDER CHIP FOR PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM WOMEN.

(a) MODIFIED COVERAGE—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2107(e)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397m(e)(1)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by redesignating subparagraphs (J) through (S) as subparagraphs (K) through (T), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the following new subparagraph:

‘‘(J) Paragraphs (5) and (16) of section 1902(e) (relating to the State option to provide medical assistance to covered pregnant women and the conditions for the use of such assistance) are amended—

‘‘(I) (I) IN GENERAL.—For discharges occurring on or after October 1, 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated—

(1) $219,800,000,000, to remain available until expended, for making payments under this section to States, territories, and Tribal governments to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), and

(2) $50,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the costs of the Secretary for administration of the funds authorized under this title.

(2) PAYMENTS TO TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reserve $20,000,000,000 of the amount appropriated under subsection (a)(1) to make payments to Tribal governments.

(B) ALLOCATION.—Of the amount reserved under subparagraph (A)—

(1) 50 percent of such amount shall be allocated by the Secretary equally among each of the Tribal governments; and

(2) 50 percent of such amount shall be allocated by the Secretary as an additional amount to each territory in accordance with the same proportion to 1⁄2 of the total amount reserved under subparagraph (A) as the population of the territory bears to the total population of all such territories.

(C) PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall pay each territory the total of the amounts allocated for the territory under subparagraph (B) in accordance with paragraph (6).

(D) PAYMENTS TO EACH OF THE 50 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reserve $195,300,000,000 of the amount appropriated under subsection (a)(1) to make payments to each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

(B) ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amount reserved under subparagraph (A)—

(1) $219,800,000,000, to remain available until expended, for making payments under this section to States, territories, and Tribal governments to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), and

(2) $50,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the costs of the Secretary for administration of the funds authorized under this title.

(3) PAYMENTS TO TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reserve $20,000,000,000 of the amount appropriated under subsection (a)(1) to make payments to Tribal governments.

(B) ALLOCATION.—Of the amount reserved under subparagraph (A) 50 percent of such amount shall be allocated by the Secretary equally among each of the Tribal governments; and

(2) $50,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the costs of the Secretary for administration of the funds authorized under this title.

(C) PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall pay each territory the total of the amounts allocated for the territory under subparagraph (B) in accordance with paragraph (6).

(D) PAYMENTS TO EACH OF THE 50 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reserve $195,300,000,000 of the amount appropriated under subsection (a)(1) to make payments to each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

(B) ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amount reserved under subparagraph (A)—

(1) $219,800,000,000, to remain available until expended, for making payments under this section to States, territories, and Tribal governments to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), and

(2) $50,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the costs of the Secretary for administration of the funds authorized under this title.
adjusted unemployed individuals in all of the 50 States and the District of Columbia over the same period.

(5) PAYMENT.—(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the Secretary shall pay each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia, from the amount reserved under subparagraph (A), the amount allocated for the State and District of Columbia under subparagraph (B) in accordance with paragraph (6).

(6) MINIMUM PAYMENT REQUIREMENT.—(i) IN GENERAL.—The sum of—

(aa) the total amounts allocated for 1 of the 50 States and the District of Columbia under subparagraph (B) (as determined without regard to this clause); and

(bb) the amounts allocated under section 601 to the District of Columbia by the Corporation (as that term is defined in section 401 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(17)), a Tribal organization (as that term is defined in paragraph (17) of section 401 of such Act), or Tribal government receiving a payment from a payment made under section 603(c)(4), to cover costs incurred by the State, territory, or Tribal government, by December 31, 2024.

(a) to respond to the public health emergency use the funds provided under this section during Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or to aid impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;

(b) to respond to workers performing essential critical infrastructure activities that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;

(c) for the provision of government services to the extent necessary to ensure that all available funds are allocated to States, territories, and Tribal governments in accordance with the requirements specified in each such paragraph (as applicable).

(7) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term 'Tribal government' means a Tribal or Tribal organization (as those terms are respectively defined in sections 603(c)(2)(A), the amount the State or territory shall be required to repay shall be lesser of—

(2) the amount of funds received by such State or territory pursuant to a payment made under such section or a transfer made under section 603(c)(4).

(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall have the authority to issue such regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out this section.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED PERIOD.—The term ‘covered period’ means, with respect to a State, territory, or Tribal government, the period that—

(A) begins on March 3, 2021; and

(B) ends on the last day of the fiscal year of such State, territory, or Tribal government in which all funds received by the State, territory, or Tribal government from a payment made under this section or a transfer made under section 603(c)(4) have been expended or returned to be recovered by, the Secretary.

(2) ELIGIBLE WORKERS.—The term ‘eligible workers’ means those workers who need to maintain the continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors and additional sectors as each Governor of a State or territory, or each Tribal government, may designate as critical to protect the health and well-being of the residents of their State, territory, or Tribal government.

(3) PREMIUM PAY.—The term ‘premium pay’ means an amount of up to $13 per hour that is paid to an eligible worker, in addition to wages or remuneration the eligible worker otherwise receives, for all work performed by the eligible worker during the COVID–19 public health emergency.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Treasury.

(5) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

(6) TERRITORY.—The term ‘territory’ means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

(7) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘Tribal Government’ means the recognized governing body of any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, community, component band, or component reservation, individually identified (including parenthetically) in the list published most recently as of the date of enactment of this Act pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5313).

SEC. 603. CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND.

(1) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $130,200,000,000, to be available through December 31, 2024, for making payments under this section to metropolitan cities, nonentitlement units of local government, and payment under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) shall be reduced by the amount, if any, so allocated.

(2) RECUPMENT.—Any State, territory, or Tribal government that has failed to comply with subsection (c) shall be required to repay to the Secretary an amount equal to the amount of such failure, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers that perform essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;
government, and counties to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

(b) AUTHORITY TO MAKE PAYMENTS.—

(1) METROPOLITAN CITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount appropriated under subsection (a), the Secretary shall reserve $45,570,000,000 to make payments to metropolitan cities.

(B) ALLOCATION AND PAYMENT.—From the amount reserved under subparagraph (A), in accordance with paragraph (7), pay to each metropolitan city an amount determined for the metropolitan city consistent with the requirements under section 5306(b) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5306(b)), except that, in applying such formula, the Secretary shall substitute ‘metropolitan area’ for ‘all metropolitan areas’ each place it appears.

(2) NONENTITLEMENT UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount appropriated under subsection (a), the Secretary shall reserve $19,530,000,000 to make payments to States for distribution by the State to nonentitlement units of local government in the State.

“(B) ALLOCATION AND PAYMENT.—From the amount reserved under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall allocate and, in accordance with paragraph (7), pay to each nonentitlement unit of local government in the State an amount determined for the nonentitlement unit of local government consistent with the requirements under section 5306(b) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5306(b)), except that, in applying such formula, the Secretary shall substitute ‘place’ for ‘all nonmetropolitan areas’ each place it appears.

(C) DISTRIBUTION TO NONENTITLEMENT UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after a State has taken under subparagraph (B), the State shall distribute to each nonentitlement unit of local government in the State an amount that bears the same proportion to the amount of such payment as the population of the nonentitlement unit of local government bears to the total population of all the nonentitlement units of local government in the State, subject to clause (iii).

“(ii) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

“(I) EXTENSION FOR DISTRIBUTION.—If an authorized officer of a State required to make distributions under this section certifies in writing to the Secretary before the end of the 30-day distribution period described in such clause that it would constitute an excessive administrative burden to meet the terms of such clause with respect to 1 or more such distributions, the authorized officer may request, and the Secretary shall grant, an extension of such period of not more than 30 days to allow the State to make such distributions in accordance with clause (i).

“(II) ADDITIONAL EXTENSIONS.—

“(II) ADDITIONAL EXTENSIONS.—If a State has been granted an extension under the distribution period under clause (I) but is unable to make all the distributions required in accordance with such extension before the end of such period as extended, an authorized officer of the State may request an additional extension of the distribution period of not more than 30 days to allow the State to make all such distributions in accordance with such extension.

“(III) SPECIAL RULES.—No county that is an ‘urban county’ (as defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302)) shall receive less than the amount the county would otherwise receive if the amount paid under this paragraph was allocated to metropolitan cities and urban counties under section 106(b) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5306(b)).

“(II) COUNTIES THAT ARE NOT UNITS OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—In the case of an amount to be paid to a county that is not a unit of general local government, the amount shall instead be paid to the State in which such county is located, and such State shall distribute such amount to the unit of general local government within such county in an amount that bears the same proportion to the amount to be paid to such county as the population of such units of general local government bears to the total population of such county.

“(III) DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—For purposes of this paragraph, the District of Columbia shall be considered to consist of a single county that is a unit of general local government.

“(IV) CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENTS.—A unit of general local government that has formed a consolidated government, or that is geographically contained (in full or in part) within the boundaries of another unit of general local government, shall be considered to consist of a single unit of government for purposes of this paragraph.

“(V) POPULATION.—For purposes of determining allocations under this section, the population of an entity shall be determined based on the most recent data available from the Bureau of the Census or, if not available, from such other data as a State determines appropriate.

“(V) TIMING.—The First Tranche Amount.—To the extent practicable, with respect to each metropolitan city for which an amount is allocated under paragraph (1), the amount for which an amount is allocated under paragraph (2) for distribution to nonentitlement units of local government, and each county for which an amount is allocated under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall pay from such allocation the First Tranche Amount for such city, State, or county not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section.

“(B) SECOND TRANCHE AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall pay to each metropolitan city for which an amount is allocated under paragraph (1), each State for which an amount is allocated under paragraph (2) for distribution to nonentitlement units of local government, and each county for which an amount is allocated under paragraph (3), the Second Tranche Amount for such city, State, or county not later than 12 months after the date on which the First Tranche Amount is paid to the city, State, or county.

“(C) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(I) USE OF FUNDS.—Subject to paragraph (2), and except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4), a metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, or county shall only use the funds provided under this section to cover costs incurred by the metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, or county, by December 31, 2024—

“(A) to respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;

“(B) to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID–19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, or county that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;

“(C) for the provision of services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, or county due to the COVID–19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, or county prior to the emergency.

“(D) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

“(E) to make necessary investments in public health infrastructure, including public benefit corporations (as that term is defined in paragraph (17) of section 401 of the McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(17)), a public benefit corporation that provides a project to support the transportation of passengers or cargo, or a special–purpose unit of State or local government.

may be adjusted by the Secretary on a pro rata basis to the extent necessary to ensure that all available funds are distributed to metropolitan cities, counties, and States in accordance with the respective formulas specified in such subparagraph (as applicable) and the certification requirement specified in subsection (d).
"(4) Transfers to States.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, or county receiving a payment from funds made available under this section shall transfer such funds to the State in which such entity is located.

"(d) Reporting.—Any metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, or county receiving a payment under a government-wide agreement under this section shall provide to the Secretary periodic reports providing a detailed accounting of the uses of such funds by such metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, or county and including such other information as the Secretary may require for the administration of this section.

"(e) Civil Penalty.—Any metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, or county that has failed to comply with subsection (c) shall be required to repay to the Secretary an amount of funds used in violation of such subsection.

"(f) Regulations.—The Secretary shall have the authority to issue such regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out this section.

"(g) Definitions.—In this section:

"(1) the term 'city' means a county, parish, or other equivalent county division (as defined by the Bureau of the Census).

"(2) Eligible Workers.—The term 'eligible worker' means a worker necessary or appropriate to carry out this section (as determined by the Secretary) that is independent of any other unit of local government; and

"(3) First Tranche Amount.—The term 'First Tranche Amount' means, with respect to each metropolitan city for which an amount is allocated under subsection (b)(1), each State for which an amount is allocated under subsection (b)(2) for distribution to nonentitlement units of local government; and each county for which an amount is allocated under subsection (b)(3), 50 percent of the amount so allocated to such metropolitan city, State, or county (as applicable).

"(4) Metropolitan City.—The term 'metropolitan city' has the meaning given in that term in section 102(a)(4) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(4)) and includes a local government that has qualified in accordance with section 102(b) for funding under section 108 of such Act.

"(5) Nonentitlement Unit of Local Government.—The term 'nonentitlement unit of local government' means a city, as that term is defined in section 102(a)(5) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(5)), that is not a metropolitan city.

"(6) Premium Pay.—The term 'premium pay' has the meaning given such term in section 902(a).

"(7) Second Tranche Amount.—The term 'Second Tranche Amount' means, with respect to each metropolitan city for which an amount is allocated under subsection (b)(1), each State for which an amount is allocated under subsection (b)(2) for distribution to nonentitlement units of local government; and each county for which an amount is allocated under subsection (b)(3), an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the amount so allocated to such metropolitan city, State, or county (as applicable).

"(8) Secretary.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Treasury.

"(9) States.—The term 'State' means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

"(10) Unit of General Local Government.—The term 'unit of general local government' has the meaning given such term in section 102(a)(1) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(1)).

"SEC. 604. CORONAVIRUS CAPITAL PROJECTS.

"(a) Appropriation.—In addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, $2,000,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2023, with amounts to be obligated for each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 in accordance with subsection (b), for making payments under this section to eligible revenue sharing counties and eligible Tribal governments.

"(b) Payments to Eligible Tribal Governments.—For each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023, the Secretary shall reserve $750,000,000 of the total amount appropriated under subsection (a) to allocate and pay to eligible Tribal governments in amounts that are determined by the Secretary taking into account economic conditions of each eligible revenue sharing county, using measurements of poverty rates, unemployment rates, and other economic indicators, over the 20-year period ending with September 30, 2023.

"(c) Use of Payments.—An eligible revenue sharing county or an eligible Tribal government may use funds provided under a payment made under this section for governmental purpose other than a lobbying activity.

"(d) Reporting Requirement.—Any eligible revenue sharing county receiving a payment under subsection (a) shall provide to the Secretary periodic reports providing a detailed accounting of the uses of fund by such eligible revenue sharing county and such other information as the Secretary may require for the administration of this section.

"(e) Recoupment.—Any eligible revenue sharing county that has failed to submit a report required under subsection (d) shall, to the extent that funds have not been used in violation of such subsection, and in the case of a failure to submit a report required under subsection (d), shall be required to repay to the Secretary an amount equal to:

"(i) in the case of a failure to comply with subsection (c), the amount of funds used in violation of such subsection; and

"(ii) in the case of a failure to submit a report required under subsection (d), such amount as the Secretary determines appropriate, but not to exceed 5 percent of the amount paid to the eligible revenue sharing county under this section for such fiscal year.

"(f) Definitions.—In this section:

"(1) Eligible Revenue Sharing County.—The term 'eligible revenue sharing county' means—

"(i) any unit of general local government; and

"(ii) that, as determined by the Secretary, is independent of any other unit of local government;

"(2) Emergency Grant.—The term 'emergency grant' means—

"(A) the term 'Secretary' means the principal provider of government services for the area within its jurisdiction; and

"(B) any assistance provided under a Federal program or fund for which the determination of eligibility is not based on a Federal formula or methodology.


"(4) Authorized Uses.—The term 'authorized use' means a purpose or activity that is consistent with the purpose of the project for which the grant is made.

"(5) Requester.—The term 'requester' means the Tribal government for which the grant is requested.

"(g) Eligibility.—The term 'eligible Tribe' means any Indian Tribe that has been determined by the Secretary to be eligible to receive assistance under this section under section 102(a)(4) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(4)), that (1) is independent of any other unit of local government; and

"(ii) that, as determined by the Secretary, has a negative revenue impact due to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID–19).

"(h) Authority to Make Payments.—If the Secretary determines that the circumstances of an eligible Tribe necessitate the provision of funds under this section, the Secretary may appropriate, out of any money in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, $200,000,000, to be paid to the State of Hawaii for the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund.

"SEC. 605. LOCAL ASSISTANCE AND TRIBAL CONSISTENCY FUND.

"(a) Appropriation.—In addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, $2,000,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2023, with amounts to be obligated for each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 in accordance with subsection (b), for making payments under this section to eligible revenue sharing counties and eligible Tribal governments.

"(b) Payments to Eligible Tribal Governments.—For each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023, the Secretary shall reserve $750,000,000 of the total amount appropriated under subsection (a) to allocate and pay to eligible Tribal governments in amounts that are determined by the Secretary taking into account economic conditions of each eligible revenue sharing county, using measurements of poverty rates, unemployment rates, and other economic indicators, over the 20-year period ending with September 30, 2023.

"(c) Use of Payments.—An eligible revenue sharing county or an eligible Tribal government may use funds provided under a payment made under this section for governmental purpose other than a lobbying activity.

"(d) Reporting Requirement.—Any eligible revenue sharing county receiving a payment under subsection (a) shall provide to the Secretary periodic reports providing a detailed accounting of the uses of fund by such eligible revenue sharing county and such other information as the Secretary may require for the administration of this section.

"(e) Recoupment.—Any eligible revenue sharing county that has failed to submit a report required under subsection (d) shall, to the extent that funds have not been used in violation of such subsection, and in the case of a failure to submit a report required under subsection (d), shall be required to repay to the Secretary an amount equal to:

"(i) in the case of a failure to comply with subsection (c), the amount of funds used in violation of such subsection; and

"(ii) in the case of a failure to submit a report required under subsection (d), such amount as the Secretary determines appropriate, but not to exceed 5 percent of the amount paid to the eligible revenue sharing county under this section for such fiscal year.

"(f) Definitions.—In this section:

"(1) Eligible Revenue Sharing County.—The term 'eligible revenue sharing county' means—

"(i) any unit of general local government; and

"(ii) that, as determined by the Secretary, is independent of any other unit of local government;


"(4) Authorized Uses.—The term 'authorized use' means a purpose or activity that is consistent with the purpose of the project for which the grant is made.

"(5) Requester.—The term 'requester' means the Tribal government for which the grant is requested.

"(g) Eligibility.—The term 'eligible Tribe' means any Indian Tribe that has been determined by the Secretary to be eligible to receive assistance under this section under section 102(a)(4) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(4)), that (1) is independent of any other unit of local government; and

"(ii) that, as determined by the Secretary, has a negative revenue impact due to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID–19).

"(h) Authority to Make Payments.—If the Secretary determines that the circumstances of an eligible Tribe necessitate the provision of funds under this section, the Secretary may appropriate, out of any money in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, $200,000,000, to be paid to the State of Hawaii for the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund.
Part A of title XI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 13101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

SEC. 1100C. FUNDING FOR PROVIDERS RELATING TO COVID–19.

(a) FUNDING.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized and appropriated $8,500,000,000 for purposes of making payments to eligible health care providers for health care related expenses and lost revenues that are attributable to COVID–19.

(b) APPLICATION REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible for a payment under this section, an eligible health care provider shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form and manner as the Secretary shall prescribe. Such application shall contain the following:

(1) A statement justifying the need of the provider for the payment, including documentation of health care related expenses attributable to COVID–19 and lost revenues attributable to COVID–19.

(2) The tax identification number of the provider.

(3) Such assurances as the Secretary determines is necessary to ensure compliance with any conditions imposed by the Secretary under this section.

(4) Any other information determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(c) LIMITATION.—Payments made to an eligible health care provider under this section may not be used to reimburse any expense or loss that—

(1) has been reimbursed from another source; or

(2) another source is obligated to reimburse.

(d) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall apply such procedures as the Secretary determines appropriate that the eligible health care provider under this section may receive payments, and the amounts appropriated under the preceding sentence shall remain available until expended.

(2) In subparagraph (B), in clause (ii) of section 1861(q)(2)(E), after the term ‘rural area’ there is added the following: ‘or (iii) is a rural provider or supplier.’

SEC. 10003. GLOBAL RESPONSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized and appropriated $3,750,000,000 to be available to the Department of State to provide support for the prevention, treatment, and control of HIV/AIDS and to respond to coronavirus domestically or internationally, and for other operations and maintenance requirements related to the conduct of the foreign affairs of the United States.

SEC. 10004. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized and appropriated to the Secretary of the Treasury for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $14,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for disaster assistance for victims of major disasters declared by the President under section 402 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 5170(b)) in connection with a natural disaster occurring in a foreign country, if the President determines that such assistance is necessary to avert humanitarian suffering or other extraordinary and exceptional conditions that pose a serious threat to the safety and welfare of the people of the United States.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall not be available for supporting or assisting any nonreligious private voluntary organization or any foreign government or international organization that supports, sponsors, or collaborates with actions that are contrary to the principles of human rights.

SEC. 10005. MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE.

In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized and appropriated to the Secretary of the Treasury for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $380,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for foreign multilateral organizations.
TITLE XI—COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

SEC. 11001. INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.

(a) In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Indian Health Service (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $6,094,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which—

(1) $5,484,000,000 shall be for carrying out the Act of August 5, 1954 (42 U.S.C. 200 et seq.), commonly referred to as the Transfer Act, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and titles II and III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq., and 241 et seq.) with respect to the Indian Health Service, of which—

(A) $2,000,000,000 shall be to fund reimbursements to Tribes and Tribal organizations under this section in accordance with section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1621);

(B) $590,000,000 shall be for the provision of additional health care services, services provided through the Purchased/Referred Care program, and other related activities;

(C) $780,000,000 shall be for the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), and titles II and III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq., and 241 et seq.) with respect to the Indian Health Service, of which—

(D) $84,000,000 shall be for making operations of the Urban Indian health program, which shall be in addition to amounts made available under this subsection for Urban Indian organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603));

(E) $600,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses to plan, prepare for, promote, distribute, administer, and track COVID–19 vaccines, for the purposes described in subparagraphs (F) and (G), and for other related activities;

(F) $1,500,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID–19 infections, activities necessary to mitigate the spread of COVID–19, services necessary for such activities, for the purposes described in subparagraphs (E) and (G), and for other related activities;

(G) $800,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses to establish, expand, and sustain a public health workforce to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID–19, other public health workforce-related activities, for the purposes described in subparagraphs (E) and (F), and for other related activities; and

(H) $420,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses to fund health and substance use prevention and treatment services, for the purposes described in subparagraph (C) and paragraph (2) as related to mental health and substance use prevention and treatment services, and for other related activities;

(2) $600,000,000 shall be for the lease, purchase, construction, alteration, renovation, or equipping of health facilities to respond to COVID–19, and for maintenance and improvement projects necessary to respond to COVID–19 under section 7 of the Act of August 5, 1954 (42 U.S.C. 200a-4), and the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and titles II and III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) with respect to the Indian Health Service; and

(3) $10,000,000 shall be for carrying out section 7 of the Act of August 5, 1954 (42 U.S.C. 200a-4) for expenses relating to potable water delivery.

(b) Funds appropriated by subsection (a) shall be made available for the purposes specified in this section that were incurred to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID–19 pandemic period beginning on the date on which the public health emergency was declared by the Secretary on January 31, 2020, pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d), with respect to COVID–19 and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) Funds made available under subsection (a) to Tribes and Tribal organizations under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) shall be available on a one-time basis. Such non-recurring funds shall not be part of the amount required by section 106 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5325), and such funds shall only be used for the purposes identified in this section.

SEC. 11002. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

(a) In General.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $900,000,000 to remain available until expended, pursuant to the Snyder Act (25 U.S.C. 13), of which—

(1) $500,000,000 shall be for Tribal housing improvement;

(2) $772,500,000 shall be for Tribal government services, public safety and justice, social services, child welfare assistance, and for other related expenses;

(3) $5,000,000 shall be for Tribal administration costs and oversight; and

(4) $20,000,000 shall be to provide and deliver potable water.

(b) Exclusions from Calculation.—Funds appropriated under subsection (a) shall be excluded from any funds received by those Tribal governments that participate in the “Small and Needy” program.

(c) One-Time Base Funds.—Funds made available under subsection (a) shall be excluded from any funds received by those Tribal governments that participate in the “Small and Needy” program.

(d) USE.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be used to provide and deliver potable water.

(e) Exclusions from Calculation.—Funds appropriated under subsection (a) shall be excluded from any funds received by those Tribal governments that participate in the “Small and Needy” program.

(f) USE.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be used to provide and deliver potable water.

SEC. 11003. HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE AMERICANS.

(a) Appropriation.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $750,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, as authorized for training, technical assistance, and operational support activities, and for other related activities; and

(b) Exclusions from Calculation.—Funds appropriated by section 106 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) shall be available under this paragraph for public services activities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

(c) USE.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be used to provide technical assistance to Tribes and Tribal organizations to carry out the provisions of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5325), and such funds shall only be used for the purposes identified in this section.

(d) Exclusions from Calculation.—Funds appropriated under subsection (a) shall be excluded from any funds received by those Tribal governments that participate in the “Small and Needy” program.

(e) USE.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be used to provide and deliver potable water.

(f) Exclusions from Calculation.—Funds appropriated under subsection (a) shall be excluded from any funds received by those Tribal governments that participate in the “Small and Needy” program.

(g) USE.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be used to provide and deliver potable water.

(h) Exclusions from Calculation.—Funds appropriated under subsection (a) shall be excluded from any funds received by those Tribal governments that participate in the “Small and Needy” program.

(i) USE.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be used to provide and deliver potable water.

(j) Exclusions from Calculation.—Funds appropriated under subsection (a) shall be excluded from any funds received by those Tribal governments that participate in the “Small and Needy” program.

(k) USE.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be used to provide and deliver potable water.

(l) Exclusions from Calculation.—Funds appropriated under subsection (a) shall be excluded from any funds received by those Tribal governments that participate in the “Small and Needy” program.

(m) USE.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be used to provide and deliver potable water.

(n) Exclusions from Calculation.—Funds appropriated under subsection (a) shall be excluded from any funds received by those Tribal governments that participate in the “Small and Needy” program.

(o) USE.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be used to provide and deliver potable water.

(p) Exclusions from Calculation.—Funds appropriated under subsection (a) shall be excluded from any funds received by those Tribal governments that participate in the “Small and Needy” program.

(q) USE.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be used to provide and deliver potable water.

(r) Exclusions from Calculation.—Funds appropriated under subsection (a) shall be excluded from any funds received by those Tribal governments that participate in the “Small and Needy” program.

(s) USE.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be used to provide and deliver potable water.

(t) Exclusions from Calculation.—Funds appropriated under subsection (a) shall be excluded from any funds received by those Tribal governments that participate in the “Small and Needy” program.

(u) USE.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be used to provide and deliver potable water.

(v) Exclusions from Calculation.—Funds appropriated under subsection (a) shall be excluded from any funds received by those Tribal governments that participate in the “Small and Needy” program.

(w) USE.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be used to provide and deliver potable water.

(x) Exclusions from Calculation.—Funds appropriated under subsection (a) shall be excluded from any funds received by those Tribal governments that participate in the “Small and Needy” program.

(y) USE.—Amounts made available under this paragraph shall be used to provide and deliver potable water.

(z) Exclusions from Calculation.—Funds appropriated under subsection (a) shall be excluded from any funds received by those Tribal governments that participate in the “Small and Needy” program.

{...}
The text of the motion is as follows:

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members who have 5 legislative days within which to review and examine and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on the Senate amendment to H.R. 1319.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as the sponsor of this legislation, I am immensely proud that we will soon send this bill to President Biden’s desk to be signed into law. We have acted with the urgency this pandemic demands, while following every House rule and proper procedure required for a budget reconciliation package.

The American Rescue Plan is aggressive—no doubt about it. But researchers and health professionals have told us this is what is needed to scale up testing and tracing; to address PPE shortages, step up a suitable vaccine distribution. They have told us these investments are needed if we want to save lives and defeat this pandemic once and for all.

Economists have also made clear what is needed to generate a strong, inclusive economic recovery. And again, we listened. This bill provides direct financial relief to more than 80 percent of American families. It helps feed hungry Americans and provides financial relief and health coverage during the greatest health crisis of our lifetimes. It prevents more than 10 million workers from losing lifeline unemployment benefits—while also making the first $10,200 of these payments tax free. It helps families facing eviction stay in their homes. And it expands the earned income tax credit, putting more money in the pockets of hardworking Americans.

The American Rescue Plan will provide the resources needed to open schools safely and make up for lost time in the classroom. It will cut the child poverty rate in half—in half. Just think about what that will mean for those children and their futures—and the future of our country.

The legislation has been called one of the most consequential pieces of legislation in modern history. Well, I guess that depends—if you are measuring in terms of relief for nearly every American family and individual; if your yardstick is lifting millions of children out of poverty and giving parents the help they desperately need; if your metrics are a strong and inclusive economic future born in the short term and long term, then it is easy to agree.

And the American people do. They get what we are doing. They know all too well the challenges facing our Nation, and that is why the vast majority of them—Democrats, Republicans, and independents—support the American Rescue Plan.

Look, this is it. Congress’ work on the bill is almost done. In just a short time, we will pass this legislation. We will send it to President Biden’s desk, and he will sign it into law. We promised relief. The President promised relief and now help is on the way.

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

Mr. Speaker, rewards the political class, not the working class; that should be the name of this bailout plan.

When our Democrat colleagues got together to describe how to proceed on additional COVID–19 spending, they could have done a number of things. They should have followed the bipartisan precedent set over the past year and worked across the aisle. Instead, they chose a purely partisan process to jam through a radical agenda, putting the political class ahead of America’s working class.

They could have looked at the data coming out of the Congressional Budget Office. Had they done so, they would have seen that, absent any new funding, the economy is projected to reach prepandemic levels of real GDP growth by the middle of this year. Further, they would have seen that without this bailout, America is already projected to see its largest GDP growth in 15 years. Instead, they ignored the data, just like they have ignored the science. And they now hope that their bailout plan gets credit for an economic recovery that CBO tells us is already under way.

They could have accounted for the approximately $1 trillion in COVID–19 money Congress already appropriated in a bipartisan approach but which has not been spent yet. Instead, they ignored calls to provide an accurate and thorough accounting of unspent funds. Now, they are charging American taxpayers another $2 trillion.

They could have focused on timely and targeted relief to support those
that are most in need, to reopen schools in our communities and storefronts on Main Street, and to crush the virus and put shots in Americans’ arms. Instead, less than 9 percent of this bailout goes to crushing the virus and distributing vaccines. Only 5 percent of the K-12 education funding will be spent this year, even as Americans are told this money is needed to reopen their children’s schools.

Of course, Democrat leaders are more than happy to spend hundreds of billions to bail out States, sending a disproportionate share of that money to those States run by their political buddies that will reward and incentivize further lockdowns.

Just look at how they changed the State funding formula. California, where revenues are, in fact, up, and they are sitting on a surplus of $10-plus billion, will now get billions more than they otherwise would have, a direct reward to the Speaker and Vice President’s home State.

It was all so predictable, really. From the very beginning of this process, Republicans have been saying that this legislation is about COVID relief but, rather, about Democrats trying to notch some wins for their political ambitions ahead of the needs of the American people. When our Democrat colleagues speak of unity, they mean keeping their party together, not pulling this country togetherness together. They will abandon their constituents? Is that how easily Donald Trump’s name won’t be on the bill, for an average family, 10 years.

The time for action is now, and if Republicans, Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nevada. I will remind him that with this bill, if it is signed into law, his 500,000 seniors will face a $3 billion cut to Medicare. So his vote today will cost a $3 billion cut to the seniors of Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SCOTT). Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, over the past year, Congress passed five bipartisan and targeted relief bills, totaling $3.7 trillion, to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. These packages succeeded in supporting our economy through the worst of this crisis.

Now, Democrat leadership wants to spend another $2 trillion on an ex cessive plan that directs just 1 percent toward vaccines, 1 percent, and provides far beyond what is needed to fuel our continued recovery.

States will receive $350 billion on top of the $500 billion already allocated. Revenue is actually up in these States. Supplementing unemployment compensation while small business is hurting for employees is the wrong move to be made at this time.

Mr. Speaker, in this bill, felons, including currently incarcerated murderers, were not exempt from receiving these stimulus checks that are intended for taxpayers.

Federal workers, Mr. Speaker, will receive up to $35 an hour, in addition to their full salary, to care for a child learning from home.

Why do Federal workers deserve such privilege? Mr. Speaker, when we should be focused on economic recovery, getting our children back to school, and vaccine distribution? That is what is in the interests of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. HORSEFORD), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee. Mr. HORSEFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the American Rescue Plan.

Last year, as the COVID-19 pandemic first spread, I worked across the aisle to pass the CARES Act. Passing that bill required compromise, and the final legislation omitted key provisions that I wanted us to deliver on. But the American people got the relief they needed, and that was what was the most important thing.

One year later, with Democrats in the White House, Republicans won’t help us in this pandemic. Why? Because Donald Trump’s name won’t be on the stimulus checks? Is that how easily they will abandon their constituents?

The American Rescue Plan will deliver $1,400 stimulus checks, cut child poverty in half, and provide critical support to help our communities recover and reopen.

The time for action is now, and if Republicans won’t help us crush the coronavirus, we will do it without them.

For the sake of my constituents and all Americans, I am voting “yes” on the American Rescue Plan.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Nevada. I will remind him that with this bill, if it is signed into law, his 500,000 seniors will face a $3 billion cut to Medicare. So his vote today will cost a $3 billion cut to the seniors of Nevada.

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Why do Federal workers deserve such privilege? Mr. Speaker, when we should be focused on economic recovery, getting our children back to school, and vaccine distribution? That is what is in the interests of the American people.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. HORSEFORD), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee. Mr. HORSEFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the American Rescue Plan.

Last year, as the COVID-19 pandemic first spread, I worked across the aisle to pass the CARES Act. Passing that bill required compromise, and the final legislation omitted key provisions that I wanted us to deliver on. But the American people got the relief they needed, and that was what was the most important thing.

One year later, with Democrats in the White House, Republicans won’t help us in this pandemic. Why? Because Donald Trump’s name won’t be on the stimulus checks? Is that how easily they will abandon their constituents?

The American Rescue Plan will deliver $1,400 stimulus checks, cut child poverty in half, and provide critical support to help our communities recover and reopen.

The time for action is now, and if Republicans won’t help us crush the coronavirus, we will do it without them.

For the sake of my constituents and all Americans, I am voting “yes” on the American Rescue Plan.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Nevada. I will remind him that with this bill, if it is signed into law, his 500,000 seniors will face a $3 billion cut to Medicare. So his vote today will cost a $3 billion cut to the seniors of Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SCOTT). Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, over the past year, Congress passed five bipartisan and targeted relief bills, totaling $3.7 trillion, to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. These packages succeeded in supporting our economy through the worst of this crisis.

Now, Democrat leadership wants to spend another $2 trillion on an excessive plan that directs just 1 percent toward vaccines, 1 percent, and provides far beyond what is needed to fuel our continued recovery.

States will receive $350 billion on top of the $500 billion already allocated. Revenue is actually up in these States. Supplementing unemployment compensation while small business is hurting for employees is the wrong move to be made at this time.

Mr. Speaker, in this bill, felons, including currently incarcerated murderers, were not exempt from receiving these stimulus checks that are intended for taxpayers.

Federal workers, Mr. Speaker, will receive up to $35 an hour, in addition to their full salary, to care for a child learning from home.

Why do Federal workers deserve such privilege? Mr. Speaker, when we should be focused on economic recovery, getting our children back to school, and vaccine distribution? That is what is in the interests of the American people.

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For the sake of my constituents and all Americans, I am voting “yes” on the American Rescue Plan.
of the most effective laws to fight pov-
erty in a generation," and would "cut the child poverty rate in half."

The Associated Press declares: "Sev-
eral million people stand to save hun-
dreds of dollars in health insurance
costs" in "the biggest expansion of Federal help for health insurance" since the Affordable Care Act.

I call upon my Republican colleagues
to stop their March madness and show
some compassion for their constituents who are less than wealthy.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,
I appreciate the gentleman from South
Carolina, and I will remind him that if
this bill becomes law, the 1 million
seniors in his State will face a $7 bil-
ion cut over the next 10 years to Medi-
care.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the
gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speak-
er, I rise today to oppose this bill and
to urge my colleagues to do the same.
After passing more than $3 trillion worth
of relief packages, we find our-
selves finally overcoming the COVID–19
virus. We have successfully developed
covid vaccines to combat this virus in record
time, and now we see our economy
opening up and coming back to full
strength.

What is more, we have yet to spend
$1 trillion that has already been en-
acted, that has already been appro-
priated, already been voted on.

What would we have to pass another $1.9
trillion? You will find the reasons in the
more than 90 percent of the bill
that does not specifically target com-
bating COVID–19.

What will you find is a partisan list
of priorities and bailouts, 27 percent of
it going to bailing out State and local
governments that insisted on contin-
ued harmful lockdowns and did little to
stop the virus, 21 percent dedicated to
partisan policies that will reduce em-
ployment, and 45 percent of the bill
won’t even be spent until 2022 or later.

Perhaps that is why only two Repub-
lican amendments of 229 were accepted.
The only thing bipartisan about this
bill has been the opposition to it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the
gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker,
I appreciate the gentleman from South
Carolina, and I will remind him that if
this bill becomes law, the 1 million
seniors in his State will face a $7 bil-
ion cut over the next 10 years to Medi-
care.

The only thing bipartisan about this
bill has been the opposition to it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the
gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN),
a distinguished member of the Vet-
erans’ Affairs Committee.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speak-
er, as the proud vice chair of the House
Committee, I particularly want to call out the critical
relief that the American Rescue Plan
provides for those who have served our
country.

The bill includes important funding
for the Veterans Health Administra-
tion, prohibits copayments for medical
care for veterans during the pandemic,
strengthens VA’s supply chain modern-
zation, and helps State Veterans
Homes upgrade and enhance their safe-
ty operations.

It provides critical funding to in-
crease VA’s claims and appeals process
to reduce the backlog caused by
COVID–19, and it funds enhanced over-
sight through VA’s Office of Inspector
General.

As chair of the Economic Oppor-
tunity Subcommittee, I am particu-
larly proud that it provides $336 mil-
lion for a rapid retraining program to
help unemployed veterans get back to
work.

Thanks to the leadership of Com-
mittee Chairman MARK TAKANO and
our colleagues, this bill provides the
relief that veterans need and deserve.

To our Nation’s veterans, help is on
the way.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker,
I appreciate the gentleman from Cali-
ifornia, and I will remind him that his
State has 27 percent of the homeless
population in the United States. But
under this bill, the CBO projects that
precisely zero dollars of the $5 billion
will be spent this year. Wrong plan at
the wrong time for so many wrong rea-
sons.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the
gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker,
this bill is what Democrat control
looks like.

At $1.9 trillion, this bill spends an
average of $6,000 per American citizen.

What would you say to somebody
claiming to be a friend, who forced you
to take out a loan for $6,000 because he
might give you $1,400 from a portion of
those loan proceeds? Would you con-
sider that a good deal?

What if the same friend had already
forced you to take out loans totaling
$85,000 and you had little to nothing to
show for it?

That is the average citizen’s share of
the national debt.

This bill takes aggregate so-called
COVID relief spending to $6 trillion to
alleviate an estimated $300 billion in
lost wages. This is 20 times the spend-
ing compared to the lost wages.

What is next?

This is not even the beginning of the
end of the Democrats’ insatiable desire
to spend their citizens into financial
ruin.

Only 9 percent of the $1.9 trillion is
even related to COVID relief, while 91
percent is for pet Democrat projects.

We still have $1 trillion unspent from
the previous $4 trillion, and despite the
efforts of the Republicans on the Budg-
et Committee begging the President
for answers, we can’t even get an ac-
counting for that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the
gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA).

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise
in opposition to this reckless spending
bill.

On Monday, the Congressional Budg-
et Office announced the Federal deficit
has already exceeded $1 trillion in the
first 5 months of fiscal year 2021.

Spending this year is already up 25
percent, and this massive spending bill
adds another $1.9 trillion to our deficit.

We are currently enjoying low inter-
est rates, but out-of-control spending
The American Rescue Plan Act will provide $1400 and extended unemployment benefits to households across America with checks of $1400 per person, following the $600 down payment enacted in December. The bill will also provide direct housing assistance and nutrition assistance for 40 million Americans, expand access to safe and reliable child care and affordable health care, extend unemployment insurance so that 18 million American workers can pay their bills and support 27 million children with an expanded Child Tax Credit, and more than 17 million low-wage childless workers through an improved Earned Income Tax Credit. The bill supports communities struggling with the economic fallout by providing, like the House bill, crucial support for the hardest-hit small businesses owned by entrepreneurs from racial and ethnic backgrounds that have experienced systemic discrimination, with economic injury disaster loans (EIDL) grants, expanded PPP eligibility and more. This legislation provides crucial resources to protect the jobs of first responders, frontline public health workers, and other essential workers. Finally, and very important, the American Rescue Plan Act establishes the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and provides $45.570 billion in direct funding to major metropolitan cities and local governments. With our vote today in support of the American Rescue Plan, congressional Democrats and President Biden are making good on our commitment to the American people, that help is on the way to crush the virus, open our schools safely, and build back better. Mr. Speaker, by an overwhelming margin (72 percent), the public wants and is demanding that we act to provide more economic relief to address the damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents believe an additional relief package is necessary, while more than nine in ten (92 percent) Democrats and Democratic leaders say more coronavirus aid will be needed. Even the most conservative Republicans favor more relief by a 56 percent–44 percent margin. Nearly nine-in-ten of all adults (88 percent) in lower-income households say an additional package is necessary, while 81 percent of Republicans in lower-income households (81 percent) say additional aid is needed. The American Rescue Plan Act will provide more economic relief to the American people. It will put food in people’s pockets with direct payments, Unemployment Insurance, Child Tax Credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and includes emergency spending and expanded Affordable Care Act coverage. The American Rescue Plan Act will provide $17 billion in critical funding to help the VA meet the health and economic security of veterans, especially as relates to the benefits claims and appeals backlog caused by COVID–19. The American Rescue Plan Act will produce and distribute the vaccine and test, treat and protect all Americans, including communities of color. The American Rescue Plan Act will provide desperately needed funding for our heroes—health care workers, first responders, sanitation, transportation and food workers, and teachers—in states, localities, tribes, and territories. Let me speak briefly about another crucially important feature of the legislation we will pass today. The American Rescue Plan Act establishes the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and provides $45.570 billion in direct funding to major metropolitan cities and local governments. In my home state of Texas, metropolitan cities are estimated to receive $10.327 billion in direct coronavirus relief funding, while the state of Texas is slated to receive $16.624 billion, for an estimated $27.152 billion total to the state of Texas. During the Budget Committee markup, I proposed, and the Committee agreed that any effort to strip or reduce this vital funding is to be rejected so major metropolitan cities, like Houston, receive the direct COVID–19 relief funding desperately needed to battle the coronavirus, restore critical services to struggling families, and help save the jobs of essential public servants like teachers, firefighters, and other first responders. Let me discuss briefly why direct funding to major metropolitan cities and counties is so critical. The purpose of providing for direct payment to major metropolitan cities like Houston and counties like Harris County, as opposed to the County having to receive an allocation from the State, is so that the local governments, who are in the best position to identify and respond, will be able to tailor the funding to meet the urgent needs of their communities. For example, under the direct payment provisions in the CARES Act, Harris County received more federal funding relative to the amount that would have been received through the State program and had the flexibility needed for more efficient use of this funding, which was a concern voiced even by State leaders over the restrictive way that the State of Texas distributed CARES Act funding. By directly allocating funding to metropolitan cities and areas like Houston and Harris County, local authorities can work with the communities to determine the specific needs of Harris County residents. As a result, Harris County Commissioners Court approved, for the following...
programs to directly address community needs, and to get money into the hands of residents quickly:
1. Commissioners Court funded Community Programs
2. Census Services
3. Childcare Assistance Program
4. Court Evictions Services
5. COVID 19 Workforce Development Program
6. Direct Assistance Programs
7. Domestic Violence Assistance Fund
8. Rental Assistance Programs
9. Small Business Loan Program (LEAP)
10. Small Business Relief Fund
11. Small Cities Support
12. Student Digital Services
13. UT Health Community Spread Survey Program

Without direct payments to major metropolitan cities, state governments—as we saw here in Texas—would not have permitted CARES Act funding to be used to create or support any of these programs.

In addition, without direct payments to major metropolitan cities and government units, states invariably will succumb to the temptation to place onerous conditions on funding over and above those required by the Federal government.

For example, in Texas, only $55 per capita was allocated to nondirect allocation entities, instead of the $174.49 per capita that was allocated to them by Congress.

Additionally, only 20% of the allocation was made available immediately to local entities instead of making 100 percent of the allocation available immediately.

Third, direct funding is necessary to prevent state governments from creating specific categories limiting eligibility for medical expenses, public health expenses, payroll expenses for employees in the fields of public safety, public health, health care, human services, or whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID–19 public health emergency.

Without direct payments to major metropolitan cities, state governments, again as we have done in Texas, will limit recovery for expenditures to support actions to facilitate compliance with COVID–19 related public health measures or associated with the provision of economic support in connection with the COVID–19, or other COVID–19 related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government that satisfy the fund’s eligibility criteria.

I would urge my Republican colleagues to heed the words of Republican Governor Jim Justice of West Virginia who said colorfully just a few days ago, “At this point in time in this nation, we need to go big. We need to quit counting the egg-sucking legs on the cows and count the cows and just move. And move forward and move right now.”

The same sentiment was expressed more eloquently by Abraham Lincoln in 1862 when he memorably wrote:

“The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.”

Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan action we took last December was a step in the right direction but only a long-delayed down payment; we cannot afford any more delays, especially since Republican stalling already caused a painful lapse in critical unemployment assistance last year, and additional unemployment assistance is set to expire on March 14, 2023.

That is why the American Rescue Plan Act is absolutely crucial and the right thing to do and to do right now.

The American Rescue Plan Act proposed by President Biden takes a multiprong approach to tackling COVID–19 health and economic crises stemming from the COVID–19 pandemic.

No one is better prepared or more experienced to lead the American rescue than President Biden, who as Vice-President oversaw the implementation of the Inauguration point of tangency Act, which saved millions of jobs and rescued our economy from the Great Recession the Obama Administration and the nation inherited from a previous Republican administration.

And let us not forget that President Obama also placed his confidence in his vice-president to oversee the rescue of the automotive industry, which he did so well that the American car industry fully recovered its status as the world leader.

Mr. Speaker, to crush the virus and safely reopen schools, the American Rescue Plan Act will mount a national vaccination program that includes setting up community vaccination sites nationwide and make the investments necessary to schools.

It will also take complementary measures to combat the virus, including scaling up testing and tracing, addressing shortages of personal protective equipment and other critical supplies, investing in high-quality treatments, and addressing health care disparities.

The American Rescue Plan Act delivers immediate relief to working families bearing the brunt of the crisis by providing $1,400 per person in direct cash assistance to households across America, bringing the total (including the $600 down payment enacted in December) to $2,000.

Additionally, the plan will also provide direct housing and nutrition assistance to families struggling to get by, expand access to safe and affordable child care, extend and expand unemployment insurance so American workers can pay their bills, and give families with children as well as childless workers a boost through enhanced tax credits.

Mr. Speaker, the American Rescue Plan Act provides much needed support for communities struggling with the economic fallout, including hard-hit small businesses, especially those owned by entrepreneurs from racial and ethnic backgrounds that have experienced systemic discrimination.

Finally, the plan also provides crucial resources to protect the jobs of first responders, frontline public health workers, teachers, transit workers, and other essential workers that all Americans depend on.

Mr. Speaker, the COVID–19 pandemic, as did the videos of the unjustified killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmed Arbery, and so many others, laid bare for the nation to see the stark racial and ethnic inequalities exacerbated by the virus.

In my home state of Texas, as of the end of September 2020, there have been more than 78,000 cases of COVID–19 and 16,000 deaths.

According to the Texas Department of State Health Care Services, 70 percent of the confirmed fatalities were people of color.

In Texas, COVID–19 mortality rates are 30 percent higher for African Americans and 80 percent higher for Hispanics overall.

The differences become much larger when accounting for age; for example, in the 25 to 44-year-old age group, African American mortality rates are more than four times higher than White rates, and the Hispanic rates are more than seven times higher.

One factor in Hispanic and African American populations being more likely to contract COVID–19 is employment in occupations associated with public contact and that cannot be done remotely.

The sad fact is that most workers in these occupations are less able to be absent from their job or to have paid time off.

In Texas, people of color make up more than 40 percent of cashiers, retail salespersons, child care workers, licensed practical nurses, more than 50 percent of bus drivers and transit workers, medical and nursing assistants, personal care aides, and home health aides, and more than 60 percent of building cleaners and housekeepers.

In addition, Hispanic and African American populations in Texas are less likely to have health insurance and to have a regular health care provider, so less likely to seek or receive early care for symptoms, especially in the first months of the epidemic.

And African American and Hispanic populations are also more likely to have an underlying health condition that makes them more vulnerable to the effects of COVID–19.

To respond and mitigate the devastation wrought by COVID–19 on Americans, and especially marginal and vulnerable communities of color, I have introduced H.R. 330, the “Delivering COVID–19 Vaccines to All Regions and Vulnerable Communities Act” or “COVID–19 Delivery Act,” which I invite all Members to join as sponsors.

Under the COVID–19 Delivery Act, FEMA will be authorized and directed to lead the effort for vaccine delivery from the receipt of manufacturing facilities to delivery to designated inoculation sites (hospital, clinic, doctors’ offices, school, places of worship, community centers, parks, or neighborhood gathering locations).

The legislation directs FEMA to develop and deploy a fully staffed and resourced 24–7 advanced real-time tracking system that allows FEMA to monitor shipments of vaccine units that can provide end-to-end transparency on the temperature, real-time location, origin, and destination data, anticipated time of arrival, and report on changes and update recipients on the progress of their delivery and report on changes that may impact expected delivery or the viability of the vaccine while in transit.

The legislation also places an additional priority on vaccination locations to ensure the life and safety of personnel and patients who seek to provide or receive vaccinations are free of interference or threat.
Finally, the COVID–19 Delivery Act directs FEMA to conduct public education and patient engagement through the provision of inoculations of persons in areas and locations where vulnerable populations are under performing in getting vaccinations.

Mr. Speaker, I see the disparities in the lives of so many of my constituents who suffer disproportionately from medical conditions that make COVID–19 deadly.

They work low wage or no wage jobs to make ends meet, and they have no health insurance and rely on community health centers or public health services for routine care.

I call them friends and neighbors because they are that to me.

No one is benefiting from the COVID–19 economy.

The U.S. poverty rate has grown at a historic rate over the past five months, with 7.8 million Americans falling into poverty after the expanded $600 a week in unemployment assistance expired at the end of July.

This represents the greatest increase since the government began tracking poverty sixty years ago.

In the city of Houston, nine key service sectors, accounting for 70 percent of all jobs, hemorrhaged more than 1.34 million jobs, which to average folks is another way of saying that more than 1.34 million persons lost their livelihoods.

Houston workers lost jobs in the following areas:

- Healthcare: 391,000
- Retail: 303,600
- Food services: 267,000
- Finance: 166,000
- Private Education: 63,400
- Arts and Entertainment: 37,400
- Accommodations: 28,700
- Air Transportation: 20,200
- Other Services: 115,800

In addition to these positions, jobs were also lost in other areas, the largest of which was the construction industry, which shut down 30,700 jobs.

Professional and business services followed, with 25,300 jobs lost, although 13,900 were temporary and only 11,400 in employment services; upstream oil lost 12,300 in March/April; and non-oil manufacturing lost 7,700 jobs.

Americans out of work due to COVID–19 have generated 86 million jobless claims, with new claims being filed in recent weeks topping 30,700 jobs.

According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's analysis of persons who were employed prior to the pandemic, 1.3 million of these households are now, on average of $5,400 in debt on rent and utilities, after the family breadwinners lost their jobs.

The new COVID–19 relief legislation passed last week by Congress and reluctantly but finally signed by the President provides unemployment assistance but cuts that assistance from $600 a week to $300 a week without consideration of the facts on the ground, which are that millions of Americans remain out of work due to COVID–19 public health policy, and have been without sufficient income since August 1st, 2020.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that as of February 23, 2021, 28.3 million cases of COVID–19, resulting in more than 503,000 deaths, had been reported in the United States.

What the costs will be to our nation from this destruction of lives and livelihoods have yet to be fully calculated.

It is a tragedy that too many households who have lost a member to COVID–19 are struggling to accept these deaths, but it is the friends, co-workers, business owners, professionals, students, teachers, wives, husbands, brothers, sisters, aunts, cousins, and grandparents who also are feeling these losses because someone that mattered to them is no longer here.

Each of these lives impacted dozens of other lives, too many of whom were not allowed to be present with them during their final moments on this earth, but whose suffering is too often overlooked because we unduly preoccupy ourselves with only the immediate family.

I strongly support the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage and to send the message to the American people that their voices have been heard, their request for assistance answered, and that help is on the way.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleague from Wisconsin will not leave at this time, as he has talked about Black Lives Matter.

How dare you—how dare you say that Black Lives Matter. Black people, do not understand old-fashioned families. Despite some of the issues, some of the things that you have put forward that I have heard out of your mouth in the Committee on Oversight and Reform, in your own district, we have been able to keep our families together for over 400 years in the assault on our families to not have Black lives or not even have Black families. How dare you say that we are not interested in families in the Black community. That is outrageous. That should be stricken down.

Mr. Speaker, I was going to talk about the American Rescue Plan. We know that this is going to provide relief to not only Black lives, Black Americans, but all Americans, that we are interested in children and in their welfare.

Forty-nine days ago President Biden took office and promised the American people that help is on the way. Today we take our final step forward on delivering on that promise.

Millions of Americans will be supportive who have been economically crippled by a year-long pandemic. Most of this money goes directly to the American people. And, we have one of the most generous expansions of tax relief to working people in modern history in the American Rescue Plan. We are going to be getting checks out of this.

Finally, I have had two municipalities in my district, from which I have been contacted, in which the amount of money they are getting is over 10 times what they feel would make them whole.

I think we are being very reckless about the degree to which we are spending money here.
Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Smucker).

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker said Republicans want to do nothing, which is false, untrue. Members in this body came together during an unprecedented crisis and passed five bills to provide much-needed relief and pave the way to defeat the virus. I believe that all of us continue to support targeted help for those who need it.

But that is not what this bill is. This bill may have made sense a year ago, but why would we print and borrow $2 trillion when we are so close to crushing this virus and returning to a way of life that all Americans sacrificed?

Why give $130 billion to schools and not require them to open when the CDC says it is safe and at a time when so many kids are desperate for personal social interaction?

Why send $1,400 checks to individuals when the majority of those receiving the checks never lost any income?

People want to get back to work. So why make it harder, as we are doing in this bill by giving them a bonus to stay home?

The answer is this bill is not just about COVID relief. It is about enacting the largest progressive policy wish list of all time.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better than this, and the American people deserve better.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I remind the gentleman that the push to give $2,000 to every citizen under a certain income level was former President Donald Trump who said to me, shortchanged on that, I guess the Republicans have had a change of heart now that it is a different President.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. Jeffries), the distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic is a once-in-a-century crisis. It requires a once-in-a-century comprehensive, compassionate, and continuing congressional response.

That is what the American Rescue Plan is all about.

More than 500,000 Americans have died. Hundreds of thousands of businesses have closed. Almost 30 million Americans have been infected by the coronavirus. Tenions of millions of Americans are dealing with unemployment, food insecurity, or are on the brink of homelessness.

So much pain, suffering, and death, and our Republican colleagues want us to do nothing? What is wrong with them?

We are going to act with the fierce urgency of now. We will crush the virus. We will provide direct relief to everyday Americans who are struggling. We will revive the economy. We will send the American Rescue Plan to President Biden’s desk. We will build back better for the people. Help is on the way.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from New York, and I will remind him that, with passage of this bill, his State’s 3 million seniors could see a cut to Medicare of $27 billion over the next 10 years.

I would also like to remind Mr. Jeffries that the CBO says that, without any additional stimulus, our economy later on in this year will be the highest GDP growth that we have seen in 15 years. So that help of extra government spending is not necessary to achieve the highest GDP growth that we have ever seen.

We began our work, hundreds upon hundreds of community leaders reached out to us asking for help. They told us the relief in this bill would mean recovery instead of recession.

Democrats answered that call. And, today, we are delivering $352 billion in dedicated aid to cities and localities across this Nation, and they need it.

1.4 million essential workers have already been laid off due to State and local budget shortfalls that threaten the very fabric of our society.

This relief means that our first responders, our teachers, transit workers, sanitation workers, other public servants, everybody who is working continue serving our children, helping our neighbors, and protecting our communities as we see the fight against the pandemic through to the end.

This bill will provide local governments dedicated support for the first time since the pandemic struck. It can be used for vaccines, increased testing, and countless jobs. Cities and States across this Nation have lost billions in expected tax revenue. This bill helps.

The Oversight Committee also delivered a provision providing emergency paid leave for Federal employees to prevent the spread of the virus, as well as critical oversight prevention to ensure transparency of this full $1.9 trillion package.

The American Rescue Plan will rebuild our pandemic-torn Nation from the ground up and stronger than ever. Every day someone votes for this bill.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from New York, and I would like to remind her that, in her home State, she has 16 billion dollars—spends the country’s believes $5 billion is that in this bill will go to help the homeless population this coming year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. McCarthy), the leader of the working class party.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I want to thank Congressman Jepsen for his work as the ranking Republican on the Budget Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Democrats in the House are excited because all their work has even transpired all the work in these ways. In fact, the Socialist Democratic wing of the party has taken over there as well.

From H.R. 1 to voting to defund the police, House Democrats have abandoned any pretense of unity. They pass bills that are the farthest away from what the American people need.

Today, they plan to pass another. Like the others, it represents a missed opportunity for Congress to focus on the real needs of the American people. At $1.9 trillion in new spending, the so-called American Rescue Plan is the most expensive single bill in American history.

Let’s put that number in context, Mr. Speaker. If you put it in today’s numbers, World War II cost our government $48.8 trillion. But if we pass this bill, our country’s total relief, COVID relief, spending will now total $5.5 trillion. This so-called relief bill will end up costing every hardworking taxpayer in America $4,500 each. You send the government your tax dollars, but you only get a fraction of what you pay for, at the very best.

You know, we warn people on the internet about email scams. It is like we always say, “If it sounds too good to be true, it is always what is happening here today.”

This is the reality of the bill before us. It showers money on special interests, but an individual will spend less than 9 percent on actually defeating the virus. It does not have San Francisco $600 million, essentially wiping out 92 percent of their budget deficit.

I think about that: 9 percent on the virus, but, Mr. Speaker, San Francisco, the home to our Speaker, gets to wipe out 92 percent of their budget deficit.

Where does that money come from?
Well, every American is now going to pay more than $5,000 so we can send it to San Francisco and give them 92 percent of their budget deficit. Interesting how socialism works.

In both the House and the Senate, the only bipartisan vote was against this. And after five relief bills, it is on track to be the first passed by strictly party lines.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard people across the country say this bill is costly, corrupt, and liberal. Now even the Biden White House agrees: It is very liberal. They called this the most progressive piece of legislation in history.

For those who are watching, progressive means socialism, the same party that runs here, and now the Democratic Party of Nevada is the socialist Democratic Party.

So let’s be clear. This isn’t a rescue bill. It isn’t a relief bill. It is a laundry list of left-wing priorities that predate the pandemic and do not meet the needs of American families. No wonder even House Democrats have said they are embarrassed by what is in it, and just this week, one of their own Members said, “There is no question there is some waste in there.” But they will still vote for it anyway.

In fact, if you are a member of the swamp, you do pretty well under this bill. But for the American people, it means serious problems immediately on the horizon.

Consider this: Mr. Speaker, it will only be Democrats who vote for this bill that will cause $66 billion in cuts to Medicare starting this year. What they choose to do is cut Medicare to those who need it and send $600 million to San Francisco to pay for 92 percent of their budget deficit.

Or consider K-12 education. Democrats say they need $130 billion to re-open schools, but their bill only allocates $6 billion to help schools this fiscal year. Two-thirds of the total funding for education won’t even be spent until 2023 at least.

But don’t worry, San Francisco will get their money now. The schools need to wait. You have priorities.

Do Democrats expect schools to re-open 2 years from now? I guess that is what they are saying with this bill. They have no plan to get children back in the classroom full time.

This week marks the 1-year anniversary of school districts across the country switching to school behind a screen. We still don’t know the full effects of this decision, but we do know keeping classrooms closed has created an education and mental health problem for students and parents. It has been a lost year for our children’s education. And even more devastating, one in four young adults has struggled with suicidal thoughts.

Experience and scientific evidence say reopen schools now. It is necessary and it is safe.

Mr. Speaker, the last time this bill was on the floor, we offered an amendment to take that money for that subway just outside of San Francisco and put that money for the children’s mental health and others. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, all the Democrats said was, no; that subway by San Francisco was more important.

But, fortunately, we were able to remove that from the bill in the Senate. But luckily, here, all the Democrats were able to think the priority is not the subway by San Francisco but because Democrats are following the demands of special interests, not science, they are telling children to wait with no end in sight.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to applaud the Democrats on the other side because they put their money where their mouth is. They are telling the American public: First give me $5,000. I know you have to work harder, but what I am going to do—because this is how socialism works, the Democrats are now going to decide who should get that money. And you know what? At least they give it to the people they respect the most.

So let’s go through this. Compared to the subsidies for the subway, Democrats want to give Federal employees, who have not been laid off, an extra $21,000, in help cope with virtual schooling. But if you are in the private sector or if you have been laid off, you don’t get any of that. But what they want to do is take the money from you, give it to any Federal employee, who gets a bonus of $21,000, even though they have never been laid off.

So if you are in Washington, in the swamp, you are part of the team. If you are a hardworking taxpayer, sorry, you just send a bill. But if you are in San Francisco, we are going to help pay for your deficit.

What does it say to the millions of mothers and fathers who had to quit their job to take care of their kids at home or in school? Or consider Title X. This bill will allow organizations like Planned Parenthood to access $50 million for that really important COVID subway just outside of San Francisco. Now, before that bill was able to get to the floor and the public found out about it—I guess it got good press because they added more money to it—it got to $140 million.

Now, when it came to the floor here, there was a group of people—well, Mr. Speaker, let’s just say who it was, it was the Republicans, they thought a better priority was to spend that $140 million for children with mental health issues because we have watched study after study of children being left out of school; suicide, obesity.

What about those children who have parents who don’t work for the Federal Government? They don’t get a bonus. And some of those parents had to quit their job to care for their children. So Republicans thought—I know it is a small amount compared to $1.9 trillion—we thought, wouldn’t that be a better use of the money? So we offered

Now, where do they get that number? Well, if they read the headlines, it would confirm States are not in financial distress. Nearly half saw an increase in revenue last year. And some, even including my home State of California, they have a budget surplus.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I understand in Washington they may not understand what the word ‘surplus’ means; that means you have more money, that you actually saved money. What California is going to get is a windfall.

Remember, San Francisco is in California. Mr. Speaker, that just happens to be the Speaker’s district as well. They have a $650 million deficit.

Now, some of the challenges that San Francisco has—you see, if you are in San Francisco and you are homeless, they will pay for your alcohol and they will pay for your cannabis. So it costs more money. So that is why you have a deficit.

But it is okay because we don’t need to send the schools money today, we can send that years from now, but we need to get San Francisco 92 percent of their deficit taken care of.

Now, we have a pandemic going on, and we are going to spend $1.9 trillion, but only 9 percent of that needs to go to COVID because San Francisco needs a lot of money.

So what they have done now is they reward bad behavior. That is one of the few places that is facing a shortfall. They are actually punishing States that did it right. American taxpayers didn’t vote for this, but thanks to the blue State payout, they are. The bill rewards bad behavior.

Now, President Biden, he hasn’t had a press conference, but he did say one time, and someone picked it up, “Show me what to cut.”

Well, the Senate actually cut tens of billions of dollars in spending from the Biden bill that the House passed.

Now, I feel bad, Mr. Speaker, because Speaker Pelosi at first had, like, $112 billion for that really important COVID subway just outside of San Francisco. Now, before that bill was able to get to the floor and the public found out about it—I guess it got good press because they added more money to it—it got to $140 million.

Now, when it came to the floor here, there was a group of people—well, Mr. Speaker, let’s just say who it was, it was the Republicans, they thought a better priority was to spend that $140 million for children with mental health issues because we have watched study after study of children being left out of school; suicide, obesity.
that on this floor, Mr. Speaker. But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the Democrats said “no” to that, that this subway was more important than the children.

Well, luckily on the Senate side, they took the view that the American public thought for government maybe the price could get a little lower and that Americans wouldn’t have to pay $5,000 a person. Maybe they saved a little money. No, no, no, no, no.

You see, Mr. Speaker, the Democrats are in charge of the Senate, too, so they now decided since they couldn’t build a subway, they would just plus that money up.

So where did they spend it? Well, Mr. Speaker, you have got to give them credit. They took the same advice that the Democrats in the House had. You see, they added an extra $25,000 bonus for State employees. Let’s just not reward the employees of the Federal Government. It is just not good enough in a time like that. Let’s reward the State employees who haven’t been laid off. They get a $25,000 bonus.

Isn’t that amazing? I wonder where the money comes from?

Oh, Mr. Speaker, it comes from the American people, the hardworking taxpayers. You see, they all need to send the government $5,000 so you can decide where to spend it. And if you are part of the swamp, that is a pretty good reward, $25,000.

And then they added $15 billion for taxpayer-funded healthcare subsidies that illegal immigrants are eligible for.

Now, you know this, Mr. Speaker, based upon your district and others, you know what is happening down at the border. President Biden has created a new border crisis. There are more people able to come in, not being tested for COVID, but lie and behold, they are now going to get subsidized healthcare. Luckily, we can spend more money on that, Mr. Speaker. There is probably much more coming now with the Biden border crisis.

But will this help the people get back to work? No.

Will this help students get back in the classroom? No.

But will it help vaccines get to those who want it? No.

But will it help take care of 92 percent of San Francisco’s budget deficit? Oh, no, Mr. Speaker. It will.

It just throws out money without accountability even though there are a trillion dollars sitting there right now that have already been appropriated that can go out to help.

Remember what Margaret Thatcher said, Mr. Speaker: “The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people’s money.” You have been doing a very good job of it so far.

There is still work to do to defeat the virus, but it is clear we are nearing the end of the fight. For 12 terrible months, the American worker has struggled through lockdowns, sacrificed through closures, and suffered through mandates. They persevered through it all. And now their government wants to take $5,000 more of it to make sure a Federal employee that wasn’t laid off, a State employee that wasn’t laid off gets bonuses. And lo and behold, we have now to make sure San Francisco gets the dollar that is taken care of. Not in 2 years like the schools, but today.

President Trump’s Operation Warp Speed, previous bipartisan efforts in Congress, and the American people worked tirelessly toward that outcome. President Biden was set up for success both economically and with vaccines, but in that short amount of time what have they been able to accomplish down at the Biden administration? They have raised our gasoline prices, so not only are you asking them to pay for this bill, you are taking more out of their pocket, and at the same time by a stroke of a pen he laid off millions of those workers.

Mr. Speaker, I know this for sure, I know where you serve, and I know your passion for serving. I know the people in your district that are getting laid off for the XL pipeline. I know that wasn’t your wish. It is harder to pay a bigger tax bill when you don’t have a job.

It is even worse when that job was taken away by your President.

It is even worse when you go out to look for a new job and that same President has changed the policy along the border, and now you are competing with people who are not even Americans; and they are getting subsidized healthcare because of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the American public wants something different. I believe they are proud of the fact we did something here that was bipartisan.

I believe they were proud of the fact that because of Operation Warp Speed, we now have three vaccines.

I believe they were proud when we were energy independent.

I believe they were proud when they had more money in their pocket, and they didn’t have to pay so much for gasoline.

Mr. Speaker, socialism has destroyed many countries. I just watched Venezuela offer new currency. What was it, a million, a billion dollars worth 50 cents today? How did it all start? I have watched socialism grow in this body. I have watched it grow in this body. I see within your own party you no longer even fear to say that you are Democrats anymore, Mr. Speaker. You are socialist Democrats. That is the lead of the Democratic party. Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee isn’t even registered as a Democrat. So what would you think would be produced?

Mr. Speaker, whoever votes for this bill, I want you to look the people in the eye. I want you to think about that teacher in your district, so you want to explain to them why only 9 percent goes to defeat COVID. Why do they have to give $5,000, and you redista-
What we say is: This is a bill that responds uniquely to a unique national crisis and it does it in a way that the American people believe is the right way.

So I respond to the minority leader by saying, a poll just this morning reported that 78 percent of the American people support the American Rescue Plan. Only 18 percent oppose it. Fifty-nine percent of Republicans support the American Rescue Plan.

Despite his attempts to divide this country and to demonize the Speaker and others, the American people understand that this is the appropriate step to take at the appropriate time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, every day, constituents in my district are asking when the $1,400 survival checks are coming and when they can get help with their rent so that they don’t become homeless. They are suffering, and they need help now.

Mr. Speaker, the American Rescue Plan is a real plan to crush the virus by speeding vaccine distribution and increasing access to healthcare. This will not only mean safer families but also safer classrooms for teachers and students. It means continued continuation of $300-a-week checks in unemployment insurance, and it supports our businesses so they don’t close.

Mr. Speaker, with over half a million dead, we need a way to end this crisis and help our people. That is exactly what today’s bill will do. I strongly urge a “yes” vote.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the Republican whip.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this massive non-COVID spending bill. If you look over the last year during this pandemic, Congress has come together many times in a bipartisan way to specifically help families who are struggling, to help small businesses who are hanging on by a thread, and to try to put more money into finding a vaccine.

Mr. Speaker, instead of working with Republicans and Democrats, President Biden is taking an all-alone approach, to allow Speaker PELOSI to write a bill behind closed doors and bring the bill forward, not allowing a single Demo-

crat to file an amendment on a $1.9 trillion spending bill in the House.

When you look at what is in the bill—and many people reference polling, as if we should vote based on a poll that doesn’t show the full story—we are starting to get the full story.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to ask people: Do you think, with hundreds of billions of dollars still out there unspent from previous bills, we should borrow $1.9 trillion from our children to do things like send $1,400 checks to people in Federal prison?

Mr. Speaker, yes, that is in this bill. Pick your prisoner of choice. The Boston Marathon bomber gets a $1,400 check in this bill, and we are borrowing that money from our children.

Has that been asked by a pollster? I would argue no.

There was an amendment to strip that out. Every Democrat who had the opportunity voted to continue sending those checks to felons. No wonder, last week, 97 Democrats voted to allow felons to vote in elections. Luckily, that amendment barely failed.

Mr. Speaker, look at what is in this bill.

Is there any money in this bill, by the way, to specifically open our schools?

Unfortunately, the answer to that is no.

We had an amendment to require that if you are going to give hundreds of billions of dollars to schools, shouldn’t it at least be used to open those schools?

The science said to open schools. The union bosses say no.

Mr. Speaker, look at what is in this bill and what is not in this bill. This should be a targeted relief bill. Instead, this is an attempt by Speaker PELOSI to further promote her socialist agenda.

Mr. Speaker, 95 percent of the money in this bill for these schools can’t even be spent this year, so this bill actually keeps schools closed longer.

Think about that juxtaposition. President Biden has created a crisis at America’s border. President Biden said America’s border is open, but in this bill, he keeps schools closed.

How does that make any sense?

Again, Mr. Speaker, you go through this bill, and they actually inserted language in this bill by dark of night, and chase sure it has never been polled. But in this bill, it bans States from cutting taxes, if anyone can explain to me how that has anything to do with COVID. You look at a State like New York that is losing hundreds of thousands of people from gross mismanaging their resources. Because they never had income tax. If the State of New York in this bill tries to fix the problems they have created with high taxes by trying to bring their State in line, they are penalized in this bill for cutting taxes.

This has nothing to do with COVID. We should work together on something that helps families get through this, helps get more vaccines in arms, and helps open up our schools.

Mr. Speaker, this is a failed socialist approach. I urge rejection.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire into how much time remains on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 14 1/4 minutes remaining.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, this is a historic bipartisan way.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have been calling on us to deliver relief and to defeat the COVID–19 pandemic. Today, we come together to send a resounding message that help is on the way.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the American Rescue Plan Act. Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 1/2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the distinguished chairman of the Education and Labor Committee and also a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the American Rescue Plan Act.

Passing this plan will give schools the resources they need to comply with the CDC guidelines to reopen safely and to remain open, and the resources needed to make up for lost time in the classroom.

Passing this plan will help institutions of higher education weather this pandemic and provide urgent financial assistance to their students. It will help childcare providers to keep their doors open so working parents can rejoin the workforce.

Passing this plan will prevent more than a million retirees from losing their hard-earned pensions and assure an economic calamity that would destroy countless businesses and cost taxpayers at least $170 billion.

Passing this rescue plan will also improve access to affordable healthcare during the pandemic, and it will cut child poverty about in half.

Passing this plan will protect vulnerable Americans across the country, including families facing financial hardships, older Americans trying to stay safe, and survivors of domestic and gender-based violence.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have been calling on us to deliver relief and to defeat the COVID–19 pandemic. Today, we come together to send a resounding message that help is on the way.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the American Rescue Plan Act. Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 1/2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this is a historic day. Among other things, today, in this bill, we will be voting to cut child poverty by 50 percent in the United States of America. That is just one reason why this is the most popular economic rescue plan in my lifetime. I have voted for this bill three times already. The American people are getting to vote for it a fourth time.

To the American people: Help is finally on the way.
Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I just want to make sure. This Chamber may not have heard, but under the leadership of President Trump, in 2019, we hit the lowest poverty ever—lowest poverty. So thank you, President Trump.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1%4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Ms. Waters), the distinguished chair of the Committee on Financial Services.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank President Biden and all of the Democratic leadership for this wonderful, historic legislation. That is what we are voting on here today. This indeed responds to the needs of the American people during this pandemic. This is why I came to Congress to do this kind of work, and I am so proud to be a Democratic Member of Congress at this time.

This bill not only supports education; it gives stimulus checks to put food on the table and unemployment assistance. Small businesses will be able to reopen and stay open. Then everybody will have access to the vaccines that will be made available because of this bill.

It has been said more than once that this bill will take children out of poverty. They will be able to depend on regular assistance to them and their families every month. I am so pleased that as the chair of the Committee on Financial Services, I have the opportunity to be here and deal with some very critical issues.

This bill includes critical funding for emergency rental assistance, providing $22.5 billion to pay the back rent and future rent payments owed by millions of struggling families. That is in urban communities, rural communities, Black, White, and Asian. All folks will have access to this rental assistance.

Mr. Speaker, combined with the funding for small businesses and the emergency rental assistance I negotiated in the December stimulus package and the $5 billion for 70,000 new housing vouchers that are included in this package, this bill is truly historic and will help people across the Nation to remain safely housed.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3%4 minutes to the gentlewoman from the great State of Colorado (Mrs. Boebert).

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the Budget Committee, my friend, Congressman Jason Smith, for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, COVID relief, here we go again. The left continues to manipulate the English language however it suits their fancy, lying to the American people about what is really happening in the swamp.

American Rescue Plan? Please. President Biden is dropping bombs before anybody is getting checks.

Relief? Where is the relief for moms and dads trying to return their children to school?

This legislation has more funding for Democrat pet projects than it does for getting our kids out from behind the screens and back into the classrooms.

Democrats say this money that hasn’t been spent and won’t be spent any time soon is urgently needed to safely reopen schools. But, many States have had their schools open for months now. By one estimate, State departments of education have between $53 and $63 billion in Federal funds to reopen that is unspent. This bill has another $130 billion, but only 1%4 percent would be spent this school year.

Democrats should stop using kids’ schooling as a bargaining chip for more money for teachers’ unions. Stop holding our children’s education hostage for your pet projects and your lobbyist friends.

What about our seniors? Where is the relief for those who have suffered under the draconian leadership of Cuomo, Whitmer, and Newsom?

This legislation uses COVID like cheap drugstore concealer, masking the nasty truth about Democrat spending. This is nothing more than a trashy spending spree while doing nothing for those who have suffered the most from this China virus.

With $1 trillion left unspent from previous COVID bills, only 9%4 percent of this bill is going to address COVID-related issues. About 45%4 percent of it won’t be spent until 2022 and beyond.

It begs the question: Why would Democrats spend less than 1%4 of this $1.9 trillion on COVID relief for the American people? Unfortunately, this bill has the support of over 70%4 percent of Americans, and there is a reason for that. The American Rescue Plan meets the needs of our families and communities.

With this bill, we will finally put this pandemic behind us. We will cut child poverty in half. We will deliver transformative tax cuts for our families, especially working moms. This is a great day because help is on the way.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4%4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. Doggett), a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, rescue and relief for those awaiting lifesaving vaccines, for struggling small businesses, indebted families about to lose their home, for impoverished children, and for those who are eager to get their children back in school, survival checks are coming.

And the same Republicans who deny relief for 7 long months last year seem determined to block this lifeline this year. Texas families tell me they cannot wait for more of your Republican gamesmanship. Our mayors and county judges across Texas, they have been the ones who stood alone,应当ering the burden of leadership, after multiple Trump failures and outrageous Abbott interference. They need help in providing for our communities. They need the relief we are delivering today.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. Guest).

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, over the last year, Republicans and Democrats have worked together on numerous occasions to provide COVID relief for the American people. Unfortunately, this bill was not that way. This legislation is the completely partisan bill that has yet to receive one Republican vote in either the House or the Senate.

This legislation is spending nearly $2 trillion at a time in which we still have $1 trillion in unspent funding from previous relief bills. This bill will be passed at a time in which our economy is growing, in which unemployment is dropping, in a time when our communities need our action now, and the American Rescue Plan is the best way forward. Our colleagues across the aisle want to gaslight the American people on this, but they know that this bill has the support of over 70 percent of Americans, and there is a reason for that. The American Rescue Plan meets the needs of our families and communities.

With this bill, we will finally put this pandemic behind us. We will cut child poverty in half. We will deliver transformative tax cuts for our families, especially working moms. This is a great day because help is on the way.
Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 1/2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CICILLINE), a distinguished member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, people often wonder: Does government understand what is happening in my life and the family's life?

Despite the arguments of our Republican colleagues that the pandemic has passed, that the economy is fine, and that no relief is warranted, the truth is that 450,000 people have died. 4 million small businesses have closed, millions of people are out of work, and relief is needed.

The American Rescue Plan will speed up the delivery of vaccines, bolster testing and tracing, and expand access to affordable healthcare. It puts money—up to $1,400 a person—right into the pockets of working people. It extends unemployment benefits and gets help to small businesses.

President Biden in the White House and Democrats in control of the Congress, we can tell the American people that help is on the way.

To listen to my friends on the other side of the aisle, you wonder, where do they live, because, according to them, all of this has been resolved, the pandemic is gone, people are back to work, and the economy has recovered. That is not reality.

This bill will provide desperately needed relief to those we serve. Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to support the American Rescue Plan.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the chairman of the Budget Committee, for yielding.

Today, with President Biden in charge, and help is on the way.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), a distinguished member of the Oversight and Reform Committee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I say it is supported by Democrats and Republicans with one exception: the Republicans who serve in this Congress.

Republicans across the country support it. Independents across the country support it. The SBA supports it. This is the time to act.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Ms. CLARKE), a distinguished member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise once again in support of the American Rescue Plan Act. This monumental and comprehensive legislation will bring a sustained critical relief to the American people: $1,400 in the check for every American to help the most economically distressed Americans, cutting child poverty in half, $26 billion for emergency rental assistance, and $7.25 billion in new money for the PFF program.

New York City was the outbreak epicenter of the virus. We experienced unprecedented loss and economic devastation. But the American Rescue Plan; Brooklyn, New York; and the Nation can look forward to a future beyond devastating pandemic.

No amount of gaslighting, alternative facts, fear-mongering, and conspiracy theories will fool the American people. President Biden and the Democrats to the rescue.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA), a distinguished member of the Appropriations Committee and Oversight and Reform Committee.

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, this bill is historic because it buries the myth that the cause of childhood poverty is a lack of character, lack of hard work, or a lack of love. The bill affirms the simple truth that the cause of poverty is a lack of income to cover basic necessities.

No child in America should be deprived of food, of medicine, of clothing, or of education because of the accident of birth. That is what this bill stands for. It represents and marks an ideological revolution on behalf of justice.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), a distinguished member of the Oversight and Reform Committee and the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, to honor the half million Americans who perished in this pandemic and rescue the millions still struggling in its fiscal chokehold, we must end this national viral nightmare.

The American Rescue Plan is our best hope and the most ambitious, progressive legislation in scope and impact since the Affordable Care Act. It delivers direct payments to families, helps our schools safely reopen, and ensures small businesses and Main Street stay open. It also speeds up testing and vaccine deployments, especially to underserved communities.

This plan's tax changes likely cut child poverty in half. If we want kids behind desks, shots in arms, and people in this in this American Rescue Plan delivers vital relief now and lays a solid foundation for the future.

Thankfully, the misers are no longer in charge, and help is on the way.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 1/2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I speak in support of the international provisions of the American Rescue Plan.

Pandemics do not respect international borders. COVID-19 won't end in America until it is brought under control around the world. The $10 billion included in this package for international support are a small, yet critical, investment in fighting COVID and itself around the world.

This portion of the bill prioritizes global health, providing more that $4.6 billion to relieve overburdened healthcare systems and medical workers, and helping governments and multilateral partners develop and distribute vaccines.

To address the humanitarian crises exacerbated by this pandemic, the American Rescue Plan provides funding for lifesaving assistance, including school meals, clean water, basic medical care. It also provides COVID-related relief to refugees, who are already among the most vulnerable; and to our multilateral partners, such as the World Food Program and UNICEF, who can leverage their other partners and their global reach to maximize these dollars.

These provisions would also provide nearly $1 billion in flexible funding for economic support to help ensure that the need isn't missed as a result of the economic impacts of COVID, which are already severe.

It will support our diplomats and development professionals, enabling them to scale up and adapt to the pandemic, and continue to serve American and our country's interests around the world.

The Foreign Affairs provisions represent approximately 1/2 of 1 percent of the overall package. These funds support America's foreign commitments to the poorest nations least able to tackle the pandemic.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.
Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), a distinguished member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, and still I rise. And I rise, and I rise. It is time for us to put more emphasis on the workers and less emphasis on the billionaire class.

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

Mr. Speaker, there is this popular phrase that our Speaker is known for that we must pass the bill before we know what is in it. Well, the other side also said that you must poll the bill before we know what is in it. After they figure out what is in this bill, they won't like it.

We have looked at this bill. We have read it. Less than 9 percent of all funding of this bill goes for healthcare spending to crush the virus and to put vaccinations in the arms of Americans. More than 20 percent of this bill goes to policies that harm jobs and reduce employment, and $36 billion will be cut from Medicare just next year alone because of this bill. Over $360 billion will be cut from seniors in 10 years because of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, when the facts are polled, the American people will know that this is a progressive wish list forced down by the Democratic Party.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 3 3⁄4 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, this morning there was a really interesting article in the Louisville, Kentucky, paper, The Courier-Journal, because yesterday the Beshear administration presented to the general assembly the numbers that Kentucky was going to experience based on this American Rescue Plan, the money that was going to go to the State, the money that was going to go to counties and cities, the money that was going to go to higher education—half of which has to be used to support students in need—and the amount of money that was going to go to help children out of poverty.

The way it was described in this article was that this legislators—overwhelmingly Republican, our State house is 75-25, and our senate is 38-9—were stunned and they were excited. One person described it as: the excitement was palpable.

Of course it is. This is life changing for so many constituents of theirs. It is life changing for the future of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Let me put it this way: We have 4.4 million Kentuckians—4 million out of 4.4 million, 92 percent—who will be getting a check, a $1,400 check, some a little bit less, but most $1,400, and 1.2 two million more are going to be eligible for an extended child tax credit—1.2 million children. The magnitude of the impact of this bill is truly stunning.

Now, some people will say—and you can infer from many things the Republicans have said—that none of those people deserve the $1,400. They don't need it.

I hope they all go home and tell those people that they represent, that you really don't need that $1,400. You haven't suffered because of this pandemic. You haven't had to care for a relative or a child who has not been able to go to school, and you haven't had any extra expenses because of the pandemic. You just don't need it. You are a moderate-income person. Don't take the $1,400.

I want to hear that conversation because it is not going to happen. As a matter of fact, what we are all concerned about on our side is Republicans are all saying, against this and then they are going to show up at every ribbon cutting for every project that is funded out of this bill, and they are going to puff up their chest and take credit for all these great benefits that are coming to their constituents. It is okay if they want to take credit for it. It is fine.

What we are concerned about is that we have finally, in this body and in this Congress, risen to the occasion in the context of a terrible national disaster.

What astounds me when I listen to the arguments against this bill is that nobody was at fault here. At least nobody out in the country was at fault. All the blame is on those who are going to get $1,400 didn't do anything wrong. All these kids who are going to get raised out of poverty certainly didn't do anything wrong. The people who are now in food lines in many cities across the country, who never ever would have been in a food line before, didn't do anything wrong.

Who is going to help?

Do we say this is all survival of the fittest?

No. We rose to the occasion. We delivered. The American people I know support us.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to support the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this pandemic has been ruthless. With over half a million lives lost, we are a nation in a constant state of mourning. Sadly, we cannot take away the pain and the suffering of our friends, neighbors, and loved ones. But with this seismic legislation, we are delivering much-needed help and relief to millions of our fellow Americans.

In a few minutes, this Chamber will pass and then send to President Biden a monumental piece of legislation that will begin to turn the tide of an unprecedented health and economic crisis.

I want to thank Speaker PELOSI for the confidence that she offered to the Ways and Means Committee as we wrote most of this legislation.

In the 23 years that I have served in this House, I don't know that I will ever cast a more important vote than what we are about to do and of such great consequence in but a few minutes.

I am immensely proud of the work that the Ways and Means Committee members did to make this legislation a reality. We heard the American people, and we went big. We proudly contributed substantial solutions that will strengthen our recovery from this pandemic and rebuild our economy to work better for all Americans. The Ways and Means Committee was responsible for $1 trillion of this expenditure.

To contain the public health crisis and make health coverage more accessible and make health coverage more affordable, the Ways and Means Committee expanded the expansion of the Affordable Care Act since it was enacted and which the Ways and Means Committee helped to write. We are bringing down costs for jobless Americans saving them thousands of dollars in health insurance costs and more. We will also include assistance for nursing homes that are desperate to contain this virus.

We are going to help those struggling to stay afloat by putting cash in their pockets and simultaneously creating liquidity and demand. For the jobless, we extend Federal unemployment benefits to keep them afloat for the better days that lie ahead.

We have made three key tax credits for lower and middle-income workers and families more generous, more flexible, and more capable of tackling the inequality and concentrated wealth that exists in our country. We already know that a key to our recovery will be giving parents the tools to go back to work even though their previous childcare may have been unaffordable. We will ease their worry by making childcare more accessible and indeed more affordable.

The child tax credit will lift millions out of poverty, and the expanded earned-income tax credit will put money into the pockets of the lowest-income workers.

Mr. Speaker, listen to this following statistic: All in all, there will be an increase in aftertax income for the poorest 20 percent of Americans by increasing their income by 20 percent. That is a staggering achievement. It is a life-changing achievement.

Today, we also made a long overdue fix to multiemployer pension programs that will protect hard-earned savings of workers, many of whom have been on the front lines of this crisis. These
are people who have played by the rules, served our country in the military, and worked day in and day out with the promise of a secure retirement not to have it pulled from under them. I would remind all that 30 Republican senators on two separate occasions have voted for this bill as a standalone measure.

I heard a previous speaker say: This is a bailout. It is a backstop.

In addition, perhaps that individual didn’t understand the PBGC, because if we didn’t come to the support of these pensions, it would take down the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation which insures all pensions for Americans in the private sector.

I cannot stress enough—these provisions are going to change lives. We are not creating a narrative talking about changing lives, we are going to do it with this legislation.

We are doing the right thing, not only because of what we have been saying for two years, this is the moment—but this legislation has the support of economists from the left, the right, and the center. This is about the power of ideas. But because it is what the American people want also, I say: the American people, regardless of political affiliation, overwhelmingly support this package because they know what is in it is badly needed to get to the other side of the crisis.

I regret that the overwhelming support that I have just described has not been translated into unity in this Chamber. This is bipartisan in America even if it is not bipartisan in this Chamber.

Our colleagues on the other side have deemed workers who saw their entire industries evaporate perhaps unworthy of this moment. They have deemed working parents perhaps unworthy of this moment, and they have deemed the working- and middle-class American family perhaps at this moment unworthy.

I don’t understand it.

Instead, there has been a lot of talk about this package being too large and too expensive. But if there was ever a time to go big, this should be it.

Shouldn’t helping struggling American families be worth the size of this bill?

I seem to recall that my colleagues found that wealthy Americans and big corporations were worth the size of their tax cut. So why not working- and middle-class families who are facing a health and economic crisis unlike anything the Nation has experienced in more than a century?

I actually have some charts that I think highlight the difference today. We have two comparisons of who benefits from the American Rescue Plan and who benefited in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. This is pretty apparent and pretty obvious to all who might discern in this moment.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, the benefits that my colleagues across the aisle will oppose today go directly to working-class Americans.

However, with the next chart, Mr. Speaker, you can look at their package, and it was nearly the same size. By the way, they borrowed $2.3 trillion for it. It had overwhelming support from their side of the aisle. But look who the benefits went to. The evidence is overwhelming as to who the benefits went to.

This package is nearly the same size as what they did, but the impact of what we are about to do will be extraordinary.

Multiple reports have highlighted how the tax cuts bill did not, as proponents claimed, grow the economy or indeed—the great hoax—pay for itself. That never happen. Yet they continue to stand behind a law that put the powerful and the wealthy first, and they dismiss what we are about to do today.

Hardworking Americans have been for too long left behind, and that ends today. This bill will save lives and livelihoods. We will help families stay housed, put food on the table, and access affordable healthcare. Most importantly, this package will help families avoid impossible choices.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to rise to this moment and support this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind my friend and my chairman, who I have great respect for, Mr. NEAL, that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was one of the pivotal successes of the Trump administration that led to the lowest poverty among all Americans that had existed in decades, if not ever, and the strongest economy and lowest unemployment among all demographic groups.

Whereas, this plan, this so-called COVID relief plan, is not, in fact, a COVID relief plan at all. By far, most of the money goes to creating new entitlement programs. You see, my friends on the other side of the aisle are more concerned with making the American people rely on government programs than they are on creating opportunity for them to lift themselves up.

Mr. Speaker, if you operate a small business trying to get people to come back to work, if you are a frontline worker eager to be vaccinated and hoping this plan will speed that up, if you are a family attempting to educate your children while schools refuse to open, this bill won’t help you. It leaves you behind.

My friend, Mr. CLYBURN, said last year that this COVID pandemic created a great opportunity for Democrats to mold the vision. Boy, are they delivering.

My friends on the other side say this bill is popular, and I don’t doubt it is. I mean, it is certainly good politics to say: Hey, we are going to hand you a check for $1,400. Just help us get this across the line, and we will give you a check.

But what they don’t talk about is what this bill costs. You see, $1.9 trillion is $5,487 for every man, woman, and child in this country—$5,500 for every man, woman, and child.

What these guys want to do is have the government borrow your name and not just your name, your wife’s or your husband’s name and each of your kids’ names. $5,500 they are going through in the kitty, but they are going to give you $1,400 of it back, so vote for this bill.

I think we should look a little further than that. I think we should look maybe at where the other $4,100 that they are borrowing in your name goes. Guess what? That money is going to have to be paid back. It is going to be paid back in higher taxes. It is going to be paid back in lower productivity. It is going to be paid back in lower government services. It is going to be paid back in less opportunity for your children and your grandchildren.

Let’s look at where this $4,100 goes. $750 of your $4,100 they are borrowing in your name and each of your kids’ names goes to paying extra unemployment for people to stay home. In fact, it pays people more unemployment than they can make at work, in most cases.

To bail out union pension plans that are chronically underfunded—and this problem needs to be fixed, but this plan does nothing to fix the problem. They will continue to be chronically underfunded. $177 of your $4,100 they are borrowing in your name and not giving back to you goes to bail out union pension plans.

$1,067 of your $4,100 that they are borrowing in your name and not giving back to you goes to bail out union pension plans.

$1,067 of your $4,100 that they are borrowing in your name and not giving back to you goes to bail out blue States. In the prior plans, we already had money to help those States. But a lot of the money hadn’t been spent from the prior plans that we had. But they changed the allocation formula in this plan.

It was based on population, so every State was treated fairly. But that is not good enough for places like California and New York that are shut down. So they said: I know. Let’s add unemployment in there because our Governors have shut our States down, and our unemployment is bad and we want more money. We want to take money from places like Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and other States in the Midwest that stayed open, and we want to redirect it to California and New York.

So, they threw in unemployment as a criteria. South Carolina, my home State, is the third biggest loser. Florida is the biggest loser. We lose over $1 billion, and $3.4 billion extra goes to California. That is $1,067 each of your money.

K–12 education, colleges, and universities get $500 of your money that they
are borrowing in your name. But guess what? We know you want to send your kids back to school, but they don’t require that the schools actually open. Schools are sitting there closed.

They are still getting your property taxes. They are still getting all the property taxes that they normally fund you. But they are going to send them another $500 of your money but not require that those schools open.

$34 of your money goes to museums and Native language preservation. You are spending $4,100 on that.

Public health organizations, including Planned Parenthood, get $58 of your money that they are borrowing in your name and your kids’ money that they are borrowing in their names. It goes to Planned Parenthood.

Transportation grants, $128.

Agriculture includes socially disadvantaged farmers. What does that mean, people who have historically been socially disadvantaged? That means if you are a White farmer, don’t apply.

Foreign aid gets $30.

Then, I am lumping all the other progressive priorities of $1.279, and with a direct check of $1,400, it adds up to $5,487.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has had an absurd lack of bipartisanship. My chairman, my friend that I respect, says that the Ways and Means Committee created this bill. We didn’t create this bill. Chairman Pelosi uses COVID as an excuse to keep us out of town so she can write this liberal grab bag.

We had no hearings on this bill. When we marked it up, there were dozens of amendments offered. Not one single amendment was accepted. This is an absolute ram job by the Democrats of a menu of liberal priorities.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), who is the chairman of the Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee, which plays a central role in tax policy. And repeatedly, he assures me that he is of modest income and from California.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation.

This bill is one of the most consequential policies considered by this body during my time in Congress. From top to bottom, it provides struggling Americans with the relief that they need.

It provides critical healthcare funding to help crush the virus, including funds to continue ramping up vaccinations. It provides funds to help small businesses stay afloat, to help restaurants keep their lights on, to help families afford health insurance, to keep workers employed, and to help kids get back into schools.

It bolsters State and local governments and provides emergency assistance to the millions of Americans behind on rent. On top of that, this bill is projected to cut child poverty in this country in half.

This is an excellent bill, and I thank my colleagues, the chairman, especially, and our partners in the administration for swiftly bringing this critical relief to the American people.

The American people know that help is on the way. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak against H.R. 1319, Pelosi’s progressive payoff, and in support of America’s gig economy.

Not only is this a costly bill full of liberal wish-list items that do nothing to crush COVID or create jobs, but it also stifles America’s gig economy at a time when it needs our support the most.

The gig economy provides flexibility and opportunity to businesses, workers, and customers in urban and rural areas. The success of America’s gig economy is due to the absence of government overregulation.

Let’s take a lesson from the gig economy that has flourished and scale our response around demand rather than regulation.

I am giving this bill one star. Our gig economy workers and customers deserve the freedom to work and to thrive.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 1/2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT), my friend and chairman of the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, let me, first of all, try to respond so the American people will know that this money, this $1.9 trillion, is going to help our Nation survive COVID-19. It is not just a disease that is out there. It is a disease that has impacted our people.

Let me tell you what is in this bill: $800 million for food.

Don’t you all know we have a hunger crisis? Don’t you know that the American people are hungry? They are in record lines—you see them—miles long every day, trying to get food.

It has $800 million for food for women, infants, and children. We have 13 million of our children and infants going to bed hungry and malnourished every single night. You know why? Because of COVID. Employment is down; our folks don’t have the money to get the food.

Mr. Speaker, this is why our Agriculture Committee is having hearings tomorrow to address hunger, to see what else we need to do.

And I must respond to this. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 10 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. He brought up the issue of the Black farmers. It is important for you to know that our Black farmers were not included in the other pieces, so we got them $4 billion just to help them and technical assistance. America needs that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENEAU), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Trade and a valued senior member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. BLUMENEAU. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman’s comments moments ago.

This is historic legislation dealing with priorities long neglected. The charts that he presented tell it all.
The Republicans, with their $1.7 trillion tax cut, primarily for people who didn't need it, versus our priorities, dealing with making a major impact on child poverty, dealing with health, dealing with our local governments being able to survive. This is a reflection on Democratic values, and the difference it makes is stark.

I am proud to vote in favor of this recovery act. I am proud of what it is going to do for people who need it most. The contrast between Democratic values and what the Republicans did when they used reconciliation could not be more stark.

I appreciate the gentleman illustrating it, and I hope that the House will approve this measure.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I agree that the priorities could not be more stark, when the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act led to the most successful economy in decades, if not ever, and the lowest unemployment among African Americans, Hispanics, and women in the history of the United States. Whereas, this bill just represents a massive expansion of our entitlement system.

Our priorities are to get people to work. The Democrats' priorities are to get people hooked on the government, to make them reliant on government checks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP).

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose this solely Democrat payoﬀ spending bill.

I will agree with my colleagues, it is historic. I agree with my colleagues, it is consequential. There is no doubt about it. I am sure that with $1 trillion, somebody will be helped. I am quite sure of that. But the next generation of Americans are not going to be than those who get relief.

Let's be honest with the American people. This is not a COVID relief bill. Members of this body came together four times last Congress and passed bipartisan legislation that actually provided relief to our constituents. This bill is so incredibly far away from that, as Republicans have been completely frozen out of this process.

Mr. Speaker, what is the result? Only 9% percent goes towards defeating the virus.

$1.5 billion for Amtrak, which is already sitting on $1 billion in unspent aid. Maybe riding Amtrak is a good place to socially distance. Maybe that is the reason.

$60 million for environmental justice grants. Mr. Speaker. That doesn't educate our children.

Roughly $1 trillion on other liberal pet projects, when we have $1 trillion from the previous bipartisan bills that has been left unspent.

Can someone explain what that has to do with COVID relief? Anybody?

If Members are serious about directly addressing the medical and economic challenges our country faces, like getting businesses open, getting students back to school, giving vaccines to Americans who want them, I will work with anyone in this body to do so. You know Republicans will, because we did several times until Democrats ignored us this Congress.

Please, let's not pretend this bill is about COVID relief. That simply is not true.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank President Biden for his science-based efforts in defeating this virus and his unrelenting focus on putting American families back on their feet.

The American Rescue Plan meets the moment and fulfills that old adage that help is on the way.

This bill gets shots into arms, money into people's pockets, and provides their communities, and especially our schools, with the relief that they need.

In Connecticut, 1.5 million working families will receive $4 billion. This relief is felt by those families—I say to my colleagues—as those families sit at the kitchen table and look across at each other and talk about their day-to-day needs and what needs to be met. Mr. Speaker.

And so this bipartisan relief package that we have put forward—and I say bipartisan, because when you talk to the general public and when you talk to the people that need this relief directly, you see that more than 70 percent of Democrats, Republicans, and the unafﬁliated support this bill.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, what my friends across the aisle are asking is: Here is your $1,400 check, but don't look at what I am doing behind your back with the other $5,500 I am borrowing in your name and in the names of each of your children.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED).

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I don't need a sheet of paper to express my words here today.

I rise in objection to this bill, because this bill is being passed on the backs of 500,000 plus of our fellow American citizens' deaths, under the guise that you are passing a bill on a partisan basis, on their souls, in order to do COVID relief. This isn't relief. This is because you guys won the majori- ty.

I am speaking to the American people, to speak truth.

You won the majority, you took the opportunity to put forth an agenda, and you didn't include bipartisan support.

I had only one simple amendment on this bill. $1,400 is going to go to convicted child molesters in State prisons. What is that doing to stimulate the economy? Why does a child molester, who is sitting in State prison, need $1,400 to buy cigarettes or play video games in State prison? That is your priority.

That is what you put in this bill. You didn't even debate our bipartisan amendment to try and have that included.

Let's be honest with the American people. You are playing politics. You are carrying forward an agenda. I get it. You won the election. But this is an agenda that is killing our fellow American citizens.

We put together $4 trillion worth of relief to the American people on a bipartisan basis. We should have done it again, and you didn't. It is wrong. That is why I say no to this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are again reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New York, my friend, knows that that decision was rendered by a federal judge, not by this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight, who has led on a number of provisions, including extending the earned income tax credit to Puerto Rico.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, a lot of people are waiting to get this done. It is up to us to help Americans who can't buy their groceries or pay their rent and are not in prison.

It is up to us to protect seniors in nursing homes.

It is up to us to ensure that every American has quality health insurance and is able to get vaccinated.

These are Congress' burdens, our burdens.

I am voting yes, because Ingrid from Rutherford told me it would help her pay the rent or utilities. How can I say no to that?

I am voting yes, because Bradley from Fort Lee told me that a new stimulus check was the only way he could get help for his kids until he finds work. I am voting yes for that.

Our cities and States are being bled into bankruptcy. They contemplate cuts to public safety in schools that will be felt for a generation without us acting.

Americans are crying out for help, Mr. Speaker. Can you hear them? They have given us the burden to act. Today, we are going to deliver. We should be happy today. We should not be angry.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD).

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Democrats so-called COVID relief bill.

Congress' focus should be specifically dialed in on crushing this virus, creating jobs, and getting our economy back open.

Unfortunately, this package falls well short.
As we battled the COVID pandemic over the last year, the economic stress placed on communities that I represent in central and west-central Illinois has been immense.

Congress acted five times in a bipartisan way over the last year, creating over $3.7 trillion in federal money for State and local governments, small businesses, and schools.

Congress can do more to support the economic recovery from COVID, but our efforts must be targeted.

We cannot spend our way out of this crisis.

In Illinois, we have seen the negative impact of the tax-and-spend agenda that put our State on the path to economic disaster.

The Biden capsule stimulus plan by the Biden administration will impose new, burdensome costs, regulations, and rules on small businesses, making the recovery even more difficult.

It is disheartening that, following calls to stay in his inauguration, President Biden’s first major legislative agenda item was partisan and specifically designed not to allow Republican input.

Instead of rewarding fiscally irresponsible States with huge bailouts, Congress should work to incentivize growth, focus on job creation and vaccine distribution.

To generate a strong economy, we need to get government out of the way, open our communities, and enable Americans to thrive.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished minority leader of our House.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, some of us have been here for some period of time. Some of us have heard this debate before. My friend, Mr. REED, from New York, opined, and others have opined, about how we passed a number of bipartisan bills, five to be exact. March 4, March 14, March 27, April 24, and then we had a hiatus, because the majority leader of the Senate said we ought to take a break and see what happens, and the minority leader of the House said the same thing. So we didn’t take any action. Frankly, tens of thousands of people died—hundreds of thousands of people died.

Now, I point out that we have acted five times: 415-2, 363-40—a voice vote on the CARES Act, $2 trillion—389-5, and 359-53.

Now, if you include the CASH Act, which we passed, because the President, i.e., Mr. Trump, said we needed more money for people, so we passed the bill and 44 Republicans voted for that bill.

Now, there is only one thing that has changed since we passed those first five bills. We now have a Democratic President and not a Republican President. That is the only thing that has changed.

The need is there. The virus is still with us. The economy is struggling. But now we have a Democratic President, so I expect zero of you to vote for this.

Excuse me, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I expect zero Republicans to vote for this bill.

Why do I expect that? Because I was here in 2009 when, under George Bush, we were sending money to a country that has seen since the Great Depression.

Very frankly, Mr. Speaker, we passed two major pieces of legislation to deal with that recession. One was called TARP, the Troubled Asset Relief Program. A Republican President and Democrats passed that bill. Only a third, Mr. Speaker, of the Republicans would support President Bush.

You can shake your head, but you look at the RECORD, that is the fact. That is the fact.

Democrats supported the request of a Republican President because we thought it was in the best interests of the country and our people. And the only reason it passed this House is because Democrats, 172 of us, stood up with George Bush and voted for that program, and it was a bad vote for us. It was the right thing to do, but politically it was a bad vote.

How sad, Mr. Speaker, I think it is that we passed five bipartisan votes with a Republican President. Now the TARP is different, and we don’t want to give him any credit, so we are going to cut off the nose of the American people to spite the face of America.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic majority in the Senate took action, passing an amended version of the American Rescue Plan that this House approved on February 27. The version they sent us back reflects the same commitment demonstrated by this House to take the big and bold action demanded by the American people and overwhelmingly supported not just by Democrats, but by Republicans.

The Republicans outside this House support this bill. Only the Republicans inside this House, unanimously apparently, oppose this bill while 80 percent of the Republicans in America polled say, “We are for this bill.”

But we have a Democratic President, I get it. President Biden’s plan is reflected in this legislation. It says President Biden’s plan, but this is our plan. This is a plan we built over a year of tough debate, long debate, substantive debate and discussion on both sides of the aisle, and in a bipartisan fashion passed those five bills.

This bill is consistent with the measures we passed last year to confront the challenges to our public health and economic well-being. It achieves a number of critical goals: It puts vaccines into Americans’ arms; it will put money in Americans’ pockets; it will put children back in classrooms; it will put millions of Americans back to work and reopen businesses safely; and it will put at ease the frontline and essential workers who are in the public service, like teachers, the first responders, by ensuring that State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments can keep them employed.

Mr. Speaker, the American people overwhelmingly support this legislation, with more than 72 percent in favor of its enactment, according to a Morning Consult poll from March 3rd. I would like to see some of the NRCC polls because I think they give the same message. But, of course, maybe those people polled didn’t realize there was a Democratic President. Heaven forbid that we vote for something that a Democratic President wants.

Mr. Speaker, I put our party up to any kind of analysis in terms of our bipartisan support for Republican Presidents when we thought it was in the best interests of the country. Nearly 6 in 10 Republicans want to see this bill passed.

Listen to your people. I am surprised that some of our Republican colleagues are not planning to vote for this legislation. I hope they will do so. I hope they will do so because I think it is in the best interests of our Nation, of our families, of our individuals, of our businesses, of our economy. I hope they will join Democrats in taking action to help the nearly 10 million Americans who are out of work compared to this time last year.

We waited. This is what happened. I hope they will also join Democrats in voting to extend expanded unemployment insurance benefits that would otherwise lapse for more than 11 million families this weekend and to make good on our promise to send another round of $1,400 stimulus checks to most Americans.

What are they going to do with that check?

They are going to put it in the economy, and it is going to grow the economy and create jobs.

And I hope they will join us in supporting a massive effort at deploying vaccines and testing so we can defeat this virus.

The American Rescue Plan means an end to the failed approach of hitting the pause button. It didn’t work. It is time to hit the start button. It is time to start Building Back Better through bold action. That is a political slogan. I like it. I have a Make It In America slogan myself.

But this is not about slogans. It is about investment in our country, in our economy, and in our people, our families, our children, and, yes, the most vulnerable among us. That is what my faith teaches me to do. This is the answer to face our challenges with all of our strength and resolve. This is a vote to have each other’s backs as fellow Americans in this time of difficulty.
Mr. Speaker, with our votes today, we can send this legislation to President Biden so he can sign it into law and get the help that America and Americans need.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would remind my friend, the majority leader, that the reason that this bill is not bipartisan is there has been no effort to make it bipartisan.

There have been zero committee meetings on this. Ms. PELOSI uses COVID as an excuse to keep away from Washington so that she can write these liberal grab bag bills on her own. There were no hearings on this in the Ways and Means Committee or I don’t think any other committee. I am sure we could have found a bipartisan response to this, but instead they chose, because they have the majority now, to ram through their list of liberal priorities in a massive expansion of the entitlement system under the guise of COVID relief.

Mr. HOYER also pointed out that many vote “no” on this relief package.

Mr. RICE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Senate amendment to this payoff package. According to the Treasury, at the end of 2020, $46 billion provided to States in the CARES Act pandemic relief funding remained unspent. And this payoff package provides them an additional $360 billion.

The partisan formula used will direct hundreds of millions more to liberal States like California and New York. That is because the formula is determined by the State’s population of unemployed people. States that enacted stricter lockdowns with the heavy hand of government saw higher unemployment rates and, therefore, will get more money.

I will also highlight the racist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers provision. This provision should be an overt violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and I call on the Department of Justice to investigate it if it becomes law. It is shameful and, in my opinion, illegal. I cannot justify conditioning relief based on race and ethnicity. This is not equality under the law. Federal aid dollars should be colorblind, and this bill puts the Federal Government in a precarious position.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this payoff package.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I am glad Mr. HOYER also pointed out that many of us did support President Bush’s rescue package. I voted for it twice.

We met with Hank Paulson, the Secretary of the Treasury, in the Ways and Means Committee library, and he said, “You have to do this.” We followed suit and supported it.

It has come to my attention that there is some uncertainty about the effective date of one of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. In section 9706 of the bill, we allow single-employer pension plans to measure their liabilities by using interest rates that are closer to historical norms, rather than the low interest rates that are in effect today in part because of the pandemic. This provision will enable both plans and participants to weather this crisis far better. I’d like to clarify an issue relating to the effective date of this provision. Plans can choose to have the provision apply starting in 2020. In addition, plans can elect to have the provision apply starting in 2022, so that it does not apply until 2022. It also is our intent that plans can elect for the provision to apply starting in 2021. We believe that is the right interpretation of the language of the bill. We want to give plans the maximum flexibility so that tomorrow’s retirees can achieve a secure retirement.

My staff has run this interpretation by the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation and they also agree that an election to have the interest rate smoothing apply starting in 2021 is permitted by the language in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), the chair of the Worker and Family Support Subcommittee, who has been a champion for the expanded childcare credit in this legislation.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this is the day that millions of Americans have been waiting for, and now it is here. This is the day that we get serious about cutting child poverty in half, about putting millions of doses in the arms of people, vaccinations that they will get.

This is the day when individuals know that their government is coming. They have hope because now they can pay their rent, pay the mortgage, buy the baby milk, get the automobile repaired.

This is the day that the pastor at my church would say that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. I say this is the day that we restore the economy of America and save our Nation.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would respond to the comments of my friend, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee when he said that he voted in favor of the bill when Hank Paulson came over and said it is something we needed to do, as opposed to this bill, which President Obama’s former director of National Economic Council warned about consequences of this bill for the value of the dollar and financial stability because of the excessive borrowing that we are doing.

Again, folks back home, we are borrowing $5,500 in your name, in your wife’s name, in your children’s name, and giving you $1,400 of it.

President Biden’s chief of staff boasted about this bill that this is the most progressive domestic legislation in a generation. So it is no surprise, Mr. Speaker, that there is no bipartisan support for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.
through a provision in the bill that I coauthored with Congresswoman McBath.

A vote for this bill is a vote for investing in the dignity of America’s families. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this relief package.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL), a member of the Ways and Means Committee, who has been a powerful voice for home-visiting programs and the help they provide to pregnant women and children.

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, today is a day of great progress and great promise. I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the American Rescue Plan.

The American Rescue Plan will save lives and livelihoods. It will put vaccines in the arms of Americans and provides $20 billion in a nationwide vaccine plan.

It also puts children safely back in schools with a nearly $130 billion investment. It will put money in people’s pockets by delivering $1,400 stimulus checks, as well as expand reliable childcare and affordable healthcare. It will extend unemployment benefits to 16 million Americans and so many Alabamians that I represent.

It will put people back to work by providing critical support for the hardest hit small businesses, expanding PPP eligibility and much more. It will give lots of needed money directly to localities, to local cities and counties. In fact, $472 million of direct funding will come to the State of Alabama in my district.

Speaker, I want my constituents to know and all Americans to know that help is indeed on the way.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would point out to my friend from Alabama that because of the change in the allocation formula in this bill, relief for States—from the prior COVID relief bills—now this formula will focus on the unemployed; therefore, places that have shut their economies down and hurt their citizens economically will get more money than places who haven’t.

As a result, Alabama is the fourth or fifth largest loser in this bill in State and local government recovery money. Alabama will lose about $890 million, almost $1 billion, and that works out to approximately $178 lost for every man, woman, and child living in Alabama.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE), a member of the Ways and Means Committee, who has been a tireless champion for this legislation’s historic expansion of the child tax credit.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the American Rescue Plan, a bill that will deliver crucial relief to millions of Americans who have been struggling for far too long.

The pandemic has caused economic uncertainty, hardship, and turmoil. An estimated 8 million people have fallen into poverty during this crisis making the need for relief even greater.

This bill includes an antipoverty measure I have fought for: An expansion of the child tax credit. The expansion will provide increased payments to help families pay bills and buy essentials. The expansions in this bill are estimated to cut child poverty in half. This will transform the lives of many families and children.

As chair of the New Democrat Coalition, I am working to make the child tax credit permanent with Representatives DELAURO and TORRES. Democrats are united around our shared goal to rebuild the middle class and make some of the biggest antipoverty reforms in a generation.

I welcome my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us. Lifting children out of poverty should not be partisan.

The American Rescue Plan will get our economy back on track and crush the virus. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this critical legislation.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would remind the gentleman that because of this bill, relief for States—from the prior COVID relief bills—now this formula will focus on the unemployed; therefore, places that have shut their economies down and hurt their citizens economically will get more money than places who haven’t.

Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today is the moment to dispel any doubts that it is necessary to support of fairness for women. So here is the moment to dispel any doubts that it is necessary to support of bigotry and truly help American women by supporting this transformative legislation.

Women have been on the front lines of this crisis. Over two million women have been pushed out of work because of this pandemic, women’s participation in the workforce is at a 33-year low.

A vote “yes” for the American Rescue Plan is a vote to say vaccines can get into the arms of teachers and our frontline workers. That direct checks will go to 85 percent of Americans. An expanded child tax credit will cut child poverty in half. Unprecedented childcare funding will directly benefit its workforce made up of 95 percent women.

Vote “yes” for women. Vote “yes” for families. Vote “yes” for a more equitable future.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER), a valued member of the Ways and Means Committee, who played a central role in shepherding this legislation through 2 days of Ways and Means consideration.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, my vote today for the American Rescue Plan will be the most consequential vote I have ever cast.

Today, we show that democracy works.

Today, we make available all the resources needed to end a pandemic that has killed 527,000 Americans.

Today, we lift millions of American children out of poverty.

Today, we make the investment to get our children back to school safely.

Today, we authorize economic income payments to millions of our citizens behind on their rents and car payments and unable to buy groceries.

Today, we extend unemployment insurance for the 10 percent of Americans still out of work because of the virus.

Today, we send national help to those State and local governments who employed the heroes who provide our quality of life: police, firefighters, teachers, child protective service workers, sanitation workers, and many others.

And, today, we reject the social Darwinism of our Republican friends. We reject the ethic of every man, woman, and child for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to vote for this bill today.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), a member of the Ways and Means Committee, who has been a leader on expanding the earned income tax credit.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

This act is big and bold, and it begins to keep our promise to Build Back Better. This is a historic bill, a policy revolution.

It includes: cutting child poverty in half, expanding the earned income tax credit for the 10 percent of Americans still out of work because of the virus.

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It includes: cutting child poverty in half, expanding the earned income tax credit for the 10 percent of Americans still out of work because of the virus.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and all of the
Throughout California, essential workers, many of them Black and Latinos, are keeping our economy running. Frontline healthcare workers are exhausted from caring for their patients day after day, month after month during this pandemic, and local organizations are exhausting their food every single day to those in need. They need us to pass the American Rescue Plan.

Across the country people are terrified that they or a loved one will get COVID–19 before being vaccinated and end up in the hospital or dead. They are scared that the American Dream is drifting further and further away. They need us to pass the American Rescue Plan.

That is why 75 percent of Americans support this plan. Democrats, Republicans, independents from red States and blue States, they are urging us to pass this plan, and they are urging their Representatives to listen to their constituents. They are urging my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle to not turn a deaf ear to their cause and do the right thing and vote with Democrats to pass this bill.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI), a member of the Ways and Means Committee, who has been a champion for provisions to help our cities.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, the other side of the aisle is peddling a false narrative. This bill is not loaded with pork. It is not a blue State bailout. This bill is not a Democrat or Republican issue. It is a comprehensive plan to help people crushed by the virus beat the pandemic into the ground and ensure a rapid economic recovery.

Yet my friends across the aisle and their enablers continue to promote fake talking point—9 percent, or $171 billion and so on. Yet my colleagues on the other side are urging my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle to not turn a deaf ear to their cause and do the right thing and vote with Democrats to pass this bill.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, the scale of the relief bill must match the scale of this crisis, and the American Rescue Plan meets this moment.

In addition, this comprehensive plan includes much-needed relief for our battered cities. As a former mayor, I understand the struggle and strain of our cities right now. Congress cannot sit back as our mayors, Democrats and Republicans, are calling for help. This is not a Democrat or Republican issue. This pandemic is reaching every corner of our country.

Mr. Speaker, let’s answer this call and pass the American Rescue Plan.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I remind the people back home that the scale of this plan that the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) is talking about—$1,067 goes to bail out blue States like New York and California.

Mr. Speaker, $17 of their money, of that $1,100, goes to bail out union pension plans; $750,000,000 of your $1,100 that we are borrowing in your name and your wife’s name and your kids’ names is going to extend unemployment benefits to pay people more to sit home than they can make at work; $34 goes to museums and National Parks; $933 goes to K–12 and $120 to colleges and universities, of your money, each of your money, and there is no requirement that they reopen; $58 goes for public health organizations, including Planned Parenthood.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, again is simply a guise. COVID relief, no. As Mr. CLEBERN said: Let’s use this disaster to mould things to our vision. And they are doing exactly that. This is a massive expansion of the entitlement programs.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ).

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have spoken with New Mexicans all across my district. I have waving a $1,400 check in front of our constituency and saying, “Look at this,” but we are like the Wizard of Oz, “Don’t look at what is going on behind the curtain,” because what we are doing with this $1.9 trillion bill is borrowing $5,500 for every man, woman, and child in this country.

We are giving them $1,400 so it is palatable to them. We are giving them a little sugar. We are not reminding them about the $4,100 other dollars that they are borrowing in their name, of which $1,067 goes to bail out blue States like New York and California.

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talked to mayors, local officials, Tribal leaders. I have asked them the same question: What do you need?

What they have all said, Republicans and Democrats alike, is that they need this rescue plan. Our small businesses are ready to put this lifeline to use. Our frontline workers, families, and farmers are ready. New Mexico is ready to start climbing out of this crisis.

Americans have told us what they need. We have listened, and now we are delivering.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 3 minutes remaining. The gentleman from South Carolina has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, more than once today, there has been reference to the recovery bills at the end of the Bush administration and the beginning of the Obama administration coming out of a very bad financial crisis. Of course, this COVID pandemic has led to a financial crisis in this country. But the difference in the response here is stark between the two.

Coming out of the Bush administration and into the Obama administration, we expanded government, raised taxes, expanded regulations, and adopted recovery bills that weren't focused on economic growth. The result of that was, through 8 years of the Obama-Biden administration, we had stagnant growth. The middle class was shrinking; middle-class incomes were shrinking.

It took a Republican President, a Republican Congress, enacting bills that lowered taxes, lowered regulation, and lowered government reliance that led to massive economic growth and opportunity for all demographics in our country. Hispanics, African Americans, women, and others have seen growth and opportunity not seen in decades, if ever.

I hope, with this plan, that we are not going to go back to the days of the Obama-Biden years of stagnant growth and dashed opportunity for our children and our grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we are holding up a check to the American public and saying: Vote for this, but don't pay attention because we are really borrowing $5,500 in your name, your wife's name, your husband's name, and each of your kids' names. For each of your kids, we are borrowing $5,500 in their names that they are going to have to pay back. They are getting $1,400 of it, but the other $4,100 is going here.

It is not right, and it is not fair. And it will lead to lower growth and less opportunity for those kids that we are saddling with that debt right now.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the right plan to address our Nation's challenges in defeating the COVID-19 virus. It is not the right time either. There is still a trillion dollars in unused funds from previous packages that were bipartisan, that were targeted, that were not merely misnamed liberal grab bags.

The Congressional Budget Office's overview of the economic outlook projects that, by the middle of the year, the economy will have returned to a pre-pandemic level of real GDP. Why? That is because the policies put in place under the Trump administration—lower taxes and lower regulation—are still in place—lower taxes and lower regulation. That is why, as opposed to the Obama-Biden recovery, which in 8 years still had not recovered, the economy is quickly coming back to pre-pandemic levels right now.

Yet, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have found every reason to rush through costly, unnecessary progressive priorities that my constituents didn't ask for.

The American Rescue Plan is costing each American more than their mortgage payment, a downpayment on their car, or a semester of their children's college, and their children will have to pay it back. I don't want to leave a huge bill for my kids, and I know most Americans don't either.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this bill expanding government, expanding entitlements, paying people to stay home, making them more reliant on the government, will lead to another decade of stagnation, of lost opportunity. Vote "no" on this dangerous bill. Vote "no" against a selfish attempt to strap our next generation with debt. Vote "no" to progressive payoffs that we the people did not order. We must do better.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a most significant day, and this legislation meets the challenge of history and calls Americans to act upon this crisis. This is the opportunity now, and we should act.

This is not about self-correction. Far too much is at stake.

Mr. Speaker, I thank our colleagues and, particularly, the Committee on Ways and Means' staff, who wore many hats through this, from crafting this package to negotiating with the Senate. They worked long hours while facing the same challenges presented by remote school, lack of childcare, and concern for family members that Americans face every moment through this crisis. There are too many names to include, but I know that their counsel has been unparalleled and their expertise always unmatched.

Mr. Speaker, over the Speaker's rostrum is a magnificent admonition from a son of Massachusetts, Mr. Wendell: "Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also in our day and generation may not perform something worthy to be remembered." That is what we are going to do in the next few minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker of the House, whose attention to legislative detail is extraordinary.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his extraordinary leadership in putting nearly a trillion dollars into the pockets of the American people. I thank him and Mr. YARMUTH, the chair of the Budget Committee, for their leadership on this legislation, and, of course, on this debate this afternoon. It was dazzling to see them and the Democratic chairs and Members speak up about this important legislation.

I thank the chairman for pointing out that they know that the part of our colleagues across the aisle in complaining about money helping the poorest of poor children in our country while they didn't hesitate to give large amounts of money to the richest people in America in their Republican tax scam. The chairman's charts were very eloquent.

Mr. Speaker, to hear our Members speak about the terms of this bill, the values that are in it, the plan that it has, why they were voting "yes" on the bill, and to hear Republicans talk about why they would vote "no," it is typical that they vote "no" and take the dough.

This bill has bipartisan support across the country, not only among the general public, but in mayors, selectmen, city councilpersons, and county executives—who are Republican—eagerly awaiting the passage of this bill because they know that the part of a difference it will make in the lives of their constituents, the American people.

Mr. Speaker, this is a critical moment in our country's history. Tomorrow, the world will mark 1 year since COVID-19 was officially declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization. At that time, just over 1,000 Americans had contracted the disease, and 38 had died.

Since that day 1 year ago from tomorrow, nearly 30 million Americans have become infected. Over half a million Americans have died, more lives than were lost in combat in all of America's wars against foreign enemies combined.

Each of those lives is precious to us. We feel each loss profoundly and pray for their families and for the families of those who have contracted the virus and are still affected by it. And through it all, a historic economic crisis has raged.

A full year later, 18 million Americans are still out of work, according to the statistics at the end of last week, and nearly 10 million jobs may have been lost. We hope to stop that.

The most vulnerable among us have been disproportionately affected: moms
pushed out of the labor market, women and minority-owned businesses forced to shudder, communities of color facing rising disparities.

Mr. Speaker, today, we have a real opportunity for change. As we serve in Congress with each other, we learn about each other’s districts, each other’s priorities, and the rest. And we learn about each other’s why. Why did you come to Congress? Why are you here?

Each of us has come to Congress with a purpose. My purpose, my why, are the children. As a mother of five raising my kids, seeing all the attention and all that they needed, I was horrified by the fact that one in five children in America lives in poverty and goes to sleep hungry in America at night.

That is my why. That is why I went from homemaker to the House of Representatives.

That is why when people ask me, “What do you think the three most important issues are facing the Congress?” I always say the same thing: Our children, our children, our children—our education; the economic security of their families; a safe, healthy environment in which they can thrive; and a nation at peace in which they can reach their fulfillment.

Several of those priorities are addressed in this legislation.

Again, this legislation, which has bipartisan support throughout the country, the Biden—and let me sing praises on President Biden for the values, for the vision, the strategic thinking, for the knowledge that he has brought to what, as you said earlier, we had in the works for a while, but we refreshed up by current events, the vaccine, and what those possibilities are.

The American Rescue Plan is about the children, their health, their education, the economic security of their families, again. Our children’s health is greatly protected by crushing the virus and by expanding access to healthcare through the Affordable Care Act expansions in here, Medicaid through FMAP, and in other ways as well.

Our children’s education is advanced with a $170 billion to open schools safely. We know the emotional challenges that children face, as well as learning loss, as well as opening the schools safely. We know what that requires. It requires ventilation, space, more teachers, more space, to name a few things.

In terms of the economic security of children’s families, this legislation, as I said earlier to Mr. Neal, puts nearly $1 trillion in the pockets of the American people. Republicans did not seem to object when they put that much money in the pockets of 35 percent of their tax scam into the top 1 percent, but they seem to have a discomfort level when it reaches the poorest of the poor and those in the middle class who are struggling. So this legislation does that.

It includes the refundable tax credit, which will lift 50 percent of children out of poverty.

How about you say “no” to lifting 50 percent of impoverished children in America out of poverty?

Children also benefit from the earned income tax credit, direct payments, and enhanced unemployment insurance benefits for their families. And the economic security of children is also enhanced by pension security of their grandparents, which is historically secured in this bill.

Sometimes I have young people come to my office—it is all about the children. It is all about the future—high school students, college students—and they talk about the security of their grandparents as important because, to the extent that their parents can focus on them rather than worry about the financial security of their grandparents, it is very important to the family across the board.

For the children, the American Rescue Plan also includes $12 billion in nutrition assistance to help the estimated 11 million children going hungry.

When I talk about this with my family, I say to my kids: You know, the millions of children who are food insecure in our country, that is horrible.

They will say: Mom, just say it another way. They are hungry. Some of them get their food at school. They go to sleep hungry. If you call that food insecurity, okay, but understand this, these little children are hungry.

Again, $12 billion in nutrition assistance.

$45 billion in rental, homeowner, and other housing assistance so that children of families who are on the verge of eviction can have the comfort of knowing that they can stay in their home. They will have the comfort of home.

$45 billion of childcare to keep children learning and parents earning. That is always necessary, but even more so with the 2.8 million women losing their jobs, many of them moms. Now, everything that I mentioned here is related to the coronavirus. We have hunger issues in our country bigger than even this. We have housing issues. We have childcare issues, and the coronavirus, it is very important in our country. But this is coronavirus-centered.

Childcare, and I will say it again, $45 billion. Most of it is for childcare and a little bit of it is for Head Start. Children learning, parents earning. This is important and central to how families get through this coronavirus crisis.

All of these provisions in the bill are enhanced by strengthening the support for our heroes at the State and local level. Here, our bill was called the Heroes Act. Much of it is contained in this legislation. Heroes, because our workers at the State, county, and local level, our healthcare workers, our first responders, police and fire, our sanitation, transportation, our food workers, our teachers—our teachers, our teachers—make our lives possible, and make the existence of our children better.

Whatever we spend on education in this bill is a small percentage of what State and local government spend on education. More than 90 percent of it comes from the State and local. So in this legislation we are ensuring that State and local government keep them in their jobs as he talked about, and will help fight the fiscal pressure that they have because of the cost of addressing the coronavirus crisis, as well as revenue lost because of shutdowns and the rest.

I was raised in a Mayor’s household as a daughter and sister of the mayor of Baltimore. The recognition of the role that local government plays is very important to me, local and State. It is as consequential as the Affordable Care Act, which expanded healthcare to more than 20 million people and made benefits much better for over 150 million families.

Today, we have a decision to make of tremendous consequence, a decision that will make a difference for millions of Americans, saving lives and livelihoods. And as with all decisions, it is a decision that we will have to answer for. We will give the American Rescue Plan a resounding and, hopefully, bipartisan vote to reflect the bipartisan support that it has in the country. And we will get to work immediately to deliver lifesaving resources springing from this bill as soon as it is passed and signed, as we said, President Biden in his promise that help is on the way. For the people, for the children, I urge a “yes” vote.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, since March 2020, when the COVID–19 pandemic plunged this country into a public health emergency and wreaked havoc on the U.S. economy, Democrats have worked around the clock to advance robust legislation to address our public health needs and to provide real assistance to those who have been affected by this deadly pandemic.
That day has finally arrived. The American Rescue Plan Act is the culmination of a year-long effort by Democrats to tackle the pandemic crisis and provide assistance to struggling individuals, families, small businesses and communities. Under the leadership of President Joe Biden and Senator Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, the House and Senate are taking action to deliver robust relief across the country.

With millions out of work, facing eviction, experiencing hunger, and struggling to make ends meet, this legislation is urgently needed. The Committee on Financial Services drafted key recommendations that are contained in the legislation under consideration today, and as Chairwoman I am providing an explanatory statement of these provisions to guide the Administration’s implementation of these provisions.

Section 3101. COVID–19 Emergency Medical Supplies Enhancement.

Subsection (a) of section 3101 provides $10,000,000,000 to carry out titles I, III, and VII of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) for the production or purchase of medical equipment and supplies related to combating the COVID–19 Pandemic. The Committee expects that in implementing this section, the President will seek to make investments in both urban and rural areas to the extent this is consistent with the country’s overall health needs.

Subsection (b) sets out the purposes for which the $10 billion provided by this section may be used. Paragraph (1) provides that the funds may be used for the purchase, production or distribution of medical equipment and supplies related to combating the COVID–19 Pandemic, including funding for all types of COVID–19 tests, personal protection equipment, including N95 masks, and vaccines and drugs for preventing or treating COVID–19 or its symptoms. Subsection (b) also provides for using such funds for acquisition of material, including raw materials, equipment and technology needed for such purposes. The Committee notes that testing is critical to ensure that we can stamp out the pandemic, and the provision includes in-vitro diagnostic testing, intended to be rapid as that term is defined in section 809.3(a) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, for the detection of SARS–CoV–2 or the diagnosis of the virus that causes Covid–19. The Committee expects that such tests will include inexpensive rapid at-home antigen tests that will allow individuals to identify new infections quickly and safely. This subsection also provides for vaccines, which are described in this section as biological products, intended to be interpreted as that term is defined in section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262). The Committee also notes that “drugs” and “medical devices” as used in subsection (b)(1)(C) are intended to be interpreted as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.).

Subsection (b) also provides that after September 30, 2022, funds appropriated by subsection (a) may be used to combat future pathogens that the President determines have the potential for creating a public health emergency. This additional flexibility can be used to address the current or future pathogen threat. Given this flexibility, the Committee expects that if the President exercises this authority, the President will consult with the relevant committees, including providing information on the amounts the President anticipates the administration would spend to combat such a pathogen prior to exercising this authority. Because of the wide ranging interests in these matters, in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, other authorities that would be provided to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

The Committee also expects that the President will provide timely information regarding the use of these funds, whether for the COVID–19 Pandemic or for future pathogens. In particular, the Committee expects that the President will provide information on any commitment of more than $50 million, whether in the forms of expenditures or loans under the Defense Production Act of 1950, prior to making such commitment. Because of the wide interest in these matters, the Committee expects that all such information, shall be provided not only to the Committee but also to the Committees described above.

The Committee also expects that the funds provided by this section will primarily be used by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to direct an emergency to which the President may delegate his authority under the DPA to various agencies, and he has delegated DPA authority under Title III of the Act to HHS. While the DPA has been administered by the Department of Defense, the funds made available by DPA are not part of the Defense Industrial Base, but are for medical supplies and equipment related to the COVID–19 Pandemic. However, the Committee recognizes that the President may determine that it is important that other agencies, such as the Department of Homeland Security, have a role in either producing or distributing key supplies with respect to the Pandemic or a future pathogen that has the potential to cause a public health emergency. If the President delegates this authority to any agency other than HHS because it is important to do so, the Committee expects that in consultation with the relevant Committees prior to take such action, and notify the relevant Committees of which agency would exercise such authority, the amount and the purpose for which the funds would be used.

Finally, the Committee notes that the Senate Amendment removed references to section 304(e) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (relating to limits on carryover funds remaining in the Defense Production Act Fund established by section 304 of the Act). The Committee notes that in this reference, the $10 billion provided by section 3101 is no longer intended to be deposited into the DPA Fund. The statutory framework established by section 3101 clearly provides that the funds provided by this section are for any purposes that are fill and supporting critical infrastructure under section 107 of the Act and for experts and other personnel under Title VII of the Act). By its terms, the Committee expects that if the funds provided by this section are for any purposes other than fill and supporting critical infrastructure under section 107 of the Act and for experts and other personnel under Title VII of the Act). By its terms, the amounts in the DPA Fund are available only for purposes of Title III, so funds from section 3101 should not be deposited into this Fund. This is consistent with the facts that the use of these funds is for the ongoing nature, as opposed to referencing the existing “DPA Purchases” account, which is a proxy for deposits into the Fund. Moreover, the fact that the funds have a specific duration until September 30, 2025 demonstrates that these funds have a special status that is not consistent with the statutory frame of DPA Fund. Thus, in agreeing to the Senate Amendment, the Committee intends that the President use these funds to be used for the purposes of titles I, III, and VII of the Act and to available until September 30, 2025, without reference to section 304 of the Act. In order to ease execution of these funds, the President may use existing delegations and authorities to carry out this provision, including current mechanisms for execution of the DPA Fund.

The Committee notes that this section draws from H.R. 1720, introduced by Representative JUAN VARGAS of California. With millions of individuals and families struggling to pay their rent, action is urgently needed to prevent an eviction crisis. According to the latest U.S. Census data, nearly 1 in 5 renters are behind on paying rent, with renters of color disproportionately struggling, while Moody’s Analytics recently estimated that renters collectively owe over $57 billion in unpaid rent, utilities, and additional fees. Section 3201 provides $21.6 billion for states, localities, and territories to provide emergency assistance to renters. This funding supplements the $25 billion provided by Congress in December (Section 501 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) (Section 501)) but includes additional flexibilities to ensure grants can better stabilize renters. The Biden administration should again extend federal rental eviction moratorium that expires on March 31, 2021 so that grantees have time to distribute assistance to renters in need.

Renters would be able to receive up to 18 months of financial assistance, including future rent and utility payments (including pad rents in manufactured housing communities), and unpaid rent or utility bills that have accumulated. Renters can also receive assistance for other housing-related expenses necessary to promote housing stability, such as, but not limited to security deposits, legal fees for displaced households; late fees related to a former or current rental unit; and internet service provided to the rental unit. Section 3201 does not preclude grantees from continuing payment processes provided in Section 501. These processes are the provisions that govern payments of rent and utility assistance either to property owners and utilities or directly to tenants, and the application for assistance by landlords and owners under subsection (f). Additionally, funds can be used to provide housing stability services, such as, but not limited to: case management; landlord-tenant mediation; legal services related to eviction and housing stability; housing counseling; fair housing counseling; and specialized services for people with disabilities, people with chronic health conditions, seniors, or survivors of domestic violence or human trafficking. Similar to Section 501, Section 3201 permits grantees to use a certain percentage of their funds on administrative costs to support eligible program activities, including the provision of financial assistance and housing stability services. Grantees may also use up to 10 percent of the funds to establish a safety net for housing stability services. As in Section 501, funds are provided to states to assist renters throughout the state, including in rural communities, as
well as cities and counties that receive a direct allocation.

The Committee expects the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) (the agency implementing the program) and grantees to implement Section 3201 swiftly and not create any artificial barriers to assistance. In particular, we have seen with some benefits provided by the CARES Act, that documentation requirements to prove eligibility have erected artificial barriers that have cut people off from the benefits Congress intended them to receive. Indeed, these barriers, including targeting, advocates, landlords, and state and local government agencies have raised concerns that such requirements that have been applied in existing emergency rental assistance programs have prevented renters from completing applications and are overly burdensome for program staff. It is critical that any renters who are struggling to pay their rent during the pandemic are not barred from accessing this assistance due to cumbersome documentation requirements or other barriers. An applicant’s simple attestation should be the only documentation required to receive a benefit. Additionally, grantees may continue the income assessment procedures pursuant to Section 501 to determine eligibility. It is also the intent of the Committee that Treasury and grantees broadly read the requirement regarding the connection between a hardship and the coronavirus pandemic when determining the eligibility of the renter. As the language states, the hardship must have occurred “during or due, directly or indirectly, to the coronavirus pandemic.”

The economic effects of the pandemic will be felt long after the virus has subsided, the terms of which communities have been particularly hard-hit from the pandemic and will likely take years to recover. Treasury should issue guidance that makes this point clear to ensure renters are not cut off from needed assistance as they try to recover from economic downturns caused by the pandemic.

Section 3201 also provides that after October 1, 2022, certain grantees may expend funds on “other affordable rental housing and eviction prevention activities” that benefit any very low-income household. Such activities can include affordable housing development, preservation, or acquisition, and other forms of rental assistance and eviction prevention activities targeted to very-low-income renters.

To ensure continuity in monitoring funds provided by Section 3201 and Section 501 and ease of grantee implementation, Treasury should maintain the same reporting requirements that were included in Section 501. The Committee encourages the Administration to maintain a central public repository of information on state and local rental assistance programs, which at a minimum identifies the program’s administering agency and contact information, so that renters and landlords can more easily identify available assistance.

Finally, to the extent there is any confusion with regard to the taxability of assistance, Treasury, in consultation with the Internal Revenue Service, should provide guidance to clarify this for grantees and program participants. During the pandemic, certain industries and financial crisis, millions of homes are threatened by foreclosure, with over 8 million homeowners behind on their mortgage payments, and an estimated $90 billion in missed mortgage payments. Targeted, direct assistance to homeowners through the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF or Fund) is an essential tool that will help avoid a repeat of the 2008 foreclosure crisis, which upended the lives of millions. The Committee believes this type of assistance is necessary given the generational wealth for many communities, namely for families and communities of color. Although the CARES Act provided a foreclosure moratorium and forbearance for federally-backed mortgages, many homeowners will lose their homes if foreclosure is not ended due to the absence of additional assistance. Approximately 30 percent of the mortgage market is not federally-backed and, therefore, ineligible for CARES Act forbearance relief provided in March of 2020. Elderly borrowers with reverse mortgages (known as Home Equity Conversion Mortgages or HECMs) will need assistance paying their taxes, insurance, and utilities on time to avoid foreclosure. Low-to-moderate income homeowners may need more payment assistance after forbearance than is possible through loss mitigation programs. Single-family rental property owners and other homeowners without a mortgage will also need assistance to avoid losing their homes due to foreclosures. The HAF would be able to help with other housing costs beyond mortgage payments, and can be used for things like principal reductions, interest payments, property taxes, property insurance, and utilities. Additional funds for the HAF would provide greater opportunities to provide loss mitigation for federal mortgage programs but can provide deeper payment reductions for homeowners who need it.

Administered through the Department of the Treasury, the HAF would provide nearly $10 billion for states, territories, and tribal governments to address the ongoing needs of homeowners struggling to afford their housing because they have experienced a financial hardship associated with the coronavirus pandemic. Designed to work alongside CARES Act mortgage forbearance relief and federal loss mitigation programs, the HAF will prevent foreclosures by providing homeowners direct assistance with their mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance, utilities, and other housing related costs. HAF would fund programs similar to the Hardest Hit Fund (HHF), which was a homeowner relief program created in the aftermath of the 2008 crisis that was administered primarily through State Housing Finance Agencies. While HHF funding was available to select states, the HAF has been calibrated to be available to all states, territories, and tribes, and to account for significantly higher rates of unemployment today as compared to 2008. Of the nearly $10 billion dollars provided through the HAF, 60 percent of funds are required to be prioritized to states, territories, and tribes with below 100 percent of the area median income or the national median income, whichever is higher. The flexibility in income determination between AMI and national median income is intended to ensure resources reach localities where the area median income may be too low to adequately serve struggling tribal homeowners and other homeowners living in rural areas. The remaining 40 percent of funds are not income limited and must be targeted to socially disadvantaged individuals, which the Committee expects will capture homeowners of color. This could include Black, Asian, and Native American homeowners across the income spectrum who have been shown to be disproportionately at risk of being delinquent on their mortgages and at risk of foreclosure due to having lower savings and less wealth on average compared to White homeowners. According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s weekly Pulse Survey data, Black, Latinx, and Asian homeowners have consistently been more likely to experience delinquency and foreclosure despite age, sex, income, and geography, to be behind on their mortgage payments. Similarly, a survey conducted by Fannie Mae found that 51 percent of Black homeowners and 65 percent of Latinx homeowners were not familiar with loss mitigation options provided through the CARES Act, despite being the populations with the greatest need.

The Committee expects that Treasury’s implementation and administration of the Fund will include proper oversight and reporting requirements to monitor and ensure HAF fundingproperly reaches and serves the populations that have been documented to be experiencing disproportionate need during the current crisis. Adequate reporting should be made publicly available on a quarterly basis and include the types and amount of assistance provided, the terms of such assistance, with the data disaggregated by locality, race, ethnicity, sex, and other factors that provide transparency and oversight in accordance with the law. Such reporting will also be essential in Treasury’s ability to implement the HAF Re-allocation provision.

While the Department of Housing and Urban Development, in coordination with the Department of Justice, is responsible for the enforcement of the Fair Housing Act (FHAct), the Committee expects that federal housing programs and funds be administered in a manner that affirmatively further fair housing and do not perpetuate historically inequitable distribution of housing funds. Therefore, both Treasury and eligible entities have a legal responsibility to affirmatively further fair housing through HAF, and to ensure that the administration of housing relief funds do not have a disparate impact on protected classes under the FHAct. The federal government must avoid its mistakes of the past that have resulted in the lopsided, inequitable provision of housing relief that failed to meet the needs of hardest hit communities that are often the lowest income communities and communities of color. In support of these efforts, Section 3208 provides $20 million for HUD’s Fair Housing Initiatives Program to support housing discrimination complaint intake and on-the-ground fair housing investigations.

Additionally, Treasury must provide eligible entities with clear and standard guidance early on in its administration of HAF to facilitate proper and expeditious implementation. The Committee expects Treasury to affirmatively further fair housing through HAF. The Committee also expects that the Treasury will allow eligible entities that overestimate funding needs for administrative purposes to transfer and use such funds in the provision of assistance to homeowners. Following the 2008 financial crisis and the Great Recession, Congress established the Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) that provided $1.5 billion to the Department of the
Treasury (Treasury) to fund various state, territorial, and local small business loan and investment programs. This program was leveraged to support $10.7 billion in new financing to small businesses, helping to create or save more than 240,000 jobs. The median small business supported by SSBCI had four full-time employees, and the median loan or investment amount was $33,000. Approximately 41 percent of SSBCI supported transactions went to women or minority-owned businesses. This successful program expired in 2017.

In light of the widespread challenges small businesses, especially minority-owned businesses, have faced during the COVID–19 pandemic, Section 3301 would effectively authorize the SSBCI, providing $10 billion in federal funds to support up to $100 billion in new loans and investments for small businesses through state, territory, tribal, and local small business programs. This amount includes up to $2.5 billion in federal funds to support business enterprises owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, including minority-owned businesses. The amount also includes up to $500 million for tribal government programs, and $500 million to provide technical assistance to small businesses that need legal, accounting, financial and other kinds of advice in applying for small business support programs.

As the renewed SSBCI is stood up, the Treasury should provide adequate support to small businesses, especially very small businesses and those owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, including minority-owned businesses. Additionally, through the program requirements Treasury is authorized to establish and, through other means, the Committee expects Treasury to closely oversee states’ expenditure of $2.5 billion funds that are to directly support businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, including establishing a minimum level of support states and other entities receiving funds provide to these businesses.

In addition, the Treasury should require states to provide a specific plan to engage minority depository institutions (MDIs), community development financial institutions (CDFIs) and other mission-driven lenders who have a strong track record of supporting small and minority-owned businesses. Treasury should also require states to provide a specific plan to engage minority depository institutions (MDIs), community development financial institutions (CDFIs) and other mission-driven lenders who have a strong track record of supporting small and minority-owned businesses. The Treasury should provide adequate support to small businesses, especially very small businesses and those owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, including minority-owned businesses. Additionally, through the program requirements Treasury is authorized to establish and, through other means, the Committee expects Treasury to closely oversee states’ expenditure of $2.5 billion funds that are to directly support businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, including establishing a minimum level of support states and other entities receiving funds provide to these businesses.

Furthermore, the Committee expects that the Treasury will provide timely information regarding the use of these funds. The Treasury should require the gathering of data on program implementation, including but not limited to, demographics on program participants and interest rates assessed by lenders and investors. This data should be reported to the public and the appropriate congressional committees of jurisdiction, as well as shared with appropriate federal agencies, such as the Inspector General’s office and the Government Accountability Office, for review.

The CARES Act, signed into law on March 27, 2020, established the Payroll Support Program (PSP), which provided $32 billion in payroll support for U.S. airlines, cargo air carriers, and contractors servicing air carriers at airports. Through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, Congress approved the Payroll Support Program Extension (PSP2), which provided short-term relief to the same class of employers through March 31, 2021. According to some estimates, major U.S. airlines lost over $35 billion in 2020, and require additional assistance to support their workforce. Therefore, Section 7301 would provide $15 billion to further extend the Payroll Support Program (PSP3) through at least September 30, 2021, to provide payroll support for airline workers and related contract workers. Specifically, PSP3 would provide $14 billion to support workers of eligible air carriers, and $1 billion would be available to support workers of eligible contractors. Given the budget reconciliation process that is required to rely on the PSP2 distribution framework, the Committee urges Treasury to implement this program in a robust and fair manner so that all entities eligible for PSP2 and PSP3 are able to access the program and provide ongoing support for its workforce.

Like other businesses, airports and airport concessions have been hit hard during the pandemic. To help ensure those businesses and their workers get the support they need until the public health emergency is over and airport activity normalizes, Section 7102 provides $8 billion in relief for airports, including at least $800 million to support airport concessions. In administering the program, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) should implement this program along with the relief program by SSBCI enacted into law through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act on December 27, 2020, holistically and prioritize support for minority-owned businesses, including Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (ACDBEs).

Moreover, Section 7102 requires Treasury to identify and report to Congress that many airport concessions operate in, including through joint ventures and other partnerships with large airport concessions they receive direct support from. As such, the FAA should support the full ecosystem while taking all necessary steps to ensure small and minority-owned concessions, regardless of the contractual arrangements those entities are a party to as an airport concession (e.g., joint venture, sub-tenant under a master lease or master development agreement). The American Rescue Plan funding will be critical for Tribes to cover government programs that will help preserve Native languages and culture.
Last Congress, the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples heard from Tribes about inequities in the distribution of Coronavirus Relief Funds to Tribes under the CARES Act. The decision to solely rely on Indian Housing Block Grant formula for the calculation of tribal population numbers left inaccuracies in the counts for many Tribes. I have been encouraged by this administration’s renewed commitment to Tribal consultation, and I urge the administration to continue to make good on that commitment by consulting with and determining the fairest and most accurate rate way to determine Tribal enrollment population for the purposes of the American Rescue Plan.

Finally, in order to maximize the effectiveness of this historic investment in Native communities, the American Rescue Plan relief funding must be distributed on an equitable basis. That is why I am proud of the American Rescue Plan’s establishment of a minimum payment to ensure every Tribe receives a strong baseline of support. We also heard from Tribes that equitable distribution includes the utilization of both Tribal population and economic and employment data. Once again, it is my hope that the Biden Administration will rely on Tribal consultation in this area when deciding how best to distribute this desperately needed payment in an equitable, timely, and effective manner.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to highlight this important and historic investment in Tribal Nations, who have shown leadership and resilience even as COVID–19 devastated their communities. I look forward to working with my colleagues and with this Administration to ensure quick and effective implementation of this bill in the coming weeks.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

The legislation will provide much needed relief to both individuals and communities.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better.

While I have concerns about some of the changes made in the Senate, overall, the package still delivers key aid to hurting communities, individuals, and businesses that continues to be needed. This package helps support child care, a key employment enabler—without which so many women have dropped out of the workforce during this pandemic. It refills FEMA’s disaster assistance fund, provides funding so that schools can reopen safely or continue to do so in an effective manner, provides assistance to public transit systems, and provides relief to many other provisions.

Does this bill do all the things I would want? No. I would love to have gone further to deliver greater relief. But it is a good enough start and helps address some key challenges and will help expedite recovery in our communities on the long and challenging road ahead.

I thank the President for his leadership, as well as the Speaker, and Chairman Neal. Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

The legislation will provide much needed relief to both individuals and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that this legislation includes $750 million in funding through the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology for additional research related to COVID–19.

I also acknowledge that this is not enough, and I will continue to advocate for research recovery funding to ensure we do not suffer irreversible loss to our science and innovation capacity.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better.

They’ve been told that this bill is about Covid, but less than a dime of every dollar goes to Covid vaccines and defeating the virus.

They’ve been told that this is a stimulus, but it doesn’t do anything to stimulate the economy—in fact, it could make it even worse, especially paired with President Biden’s war on energy jobs, and Democrats’ looming efforts to raise your taxes.

The White House refuses to tell the American people how much jobs it will create because they know it won’t create jobs. It won’t even secure the jobs most Americans have.

The White House refuses to tell the American people how much jobs it will create because they know it won’t create jobs. It won’t even secure the jobs most Americans have.

The February jobs report shows that, although we are far behind where we were prior to the pandemic, jobs are picking up.

I urge my colleagues to vote no.

Mr. SABAN. Mr. Speaker, one year ago, the bottom fell out for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. Our tourism-dependent economy suddenly had no tourists. Businesses began closing. People were laid off. Schools closed. And government revenues plunged.

We were fortunate that, as islands with few access points, we could keep the coronavirus
at bay and remain healthy by screening every arrival.

And we were fortunate to receive the economic help we needed from the federal government and from our fellow Americans. We will be forever grateful.

Now vaccinations have begun. We are rolling up our sleeves to take the shot and to get back to work. But when will tourists feel safe to travel to our islands? And when will we feel safe allowing tourists to return? Like so much of what has happened over this last year, we cannot predict.

That is why passage of the American Rescue Plan today is so important. The Rescue Plan will keep us healthy and economically sound as we make our way forward in this unpredictable future caused by the coronavirus.

Those who remain laid off will continue to receive Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, as they have since we passed the CARES Act last March.

Taxpayers will receive another economic impact payment and more dependent children will qualify for additional aid.

Our K–12 schools, which have managed to reopen on a limited basis, will remain open, because the Rescue Plan has $160 million to make sure teachers and staff can be paid. And the Northern Marianas College and its students will also get the help needed to continue studies.

Childcare providers, another critical small business, get an assist to stay open, benefitting working parents who depend on these services. Working families will, also, see their Child Tax Credit increased and because we were able to amend the Rescue Plan to make Marianas’ taxpayers eligible for the advance monthly payment of CTC, just like Americans nationwide, island parents will be getting that money when it is most useful, to meet the immediate needs of growing children.

Working families in the Marianas will also now—for the first time in twenty-five years—receive the Earned Income Tax Credit that is key to keeping Americans who work out of poverty.

And for those who still cannot work or whose incomes are insufficient, we have included $30 million to provide food assistance in the Marianas and funds for housing, so no one need lose the roof over their head.

Last but not least, I want to recognize the importance of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund included in the American Rescue Plan. I know this money was kept out of the relief measure we enacted in December, in part because criticism of this was a “blue state bailout.” Believe me, the Marianas paid a price and more than its share of the $15 billion we would have been able to amend the Rescue Plan to make Marianas’ taxpayers eligible for the advance monthly payment of CTC, just like Americans nationwide, island parents will be getting that money when it is most useful, to meet the immediate needs of growing children.

And for those who still cannot work or whose incomes are insufficient, we have included $30 million to provide food assistance in the Marianas and funds for housing, so no one need lose the roof over their head.

As I stand here, and for those who still cannot work or whose incomes are insufficient, we have included $30 million to provide food assistance in the Marianas and funds for housing, so no one need lose the roof over their head.

As I stand here today, I respectfully suggest clarification of the ARP language of Section 9901, indicating how the $19 of the $20 billion direct relief for tribal governments is to be allocated by Treasury to ensure economic recovery funds can be used in a reasonable manner which was left unaddressed under the CARES Act. The availability of flexible spending is of grave importance since tribal governments faced significant impacts from COVID–19 and, as a result, lost critical government revenue. It is estimated that tribal nations sustained 35 percent revenue loss in 2020 since they lack traditional tax bases enjoyed by state and local governments. Thus, tribal enterprise revenues supply a majority of funding for basic government services to make up for these losses.

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Mr. KATKO changed his vote from "yea" to "nay." So the motion to concur was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 11TH CONGRESS

Alfred (David) (KS)
Babin (Norman) (LA)
Baird (Walorski) (IN)
Barragan (Berger) (FL)
Bush (Ocasio-Cortez) (NY)
Caudenas (Gomez) (CA)
Clover (Bayer) (WI)
Cullen (Bayer) (NY)
DeFazio (Davies) (MA)
Fudge (Kaptur) (OH)
Grijalva (García) (AZ)
Hastings (Waterman) (IA)
Johnson (TX)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)

MARCIA L. FUDGE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Hon. MIKE DEWINE, Governor of Ohio,

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following resolution from the House of Representatives:

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore: Mr. VEAZEY laid before the House the following resolution from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Hon. NANCY PELOSI, Speaker of the House,

Dear Speaker Pelosi: It has been my honor and privilege to serve the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio since November 2008. My appreciation for their support as I sought to represent their interests and those of many Americans for whom I could be a voice is boundless.

I will always remember my colleagues and friends with whom I have been blessed as part of my family during the last twelve years. I am fortunate to have been selected by President Joe Biden to continue to serve the public good as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Therefore, please accept this correspondence as notice of my resignation from the U.S. House of Representatives, 11th Congressional District of Ohio, effective immediately upon delivery on March 10, 2021.

Thank you for your leadership and support during my tenure.

Sincerely,

MARCIA L. FUDGE.
"(C) If a transfer of a firearm described in subparagraph (A) will not be completed for any reason after a licensee takes possession of the firearm (including because the transfer of the firearm or receipt of the firearm by the transferee would violate this chapter), the return of the firearm to the transferee shall not constitute the transfer of a firearm for purposes of this chapter.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply—

(A) to a law enforcement agency or any law enforcement officer, armed private security professional, or member of the armed forces, to the extent the officer, professional, or member is acting within the course and scope of employment and official duties;

(B) a transfer that is a loan or bona fide gift between spouses, between domestic partners, between parents and their children, including step-parents and their step-children, between siblings, between aunts or uncles and their nieces or nephews, or between grandparent and their grandchildren, if the transferee has no reason to believe that the transferee will use or intends to use the firearm in a crime or is prohibited from possessing firearms under State or Federal law;

(C) a transfer to an executor, administrator, trustee, or personal representative of an estate that occurs by operation of law upon the death of another person;

(D) a temporary transfer that is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm, including harm to self, family, household members, or others, if the possession by the transferee lasts only as long as immediately necessary to prevent the imminent death or great bodily harm, including the harm of domestic violence, dating partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, and domestic abuse;

(E) a transfer that is approved by the Attorney General under section 5812 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

(F) a temporary transfer if the transferee has no reason to believe that the transferee will use or intends to use the firearm in a crime or is prohibited from possessing firearms under State or Federal law, and the transferee places and the transferee's possession of the firearm is exclusively—

(1) at a shooting range or in a shooting gallery or other area designated for the purpose of target shooting;

(2) while reasonably necessary for the purposes of hunting, trapping, or fishing, if the transferee—

(I) has no reason to believe that the transferee intends to use the firearm in a place where it is illegal; and

(II) has reasonable belief that the transferee will comply with all licensing and permit requirements for such hunting, trapping, or fishing; or

(3) while in the presence of the transferee;

(3) It shall be unlawful for a licensed importer, manufacturer, or dealer to transfer possession of, or title to, a firearm to another person who is not so licensed unless the importer, manufacturer, or dealer has provided such other person with notice of the prohibition under paragraph (1), and such other person has certified that such other person has been provided with this notice on a form prescribed by the Attorney General.

(b) AMENDMENT TO SECTION 924(a).—Section 924(d) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "(s) or (t)" and inserting "(s), (t), or (aa)"

(c) RULES OF INTERPRETATION.—Nothing in this Act, or any amendment made by this Act, shall be construed to—

(1) authorize the establishment, directly or indirectly, of a national firearms registry;

(2) interfere with the authority of a State, under section 927 of title 18, United States Code, to enact a law on the same subject matter as this Act.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

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

The gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 8.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, gun violence impacts all of our communities and no place is immune from its reach, including our homes, our streets, our schools, and even our places of worship. That is why we must take swift and decisive action to reduce the daily toll of gun violence that affects millions of Americans. H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021 is sensible and effective legislation to do just that.

Under current law, gun sales conducted by licensed firearms dealers may only be completed if the buyers clear background checks. This bill would simply extend that requirement, with limited exceptions, to guns transferred by unlicensed individuals as well. That simple change to close a dangerous loophole would simply extend that requirement, to make firearms undergo a background check to help ensure that firearms do not end up in the wrong hands.

I thank Representative MIKE THOMPSON of California for drafting this important legislation and for being a champion of gun violence prevention in Congress.

Simply put, H.R. 8 will save lives. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to support safer streets, safer schools, and safer communities.

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 1⁄2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE), the co-chair of the Second Amendment Caucus.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats today want to introduce gun control legislation that they say is going to make you safer. They want to expand background checks.

But what do background checks accomplish?

Well, the DOJ said there were 112,000 denials in a year.

Who were those 112,000 people?

Well, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would have you think those were felons, they saved you from those felons.

But how many of those 112,000 were prosecuted for that crime of trying to acquire that gun?

According to the DOJ, 12—1—2—12 in a year.

Who were the other 100,000?

Imagine, just imagine now that you are the victim of an abusive relationship and after 5 years you have summed the courage and the resources to separate from that relationship, but things have escalated and now you have decided that it is time to acquire the means to protect you and your children. So you go to the gun store and you try to buy a gun. The clerk presses the computer button, and it says "denied."

You ask the clerk, "Why was it denied?"

The clerk says, "I don't know. This happens sometimes. Maybe you had a similar name to somebody else in the database."

You can't buy a gun today, tomorrow, next week. Not ever. You have
State prosecutors said gathering evidence to denial investigations can take law enforce-
safety compared to other cases involving gun United States Attorneys said that pros-
form whether any policy changes are needed. aware of their deterrence value and in-
tigated about 12,700 in fiscal year 2017—has been
creased from about 5,200 in fiscal year 2011 to
cases referred to field divisions—which in-
tigating the increasing number of denial
ments. ATF and selected states re-
Challenges. ATF and selected states re-
individuals who certify that they are not prohibited
ual Background Check System (NICS) collec-
checks through the National Instant Crimi-
that process firearm-related background check
investigations and prosecutions. Federal
Investigations and prosecutions. Federal
TABLE.—FEDERAL NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM (NICS) FIREARMS DENIAL CASES INVESTIGATED AND PROSECUTED, FISCAL YEAR 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal NICS Transactions</th>
<th>ATF Field Division Investigations</th>
<th>United States Attorney's Offices Prosecutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denials</td>
<td>112,090</td>
<td>12,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,606,286</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the state level, officials from 10 of 13 se-
lected states said they did not investigate or prosecute firearm denials, some citing com-
peting resource demands and the lack of statutes with which states prosecute as rea-
sons. The remaining 3 states investigated a high proportion of firearms denials. One of the
3 states reported about 1,900 referrals for prosecution in 2017 and about 470 convic-
tions.

Challenges. ATF and selected states re-
ported challenges in investigating and pros-
cuting firearms denials. Officials from six
selected ATF field divisions said that inves-
tigations of the increasing number of denial cases referred to field divisions—which in-
creased from about 5,200 in fiscal year 2011 to about 12,700 in fiscal year 2017—has been
time intensive and required use of their lim-
ited resources. ATF policy provides that field divisions may send “warning notices” to
denied persons in lieu of prosecution. But
ATF has not assessed field divisions’ use of
these notices, which could provide greater
awareness of their deterrence value and in-
form officials about possible changes needed.

Officials from the Executive Office for
United States Attorneys said that pros-
cuting denial cases may require significant
effort, and may offer little value to public safety compared to other cases involving gun
violence. Selected state officials said that
denial investigations can take law enforce-
ment officials from their core duties. State
prosecutors said gathering evidence to prove individuals knew they were prohibited
was a challenge.

Types of cases. ATF field divisions inves-
tigate denial cases based on USAO criteria and generally only refer cases to USAOs for
prosecution when aggravating circumstances exist, such as violent felonies or multiple se-
rious offenses over a short period of time. Of-

I don’t think that is fair. And for the fact checkers who are al-
ready hard at work on this speech, I in-
clude in the RECORD this GAO report on the DOJ statistics on background checks.

[From the United States Government Accountability Office, Sept. 2016]
Nine out of 10 Americans support the reforms in this bill. Now, I know I have seen some people, Mr. Speaker, shake their head, no, no, that is not the case. Shown has less than 80 percent of Americans thinking that terrorists should not be able to buy guns, that felons should not be able to buy guns, that domestic abusers should not buy guns, particularly in an accelerated way. You get mad at a partner, you send them a threatening email, your ex girlfriend, or your ex boyfriend, whatever, go down to the store, buy, get a gun, bang.

It is one thing to have a thoughtful purchase: I want to have a hunting gun; I want to have a handgun for target practice; I want a handgun for safety in my home, in my business, in my car. But if you are a person who has shown that you are not somebody who is a responsible person—sort of like driving a car, if you are not responsible, you are a reckless driver and you have been guilty of manslaughter by automobile or something of that nature—people have a right to know that what you do is going to be not a danger to them.

This is one of the greatest examples of legislation that truly reflects the will of the American people. That is why I hope we can come together to pass it with bipartisan support. I don't know that that is going to be the case. But if it is not the case, it will not reflect the will of the American people who would like to see this on a bipartisan basis. Republicans and Democrats polled support this legislation.

Now, if somebody wants to show me a poll that says, no, that is not the case, that is one thing, but I haven't seen a poll that doesn't reflect that. Just as I believe we ought to do this week with Representative Clyburn's bill as well, which could close the loophole that contains responsible, and racially motivated mass shooting at the Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015. Nine people in church slain by somebody who got a gun; who, if the report had come back in a timely fashion, wouldn't have been able to get that gun.

I hope that Senate Republicans will not filibuster this bill. At some point in time the majority ought to rule.

Now, the Second Amendment correctly protects gun ownership. I don't have an argument with that. But the Supreme Court itself said that there could be responsible restraints and items for protection consistent with that amendment. That is what this bill does.

I hope our friends will listen to the voices of parents, children, siblings, spouses, neighbors, and friends of those who were killed by gun violence in recent years; and I hope they will remember the names that bring tears to many eyes and pain in so many hearts. Parkland. Some believe Parkland didn't happen. They are wrong, of course. Sandy Hook; Charleston; Las Vegas; Orlando; Pittsburgh; Annapolis; San Bernardino; Washington Navy Yard, just a few blocks from here; Oak Creek; Tucson; Virginia Tech; and the list could go on and on and on.

I say to the gentlemen and ladies of the House, let's not add more names to this register of grief. Let's not rely on a pandemic to do what we ought to have done so long ago. Let's pass these bills and reduce gun violence the right way, with our votes.

Is this a perfect bill? Will it establish or accomplish the absolute safety? It will not, but what 90 percent of Americans say is that it is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, let us take that step. Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, no, it doesn't. The previous speaker said when this bill becomes law, it will stop some of the mass shootings—all of the mass shootings that happen in this country. No, it won't. Nothing in this bill would prohibit, would have stopped any of those terrible things that took place.

What this bill does is stop law-abiding citizens from exercising their Second Amendment liberties, just as the gentleman from Kentucky mentioned a few minutes ago.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ).

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 8. A major reason our Founding Fathers drafted the Second Amendment is to have a check and balance for the people against the tyranny of government. It is the Second Amendment for a reason, not the Ninth or the Tenth. You must have the Second Amendment to protect the First.

The first action by history's dictators—and we know all of them—was to take guns from law-abiding citizens. We must remember that there is no law that stops criminals from getting guns and committing crimes. We would have empty prisons otherwise.

As someone who grew up under a tyrannical government, I value these rights tremendously, and I encourage my colleagues to be vigilant and protect these rights for all law-abiding citizens.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, every day 30 people are killed by someone using a gun. That number jumps to 100 if you factor in accidents and suicides involving guns. The steady stream of gun violence devastates families, communities, and schools.

I say to the House, our Gun violence costs our country $280 billion every year. This status quo is not okay.

Our constituents know it, and they support H.R. 8 overwhelmingly.

The Special Order last night on H.R. 8 was another low point for decorum in the House. To be generous, it was an embarrasing display and a complete misrepresentation of the facts.

Viewers were told that the bill would create a Federal gun registry. Wrong. Read page 5, line 18. H.R. 8 prohibits any registry.

They were told you can't give a gun to a family member. Wrong. Read page 3, line 7. You can.

They were told that you can't transfer a gun if someone was suicidal or needed it for protection to address a self-defense situation. Wrong. Read page 3, line 21. You can.

They were told you can't lend a gun to a friend to go hunting. Wrong. Read page 4, line 16. You can.

What the bill does do is close the private gun sale loophole, which has made it easy for felons and other prohibited purchasers to buy a gun online, at gun shows, or in person-to-person sales. We know universal background checks work. Every day they stop some 160 felons and some 50 domestic abusers from buying a gun. Every day without universal background checks, these people can take their business elsewhere, to someone without a Federal firearms license and buy the same gun.

I have personally filled out the 4473 form required to buy a gun from a licensed dealer. I have done it many times. It is something that every responsible gun owner should be able to live with. Heck, they should welcome it because it helps reduce dangerous individuals from getting a gun.

In 90 percent of the cases, background checks are completed within minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that these letters that I have from dozens of gun violence prevention groups, healthcare workers, law enforcement, and others be included in the RECORD.

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March 5, 2021.

Hon. Chuck Schumer, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. Kevin McCarthy, Republican Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
purchasers. Federally licensed dealers must run a check through NICS to determine whether a potential buyer is prohibited from purchasing firearms. If information in NICS shows that a prospective purchaser is indeed prohibited, the dealer must deny the sale.

However, no background check is required for sales at a gun show, through online marketplaces, or between private individuals. Individuals who would otherwise be prohibited from purchasing or possessing a gun can easily buy guns through such unregulated sales. And the frequency of these unregulated sales is growing: recent studies indicate that approximately 22 percent of firearms are purchased through unregulated sales.

Additionally, H.R. 1446 / S. 591 the Enhanced Background Checks Act would provide the FBI more time to complete background checks and ensure that people prohibited from possessing firearms are not able to obtain them by default because of an incomplete background check. This deadly loophole in existing law was exploited by a white supremacist who killed nine people at the Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

Oregon adopted universal background checks in 2015 which we strongly supported. However, our citizens are still vulnerable to the importation of firearms from states with less stringent laws. We need federal legislation that will apply to all.

We urge you to pass H.R. 8 / S. 529 the Bipartisan Background Checks Act / Background Check Expansion Act and H.R.1446 / S. 591 the Enhanced Background Checks Act / Background Check Completion Act, as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

PAUL KEMP,
President,

STATES UNITED TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE,
March 5, 2021.

HON. CHUCK SCHUMER,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

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

HON. MITCH McCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Republican Leader,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

HON. CLAY HUMPHREYS,
Republican Leader,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

CLAY LASSER-SOMMERS,
Executive Director,
States United to Prevent Gun Violence.

MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION,
March 5, 2021.

H.R. 8 / S. 529 the Bipartisan Background Checks Act / Background Check Expansion Act would require a background check on every sale, ensuring that people prohibited from purchasing firearms cannot exploit loopholes and purchase guns through an unregulated sale at a gun show, online, or from an unlicensed seller. Additional individuals would no longer be able to cross state lines solely to purchase a firearm in a state with less stringent background checks. Closing these background check loopholes is critical to reducing gun violence throughout the United States.

Additionally, H.R. 1446 / S. 591 the Enhanced Background Checks Act / Background Check Completion Act would provide the FBI more time to complete background checks and ensure that people prohibited from possessing firearms are not able to obtain them by default because of an incomplete background check. This deadly loophole in existing law was exploited by a white supremacist who killed nine people at the Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

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CLAY LASSER-SOMMERS,
Executive Director,
States United to Prevent Gun Violence.

MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION,
March 5, 2021.
prohibited from purchasing firearms cannot exploit loopholes and purchase guns through an unregulated sale at a gun show, online, or from an unlicensed seller. In addition, individuals who have been prohibited from purchasing firearms cannot exploit loopholes and purchase guns through any unregulated sale at a gun show, online, or from an unlicensed seller. It is past time for Congress to act to fix this gap in law.

Under current law, a licensed dealer may transfer a firearm to a buyer who is prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm. Individuals who are prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm cannot exploit loopholes and purchase guns through such unregulated sales. The National Police Foundation, in its report on the Charleston Loophole, found that an estimated one in five gun sales or transfers—those conducted by private sellers, in-person sales, and online sales—are prohibited individuals or to hold illegal gun transactions, as well as H.R. 1446, the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021, to close a dangerous gap in law that allows thousands of prohibited individuals to purchase firearms every year. The Brady Law was enacted in 1994, more than 10 million prohibited firearm transactions have been completed. In 2015 alone, an average of 619 individuals per day were deemed by law to be too dangerous to possess a firearm and were blocked by the system.

Background checks are conclusively effective and have saved countless lives. However, because only federally licensed firearms dealers are required to conduct these checks, an estimated one in five gun sales or transfers—those conducted by private sellers, in-person sales, and online sales—are prohibited individuals or to hold illegal gun transactions, as well as H.R. 1446, the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021, to close a dangerous gap in law that allows thousands of prohibited individuals to purchase firearms every year. The Brady Law was enacted in 1994, more than 10 million prohibited firearm transactions have been completed. In 2015 alone, an average of 619 individuals per day were deemed by law to be too dangerous to possess a firearm and were blocked by the system.

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advocated strongly for and continues to support common sense responses to America’s gun violence problem. Addressing and strengthening our system of background checks is precisely what we need now and it is my belief that H.R. 8/S.B. 292 can address these issues and is worthy of full consideration.

Since 1998, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) has conducted firearm background checks on gun purchasers. Federally licensed dealers must run a check through NICS to determine whether a potential buyer is prohibited from purchasing firearms. If information in NICS shows that a person is indeed prohibited, the dealer must deny the sale.

However, there is a loophole in federal law and no background check is required for sales at gun shows, through online marketplaces, or between private individuals. Individuals who would otherwise be prohibited from purchasing or possessing a gun can easily buy guns through such unregulated sales. And the frequency of these unregulated sales is concerning: recent studies indicate that approximately 22 percent of firearms are purchased without a background check, and up to 80 percent of crimes in which lethal guns are used are obtained without a background check.

H.R. 8/S.B. 292 the Bipartisan Background Checks Act would require a background check on every sale, ensuring that people prohibited from purchasing firearms cannot exploit loopholes and purchase guns through an unregulated sale at a gun show, online, or from an unlicensed seller. In addition, individuals would no longer be able to cross state lines solely to purchase a firearm in a state with less stringent background checks. Closing these background check loopholes is critical to reducing gun violence throughout the United States.

The women and men serving on America’s front lines deserve the support that these bills will provide. Beyond data and research, common sense tells us that the solutions offered in H.R. 8/S. 292 are needed and will make a difference. We urge you to pass H.R. 8/S.B. 292 the Bipartisan Background Checks Act/Background Check Expansion Act, as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

James H. Burch, II
President

March 4, 2021.
Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8, the “Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021,” which would make it illegal for any person who is not a licensed firearm importer, manufacturer, or dealer to transfer a firearm to any other person without a background check. A 2013 study found that approximately 80 percent of all firearms acquired for criminal purposes were obtained from sources who were not required to run a background check, and 16 percent of inmates who were not prohibited from possessing a firearm at the time they committed their crime obtained their gun this way.

This loophole exists largely because unlicensed sellers need not conduct any background check under current law, even if the seller sells a large number of guns. Under H.R. 8, the “Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021,” individuals seeking to transfer a firearm under this measure would be required to visit a licensed firearms dealer to pick up a background check before the transfer could be finalized.

H.R. 8 is intended to provide an accurate and speedy manner to ensure firearms do not end up in the wrong hands. An internal assessment by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) demonstrated that NICS background checks are approximately 99.3 percent to 99.8 percent accurate, and in 90 percent of cases, are processed within 90 seconds.

I am particularly pleased that the rule reported by Rules Committee makes in order Jackson Lee Amendment No. 12 to H.R. 8, which makes clear that a gun owner who realizes that he or she is at risk of suicide may transfer the gun to someone else, if the risk is imminent, without a background check to prevent self-harm.

The Jackson Lee Amendment will help ensure that no person who is experiencing a suicidal crisis will feel compelled to retain their gun when it would be better for them to temporarily transfer it to someone else.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are demanding effective action to reduce, if not prevent altogether, the countless mass shootings and gun violence in our country that continue to claim so many innocent lives.

Newly released data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention found firearm-related deaths rose for the second straight year in 2016, largely due to spikes in firearm violence. In 2016, the new CDC report on preliminary mortality data shows that there were more than 38,000 gun-related deaths in the U.S.—4,000 more than 2015.

An Associated Press analysis of FBI data shows there were about 11,000 gun-related homicides in 2016, up from 9,600 in 2015. Congress must act to keep our country safe through gun safety and violence deterrence.

They also noted that nearly one mass shooting per day in the United States—355 mass shootings in 2018.

The reality is universal background checks do not stop mass shootings. We do not have mass shootings because of lack of background checks. This bill will not make our communities safer. In fact, what it will do is cause law-abiding citizens to lose more of their Second Amendment rights.

We shouldn’t be focused here in Congress in taking those rights away. We actually should be strengthening the enforcement of laws we already have to make our communities safer. I stand with the Constitution and urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 8.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the fact is that 160 families every day buy guns. All this bill does is that people who obtain guns from unlicensed dealers, as well as licensed dealers, must be subject to the background check, and that will save a heck of a lot of lives.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

You know, our friends on the other side of the aisle are deadly wrong. That is the tragedy of their argument, because the current law does not prohibit regulation. It never did. And our Founding Fathers regulated guns as early as the beginning of this Nation.

And so I rise in support of H.R. 8, and indicate while the COVID–19 pandemic dominated news headlines in 2020, the number of shootings surged in many communities across America.

Our public health and emergency resources have been strained to recover from the coronavirus, and shootings are on the rise. In 2016, up from 9,600 in 2015.

We must strengthen our firearms background checks and close dangerous gaps, such as the online sale and gun show loopholes.

In the data that we were able to secure, there was nearly one mass shooting per day in the United States: 355 mass shootings in 2018.

Each day an average of 92 Americans are victims of gun violence, resulting in more than 33,000 deaths. And I wonder why our friends could not feel the pain of the loss of lives being transferred illegally or improperly?

I was here in 1999. That happened on April 20, 1999. High school students losing their lives. I was here when babies were killed in Newtown, Connecticut, on December 12, 2012. I was here in the United States Congress each moment we tried to pass sensible gun legislation like H.R. 8.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman Thompson for his leadership and Chairman NADLER.

On February 14, 2018 I was here for Parkland and lost lives at these photos. And as well as March 18 when in San Jose, Texas, people died. It is time to pass H.R. 8. Stop seeing

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8, the “Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021” and H.R. 1446, the “Enhanced Background Check Act of 2021,” which would make it illegal for any person who is not a licensed firearm importer, manufacturer, or dealer to transfer a firearm to any other person without a background check.

Since December 2012, there have been at least 1,715 people killed and 6,089 wounded.
On the night of October 1, 2017, a gunman opened fire on a large crowd of concertgoers at the Route 91 Harvest music festival on the Las Vegas Strip, leaving 58 people dead and 527 injured.

And on November 5, 2017, a mass shooting occurred at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, where the gunman, 26-year-old Devin Patrick Kelley, killed 26 and injured 20 others.

Every day, on average, 92 Americans are victims of gun violence, resulting in more than 33,000 deaths annually.

States with higher gun ownership rates have higher gun murder rates—as much as 114 percent higher than other States.

A recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, looking at 30 years of homicide data, found that for every 1 percent increase in a State’s gun ownership rate, there is a nearly 1 percent increase in its firearm homicide rate.

Gun death rates are generally lower in States that have stronger gun control laws, such as safe storage requirements or assault weapons bans.

Mass shootings stopped by armed civilians in the past 33 years: 0.

Because more than 75 percent of the weapons used in mass shootings between 1982 and 2016 were obtained legally, stronger legislation is needed to prevent guns from getting into the wrong hands.

Mr. Speaker, enhancing the gun transfer background check system has consistently garnered broad public support, as high as 92 percent, because the American people know that the status quo is simply intolerable and action must be taken to reduce gun violence by keeping dangerous persons from obtaining deadly weapons.

That is why passing H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021, and H.R. 1446, the “Enhanced Background Check Act of 2021,” and urge all members to join me in voting for its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8. Bipartisan leaders obtained broad public support for the background checks that had been delayed. This legislation is needed to prevent guns from getting into the wrong hands.

The COVID–19 pandemic dominated news headlines in 2020, the number of shootings surged in many communities across America.

Our public health and emergency resources have been strained to respond to the coronavirus crisis. Budgets are being crunched nationwide. Across the country, cities and states are struggling to find the resources to simultaneously address the pandemic and rising rates of gun violence.

We must take the steps that we know will make us safer.

Because approximately 80 percent of firearms used for criminal purposes are obtained without a background check, we must strengthen our firearms background check system and close dangerous gaps, such as the online sale and gun show loopholes.

Reducing gun violence starts with making sure that individuals who may not lawfully possess firearms get their hands on them.

Our citizens overwhelmingly support this measure, and it is critical we pass it today and enact it into law.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS).

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 8 and H.R. 1446.

In this last week I received over 1,000 emails from constituents in strong opposition to these antigun bills. Here is a sample:

“H.R. 8 will make it impossible to sell or loan guns to my relatives and trusted friends.”

“These bills appear designed to impose restrictions on natural rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.”

And finally, “Stand for our rights and oppose these measures with every tool in your grasp.”

I absolutely will fight these measures with every tool in my grasp. These rights protect my life, liberty, and property, and I will not be taken away from me by D.C. bureaucrats.

I grew up in the Deep South at a time when Black Americans were unable to defend themselves. After the Civil War, Black Codes and Jim Crow laws prohibited people of color from owning firearms.

In the mid-1950s, Martin Luther King, Jr., kept firearms for self-protection, but his application for a concealed weapon permit was denied because of racist gun control laws in his State.

As a child, my dad witnessed an altercation between his father and a southern White man who thought my grandfather was being disrespectful and threatened to teach him a lesson. Later that night he drove up to my grandfather’s home with a bunch of his friends standing on the forerunner of a Model T Ford.

My grandfather was prepared. He and his brothers had hidden around his front porch. As these bullies and cowards approached the house, they heard the click of rifles and left just as fast as they came.

Without ever firing his gun on another human being, my grandfather’s right to own a firearm ensured his rights to protect his life, liberty, and property.

I urge my colleagues to vote against these anti–Second Amendment bills.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL).

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. THOMPSON for this legislation because it takes the most dangerous weapons out of the hands of the most dangerous people.

I have heard from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle about rights. Let’s talk about some other rights in this country, like the right to pray in church, the right to dance at a party, the right to come home from a concert, the right to come back home safely and alive. Those are rights that matter, too.

And I am for this because I think about a woman who told me a couple years ago to keep fighting on this issue because every day when she puts her children in the car and sends them off to school, before they get out the car, she looks at her clothes and wonders if she is wearing her brake shoes because she was afraid that one day she may have to identify them.

This bill says we don’t have to live that way anymore. The right to come home alive is greater than any right that is being put forward by the other side.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we have been told that 90 percent of Americans support this bill. Well, that is because 99.99 percent of Americans have not read this bill.

And we are told, yet again, that this will save lives. And, yet, there is not one single mass killing that has been brought up here today that would have been prevented by this bill.

And yet over and over we have people come in here, usually they mean well; look, this will protect people when the fact is that they can’t point to any of these mass killings they talk about that would have been prevented.

So let’s talk about lives that would be saved. Think about the people that are shot every day and would their situation be different if they were not finding it so difficult to legally get a gun?

I mean, we had thousands of felony cases that came through my court, and I tried a lot of these things, and over you hear, the criminals are not obeying the law. They are not going to follow the law. They got their guns illegally. And this will not change at all any of those people we tried and convicted for getting these weapons. They steal them. They buy them from other people that stole them. They don’t obey the law. That is why they are criminals. So quit penalizing the American people.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN).

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, Americans are 25 more times more likely to die from gun violence than those in 25 other developed countries, and on that point our perpetually outraged and indignant colleagues have absolutely nothing to say.

We lose 38,000 people a year, more than 100 people a day. From Newtown, Connecticut, to El Paso, Texas, gun violence is ripping the heart out of our social contract, making life for more Americans nasty, poor, solitary, brutish, in short, a Hobbesian state of war. H.R. 8 will close three gaping loopholes in the law: the gun shows loophole, the internet loophole, and the private sale loophole, cutting down precisely on the traffic in illegal guns, which our colleagues cite as the source of criminal gun violence.

In opposing the American Rescue Plan, they voted against science. In opposing H.R. 1, they voted against democracy. And now in opposing H.R. 8, they are voting against public safety and the social contract itself. What a moral collapse for a once-great party.
Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the last 2 weeks, the majority has attacked the First Amendment, and now they are attacking the Second Amendment. H.R. 8 will not save lives. As Justice Scalia noted in his decision in Heller, the Second Amendment does not give Americans a right; it protects a pre-existing right, and that right shall not be infringed.

H.R. 8 would not have prevented recent shootings. In Parkland, the shooter acquired the firearm legally from an FFL after undergoing a NICS check. The same thing in Sutherland Springs, Texas, the same in Las Vegas, Nevada; and the same in Orlando. I could go on because the list would produce the same result. They got their guns after a background check, including in El Paso.

Criminals who seek to do harm get guns regardless of the new restrictions imposed by H.R. 8. And with very limited exceptions, H.R. 8 makes it illegal for Americans to get a gun if a non-licensed importer, manufacturer, or dealer is involved. How will the government know if an illegal transfer occurs? Without a registry, this bill is unenforceable.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard supporters of this bill say that other countries have similar restrictions so we should, too. I counter with the fact that other countries do not have the Second Amendment. The Second Amendment was included to ensure that the United States would be different than other countries.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act. This bill is among the most commonsense gun violence prevention reforms, requiring background checks for unlicensed sellers.

Mr. Speaker, this is not complicated. This is simple. Under H.R. 8, people who wish to transfer a firearm would have to visit a licensed firearm dealer to run a background check before the transfer could be finalized.

Most of these checks take 90 seconds, 90 seconds to prevent firearms from ending up in wrong hands, 90 seconds to prevent more of our loved ones from being killed by gun violence.

I am proud to be from Washington State, where voters have consistently tackled gun violence with commonsense reforms, passing one of the first, most comprehensive background check laws in 2014 and raising the legal age to purchase a semiautomatic rifle to 21 in 2018.

Mr. Speaker, let’s do this. To save lives, vote "aye."
The bill to which I refer is the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2023. It builds on the work of the Senate and has been written to support public safety and protect the rights of law-abiding gun owners. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this bill. The bill would have a devastating impact on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens. It would subject anyone who possesses a firearm to criminal penalties, including imprisonment for up to 1 year, if they fail to conduct a background check on a prospective buyer. This is a direct assault on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens.

One way we can do that is by ensuring that the rights guaranteed to Americans by the Second Amendment are protected. We must ensure that the government has no way to implement this legislation. This bill is certainly a slippery slope.

Most alarmingly, this bill does nothing, absolutely nothing, to stop criminals from obtaining firearms. According to the Department of Justice, less than 1 percent of criminals in prison possessed a firearm during their crime. The crime does not determine the law.

Additionally, the bill would inevitably lead to a national gun registry, because, without a registry, the government would still have access to firearms under the law.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is just the first of many steps to take away our Second Amendment rights. I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. NEGUSE).

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the people of Colorado. Communities in Colorado have experienced the tragedy and the grief of gun violence far too many times—Colombine, Aurora, Highlands Ranch.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. We have lost too many parents, friends, neighbors, students, and children to gun violence.

This Congress must act, which is why I support H.R. 8. We must act on gun violence. We must pass H.R. 8, and we must send it to President Biden's desk.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE).

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, enough is enough, which is why I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 8 and to offer a motion to recommit the bill.

This bill is nothing more than a coordinated effort by the authoritarian left to strip away the constitutional rights guaranteed to Americans by the Second Amendment.

Instead of criminalizing the innocent actions of law-abiding gun owners, American citizens, we should be focused on stopping real crime in our local communities and enforcing the laws that are already on the books.

One way we can do that is by ensuring that ICE is notified when unlawful aliens attempt to purchase a firearm illegally. The FBI reported just last month that NICS had over 10 million people listed as an illegal alien. In fact, this ranks as the number one prohibited category in the FBI's NICS Indices.

Since 1998, over 28,000 illegal aliens have been denied a firearm after failing a NICS check. With over 2,700 in 2019 alone, this means over 28,000 criminals have been allowed to stay in the United States when ICE should have been alerted about their criminal act but were not.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8 fails to do anything to prevent crime, which is why I am offering this motion to recommit, so our Nation's laws are enforced. And if you will recall, this MTR passed in 2019 with a strong bipartisan majority.

Mr. Speaker, if we adopt the motion to recommit, we will instruct the Committee on the Judiciary to consider amendments to H.R. 8 to ensure that the FBI alerts ICE anytime an illegal alien is denied a firearm because of NICS.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the Record immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK).

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, in 2016, after the tragic Pulse nightclub shooting, I, with my colleagues, sat in protest on this very floor with our friend, the late Congressman Lewis. On that day, Congressman Lewis told us: "We have turned deaf ears to the blood of the innocent and the blood of our Nation. We are blind to a crisis."

Mr. Speaker, nearly 5 years later, we have endured thousands of mass shootings. We have mourned the loss of 100 people every single day to suicide and homicide with guns.

Today's vote will improve the safety of our schools, our communities, and our streets. It is a vote for kids, parents, veterans, and our neighbors. I stand here today thinking of the many survivors and families who have been waiting for this moment, and I think of my friend, John, who told us to always speak out for the voiceless and act boldly for justice.

Today, with this bill, we will do just that.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURKE).

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to stand against H.R. 8.

This bill would make it a crime to transfer a firearm from one individual to another without a Federal firearms license.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on H.R. 8.
The infinite majority of gunshot victims has ever operated on a gunshot victim. The only Member of this Chamber who understands this issue extensively.

Mr. NADLER, Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY).

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, soon we will take a bipartisan vote on the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, a bill which could save lives in every district of our Nation. Expanding background checks will help prevent guns from getting into the hands of those who may be a danger to themselves or others. This is the simple commonsense solution to a worsening problem in our Nation.

Even in 2020, when many people were at home during the raging COVID–19 pandemic, we lost more than 41,000 people to gun violence. That number includes children. Where I live in eastern North Carolina, it is certainly different. New York City, the gun haven of Chicago, or Oakland, but we still have our share of drug-related and gang-related crime.

On the other hand, we have a lot of wilderness that people back home, adults and children, still enjoy hunting. These law-abiding citizens should not have their rights trampled upon. We are all saddened by the loss of life from mass shootings, but, Mr. Speaker, the issue is not the gun itself, but the mental illness of the gun owner. A mentally stable person does not shoot innocent people. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. JORDAN of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. Murphy) an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. MURPHY of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8 and H.R. 1464 absurdly hamper people’s ability to exercise their constitutional right to defend themselves. This sort of broad government overreach does not save lives, but treats everyday law-abiding citizens like criminals.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on these bills. We should not support bills that place the rights of violent criminals above those law-abiding American citizens.

Mr. NADLER, Mr. Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Murphy) may have 30 seconds.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act.

This legislation has one simple goal: keep guns out of the hands of people who are dangerous. More than 90 percent of the American people support universal background checks on everyone who buys or transfers guns.

Our constituents expect us to find common ground to finally end the gun violence epidemic in this country. They expect us to pass this bipartisan bill, that is the only thing on our plate. It is over. The American people demand action. H.R. 8 is the action they are calling for.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.” Let’s get this done.

Mr. JORDAN of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. Budd).

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Ohio for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the fundamental truth is that the Second Amendment guarantees the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms to protect themselves and their loved ones.

America’s Founders spoke on this issue extensively. Benjamin Franklin warned that those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety. Benjamin Franklin was right. The American tradition of self-reliance, self-determination, and self-defense has been fierce. It has been what makes this country so exceptional and so great.

Today, the House will vote on legislation that would undermine that very right. What is worse is that both of these bills would not have prevented mass shootings or tragedies across this Nation. Those are awful events. We all agree that those events are awful. But in these events, we must always pass a background check or they stole their weapons.

We cannot sacrifice our rights by passing laws that will make our families less safe and laws that criminals will simply ignore. We must always protect and preserve our God-given Second Amendment right.

Mr. NADLER, Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Connolly).

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I will remind my friend on the other side of the aisle, the God-given right every one of us has, according to the Declaration of Independence, is life, and that is what we are arguing about here today.

Are we going to take protective measures that save lives?

This bill does that. I talk about the ABCs of gun control. A, reinstate the Assault Weapons Ban; B, universal background checks; and C, closing the gun show loophole.

Those three practical measures will save lives. And because I support ABC, I get an F every year from the NRA, and I am proud of that grade every year.

POINT OF ORER

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, point of order. I would request that the colleagues from Virginia direct his remarks to you and not to other colleagues.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds all Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that I have been a committed defender of the Second Amendment since being elected to Congress back in 1994. For me, that means that I will do everything that I possibly can to ensure that the rights of Americans, as they relate to the Second Amendment, are protected, while at the same time
working to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals and mentally unstable individuals.

H. R. 8, unfortunately, doesn’t accomplish either of those goals. It is overburdensome, unreasonable, and, if passed, will lead to still more firearms out of the hands of some hardworking and law-abiding citizens.

Yesterday, at the Rules Committee, I offered an amendment which would allow for the transfer of a firearm to museums or historical displays without going through the burdensome requirements of this measure, but that eminently reasonable amendment and others offered by my colleagues were flatly rejected by the majority.

During this afternoon’s debate, we have again expressed several concerns which will not be addressed or considered by the majority. Instead of focusing on improving the National Instant Criminal Background Checks System, or NICS, providing resources to assist those with mental illnesses or hardening soft targets like schools and places of worship, the majority will pass this legislation and attempt to further infringe on the Second Amendment rights of our constituents. That is simply unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, for those reasons, I stand in opposition to this deeply flawed legislation.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise as both a mom and a Member of Congress in strong support of H. R. 8.

Last month, my community marked the 3-year anniversary of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting that stole 17 innocent lives.

The anxiety and terror that came that day has never left us. Yet, too many communities witness horrific gun violence every day. Common sense reform can end this agony and keep us safer. Requiring background checks for gun sales. Yet, loopholes allow up to 80 percent of firearms to be sold without background checks.

We must mandate universal background checks for firearm sales by passing H.R. 8 and then pass Jaime’s Law, my legislation that expands that same mandate to ammunition purchases.

The pandemic made gun proliferation worse, and inaction is not an option. We must do all we can to ensure guns and bullets don’t end up in the wrong hands.

Mr. Speaker, the outlier on this issue are Republicans whose fealty to the NRA results in more people dying from gun violence. Enough is enough.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH).

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, this morning I walked by an elementary school, and I saw parents dropping off their kids. I thought of parents around the country sending their kids back to school after months of virtual learning. They want their kids to be safe.

But it has been 8 years after Sandy Hook and 3 years after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in my district, we should be ashamed that we have waited so long and wasted so much time when we could be saving lives.

We cannot have safe communities until we fix the crumbling foundation of our gun laws. That is the background check system. Universal background checks will help keep guns out of dangerous hands. They will save lives in our schools, they will save lives in our homes, and they will save lives on our streets.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand with survivors, with gun owners, and with both Democratic and Republican Parties who support universal background checks by voting to pass H.R. 8.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this bill simply requires that the background check for a purchase that occurs within in a gun shop, including occasioning a gun shop. That doesn’t take away anyone’s right, but it does protect us from convicted criminals, fugitives, and family abusers who are prevented from evading the law to buy a weapon of war online or at a gun show. Texas Gun Sense knows the gap in safety makes no sense.

Unfortunately, NRA has come to stand for “No Republican Action.” They offer us only moments of silence for mass murders. They conspire to make us fall far short of one very important type of ammunition—courage. Students in March for Our Lives have that courage.

Moms Demand Action are steadfast in demanding meaningful action.

As these gun lobbies continue to oppose reasonable action, we must speak up for gun safety. We must listen to the victims of violence before their number is increased by another El Paso shooting, another school shooting, or another concert interrupted by gunfire.

We must act now to save lives.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I have a brief point to make. I wonder how my colleagues on the other side of the aisle hold two thoughts in contradiction simultaneously in their minds. They say that photo IDs and excessive registration paperwork and whatnot disenfranchise disproportionately minorities and the poor, and they end the choice that people have to exercise their right to vote. But today with H.R. 8 and the next bill that is coming up, they are doing exactly that. They are causing there to be increased fees, increased paperwork, and more photo IDs.

How does that not disenfranchise not just all Americans but disproportionately minorities and the poor?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleagues to answer today.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN).

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of working in public education for 20 years. I started my career in 1999. That was the same year of the Columbine High School shooting. Throughout my career, unfortunately, we have had to continually deal with school shootings.

In our schools we have to prepare children as young as 4 years old for the possibility of a school shooting. We have Columbine, we have Parkland, we have Virginia Tech, and we have Sandy Hook.

I thought 9 years ago when Sandy Hook occurred that the country would stop, pause, and reflect on what is happening in our Nation. It was a mass shooting of our 6-year-old children—our babies. This law will begin the process of protecting our most vulnerable and protecting our babies.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to be here today with my colleagues, Mr. THOMPSON and Mrs. MAST.

Mr. Speaker, Lucy’s courage is an inspiration to me.

This has been a priority for me in the quarter century I have been in Congress. I have supported every single reform that has advanced. But we have a change today because we have never had in 10 years the alignment with a House leadership and a Senate leadership that will not bury it and a President who will enthusiastically sign it into law.

This is a landmark legislation that many of us have been working on literally for decades, and this is one more example of what difference it makes to have Democrats in charge and being able to advance meaningful gun safety.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their hard work, and I am proud to stand with them.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chair for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, Lucy’s courage is an inspiration to me.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 4 1/2 minutes remaining.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield.

Mr. Speaker, Lucy’s courage is an inspiration to me.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 6 1/2 minutes remaining.
not without limits. And the notion that America has 4 percent of the world’s population but 40 percent of the world’s guns and a disproportionately high amount of homicides and suicides by guns should shock the conscience of every single person in this Chamber.

Mass shooting after mass shooting, and yet we haven’t acted to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the American people.

That is why H.R. 8 is so significant. Universal criminal background check legislation is reasonable under the circumstances given the tragedies that we confront.

House Democrats will not just talk about it. We are about it. That is why we will pass H.R. 8, and now we have a Senate and a President who will ultimately get it over the finish line. Vote “yes” on this lifesaving legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE).

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the legislation we are considering today.

In cities across America, violent crime has increased; and in cities across America, laws already exist to severely punish violent criminals. But despite this, we are seeing local elected officials, district attorneys, and prosecutors refuse to enforce existing laws and police who are continuously held back from doing their jobs.

Instead of offering real solutions to improve public safety, it seems the majority is determined to punish law-abiding citizens while doing nothing to actually close loopholes in the system.

If the bills we are considering were really stopping gun crimes and violent offenders from owning guns, then my amendment to one we are discussing today, to prevent minors aged 15 to 17 who have committed violent crimes from having their records expunged and thereby able to purchase a firearm.

But rather than take up my amendment to prevent felons from sidestepping our laws, the majority felt it more critical for public safety to expand background checks to ranchers and farmers with pest control issues. This is absurd.

Nothing in H.R. 1446 or H.R. 8 would prevent those seeking to harm others from acquiring firearms. The people of my district deserve better than this, which is why I will be introducing legislation that will actually prevent violent criminals from clearing their record.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill and side with law-abiding Americans and side with those of us who want to take guns out of the hands of violent criminals.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8 and H.R. 1446, two gun violence protection bills that would help keep our communities safe.

Mr. Speaker, I am from Chicago, and we are no strangers to gun violence. In 2020 alone the city recorded 3,261 shootings and 769 murders.

Some of my colleagues might point out that Illinois has some of the strictest gun laws in the country. That is true. But studies tracking the guns show that guns, often come from neighboring States of weaker gun control. People drive one or two States over and back with deadly weapons.

The reality is that State laws aren’t enough. We need stronger Federal laws, too.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass these critical laws that have bipartisan support among voters across the country that would help keep guns off the streets.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker talked about Chicago’s strictest gun laws in the country, but yet there was a record number of shootings and crime last year.

What could be the cause of that? Maybe it was because they defunded their police, something we have talked about now, well, since the Democrats started doing it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, one more time we see people uncomfortable with our Constitution. Our forefathers gave us the right to bear arms because they wanted law-abiding people to have the right to defend themselves.

Until Ferguson and the rise of the antipolice movement, 20 years ago, the murder rate in this country fell by over one-half between the early 1990s and around 2014. What happened at that time?

We whipped up some antipolice hysteria, and since that time things have gone wildly up. Now the majority party introduces a cache of bills designed to make it more difficult for law-abiding people to access a weapon while not having any impact on people who wouldn’t obey the laws anyway.

They don’t like the idea of private transfers. They don’t like the idea of being able to get a gun in less than 10 days. They don’t like the idea that if the government doesn’t give the proper information over—well, apparently, they like the idea that they want to keep people from getting guns if the government, for whatever reason, is slow in turning things over.

In any event, let’s go back to the things that worked for 25 years before the rise of the antipolice movement if we really want to see improvement.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Ohio for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, once again, Democratic leadership is proposing legislation that would do nothing to prevent criminals from accessing firearms while greatly restricting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens.

These bills are being sold to the public as an effort to pass universal background checks. But House Democrats fail to recognize that every commercial gun sale in the United States already has a background check.

Mr. Speaker, ending gun violence in America is a goal we all share, but H.R. 8 will subject law-abiding gun owners to criminal penalties for simply handing a firearm to another person.

For instance, if you loaned a friend a rifle to go hunting, they could face a year in prison or a $100,000 fine. This is simply ridiculous.

The same would be true, Mr. Speaker, if you loaned an abuse victim a firearm for self-defense, which would create arbitrary delays for firearm purchases and could allow the FBI to delay a firearm transfer indefinitely.

These bills would do nothing to keep Americans safer and, in fact, threaten the public safety and our constitutional right to bear arms.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOODEN).

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in what alternative reality does it make sense for this Congress to take away people’s rights to defend themselves and, at the same time, defund the police? That makes no sense.

What we have seen in the last few days and the last week in this Congress is an effort to punish the law-abiders in this Nation. We have to stop doing this.

If we take away guns from law-abiding citizens, we are doing nothing to reduce crime. Look at Chicago. The law-abiding citizens there do not live in a safe environment. They are able to follow these procedures that you are passing, but it is not going to do anything to stop the violence.

We have to get away from this. We have to stop these laws that do not represent the will of the American people.

Let’s stop punishing the law-abiding citizens of the United States and get back to what they sent us here to do.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, can I inquire how much time we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio has 1½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from New York has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS).

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.
Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Speaker, gun crime in the United States is a tragedy for us all. I heard the talk about Sandy Hook, about Columbine, and, yes, about Parkland, which happened in my State. It is a tragedy that we all face. But the one thing, Mr. Speaker, we all have to recognize is that, in each one of these instances, the person who acquired the firearm that committed this tragedy acquired it lawfully, or they stole the weapons from somebody else. This bill would not change any of those tragedies.

If anything, what this bill does, it puts more burden on law-abiding Americans and does whittle away and strip their constitutional right to bear arms. You see, the issue is much more about mental health than it is about the ability to acquire firearms.

For this body to unilaterally make it significantly more difficult for a law-abiding citizen to acquire a firearm, which is their constitutional, God-given right, is the body acting outside of its authority under the United States Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, in short, this bill will not fix the tragedies that we face. Unfortunately, laws don’t fix most of the tragedies we face; they exacerbate them. What fixes them is dealing with the human condition that, unfortunately, inhabits people in our country. We should be working on that, not stripping the constitutional rights from our fellow citizens.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. Mr. Speaker, since the House passed H.R. 8 more than 2 years ago, an estimated 80,000 people have lost their lives to gun violence. We have had too many moments of silence and too many expressions of sympathy. Too many families are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Expanding background checks is overwhelmingly supported by the American public because they know that it will make a meaningful difference in reducing gun violence and saving lives. It is time to enact this important legislation.

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

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021. This common-sense legislation would save lives in every state, every congressional district, and every community, by preventing guns from being sold to people who are dangers to themselves or others.

If this is truly “The People’s House” then we MUST pass H.R. 8 for the safety and protection of all people. Enough is enough. Too many times innocent lives have been lost to guns in the hands of people wishing to do harm. That’s why 93 percent of Americans support requiring universal background checks on all guns. People know: background checks work.

By preventing guns from falling into the hands of people with mental illness or criminal history. Last year was a particularly tragic year for the Fifth District, with 177 lives ended at the barrel of a gun. My heart breaks knowing there have already been 25 gun-related deaths in my District this year. As I speak today, I am remembering Kennedy Maxie. A sweet, seven-year-old Black girl shot and killed while playing on Christmas shopping with her family last December. She was an innocent victim, killed by someone who had no business with a gun.

The tragedies are too many, and the gun violence too frequent. It’s past time we did something.

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

Each further amendment printed in part C of House Report 117–10 not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 6 of House Resolution 188, 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 between 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.

Amendment Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8, printed en bloc.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 188, I offer amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It shall be in order at any time after the reading of the report to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part C of House Report 117–10 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 the Judiciary or his designee, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

The Chair understands that amendments Nos. 1 and 2 will not be offered; is that correct? Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, that is correct.

Amendments en bloc offered by Mr. NADLER of New York

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 188, I offer amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc consisting of amendment Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8, printed in part C of House Report 117–10, offered by Mr. NADLER of New York:

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. CROW OF COLORADO
Page 4, line 17, insert “pest control on a farm or ranch,” before “or fishing”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. GARCIA OF TEXAS
Page 5, line 11, strike the close quotation marks and the following period.
Page 5, after the sentence following: “(4) The Attorney General shall make available to any person licensed under this chapter both Spanish and English versions of the form required for the conduct of a background check under subsection (t) and this subsection, and the notice and form required under paragraph (3) of this subsection.”

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS
Page 4, line 1, after “including” insert “harm to self, and”.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. LAMB OF PENNSYLVANIA
Page 3, line 7, after “transfer” insert “or exchange (which, for purposes of this subsection, means an in-kind transfer of a firearm of the same type)”. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 188, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 45 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, this en bloc amendment includes several amendments that strengthen the bill and that thoughtfully modify it to account for practical considerations surrounding the use and misuse of firearms.

Among this group are a provision that clarifies the exchange of firearms between family members, a measure to protect more expansive State firearm laws, an amendment that would ensure ATF background check forms are available in Spanish, and a proposal that would allow for temporary transfers for pest control.

Representative JACKSON LEE’s amendment concerning suicide is particularly important as it highlights the tragic consequences that access to firearms can have on those who intend to harm themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the en bloc amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a Texan, a constitutional conservative, and in strong opposition not only to the amendments but to H.R. 8, a bill that would impose so-called universal background checks and gut the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners throughout this country.

We all mourn the loss of innocent lives from gun violence that has happened in my district and in those around the country. No family should ever have to endure such tragic and terrible unnecessary loss.

But the truth is that this legislation does nothing to address the root causes of gun violence and may do little to actually prevent criminals from obtaining guns, as has previously been said during this debate.

What will be prevented, though? Your ability to lend your neighbor a
firearm if there are reports of break-ins: the ability of your suicidal friend or family member to ask you to remove their firearms from their home; or if a colleague comes to you and says that they are trapped in an abusive relationship and are in danger of being killed. You could face a $100,000 fine or prison time for lending out your gun for self-defense.

If we are going to effect real change, we don’t need to tack additional restrictions on law-abiding citizens. We need to look at the root causes and have a transparent and open debate here to talk about mental health and the proper enforcement of laws that we already have.

This is yet another example of federal overreach, another example of the erosion of our rights, and a slippery slope that will strip all Americans of our Second Amendment rights as outlined in the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the amendment and the bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

As indicated, the Jackson Lee amendment is a simple, important, and straightforward amendment, and it is, frankly, to save lives.

Specifically, the amendment makes clear that a gun owner who realizes that he or she is at risk of suicide may transfer the gun to someone else if the risk is imminent, without a background check, to prevent self-harm.

This will help ensure that no person who is experiencing a suicidal crisis will feel compelled to retain their gun when it would be better for them to temporarily transfer it to someone else.

Contrary to what my friends on the other side have said, H.R. 8 does already exempt from the requirement of a background check “a temporary transfer that is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm, including harm to self, family, household members, or others, if the possession by the transferee lasts only as long as immediately necessary to prevent the imminent death or great bodily harm, including the harm of domestic violence, dating partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, and domestic abuse.”

This amendment, however, clarifies that this last option is available to someone who is at risk for suicide.

As Chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, I urge all members to join me in supporting the En Bloc Amendment to H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8 is a strong bill to expand the federal firearms background check requirement as our citizens have demanded. To make the bill even stronger, I offer an amendment that will help save even more lives.

My amendment would make clear that a gun owner who realizes that he or she is at risk of suicide may transfer the gun to someone else, without a background check—if the risk is imminent to prevent self-harm.

The largest number of gun deaths each year are suicides. Studies have shown that the prevalence of suicide in the United States is directly linked to the easy availability of guns.

Roughly sixty percent of gun deaths are suicides. Tragically, an average of 63 people die by gun suicide every day in the U.S. The notion that suicides are inevitable, that people will just find another way, is wrong. Suicide attempts are often impulsive acts, and forty-eight percent of people harm themselves within 10 minutes of deciding to attempt suicide. Seventy-one percent do so within one hour.

But those who reach for a gun during suicidal crises rarely have a second chance. Eighty-five percent of suicide attempts with a firearm are fatal. Think about this sad fact.

Temporarily reducing access to guns significantly increases the likelihood of surviving a suicide attempt.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, disarmst that person who operated his firearm legally. That is what this legislation does. It disarms America. It says to the criminal: Keep on not abiding by the law. You got your gun illegally. You are going to keep doing it.

It doesn’t stop them from doing anything. What it does do is it stops the guy who is going to get his firearm legally and end the crime in his community. This is who it stops.

No charges are pending on that individual in Atlanta who stopped that crime. No charges are pending. He followed the law.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, seeks to punish people who want to follow the law, and that is what is going to happen. Do you know what is going to happen when we do this? There are going to be more crimes. There are going to be more unauthorized weapons out there, and there are going to be less people out there defending themselves and our community. That is what is happening. Mr. Speaker, I urge a “no” vote on this.

Mr. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, just yesterday afternoon at 3 o’clock in Atlanta, an armed robber walked into Chick-fil-A to rob the place.

Now, think about that. You are in there with your children, getting a meal in the middle of the day, and somebody comes in with a gun, puts your life at risk. Everybody in the place is at risk.

How do you get a background check to get his firearm? We don’t know yet, but odds are he didn’t because most of these crimes that are committed with a gun are with people who don’t—guess what? I have a news flash—they don’t follow the law.

Robbing the Chick-fil-A at 3 o’clock in the afternoon in Atlanta is not in accordance with the law. But I will tell you what happened. An armed citizen stopped the robbery using his firearm, legally obtained firearm, and saved everybody in the place.

Do you know who is happy? The people in the Chick-fil-A are happy that the guy who bought the gun legally was there to save them and their children. That is who is happy.

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Mr. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Jackson Lee Amendment No. 9 included in the Chair- man En Bloc Amendment to H.R. 8, the “Bi- partisan Background Checks Act of 2021,” which would require a background check on every gun sale or transfer with limited excep- tions, such as gifts to family members and transfers for hunting, target shooting, and self-defense.

The Jackson Lee Amendment No. 9 makes a simple common-sense improvement to the bill.

Specifically, the amendment makes clear that a gun owner who realizes that he or she is at risk of suicide may transfer the gun to someone else, if the risk is imminent, without a background check to prevent self-harm.

This amendment will help ensure that no person who is experiencing a suicidal crisis will feel compelled to retain their gun when it would be better for them to temporarily transfer it to someone else.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to join me in supporting the Jackson Lee Amendment No. 9 by voting for the En Bloc Amendment to H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8 already exempts from the require- ment of a background check “a temporary transfer that is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm, including harm to self, family, household members, or others, if the possession by the transferee lasts only as long as immediately necessary to prevent the imminent death or great bodily harm, including the harm of domestic violence, dating partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, and domestic abuse.”

A gun owner who realizes that they are at risk of suicide would have several options under this bill.

They may loan the gun to a family member pursuant to the family member exception.

They may ask a gun dealer to store the gun temporarily.

And if the risk is imminent, they may transfer it to someone else, pursuant to this exception.

This amendment clarifies that this last option is available to someone who is at risk for suicide.

As Chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, I urge all members to join me in supporting the Jackson Lee Amendment No. 9 by voting for the En Bloc Amendment to H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8 is a strong bill to expand the federal firearms background check requirement as our citizens have demanded. To make the bill even stronger, I offer an amendment that will help save even more lives.

My amendment would make clear that a gun owner who realizes that he or she is at risk of suicide may transfer the gun to someone else, without a background check—if the risk is imminent to prevent self-harm.

The largest number of gun deaths each year are suicides. Studies have shown that the prevalence of suicide in the United States is directly linked to the easy availability of guns.

Roughly sixty percent of gun deaths are suicides. Tragically, an average of 63 people die by gun suicide every day in the U.S. The notion that suicides are inevitable, that people will just find another way, is wrong. Suicide attempts are often impulsive acts, and forty-eight percent of people harm themselves within 10 minutes of deciding to attempt suicide. Seventy-one percent do so within one hour.

But those who reach for a gun during suicidal crises rarely have a second chance. Eighty-five percent of suicide attempts with a firearm are fatal. Think about this sad fact.

Temporarily reducing access to guns significantly increases the likelihood of surviving a suicide attempt.

That is why I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the bloc of amendments that includes my proposed revision to H.R. 8.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.
Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. Garcia), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act.

Mr. Speaker, I grew up on a farm. I was taught at an early age how to handle a .22 and shotgun. We used them for hunting, to put food on the table.

But this bill is just simply a background check for every gun sale or transfer, with commonsense exceptions. As the previous speaker noted, this has nothing to do with keeping someone who legally obtained a gun from getting one.

When my niece got her first buck over the holidays at the family farm, my brother-in-law gave her his favorite shotgun as a present. They were all so excited. That would be exempted from any paperwork, and that just makes sense.

My amendment also makes sense. It simply codifies the practice of ensuring that the background check forms and notifications used to purchase or transfer a firearm remain available in Spanish, as well as in English.

Our country is blessed with a diverse population. Language diversity is part of that diversity that we should celebrate.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Perry).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, we lament the death of our good friend, Mr. Crist’s constituency, Mo. We lament it. We especially lament it because when you are manufactured and you are on base and you are in uniform, you are prohibited from carrying a firearm. Think about that. Those in our country most well trained to use a firearm lose their lives because they cannot defend themselves, as a regulation by the DOD that says they cannot carry a firearm on base. That is why Mo is not here.

Sure, there is a Saudi terrorist in town that is killing people, but Mo could have stopped that if Mo were allowed to use his skills provided by the taxpayers and desired by him. He wanted to serve his country, he wanted to serve his community, and he should have been allowed to.

This bill is more of the same thing, disallowing citizens to defend themselves. Unfortunately, Mo is a prime example.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Lamb).

Mr. LAMB. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my amendment, to make perfectly clear that transfers of firearms between family members do not require a background check, are not subject to the strictures of this bill. We should ask questions to confirm what we have all said here today, that this is a bill that targets those who break the law, not those who abide by it.

My amendment shows respect for the important tradition within many families in western Pennsylvania and elsewhere of passing down a shotgun or a hunting rifle from a father to a son. That is allowed under our bill.

And a further and more important sign of respect will come when we vote for final passage tomorrow to strengthen the right of those who obey the law by keeping those who break it away from your right to own a firearm.

H1302

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we can say we are opposed to the en bloc amendments for all of the reasons we have cited now in the last hour and a half on this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as has been said over and over again on the floor of the House, H.R. 8 provides for the legal access to guns. It does not take away guns from any American.

In addition, the Second Amendment is truly preserved with H.R. 8, and it is in compliance with the law which allows the regulation of guns, even with the Second Amendment.

We ask our colleagues to support H.R. 8 and the en bloc amendments included therein.

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

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 188, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. Nadler).

The question is on the amendments en bloc. The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair understands that amendment No. 7 will not be offered.

The previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Jordan moves to recommit the bill H.R. 8 to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The material previously referred to by Mr. CLINE is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

(e) The Attorney General shall promulgate a regulation that shall, in the case of a background check conducted by the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act in response to a contact from an importer, a manufacturer, or a dealer, licensed under chapter 41 of title 18, United States Code, which background check indicates that the receipt of a firearm by a person would violate section 922 (g) (5) of title 18, United States Code, a requirement that the system notify U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the ayes and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2 of House Resolution 8, the ayes and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 8 is postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE), the whole number of the House is 431.

ENHANCED BACKGROUND CHECKS ACT OF 2021

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 188, I call up the bill (H.R. 1446) to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 188, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1446

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 "Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. STRENGTHENING OF BACKGROUND CHECK PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BEFORE A FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEE MAY TRANSFER A FIREARM TO A PERSON WHO IS NOT SUCH A LICENSEE.

Section 922(t) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

"(ii) in the event the system has not notified the licensee that the receipt of a firearm by such other person would violate subsection (g) or (n) of this section—"

"(I) not fewer than 10 business days (meaning a day on which State offices are open) has elapsed since the licensee contacted the system, and the system has not notified the licensee that the receipt of a firearm by such other person would violate subsection (g) or (n) of this section, and the other person has submitted, electronically through a website established by the Attorney General or by first-class mail, a request for review which—"

"(aa) certifies that such other person has no reason to believe that such other person is prohibited by Federal, State, or local law from purchasing or possessing a firearm; and"

"(bb) requests that the system respond to the contact referred to in subparagraph (A) within 10 business days after the date the petition was submitted (or, if the petition is submitted by first-class mail, the date the letter containing the petition is postmarked); and"

"(II) 10 business days have elapsed since the other person so submitted the petition, and the system has not notified the licensee that the receipt of a firearm by such other person would violate subsection (g) or (n) of this section; and"

"and"

"(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(a) prescribe the form on which a petition shall be submitted pursuant to paragraph (1)(B)(ii);

"(B) make the form available electronically, and provide a copy of the form to all licensees referred to in paragraph (1);"

"(C) provide the petitioner and the licensee involved written notice of receipt of the petition, either electronically or by first-class mail; and"

"(D) respond on an expedited basis to any such petition received by the Attorney General.

SEC. 3. GAO REPORTS.

Within 90 days after the end of each of the 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year periods that begin with the effective date of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall provide a written report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a written report analyzing the extent to which during the period, paragraphs (1)(B)(i) and (ii) and section 922(t) of title 18, United States Code, have prevented firearms from being transferred to prohibited persons, which report shall include but not be limited to the following—

an assessment of the overall implementation of such petitions, including a description of the challenges faced in implementing such petitions; and

an aggregate analysis of the petitions submitted pursuant to such paragraph (1)(B)(ii).

SEC. 4. REPORTS ON PETITIONS SUPPORTING FIREARMS TRANSFERS NOT IMMEDIATELY APPROVED BY NICS SYSTEM, THAT WERE NOT RESPONDED TO IN A TIMELY MANNER.

The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall make an annual report to the public on the number of petitions received within the period, by the attorney general, by the Director of the FBI, and by NICS of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act that were submitted pursuant to paragraph (1)(B)(ii) of title 18, United States Code, with respect to which a determination was not made within the 10-day period referred to in subclause (II) of such section.

SEC. 5. REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.

Within 150 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Assistant Director for Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms, shall submit to the Congress a report analyzing the effect, if any, of this Act on the rates of domestic violence, domestic abuse, domestic violence, domestic abuse, dating partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and whether any further amendments to the background check procedures, including amendments to section 922 of title 18, United States Code, would likely result in a reduction in the risk of death or great bodily harm to victims of domestic violence, domestic abuse, dating partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect 210 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill is debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1446.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 1446, the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021, is a critical bill to provide law enforcement the necessary time to keep firearms out of the hands of those who are not legally eligible to own them.

The 2015 massacre at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, which killed nine innocent people, stands as a tragic reminder of how current background check laws sometimes fall short.

Under current law, a licensed gun dealer conducting a background check on a prospective purchaser is permitted to sell the firearm to the purchaser if there has been no determination from the background check system, commonly called NICS, after 3 business days.

This is the case even if the system has not indicated that the person has actually passed the background check. Often, we refer to this as a default procedure.

While 96 percent of background checks are processed within 3 business days, an analysis of FBI data showed that over 35,000 guns were transferred to prohibited purchasers between 2008
and 2017 because of the default proceed rule.

On average, over the course of the last decade, 10 prohibited individuals have been able to purchase guns at licensed firearms dealers through the default proceed rule every single day.

The cases in which there is a delay are the very cases that ought to be carefully investigated.

If NICS is unable to return an instant determination—and especially if there is no decision after 3 days—there is cause for concern. There may be a good reason that these individuals should not own firearms, but the current system allows the transfer nonetheless.

Under this legislation, as under current law, a sale may proceed immediately once a background check clears a purchaser, which is the case in the vast majority of instances.

This bill provides, however, that for checks taking longer to complete, the FBI will have 10 business days for the initial background check investigation period. If the check is not completed during this time, an individual may submit a petition for expedited review. If a petition is submitted, unless NICS provides an answer within the next 10 business days, either clearing the transaction or stopping it, a gun dealer has the discretion to complete the sale and transfer the firearm.

We must ensure that firearms transfers are lawful, and in some instances, that requires additional time. That is why H.R. 1446 is needed, to prevent the sale of firearms to prohibited individuals by providing the FBI with additional time to complete background checks.

H.R. 1446 is a sensible and necessary approach to closing a dangerous loophole, and I commend our colleague, Congressman JIM CLYBURN, the distinguished Democratic whip, for introducing this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today a retired law enforcement officer and the victim of two violent gun crimes.

While off duty, a repeat offender shot me through my car window while I was walking on the street. While on duty, another violent criminal pointed his gun at me and pulled the trigger. By the grace of God, his gun malfunctioned.

Mr. Speaker, I was fighting for my life. I am lucky to be here today to speak to this House.

Criminals who are willing to take someone’s life don’t care about the gun legislation we debate in Congress. And the bills we are debating this week would not have prevented those two criminals from attempting to take my life.

So let’s talk about who is going to be impacted by these bills. The law-abiding citizens who are looking to protect themselves, their families, and their communities from death or great bodily harm. They will be the ones who are penalized for and prevented from exercising their Second Amendment rights.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “no” vote. Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the sponsor of this legislation, and the distinguished majority whip.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I listened to my colleague on the other side. I still think about the night of June 17, 2015, when at about 9:00 in the evening, I received a phone call informing me that something had happened at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, a church that I know well and the members I know very well.

Much to my dismay, I learned later in the evening that a Bible study that was taking place at that church had welcomed in a stranger.

I grew up in a parsonage, and I grew up learning that which we find there in the book of Hebrew, the 11th chapter: Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen.

These people, who were practicing their faith, a faith that taught them to welcome in a stranger. A stranger came to their door, and they welcomed him into their Bible study. They sat down, and he sat with them for an hour. In the further practice of their faith, as they concluded their Bible study, they rose to pray, and with bowed heads, only to open their eyes to the sound of gunfire.

The stranger that they had welcomed in opened fire and killed nine of them, one of whom was the pastor, a former intern of mine.

Now, we later found out that the gentleman who perpetrated this crime was a white supremacist that studied the history of that church; and because it was the most historic African-American church in South Carolina, he targeted that church and its worshippers. However, he should not have had the gun.

The reason he had the gun is because when he went to purchase it, and the 3 days expired, as current law allows, they had not been able to verify the information he had given them and, therefore, could not complete the background check. But under the law, they had to sell him the gun after the 3 days, only to find out several days later that the wrong information had been put into the record.

I sincerely believe that this gentleman’s sophistication, he knew he was not to have a gun. Now, I ask: Did he give the wrong information intentionally? I think so. When they found the error, it was too late. Nine souls had perished.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. CAWTTHORN).

Mr. CAWTTHORN. Mr. Speaker, if we lose the Second Amendment, then the Five will fall. I want to remind my colleagues of a simple fact that is far too often swept under the rug by the left. Americans have a right to obtain a firearm for lawful purposes.

I will say it again louder for those on the left, sleeping in the back. Americans have a constitutional right. That is not what the Second Amendment is supposed to be about. Unfortunately, it is where the Democrats want to take our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the sponsor of this legislation, and the distinguished majority whip.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I listened to my colleague on the other side. I still think about the night of June 17, 2015, when at about 9:00 in the evening, I received a phone call informing me that something had happened at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, a church that I know well and the members I know very well.

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Now, the gentleman said that he is lucky that the gun didn’t go off, and these laws would not have prevented that. This law would have prevented that gentleman from getting a gun.

Now, I don’t know why the other side considers it a misrepresentation what we are trying to do here. All we are saying is if at the end of the 3 days, it ought to move to 10 days. And if the 10 days expire, you can ask for expedited search. And if that expires, you still have 10 days. The maximum is 30 days. Nobody is keeping a gun away. Everybody should be able to wait 30 days.

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker indicated that you have to ask the government to exercise your constitutional right. That is the problem. What happened in Charleston was terrible, it was wrong, and wrong as it can be. But I want to stop—the FBI had 2 months. It didn’t do it. It didn’t stop this guy. They had 2 months.

What this bill does is shift the burden. It takes it from 3 days to 10 days, and it shifts the burden over to the American citizen to be able to exercise their constitutional right. That is not what the Second Amendment is supposed to be about. Unfortunately, it is where the Democrats want to take our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. CAWTTHORN).

Mr. CAWTTHORN. Mr. Speaker, if we lose the Second Amendment, then the Five will fall. I want to remind my colleagues of a simple fact that is far too often swept under the rug by the left. Americans have a right to obtain a firearm for lawful purposes.

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They had 2 months.

This bill would unconstitutionally place the burden of proof for firearms purchases and transfers on American citizens instead of placing the burden firmly where it belongs, on the shoulders of the government.

But let us be clear. The left is not here today to debate this bill, nor are they here to legislate in the best interest of the American people. They are here to shove it down our throats. My colleagues and I on the right have been called here to defend one of our most
Sacred rights because you, Mr. Speaker, think that the Constitution is just another piece of paper to tear down the middle of and toss aside.

I speak for millions of Americans. I specifically speak for 700,000-plus Americans in my district when I say that if you think this bastardization of the Constitution will be met with silence, then you know nothing of the America I know. You want my guns; I know it. We all know it. Well, Mr. Speaker, you can come and take them.

Mr. Speaker, the gun violence crisis in America is a challenge to the conscience of our country, one that demands, we act. We know what must be done. The solutions are clear. They have overwhelming bipartisan support across the country. These solutions will save lives.

That is why I am so pleased to rise on the floor to support Mr. CLYBURN’s legislation, H.R. 1446, the Enhanced Background Checks Act to ensure that universal background checks do save lives. He explained so clearly the purpose of his legislation. I associate myself with his remarks. I know how painful it is because he had friends in that church whom we have met families of since then.

I also rise to support H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of Mr. Thompson. Mr. Speaker, Thompson is a gun owner. He is a veteran. He respects the Second Amendment, and he is the chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. I thank him for his decades of leadership on background checks and for the perspective he brings, again, as a gun owner and a veteran and a hunter.

We all salute the extraordinary work of Mr. CLYBURN, the leader of the Enhanced Background Checks Act, to close the Charleston loophole, and we respect him for the work he has done in his community to turn their agony into action, their pain into saving other people’s lives.

I thank all the Members who have helped raise a drumbeat on these priorities, including our colleague, Representative LUCY McBATH, who has been such an inspiration to all of us, bringing her great generosity of spirit in telling her story, sharing that story of Jordan.

Now we also have a debt of gratitude to our former colleague, Gabby Giffords, who when she was having a neighborhood meeting, there was an attempt on her life. Her courage is an inspiration to the country. Her leadership to end gun violence is something that is so remarkable. Under her leadership and that of the Brady’s, we were able to meet with survivors over time to try to pass legislation to make gun laws closer, adjusting to the realities of technology.

Another colleague, BOBBY RUSH, lost his son to gun violence as well. So, again, we hear about the big events that take place, and they are horrible, but every day people lose their lives.

In fact, let me just see what the statistics are. Since 1994, when background checks were first created, I had the privilege of being here at that time and actually serving as a whip for the legislation. Our leader on the bill was Senator SCHUMER. Well, right then he was a Member of Congress, CHUCK SCHUMER, on this legislation. Since 1994, when background checks were first created, the system has stopped more than 2 million people from getting firearms.

Every day, when background checks are used, they stop an estimated 170 felons, 50 domestic abusers, and nearly 20 fugitives from buying a gun. Every day, Mr. Speaker.

Yet, over the years, people have exploited and circumvented the system. Today, a violent criminal record or a history of abuse can go to a gun show or go online or even to a stranger in person to purchase a firearm. No background check, no questions asked, all perfectly legal. It might be legal, but it is not perfect. Even when a background check has been initiated, it is not always completed. That is what this legislation before us, Mr. CLYBURN’s bill, is about; the horrific case that enabled a hate crime at Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston. One hundred and seventy people were murdered while peacefully worshiping.

Eighty percent of firearms—because of gun shows, online sales and the rest—90 percent of firearms are sold or transferred without completed background checks.

So it is in that spirit that I come to the floor, but when I come to the floor, I bring with me the thoughts of the survivors who we meet with regularly. We have said to them, We are not stopping until the job is done.

We respect our Constitution, but we also say that the Constitution talks about well-regulated.

Again, these bills that we are talking about have bipartisan support by a vast majority of the American people; over 90 percent of the public, including more than 90 percent of gun-owning households. Most of these folks who own guns have passed background checks. They live with a violent record, and they are supported by dozens of leading law enforcement, veterans, local government, public health, and other groups.

For example, Mr. Speaker, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, representing the Nation’s largest metropolitan law enforcement agencies writes: “The lack of a background check for private sales and gun shows completely contradicts the purpose for which NICS was established—to keep guns out of the hands of those who do harm.”

For the benefit of those who don’t know what NICS is, it is an important program. Mr. THOMPSON has been a champion in the funding of NICS. NICS is the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Next, the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys states: “H.R. 8 will help the background check system catch up with changes in technology and ensure that individuals who are prohibited from purchasing or possessing a gun cannot easily buy guns online.”

And the U.S. Conference of Mayors writes that H.R. 8 will “make our cities safer and in no way compromise gun owners’ rights.”

H.R. 8 is very important to us, and it is legislation that has broad support. It is called the Bipartisan Background Checks Act. That is Mr. THOMPSON’s bill.

And this bill, H.R. 1446, Mr. CLYBURN’s bill is the Enhanced Background Checks Act. So everything I say about one bill applies to the other in terms of its purpose, in terms of its urgency, and in terms of its honoring our pledge to the survivors and the families who have lost their loved ones to gun violence, that we are not going away until this legislation passes and that we will meet the challenge of the conscience of the country when it comes to the gun violence crisis in our country.

And I say that with gratitude to Representative MIKE THOMPSON and our distinguished whip Mr. CLYBURN for their leadership, their determination, their persistence, and their success in turning their legislation into law, so that we can keep our promises to the survivors, and also, that we can make the world safer for all children and all people in our country and throughout the world, as we are an example to the world.

I urge an ‘aye’ vote on both of these bills.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida, Mrs. CAMMACK.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1446 and H.R. 8, a/k/a the gun-grabber bills.

Madam Speaker PELOSI, you were elected in 1987, and I was born in 1988. During that time, you say that background checks have saved millions of lives. But what about the more than 50 million babies that have been murdered through abortion? So I am just going to leave that there as we talk about the value of life.

These bills are not about gun safety, and they certainly aren’t about reducing crime. These bills are about control.
Two weeks ago, Democrats voted to strip religious freedom. Last week, they voted to defund our police. Today, they are now taking our guns.

In reality, these bills do nothing to improve background checks, as noted by an Obama official in 2012: “The effectiveness of background checks depends on requiring gun registration.”

Instead, it would increase our wait times and allow for endless delays for law-abiding citizens to purchase firearms.

Our communities have seen too many tragedies perpetrated by sick people intent on committing violence, no matter the weapon.

H.R. 1446 the onus on individuals to contact the government if their background check hasn’t been completed in 10 days.

You know who cannot afford to wait? The single mom looking to protect herself and her children from a violent ex who has just been released from jail. You think this situation isn’t real? It happened last month in Orlando. And there are thousands more like them.

You know that the more garbage we find in these bills, the more I believe the motto of these Chambers is changing from “We the People” to let’s screw the people.

H.R. 8 and H.R. 1446 does nothing but make it more difficult for law-abiding citizens to protect themselves and their families. Under this legislation, criminals will do what they do best: Break the law and perpetuate crime.

So I ask my colleagues considering supporting these bills: Do you honestly think that punishing law-abiding constituents in your districts, stripping them of their constitutional rights will make them safer? Will you be able to look them in the eye as they are the next victim of crime?

As Members of Congress we swore an oath to defend the Constitution, and that includes the Second Amendment. Shall not be infringed.

You and I both took that oath, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to other Members in the second person.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. McBATH).

Mrs. McBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman NADLER for yielding, and I also thank Representative Clyburn, the author of this legislation, H.R. 1446, for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, domestic violence claims the lives of far too many, and it is especially deadly when it occurs in a household with a gun. Women, as we know, bear most of this violence.

In the United States there are one million women alive today who have reported being shot or shot at by an intimate partner, and there are many more who have been threatened or killed with a gun. And we haven’t even yet discussed what the additional stressors of COVID-19 have done exponentially around the country in households when there is a gun in the household.

Closing the Charleston loophole is a critical step to prevent attacks from obtaining a weapon. This is not about infringing upon anyone’s Second Amendment rights. Law-abiding gun owners who are duly licensed and permitted, this is not about preventing them from being able to have a gun.

This is an attempt to prevent abusers from obtaining a weapon, a weapon that will likely be used to escalate their abuse and a weapon that may have deadly consequences. And as a survivor of gun violence, I know what I am talking about.

With this bill and with this amendment we can help prevent abuse, protect our families, and gather data to inform further steps to keep every American safe. That is our right. That is not a privilege.

In the next months, we will continue to remember those that we have lost to gun violence in Charleston and all across America.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON).

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, Newtown, Parkland, Las Vegas, Sutherland Springs, Charleston, the attack on our former colleague, Gabrielle Giffords, these are all tragedies that would not have been prevented by H.R. 8 or H.R. 1446.

My colleagues across the aisle don’t want to admit it, but every commercial gun sale in America already requires a background check.

In Charleston, there was no loophole. The problem was information sharing. If the FBI had checked all available databases, then Dylann Roof wouldn’t have been allowed to purchase a firearm. Congressman Tom Rice of South Carolina has a bill to fix that.

Republicans are serious about ending gun violence and have brought forward policies that protect public safety without eroding our Second Amendment rights.

That is why in recent years we have passed measures like the STOP School Violence Act, the Fix NICS Act, and 21st Century Cures Act.

The bills before us this week would not build upon this progress but strip away from law-abiding citizens their rights.

H.R. 8 would turn law-abiding citizens into criminals if you store a gun for a friend or loan a firearm to a neighbor with an abusive ex who wanted to borrow it for self-protection.

Even worse, H.R. 1446 would extend the waiting period for a firearms sale from 3 to 10 business days and allow the government to delay a transfer indefinitely. Indefinitely, as in forever, if a government agency says so.

Instead of these gun-grabbing bills, House Republicans are bringing forward targeted solutions. That is why I introduced the STOP II: Classrooms Over Conference Rooms Act to double funding for the STOP School Violence Act to harden schools, to get more mental health resources in schools, and increase active-shooter training for law enforcement. And we pay for it by taking money set aside for the Department of Education to rent conference rooms in Washington, D.C.

However, the left is determined to take away your rights, after voting to defund the police just months ago.

It is no wonder gun sales and concealed carry permits are at all-time highs. These law-abiding Americans deserve to have their rights protected.

That is why today, I am calling on my colleagues across the aisle to stand up for law-abiding citizens and adopt H.R. 38, the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act.

There is no objection.

Mr. Speaker, if we adopt the motion to recommit today, we will instruct the Judiciary Committee to consider my amendment to H.R. 1446 to include my bill, H.R. 38, the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act.

I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the Record immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. Cicilline).

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, in 2015, a white supremacist with a criminal record was allowed to purchase a gun which he used to kill nine parishioners at Mother Emanuel AME Church in South Carolina.

That shooter, who was prohibited under Federal law from owning a gun, was able to purchase one because of a loophole that allows the sale of a gun to proceed if Federal investigators do not complete a background check within 3 days.

Through November of last year there were more than 5,800 incidents where people who are legally prohibited—criminals—legally prohibited from purchasing a firearm still obtained one because of this dangerous provision, which has come to be known as the “Charleston loophole.”

H.R. 1446, the Enhanced Background Checks Act, closes the Charleston loophole. It strengthens background check procedures to ensure that Federal investigators have enough time to complete background checks before a gun is transferred to the buyer. Common sense.
But closing the Charleston loophole is not enough. Current Federal law only requires a background check for the sale of guns from licensed gun dealers.

Background checks work. Since the law was enacted, 3 million gun sales were denied, which means 3 million people who were prohibited under Federal law because of a criminal record or some other disqualifying information were denied the right to buy a gun. They would problem is more than 20 percent of gun sales or gun transfers happen without a background check.

And that is why H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act requires background checks on all gun sales, including guns sold by unlicensed dealers online or at trade shows.

Every day in this country more than 100 people in the United States are killed with guns. Gun violence is an epidemic that threatens the public safety in communities all across America. We must not wait for another tragedy to strike.

Requiring background checks on all gun sales is a commonsense gun violence prevention measure that serves as a first line of defense to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. I think we can all agree that dangerous criminals should not be able to get guns. There has been a lot of discussion today about Second Amendment gun rights, and I think we all respect that, but let us consider our constitution's right to live a life free from gun violence, to take a walk in the park, to go to a movie theater, to go to church and pray, and to be able to do so without the fear of being gunned down and killed? There is a competing interest here of public safety and protecting the security of people to live a life free from gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 1446 and H.R. 8. Join us in supporting legislation that recognizes our service to our communities.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, a bill trampling on the Second Amendment rights of the American people is a common-sense trampling on the Second Amendment. In the United States, there are over almost 11,000 people killed by drunk drivers each year. There were more than 81,000 drug overdose deaths in the United States in the 12 months ending last May. But we are here today debating a bill that would not restrict the rights of law-abiding citizens.

I just heard it mentioned about domestic violence. You could have a woman, threatened by an ex-boyfriend or a husband, who feels her life is being threatened, and she would not be able to acquire a firearm once she needed it. She would have to wait at least 10 days.

The vast majority of illicit drugs, like heroin and fentanyl, leading to these 81,000 deaths are crossing our southern border. Instead of addressing these issues, President Biden has re-instituted catch and release, and now, we have an overwhelming surge of illegal crossing our southern border.

According to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, in 2018 alone, there were 1,461 illegal aliens convicted of homicide. How many more will it be now that the Democrats have signaled that our borders are wide open?

This bill reflects an obsession with gun restrictions by my Democrat colleagues. Meanwhile, in 2018, more than one in six homicides were committed without a firearm of any type. 1,500 were killed with knives or cutting instruments, more than 400 with blunt instruments, and more than 600 with hands and feet. Only 403 died as a result of a rifle of any kind.

Mr. Speaker, these numbers are dwarfed by the loss of life from the failure of the Democrats to enforce their laws.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, these numbers are dwarfed by the loss of life from the failure of the Democrats to enforce their laws.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 1446 and H.R. 8. Join us in supporting legislation that recognizes our service to our communities.
Mr. Speaker. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. Young), the dean of the House.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I watched this debate. I have to say, we have an old saying: “How do you eat an elephant? A bite at a time.” We have had two bites so far.

Mr. Speaker, this is not about what everybody is talking about. It is about the Second Amendment and—I won’t call you Democrats, a lot of you are. Some of you are socialists that believe in taking the right to protect away—the Second Amendment—from the law-abiding citizens.

This is just a little step forward, the 10-day waiting period instead of the 3-day waiting period.

The FBI is controlled by the President. He, in fact, can say take 6 months or 6 years for a legal purchase of a weapon. That is what you are really saying.

Taking away the right to protect your home and your liberty, not just from criminals but those who would take away your rights as a government, the Second Amendment is what it is all about, to protect from the tyranny that could occur by the wrong leaders taking rights and freedoms away from you.

That is why I, as a board member, support this idea of the Second Amendment and ask for a “no” vote on both of these bills.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Raskin).

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues are invoking the Second Amendment quite promiscuously today, but they obviously haven’t read any of the relevant Supreme Court authority because Justice Scalia, in District of Columbia v. Heller, explicitly upheld reasonable, commonsense regulations to guarantee that violent criminals don’t get guns.

So, everything that we are doing is perfectly in advance of, in pursuit of, Second Amendment rights that are exercised coextensively with the public safety and with the common good.

Here is a regulation that we need, that we have known we have needed ever since a violent white supremacist killed nine African-American Christian worshippers at a Bible class in Charleston, South Carolina. He should have been denied a gun, but he got it because the background check search wasn’t completed in 3 days. He got it automatically, although he shouldn’t have had it, and nine people are dead because of it.

We say, let’s close that loophole. Just like with H.R. 8, let’s make sure that the universal background check is universal.

Mr. Speaker, 90 percent of the American people support it.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman very much for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this is reasonable, commonsense gun safety legislation contemplated by Justice Scalia, by the Supreme Court, under the Second Amendment of the Constitution.

It is what America needs so that we don’t have a rate of gun violence and gun deaths 25 times higher than everybody else in the industrialized world.

Yet, some—under the spell of the NRA, a deeply corrupt organization that is ripping off money from loyal gun owners around the country, that they are unwilling to stand with the common good.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker used the term “reasonable.” This legislation shifts the burden, so you are now telling an American citizen the burden is on you to exercise your Second Amendment liberties. The delay the background check, deny you your ability to purchase a firearm, and the burden is on you.

Mr. Speaker, I would think that a profession of law would understand that you don’t shift the burden when you are talking about a fundamental liberty that we enjoy under the Constitution. It doesn’t seem reasonable at all to me.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. Grothman).

Mr. GrothMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to, one more time, address what is going on here and the perceived problem.

Here in the United States, the number of murders from the beginning of the 1990s until Ferguson had fallen repeatedly, and the murder rate was half of what it once was with a tough law enforcement stance.

At that time, in the Ferguson shooting, when Officer Wilson, who was eventually found entirely innocent by the Obama Justice Department, when that officer fired shots that ripped people into an antipolice frenzy. Because of the antipolice frenzy, we had the murder rate in this country go up by 20 percent.

It then began to drop again until last year when we had the horrible events in Minneapolis. One more time, we whipped people up into a frenzy, and the number of murders in 1 year in Minneapolis went up 70 percent; in New York, 40 percent; in Chicago, 65 percent; in Milwaukee, 95 percent, with the same gun control laws in cities that are run by mayors who are as angst as you will find.

The problem here is we whipped the people into an antipolice frenzy. The police became passive, and a lot of people died. The people who were whipped into the antipolice frenzy ought to stop and consider the huge increase in murders.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. Dingell).

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1446.

This is a commonsense bill that would extend the time allowed for the completion of background checks for firearm sales from 3 to 10 days, giving time for a complete background check.

I want to be clear. I lived with a man who slept with a gun under his pillow until the day he became a responsible gun owner. And I lived in a home with a man who shouldn’t have had a gun, and I remember the fear that I could die any day and that my siblings would die. A gun in a household with someone emotionally unstable, angry, is plain and simply dangerous.

Mass shootings and tragic acts of gun violence have become far too common in the United States. I think my baby sister is not alive today because of the trauma of it. It would reverse that burden and require the law-abiding American to petition for the right to bear arms.

This right does not come with caveats, asterisks, or exceptions. It exists to make sure that the freedom to keep and bear arms is not unjustly infringed upon by the government.

It is the government that has the legal burden of explaining why it is restricting the natural rights of the citizen. H.R. 1446 would reverse that burden and require the law-abiding American to petition for the right to bear arms if they don’t hear back from government after 10 business days, 7 more than the current law provides.

In response to this unconstitutional action, I will introduce a bill to allow a Federal firearms licensee to transfer a purchased firearm to a legitimate buyer within 3 calendar days of contacting the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, as opposed to the current law, which requires 3 State government business days.

As a Federal firearms licensee myself, I saw firsthand during the pandemic how the closure of State government offices across the country easily infringed upon our right to keep and bear arms. With these offices closed, or purportedly closed, 3 business days can turn into weeks and even months before a firearm transfer is allowed to be completed by government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on H.R. 1446.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Ms. Jackson Lee).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to be very quiet in this Chamber, almost to the point of tears, feeling a pin drop. That is what happens when you are in prayer: Muslims, Catholics, those of the Jewish faith, Christians.
Prayer is the most sacred moment in many faiths, in all faiths.

Imagine that moment in Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, friends of ours across the Nation. That weekday prayer service for some is a lifeline for their survival. They have been scared in their prayer, taking care of what they call a broken heart, a bad day at the office, a need to take care of a wayward child, and in comes this young man that they saw only as a person in need of prayer.

This is a terrible thing. That we are in need of prayer. Just imagine this pristine, white, old church symbolizing the freedom of slaves, just imagine these precious souls who were doing nothing but praying.

I want to acknowledge the pain that Whip CLYBURN experienced. I saw him in the aftermath of those days. These were not just his fellow Americans, they were his neighbors and his friends and interns.

I want to remember when the commander in healing, the commander of bringing people together, President Obama, sang the song Amazing Grace?

That is what life in the midst of a storm is about, and that is what we are in. In the registration of guns. And my friends on the other side keep throwing darts and bombs about underlining the Second Amendment. I say it again. From the early stages of the Founding Fathers in the Bill of Rights, gun usage in America was regulated. The Heller case does not deny regulation. In fact, there are aspects that allow it.

So this is a legitimate regulation for safety, not control. Because Dylann, who went to a gun store and manipulated a gun owner to go and give him the gun after 3 days because there was something funny about his information, this will save lives. Ten days is not too long to stop the loss of life and the damage that was that in Mother Emanuel.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 1446 to save lives.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to gentleman from California (Mr. McClintock).

Mr. McClintock. Mr. Speaker, what is the so-called Charleston Loop-hole?

It is a provision that gives the FBI 3 days to provide a background check for a citizen. The registration of guns for a background check doesn’t seem unreasonable since a credit check takes about 3 seconds.

Now, if the FBI fails to give a clear “yes” or “no” in 3 days, the sale can proceed. This protects our Second Amendment rights from arbitrary denial by inaction, and the clearance is good for 30 days from when you begin that transaction.

Now, this bill repeals the 3-day limit and replaces it with a multistage bureaucratic process that can span up to 20 business days.

It is really quite clever. Your clearance is good for 30 calendar days from the day you begin the transaction, but the clearance can be delayed for up to 20 business days. So if you applied on January 15 of this year, 20 business days takes you to February 16. By then, your purchase window will have expired 2 days earlier, on February 14. You have to start the process over, applying for a new background check in a perpetual cycle. They never have to say “approved.”

Would a government abuse its citizens like that? I don’t know. Maybe we should ask Lois Lerner or Andrew McCabe.

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Cline).

Mr. Cline. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1446 and the last bill we spoke about, H.R. 8.

These bills continue the systematic and coordinated attempt by the Democratic Party to undermine our Second Amendment rights.

I was sent to Washington by my constituents to uphold and defend the Constitution. I will not stand by and allow our rights to be stripped away. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle claim that these bills will save lives. However, nothing in them would have stopped any of the recent mass casualty shootings that have occurred in our country.

Rather than go after criminals who break the law, Democrats want to create a false narrative that will criminalize private gun ownership. Democrats will tell you that these bills close loopholes, but the loopholes they believe exists is that law-abiding Americans are even able to own guns in the first place.

The sole objective of this gun control package is to remove constitutional safeguards and put in place criminal penalties that would unjustly go after responsible gun owners.

The Second Amendment is crystal clear, the right to bear arms shall not be infringed. Our Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution to protect us from a tyrannical government, and wrote the Second Amendment to ensure that the rights of Americans to protect themselves was secured.

These outrageous proposals put government between the American people and their constitutional freedoms to protect themselves, protect their families, and protect their communities, and I vote “no.”

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Walberg).

Mr. Walberg. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, there is no gun violence problem from legal gun owners. And this bill does not do anything to stop gun violence because it unnecessarily regulates law-abiding citizens. And we don’t have to define that term, I would think, because they are not criminals.

The problem is with criminals. And because criminals could care less about the bills we are talking about today, innocent people will die.

I want to think of neighbors of mine out in the country where I live, who have an ex who would want to cause violence to them. That lady could come to me and say: I can’t get a gun because I have got to wait 10 days, but he could come this weekend. Would you loan me a gun?

Mr. Speaker, what are we doing today wouldn’t allow that. This lady is put at severe risk.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to consider what they are doing. This will not work. Vote against H.R. 1446 and support the Second Amendment made by people sometimes wiser than us.

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

Folks, we had a couple of the folks who spoke on our side. Earlier they said the Second Amendment is right next to the First because it is pretty darn important. I think some of our folks said that.

But it struck me that you know what, I don’t know that the other side actually cares all that much about the First Amendment.

Think about what has happened this past year. Democrats have told Americans they can’t go to church, can’t go to work, can’t go to school, can’t go to a loved one’s funeral.

Of course, the rules never apply to them. We had a Governor of one of our largest States—a Governor of our largest State—out a 5-star restaurant, having dinner with friends and lobbyists at the same time he is telling folks in his State that they can’t even have Thanksgiving dinner with their family, can’t go to the attack on free speech. I mean, just laugh at this whole cancel culture phenomena. First it was Kermit the Frog and the Muppets, then it was Dr. Seuss. I think yesterday it was cartoon characters from the Looney Tunes. Talk on your right to speak, specifically to speak in any type of political nature.

We have had Democrat Members of Congress, Mr. Speaker, send a letter to carriers, asking those carriers not to have certain news networks on their system. That is frightening. You talk about chilling speech. That is as scary as it gets—just because they don’t like what is being said on certain news networks? Scary.

We think now they are coming after your Second Amendment liberties as well. I mean, think about your First Amendment rights, your right to practice your faith, your right to assemble, your right to petition your government, freedom of the press, freedom of the press, freedom to be heard. And now if the Founders mention, your Second Amendment liberties, they are coming after that, too.
It wasn’t enough to go after your right to practice your faith. It wasn’t enough to go after your right to assemble and be with people you wanted. Think about some of the things we saw this year. We had Democrat leaders in States telling Americans you had to be in your certain time with curfews. You had to be in your home by 10.

We had another State say, when you are in your home, you have to wear a mask and then we had States say, well, when you are in your home, you don’t have to wear a mask because you are not allowed to have anybody over.

Government was limiting your First Amendment right to practice your religion, your First Amendment right to assemble. And now they are coming after your First Amendment right to speak and speak in a political nature. And here we are today, coming after your Second Amendment liberties.

The Party is the party that says defend the police, open the border, attack people’s Second Amendment rights to defend themselves while they are defending the police and opening the border, and all the while they are undermining American’s First Amendment liberties as well.

This should frighten everyone.

☐ 1700

This should frighten everyone. This should frighten everyone wherever they want to go. It is scary. I certainly hope we defeat both of these bills today when they are offered.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

I have never heard such pernicious nonsense as we have heard today from our Republican friends.

They say that this legislation will violate gun rights. But all this legislation does is close a dangerous loophole that puts weapons in the hands of individuals who should not legally be permitted to purchase them merely because the FBI is not able to complete the background check in time.

The FBI under this legislation will have 10 days maybe instead of 3 days to complete the background check and decide whether someone is too dangerous to have access to guns. That is all this legislation does.

To say that it infringes on the Second Amendment, Mr. RASKIN pointed out that after the recent decision upheld this kind of legislation.

So stop with the nonsense, pass this legislation, and make the American people safe.

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

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this Amendment and to the underlying legislation which is another attack on our 2nd amendment rights. This bill trampling on the 2nd Amendment rights of the American people is a consistent distraction from the other actual crises in the United States.

There were almost 11,000 people killed by drunk drivers in 2018. There were more than 81,000 drug overdose deaths in the United States in the 12 months ending last May . . . but we are here today debating a bill to further restrict the rights of law-abiding citizens. This bill endangers women threatened by domestic violence from an ex-boyfriend or ex-husband. A woman who feels her life is threatened would not be able to acquire a firearm when she needed one, under this bill she would have to wait at least 10 days.

The vast majority of the most deadly illicit drugs like heroin are smuggled across our southern border. Instead of addressing these issues President Biden has re-instituted catch and release and we now have an overwhelming surge of illegals crossing our southern border. According to a report from the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, in 2018 there were 1,641 illegal aliens convicted of homicide. How many more will it be now that the Democrats have signaled that our borders are wide open?

Yet we are here debating a bill to take away the rights of law-abiding men and women to acquire firearms to protect themselves.

This bill reflects an obsession with gun restrictions by my Democrat colleagues. In terms of homicides, more than 1 in 6 do not involve a firearm. According to the FBI, in 2017 over 1,500 people were killed with knives or cutting instruments, more than 400 were killed with blunt instruments and more than 600 killed with hands, fists and feet. There were then only 403 homicides committed with a rifle of any type, including a self-automatic AR-15 that is the target of many Democratic anti-gun activists.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and the underlying bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HAYES). All time for debate has expired.

Each further amendment printed in part D of House Report 117–10 not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 9 of House Resolution 188, 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 public notice was given to the proponent or her designee, 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 a demand for division of the question. It shall be in order at any time after debate for the chair of the Committee on the Judiciary or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of any further amendments printed in part D of House Report 117–10, 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 the Judiciary or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 188, I offer amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc consisting of amendment Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, printed in part D of House Report 117–10, offered by Mr. NADLER of New York:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS OF TEXAS

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 1. REPORT ON FIREARM TRANSFERS DESIGNED AS A RESULT OF A NICS CHECK.

Within 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General, Department of Justice, shall prepare and submit to Congress a report on the number of firearm transactions with respect to which the national instant criminal background check system established under the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act has determined that receipt of a firearm by the prospective firearm transferee would violate Federal or State law, and which have been referred to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives for investigation.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. KLEVIN OF CALIFORNIA

Page 5, strike line 16.

Page 5, beginning on line 18, strike “and an aggregate” and all that follows through line 20 and insert “with a description of denials, disaggregated by State and by the basis for the denial”.

Page 5, after line 20, insert the following:

(3) an aggregate analysis of the petitions submitted pursuant to such paragraph (1)(B).

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MRS. MCBATH OF GEORGIA

Page 6, line 15, insert “disaggregated by State,” before “and whether”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. NEUSE OF COLORADO

Page 5, strike line 21 and all that follows through page 6, line 7 and insert the following:

SEC. 4. REPORTS ON PETITIONS SUPPORTING FIREARMS TRANSFERS NOT IMMEDIATELY APPROVED BY NICS SYSTEM, THAT WERE NOT RESPONDENT TO A TIMELY MANNER.

The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall make an annual report to the public on the number of petitions received by the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act that were submitted pursuant to subclause (I) of section 922(t)(1)(B)(ii) of title 18, United States Code, with respect to which a determination was not made within the 10-day period referred to in subclause (II) of such section 922(t)(1)(B)(ii). The report shall include the following, which shall be disaggregated by State:

(1) The number of petitions submitted under such section that were received by the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act that were submitted pursuant to subclause (I) of section 922(t)(1)(B)(ii) of title 18, United States Code, with respect to which a determination was not made within the 10-day period referred to in subclause (II) of such section 922(t)(1)(B)(ii). The report shall include the following, which shall be disaggregated by State:

(2) The number of petitions from which the determination was not made within the 10-day period referred to in subclause (II) of such section 922(t)(1)(B)(ii).

(3) The number of petitions from which the determination was not made within the 10-day period referred to in subclause (II) of such section 922(t)(1)(B)(ii).

(4) The number of petitions from which the determination was not made within the 10-day period referred to in subclause (II) of such section 922(t)(1)(B)(ii).

(5) The number of petitions from which the determination was not made within the 10-day period referred to in subclause (II) of such section 922(t)(1)(B)(ii).
State gun safety measures have been adds State-level data tracking which ineligible. investigation after a firearm was sold would require reporting to Congress on future decisionmaking. Representative Burgess’s amendment would require reporting to Congress on the number of NICS denials referred for investigation after a firearm was sold to a person who was later found to be ineligible. Representative Levin’s amendment adds State-level data tracking which will facilitate our review of which State gun safety measures have been effective and which should be considered on the Federal level. Representative Mcbrath’s amendment require critical reporting on the impact of the bill on victims of domestic abuse. Lastly, Representative Neguse’s amendment makes data available to the public regarding NICS denials. These are valuable additions to H.R. 1446. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support them, and I reserve the balance of my time. Mr. Jordan. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. Higgins). Mr. Higgins of Louisiana. Madam Speaker. I am going to attempt to address the hearts and minds of some of my dear friends across the aisle, and I do so with love, and I respect you, I love you, and I admire you. I recognize that we have all lived different lives, but let me clarify that I have a very personal knowledge of the way the street works. Criminals are not going to follow these laws. Madam Speaker, you are talking about 10 days—I can have a 10-minute override from right here and bring back an illegal gun. Do you want one? A couple of hundred bucks, Madam Speaker, I can get you one. Madam Speaker, it is not intellectually sound to actually believe in your heart that restricting the Second Amendment rights and freedoms to purchase, own, and bear firearms of Americans that will follow the laws you intend to pass is going to impact the decisions that are made by criminals on the streets. It is just not reality. This realm is bizarre. Americans are watching this right now. They get it. They know the criminals are not going to follow the law. This is not going to impact the criminal realm. We have deterioration of our society because of the failure to embrace core principles and American family values. This is what has happened over the course of a generation on my watch. I am 59. This has happened to America as I have matured. I am concerned about the future of our children and our grandchildren. We must not allow that to be deteriorated under the guise of protecting our citizens from crime. Criminals are not going to recognize these laws. Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. Levin). Mr. Levin of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Enhanced Background Checks Act. In order to truly prevent bad actors from purchasing guns, we need more transparency. My amendment to this legislation comes directly from the government at both the State and Federal level and ensures that we have complete information about prohibited individuals attempting to get their hands on guns. Right now, the background check system relies heavy on States uploading accurate records. And with this amendment we can better understand which States are doing a good job of uploading records to the system and which are not. Without good and reliable information and without transparency, background checks are much more likely to be delayed resulting in a higher risk of more tragedies like the one at Mother Emanuel Church. With this amendment we can ensure that prohibited individuals won’t be sold a gun before their background check is fully completed. If we truly want to keep guns out of the hands of violent individuals, my amendment will get it done. Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Perry). Mr. Perry. Madam Speaker, what we are saying here is that the American people have to beg their government to avail themselves of their rights: Oh, Federal Government, can I speak now? Can I defend myself now, or should I wait a little longer? That is what people are saying now. The Constitution says, “shall not be infringed.” In Pennsylvania where I come from, our constitution says, “shall not be questioned.” Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, we are questioning it today. We are putting our constituents and we are putting the American people who have the Constitution enshrining their rights on the defensive, begging their government to avail themselves of their rights. Now, my colleagues and my good friends on the other side of the aisle keep on bringing up the horrific tragedy and the events that happened at the church. We can’t bring that up and say that this is the solution when this doesn’t fix that. Madam Speaker, you can’t say that the FBI couldn’t check all the databases. It chose not to. It could have checked them in those 3 days, but it chose not to. Now, those are tragic events for sure, but it is not the American people’s fault that the FBI didn’t do their job. Do not punish the American people. Do not abridge their rights because the FBI and because the government couldn’t get it right. Let’s fix the government and allow the people to be free and enjoy their constitutional rights and defend themselves when they want to defend themselves. Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Ms. Clarke). Ms. Clarke of New York. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1446, the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021. Under current Federal law, unlicensed sellers can sell guns at gun shows, online, and person to person without conducting any background check on the purchaser. This loophole has dangerous consequences for our communities. In fact, up to 80 percent of firearms used for criminal purposes are obtained without a background check. I am reminded of my time on the New York City Council where I witnessed the murder of my colleague and dear friend, Councilman James E. Davis. Just earlier this week, a gunman opened fire on two police officers in my district, hitting one officer in the chest and another in the leg. Guns are not manufactured in Brooklyn, New York. Time and time again we have been shaken to the core and heartbroken by the news of another shooting in our communities. Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Walberg). Mr. Walberg. Madam Speaker, I sit here and listen to my colleagues, and that is what I want to do; but I become more frustrated with the fact that I think, Madam Speaker, we are in parallel universes. We are talking about gun crime. We all agree that gun crime is wrong. We all agree that the murders that go on with gun crime are horrendous and we don’t want them to continue. But they are not happening as a result of law-abiding gun owners. We have background checks now that we put in place, do we go through those myself. We have dealt with them. I grew up on the south side of Chicago. I love Chicago. It pains me to see that become the murder center that it has become. And now I hear the report that the reason it is so high is because people from Chicago can come to Michigan, buy illegal guns, and bring them back, that is the fault.
No, it is a heart problem. It is a problem of criminals who are not being prosecuted.

We have FBI who don't follow the background checks and don't do it in a timely fashion. We have a Justice Department that doesn't prosecute gun crimes. And we blame it on law-abiding citizens.

What we will do today—as we have attempted other times—is to put law-abiding citizens under the gun—and I use that word specifically—further who will commit a crime, but have to go through onerous legislation that allegedly makes more transparent gun laws that stomp on the Second Amendment liberties that we have.

Madam Speaker, is wrong. That is wrong, and it will not end the gun problem. We have had a War on Poverty for years and poverty has increased. Government programs don't work.

Madam Speaker, I appeal to my friends on the other side of the aisle: I know your hearts are right, but this won't do the job.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. Speier).

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, the gun violence epidemic has robbed us of our loved ones; our safety in schools, our places of worship and public spaces; and our children. It has ravaged our communities across America and touched the Halls of Congress.

It is also very personal to me. I am one of the few Members on this floor who has been a victim of gun violence, and we know what this is all about.

This is all about making sure felons don't get guns. It is making sure that those who are mentally ill don't get guns. And it is making sure that those who have committed domestic violence don't get guns. That is all this bill is doing.

But what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are doing is bowing to the NRA that contributes to their campaigns and kissing the rings of those who are the gun manufacturers who contribute to the NRA anywhere from $10 to $60 million over the course of 5 years. That is what this is all about.

The American people want to be safe, and we are going to make them safe.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. Jackson Lee).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership, and I thank Whip Clyburn for letting us fix the problem of criminals getting guns.

Do my friends on the other side of the aisle not understand that Dylann Roof had a criminal background? What happened is that the storekeeper, in essence, violated the law. He viewed it as not violating the law because, after 3 days, there was no answer.

Dylann Roof took a gun and became a mass shooter in America. Yes, if he had not gotten a gun illegally, these souls would be alive today.

In 2018, there were 1,518 mass shootings. We have evidence that people with guns have stopped a mass shooting. So if there was a person armed with a gun inside Mother Emanuel praying with a gun, I don't believe that lives could have been saved.

What I do know is that if this bill, H.R. 1446, had been in place, that would have allowed a 10-day window to be able to determine whether Dylann Roof needed to have a gun. It is a simple context, simple facts, and it should be done to save lives.

I rise in enthusiastic support of H.R. 1446. I thank Whip Clyburn for his long years of persistence. And our sympathy goes to those who lost their lives at Mother Emanuel in 2015.

We have come now to be able to say no, criminals should not have guns, and we should have a NICS system that allowed the full review background check so that he could not have had a gun. What is wrong with that?

Are we interested in saving lives the right way?

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1446, the "Enhanced Background Check Act of 2021," which strengthens the background check procedures federal firearms licensees or dealers follow before selling or transferring a firearm.

Under current law, firearms dealers are required to run a background check on prospective buyers using the NICS.

Over 90 percent of checks are completed within 90 seconds so if the NICS system has not returned an answer to the licensed firearms dealer within 10 days, the prospective firearms purchaser may file a petition with the Attorney General for review.

After another 10-day period has expired, the licensed firearms dealer may sell or transfer the firearm to the prospective purchaser if it has not received a response through the NICS system and the dealer has no reason to believe the purchaser is prohibited from obtaining a firearm under Federal, state, or local law.

Thus, under this measure, licensed firearms dealers could not sell or transfer under the "default proceed" provision until at least 20 days have passed since the initial background check.

Madam Speaker, the American people are demanding effective action to reduce, if not end, gun violence. Under current law, firearms dealers are not required to run a background check on prospective buyers using the NICS.

Newly released data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found firearm-related deaths rose for the second-straight year in 2016, largely due to spikes in gun violence.

In 2016, the new CDC report on preliminary mortality data shows that there were more than 36,000 gun-related deaths in the U.S.—4,000 more than in 2015.

An Associated Press analysis of FBI data shows there were about 11,000 gun-related homicides in 2016, up from 9,600 in 2015.

Congress must act to keep our country safe through gun safety and violence deterrence. There was nearly one mass shooting per day in the United States—355 mass shootings in 2018.

In December 2012, a gunman walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, and killed 20 children, 6 adults, and himself.

Since December 2012, there have been at least 1,518 mass shootings, with at least 1,255 people killed and 6,085 wounds.

On the night of October 1, 2017, a gunman opened fire on a large crowd of concertgoers at the Route 91 Harvest music festival on the Las Vegas Strip, leaving 58 people dead and 527 injured.

And on November 5, 2017, a mass shooting occurred at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, where the gunman, 26-year-old Devin Patrick Kelley, killed 26 and injured 20 others.

Every day, on average, 92 Americans are victims of gun violence, resulting in more than 33,000 deaths annually.

States with higher gun ownership rates have higher gun murder rates—as much as 114 percent higher than other States. A recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention looking at 30 years of homicide data found that for every 1 percent increase in a State's gun ownership rate, there is a nearly 1 percent increase in its firearm homicide rate.

Gun death rates are generally lower in States with restrictions such as safe storage requirements or assault weapons bans.

Mass shootings stopped by armed civilians in the past 33 years: 0.

Mass shootings stopped by more than 75 percent of the weapons used in mass shootings between 1982 and 2012 were obtained legally, stronger legislation is needed to prevent guns from getting into the wrong hands.

Madam Speaker, enhancing the gun transfer background check system has consistently garnered broad public support, as high as 92 percent, because the American people know the status quo is simply intolerable and action must be taken to reduce gun violence by keeping dangerous persons from obtaining deadly weapons.

That begins with passing H.R. 1446, the "Enhanced Background Check Act of 2021," and I urge all members to join me in voting for its passage.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. Higgins).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, let's save a life. I am going to share with my colleagues an actual story going on right now, because my phone rang last night after night after night after night by a strange man. He moves fast. She is a single mom, a 30-year-old woman, hard-working woman, American.

Many, many years ago, she pled guilty to a minor drug charge. It is a strange man. He moves fast. She is a . She is going to get one illegally to defend herself and her young child.
Your bill would make this story commonplace from sea to shining sea. I beg for you to stand for the people who serve and recognize what you are attempting to do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker. I yield myself the balance of my time. I oppose both bills and the amendments for all the reasons we have stated today. I think my colleague from Pennsylvania said it best. We are now going to have to wait 10 days to exercise your Second Amendment rights.

One of the previous speakers, Madam Speaker, on the Democrat side said that felons don’t get guns. They are felons. They are not going to follow the law.

We all know what this is. This is going to make it more difficult for law-abiding Americans to exercise a fundamental liberty guaranteed in the United States Constitution, the second right they have, the Second Amendment to the Constitution. It is going to make it more difficult for them to exercise their fundamental liberty. That is what this is about.

The FBI had 2 months in the Charleston situation to get it right. They couldn’t. Somehow we think now extending it from 3 days to 10 days, a system that messed up as much as it has, somehow that is going to help, and then shifting the burden so that if this system that has falsely denied people their right to purchase a firearm, time and time again, if the system does it again, the burden is on you.

Since when do we ever do that? When are you presumed guilty. You are not going to be able to exercise your rights.

Those are our concerns with both of these bills and the amendments that are in play.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Our Republican friends insist on misreading the bill. They insist on talking about things that aren’t in the bill.

The bill takes away the rights of nobody except those who have threatened their children or threatened their former wives, threatened other people in the community. Those are all the people who are affected.

Yes, we extend the NICS system from 3 days to 10 days. That means that if the NICS system hasn’t reported back within 3 days, the FBI gets up to 10 days. At the end of 10 days, they can’t stop you from getting a weapon unless the records show that you are not entitled to get the weapon because you are a danger to the community. That is what this bill does.

To misread it and say it gives any rights to felons, or to gun buyers, or to people who are criminals because they disobey the law, of course people who disobey the law are criminals. But that is not what the bill deals with.

The bill simply says that it effectuates a system that says that people who are threats to the community may not get guns. And it does not limit the time beyond 10 days to make that decision.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 188, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

The question is on the amendments en bloc.

The question was taken; and the SPEAKER pro tempore announced that the ayes have it. I am opposed both bills and the amendments. This is what this is about.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I am opposed to both bills and the amendments. This is not what the bill deals with.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably delayed today by a constituent on the phone. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollover No. 73.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Alford (David)
Amodei (Kelly)
Anderson (Pete)
Babin (Norman)
Barbieri (Waite)
Barragan (Beyer)
Beatty (Lawrence)
Bush (Ocasio-Cortez)
Cardenas (Gomez)
Cleaver (David)
Cohen (Brey)
Cicilline (RI)
Cisneros (Hernandez)
Cleaver (Jeff)
Cleaver (Van)
Cleaver (Ladd)
Clay (Frank)
Coburn (Pat)
Cooper (Mo)
Cooper (Andy)
Cooper (Tony)
Cox (Jay)
Craven (Neil)
Crumley (Rex)
Culberson (Elvis)
Culberson (Kathy)
Curtsinger (Kirkpatrick)
court deems appropriate, including a reason-
damage such other relief as the court deems appropriate, including a reason-
decreed the prevailing defendant a reasonable attorney’s fee.

d) (1) A person who possesses or carries a concealed handgun under subsection (a) shall not be subject to the prohibitions of section 922(q) with respect to that person, including a State or political subdivision thereof, who causes the person to be subject to the deprivation of damages or other appropriate relief.

d) The court shall award a plaintiff prevailing in an action brought under paragraph (1) damages and such other relief as the court deems appropriate, including a reasonable attorney’s fee.

d) The term ‘handgun’ includes any magazine, when loaded into the handgun or its magazine.

d) A unit of the National Park System.

d) A unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

d) Public land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

d) Land administered and managed by the Forest Service.

d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such chapter is amended by in-

(“2”) does not prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms by residents of the State for lawful purposes.

(b) This section shall not be construed to supersede or limit the laws of any State that—

(1) permit private persons or entities to prohibit or restrict the possession of concealed firearm;

(2) prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on any State or local government property, installation, building, base, or park.

(c)(1) A person who carries or possesses a concealed handgun in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) shall not be arrested or otherwise detained for violation of any law or any rule or regulation of a State or any political subdivision thereof related to the possession, transportation, or carrying of firearms unless there is probable cause to believe that the person is doing so in a manner not provided for by this section. Presentation of facially valid documents as specified in subsection (a) is prima facie evidence that the individual has a license or permit as required by this section.

(2) When a person asserts this section as a defense in a criminal proceeding, the prosecution shall bear the burden of proving, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the conduct of the person is prohibited by any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage of any State or any political subdivision thereof, or any rule or regulation of a State or any political subdivision thereof, which the person is subject to.

(3) A person who successfully asserts this section as a defense in a criminal proceeding, the court shall, in exercising its discretion, award a prevailing defendant a reasonable attorney’s fee.

(4) A person who is deprived of any right, privilege, or immunity secured by this section, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage of any State or any political subdivision thereof, or any rule or regulation of a State or any political subdivision thereof, may bring an action in any appropriate court against any other person, including a State or political subdivision thereof, who causes the person to be subject to the deprivation, for damages or other appropriate relief.

SEC. 17. SEVERABILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, or any amendment made by this section, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstances shall not be affected by the unconstitutional, this section and amendments made by this section and the application of such provision or amendment to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to reconsider.

The question is on the motion to reconsider. The previous question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 1446 is postponed.

CONGRESS MUST CARE FOR ALL

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

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to discuss the introduction of our Care for All Agenda. Just as our physical infrastructure is crumbling, we suffer from lack of care infrastructure. In America today, millions of people cannot get care for themselves or their families. We are failing children, older adults, people with disabilities, and all Americans.

And we don’t care for the people who take care of us. Millions of care and domestic workers, disproportionately women of color, are exploited and paid poverty wages.

With bold, holistic public investments in the care economy, we can heal these wounds. We can substantially raise wages and benefits for workers. We can create millions of new zero-carbon care jobs. And we can create universal programs to guarantee care to all people. These investments are a crucial part of the Green New Deal. We cannot have a truly just, sustainable America without a healthy foundation of care.

The Care for All Agenda, introduced with 30 of my colleagues, and with the support of over 90 movement partners, lays out how centering care can be the rebirth of our Nation.

Joining us in building a care community and society based on care for people, communities and the planet we all share.
Mr. Speaker, I am so thankful to President Biden for delivering on his commitment to Build Back Better. The American Rescue Plan now goes to the President’s desk for signature. I can’t wait.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Democrats.

HONORING U.S. ARMY VETERAN DENNIS DAVIS

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

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a great West Virginia Army veteran, Mr. Dennis Davis, who passed away on January 19, 2021.

Dennis was the cabinet secretary for the West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance. He understood the needs of our veteran community.

Dennis had also been a member of the West Virginia State University ROTC program. I enjoyed our time together as we met with veterans all across West Virginia’s Second District.

During his lifetime, Dennis was the much-admired director for West Virginia Workforce Development, an educator who helped guide citizens toward jobs, opportunities, and fulfillment in their lives.

We commemorate his leadership, his service as an Army veteran, and his dedication to our great State. May his legacy forever live on to inspire hard work, devotion, and service.

COMMEMORATING TIBETAN UPRISING DAY

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

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of Tibetan Uprising Day.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of representing an incredibly diverse community of individuals at home in New York 14, many of whom are Tibetan. In fact, one of the largest constituencies of Tibetans in the world makes its home in New York 14.

For decades, the Tibetan people have bravely fought for their freedom, including to seek and fight for the freedom to simply be Tibetan: to speak their language; to practice their Buddhist religion; to sustain their culture, their traditional medicine, and their land; and to live freely in their own country.

It is the responsibility of all those who value freedom of speech and expression to stand with them against gross human rights abuses.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with the Tibetan residents of New York 14 and all those across the country in their righteous fight against persecution.

GUN SAFETY MEANS MORE EQUITABLE FUTURE FOR ALL

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice to the passionate voices born of grief that we heard from today, to join my heart with their hearts.

Gun violence robs our communities and our families of innocent lives, innocent worshippers, innocent shoppers moving down just because they are Latinos.

I rise for the children in too many schools who have lost their classmates, for the families who mourn their young, for the students who organized and petitioned us to act against gun violence with sensible laws. I am glad we passed the gun safety legislation to stem the epidemic of gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, New Mexico has the fourth-highest gun death rate in the country. Today, we took a common-sense, critical step to keep that New Mexican, our American, children, families, and communities safe, to drive us toward a more equitable, thriving future for all.
PEOPLE’S JUSTICE GUARANTEE

(Ms. PRESSLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reintroduce the People’s Justice Guarantee, a bold, progressive vision to transform our criminal legal system from what it currently is to what it ought to be.

For far too long, Congress has enacted policies that failed millions of men, women, and children by expanding our carceral system and diverting from inalienable human rights. The COVID–19 pandemic. In the first 3 months of this year, over 300 people contracted COVID–19 in our carceral system.

Growing up with an incarcerated parent, these failures are personal to me. I worked with folks in communities that have been marginalized and ignored, like the incarcerated brothers of the AACC in the Massachusetts Seventeenth, to craft a resolution that confronts the systemic injustices that destabilize families and traumatized generations.

We should provide care for those in crisis not confine them in solitary.

We should house our immigrant neighbors, not deport them from their communities.

We should counsel our kids, not lock them up in prison.

The People’s Justice Guarantee offers solutions and many others in a robust framework for a humane, equitable, and just legal system.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to reintroduce the People’s Justice Guarantee so America can finally fulfill its promise of justice for all.

BACKGROUND CHECKS WORK

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, for too many communities in southeastern Pennsylvania, the steady toll of gun violence day in and day out is a horrifying reality.

Right now, my region is at the epicenter of a staggering uptick in gun violence taking place in the background of the COVID–19 pandemic. In the first 3 months of this year, over 300 people in the city of Philadelphia have been shot. Over 50 have been killed, and 5 of those were children.

Mr. Speaker, the gun violence measures we are voting on this week close major loopholes in our gun laws that have allowed people, who we all agree should not have guns, to purchase guns without completed background checks.

While our colleagues across the aisle claim these laws won’t prevent gun violence, that is not true. Even with the loopholes, Federal background checks have prevented over 3 million sales to people we all agree should not have guns.

When required and enforced, background checks work, and they have the power to keep guns out of dangerous hands and off our streets.

Congressional complacency in addressing this issue has made our country less safe and put children and our most marginalized communities at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support these bills.

RIGHTS COME WITH RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I grew up a gun owner. I have been hunting since I was 12 years old. I became an Army Ranger and went to war for this country, where I led over 100 combat missions, carrying weapons of war at war in defense of our Nation.

But I am also a father, and I also represent a district that has been hit by some of the worst mass shootings in our Nation’s history. I learned in the Army years ago that citizenship comes with duties and rights come with responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, we are failing each other in this country. It is time that we start fulfilling our duties and our responsibilities to each other. We have the opportunity to do that now and to save thousands of lives.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues to join with me and to pass the Bipartisan Background Checks Act.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
WASHINGTON, DC, March 16, 2021.

Hon. Nancy Pelosi,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I am pleased to submit for printing in the Congressional Record, pursuant to Rule XI, clause 2(a) of the Rules of the House, a copy of the Rules of the Committee on Agriculture, which were adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee on Agriculture on February 10, 2021.

Appendix A of the Committee Rules will include excerpts from the Rules of the House relevant to the operation of the Committee. Appendix B will include relevant excerpts from the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. In the interest of minimizing printing costs, Appendices A and B are omitted from this submission.

Sincerely,
David Scott,
Chairman.

Enclosure.

(As adopted February 10, 2021)

RULE II—GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) Applicability of House Rules.—(1) The Rules of the House shall govern the procedure of the Committee and its subcommittee.

(b) Conference and Executive Sessions.—A Conference and Executive session shall be interpreted in accordance with the Rules of the House, except that a motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the reading of the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, are non-debatable privileged motions in the Committee.
for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such additional meetings pursuant to the notice from the Chairman.

(2) A hearing or meeting may begin sooner than specified in clause (1) (in which case, the chair shall make the announcement thereof at the earliest possible time) if the Committee so determines by majority vote in the presence of the number of Members required by the Rules of the Committee for the transaction of business.

(3) At least 24 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of a measure or matter, the Majority Staff Director of the Committee shall notify all Members of the Committee that such meeting will be held and inform them of the date and hour thereof, and the measures or matter to be considered, unless the time limit may be waived by unanimous consent. A Member shall also be given a copy of the written remarks to the subject matter under consideration, unless the Member receives unanimous consent to extend his or her remarks beyond such subject.

(e) Meetings to Begin Promptly.—Subject to the presence of a quorum, each meeting or hearing shall begin promptly at the time so stipulated in the public announcement of the meeting or hearing.

(f) Consideration of Amendments and Motions.—A Member, upon request, shall be recognized by the Chairman to address the Committee on a question or action shall be determined by the Chairman in accordance with clause 2(m)(3) of House Rule XI (See also Committee Rule VII); and

(g) Working Quorum.—One-third of the Members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking any action, other than as noted in paragraphs (b) and (c).

(b) Majority Quorum.—A majority of the Members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting Committee business meeting.

(1) the reporting of a bill, resolution, or other measure (See clause 2(h)(1) of House Rule XI, and Committee Rule IX);

(2) the closing of a hearing to the public pursuant to clauses 2(g), 2(k)(5), and 2(k)(7) of House Rule XI.

(3) the authorizing of a subpoena as provided in clause 2(k)(3) of House Rule XI (See also Committee Rule VII); and

(4) as where required by a rule of the House.

(c) Quorum for Taking Testimony.—Two Members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

RULE V—RECORDS

(a) Maintenance of Records.—The Committee shall keep a complete record of all Committee and Subcommittee action which shall include:

(1) in the case of any meeting or hearing transcripts, a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved, and

(2) in open meetings, such record shall include: a transcript copy of that public testimony and make such technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections as authorized by the person making the remarks involved as will not alter the...
nature of testimony given. There shall be prompt return of such corrected copy of the transcript to the Committee. Members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall receive copies of transcripts for their prompt review and correction and prompt return to the Committee. The Committee or Subcommittee may order the printing of a hearing record. The proceedings of the Committee on Rules and printed in the Congressional Record.’’

RULE VIII.—HEARING PROCEDURES

(a) Power to Hear.—For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under House Rules X and XI, the Committee and its subcommittees are authorized to sit and hold hearings at any time or place within the United States whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned. (See Committee Rule VI and paragraph (1) of Committee Rule XI for provisions relating to Subcommittee hearings and meetings.)

(b) Announcement.—The Chairman of the Committee shall, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any Committee meeting, for a Committee or a member of the Committee shall consult the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee, as appropriate, shall request a further consultation with the Majority Staff Director to make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of such hearing at least 1 week before the commencement of the hearing. If the Chairman of the Committee or a member of the Committee or Subcommittee consults with a person not a member of the Committee or Subcommittee, such consultation shall be in writing only after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee. After such consultation, the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee shall consult the Chairman of the other subcommittee and shall request the Majority Staff Director to make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of such hearing at least 1 week before the hearing. If the Chairman of the Committee or a member of the Committee or Subcommittee, with concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee or Subcommittee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee may request the Majority Staff Director to make such public announcement at the earliest possible date. The clerk of the Committee shall give notice to the Clerk of the Congressional Record and shall promptly enter the appropriate information into the Committee scheduling service of the House information system so that it is made publicly available in electronic form 24 hours before the witness appears to the extent practicable, but not later than 1 day after the witness appears.

(e) Questioning of Witnesses.—Committee or Subcommittee Members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee for that purpose. Each Member so recognized shall be limited to questioning a witness for 5 minutes until such time as each Member of the Committee or Subcommittee who so desires has had an opportunity to question the witness for 5 minutes; and thereafter the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee may limit the time of a further round of questioning after giving due consideration to the importance of the subject matter and the length of time available. All questions submitted shall be germane to the matter under consideration. Unless a majority of the Committee or Subcommittee determines otherwise, no Committee staff shall interrogate witnesses.

(f) Extended Questioning for Designated Members.—Notwithstanding paragraph (e), the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member may designate an equal number of Members from each party to question a witness for a period not longer than 10 minutes.

(g) Witnesses for the Minority.—When any hearing is conducted by the Committee or any Subcommittee upon any measure or matter referred to the Committee or Subcommittee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman by a majority of those minority Members before the completion of such hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least 1 day of hearing thereon as provided in clause 3(1) of House Rule XI.
shall, to the extent practicable, make available to the Members of the Committee any official reports from departments and agencies on such matter. (See paragraph (f) of Committee Rule X.)

(i) Open Hearings.—Each hearing conducted by the Committee or Subcommittee shall be open to the public, including the press, radio, television, and still photography coverage, except as provided in clause 4 of House Rule XI (See also paragraph (b) of Committee Rule III). No Member of the House may be excluded from nonparticipatory attendance at any hearing unless the House by majority vote shall authorize such exclusion. In the event of a particular series of hearings on a particular bill or resolution or on a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearings to Members by means of the above procedure.

(ii) Hearings and Reports.—(1)(i) The Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee at a hearing shall announce in an opening statement the subject of the investigation. A copy of the Committee Rules (and the applicable provisions of clause 2 of House Rule XI, regarding the issuance of subpoenas, and of which appears in Appendix A thereto) shall be made available to each witness upon request. Witnesses at hearings may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights. The Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee may order such breaches of order and decorum, and of professional ethics on the part of counsel, by censure and exclusion from the hearings; but only in a full Committee may cite the offender to the House for contempt.

(ii) Whenever it is asserted by a Member of the Committee that the evidence or testimony may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, or it is asserted by a witness that the evidence or testimony that the witness would give at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate the witness, such testimony or evidence shall be presented in executive session, including a summary of amendments and motions offered and the actions taken thereon; the results of each record vote on any amendment in the Committee and Subcommittee and on the motion to report the measure or matter, including the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of Members voting for and against such amendment or motion (See clause 3(b) of House Rule XIII);

(5) the oversight findings and recommendations of the Committee with respect to the subject matter of the bill or resolution, as required pursuant to clause 3(c)(1) of House Rule XII and clause 2(b)(1) of House Rule X;

(6) the detailed statement described in House Rule XII clause 3(c)(2) and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and the report of such new budget authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or net outlays, if the Committee determines that such evidence or testimony may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person. The Committee or Subcommittee may permit a witness to voluntarily appear as a witness, and the Committee or Subcommittee shall receive and shall dispose of requests from such person to subpoena additional witnesses.

(11) No evidence or testimony taken in executive session may be released or used in public sessions without the consent of the Committee or Subcommittee. In the discretion of the Committee or Subcommittee, witnesses may be requested to provide brief and pertinent statements in writing for inclusion in the record. The Committee or Subcommittee is the sole judge of the pertinence of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearings. The sole judge of the pertinence of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearings may obtain a transcribed copy of his or her testimony given at a public session. If given at an executive session, a transcribed copy of such testimony may be obtained when authorized by the Committee or Subcommittee. (See paragraph (c) of Committee Rule V.)

(12) A proposed investigative or oversight report shall be considered as read if it has been available to the Members of the Committee for at least 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such day) in advance of their consideration.

RULE IX.—THE REPORTING OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

(a) Filing of Reports.—The Chairman shall report or cause to be reported promptly to the House any bill, resolution, or other measure approved by the Committee and shall take or cause to be taken all necessary steps to bring such bill, resolution, or other measure to a vote. No bill, resolution, or other measure approved by the Committee unless a majority of the Committee is actually present. A Committee report on any bill, resolution, or other measure approved by the Committee shall be considered as read if it has been submitted prior to the filing of the report and included in the record;

(b) Content of Reports.—Each Committee report on any bill or resolution approved by the Committee shall include as separately identified sections:

(1) a statement of the intent or purpose of the bill or resolution;

(2) a statement describing the need for such bill or resolution;

(3) a statement of Committee and Subcommittee findings and recommendations, including a summary of amendments and motions offered and the actions taken thereon; the results of each record vote on any amendment in the Committee and Subcommittee and on the motion to report the measure or matter, including the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of Members voting for and against such amendment or motion (See clause 3(b) of House Rule XIII);

(4) the oversight findings and recommendations of the Committee with respect to the subject matter of the bill or resolution, as required pursuant to clause 3(c)(1) of House Rule XII and clause 2(b)(1) of House Rule X;

(5) the statement of general performance goals and objectives, including outcome related goals and objectives, for the measure approved by the Committee;

(6) the detailed statement described in House Rule XII clause 3(c)(2) and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and the report of such new budget authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or net outlays, if the Committee determines that such evidence or testimony may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person. The Committee or Subcommittee may permit a witness to voluntarily appear as a witness, and the Committee or Subcommittee shall receive and shall dispose of requests from such person to subpoena additional witnesses.

(12) A proposed investigative or oversight report shall be considered as read if it has been available to the Members of the Committee for at least 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such day) in advance of their consideration.

with appropriate levels under current law (The provisions of this clause do not apply if a cost estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Of- fice under section 407 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 has been timely submitted prior to the filing of the report and included in the report);

(13) the changes in existing law (if any) shall be in accordance with clause 3 of House Rule XIII;

(14) the determination required pursuant to section 5(b) of P.L. 92–463, if the legisla- tion reported establishes or authorizes the establishment of an advisory committee;

(15) the information on Federal and inter- governmental mandates required by section 423(c) and (d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as added by the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995 (P.L. 104–4); and

(16) a statement estimating the number of directed rule makings required by the measure;

(c) Supplemental, Minority, Additional, or Dissenting Views.—(If, at the time of approval of any measure by the Committee, any Member of the Committee gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views (in accordance with rule VI), such Member shall be entitled to not less than 2 subsequent calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such date) in which to file such written and signed views with the Clerk of the Committee. Time guaran- teed by this paragraph has expired (or, if sooner, when all separate views have been received), the Committee may arrange to file its report with the Clerk of the House not later than 1 hour after the expiration of such time. Such views (in accordance with clause 21 of House Rule XI and clause 3(a)(l) of House Rule XIII), as filed by one or more Members of the Committee, shall be included with and made a part of the report filed by the Committee with respect to that bill or resolution.

(d) Printing of Reports.—The report of the Committee on the measure or matter noted in paragraph (a) above shall be printed in a single volume, which shall:

(1) include all supplemental, minority, ad- ditional, or dissenting views that have been submitted by the time of the filing of the report;

(2) be in accordance with its cover a recital that any such supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views (and any material submitted
under clause 3(a)(1) of House Rule XXII are included as part of the report. (e) Immediate Printing; Supplemental Reports.—Nothing in this rule shall preclude—
(1) the immediate filing or printing of a Committee report unless timely request for the opportunity to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views has been made in accordance with paragraph (c);
(2) the filing by the Committee of any supplemental report on any bill or resolution that may be required for the correction of any typographical error or that may be required for the correction of any error in a previous report; and
(3) the subcommittee report that may be required for the correction of any technical error in a previous report that may be required for the correction of any technical error in a previous report that may be required for the correction of any error in a previous report

(1) Availability of Printed Hearing Records.—If hearings held related to any report or resolution, the Committee shall make every reasonable effort to have the record of such hearings printed and available for distribution to the Members of the House prior to the consideration of such bill or resolution by the House. Each printed hearing of the Committee or any of its subcommittees shall include a record of the attendance of the Members.

(g) Committee Prints.—All Committee or Subcommittee documents, other than reports or prints of bills, that are prepared for public distribution shall be approved by the Chair of the Committee or the Committee prior to public distribution.

(h) Post Adjournment Filing of Committee Reports.—(1) After an adjournment of the last regular session of Congress sine die, the Committee shall prepare, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, a plan for the oversight of investigatory or oversight report approved by the Committee may be filed with the Clerk at any time, provided that if a Member receives notice at the time of approval of intention to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views, that Member shall be entitled to not less than 7 calendar days in which to submit such views for inclusion with the report.

(2) After an adjournment of the last regular session of Congress sine die, the Chairman of the Committee may file at any time with the Clerk the Committee’s activity report for that Congress pursuant to clause 1(d)(1) of House Rule XI without the approval of the Committee, provided that a copy of the report has been available to each Member of the Committee for at least 7 calendar days and the report includes any supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views submitted by a Member of the Committee.

(3) All reports of committees may be delivered to electronic form.

(i) Conference.—(A) The Chairman is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of House Rule XXII whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

RULE X.—OTHER COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

(a) Oversight Plan.—

(1) Not later than March 1 of the first session of the 117th Congress, the Chairman shall submit a plan for each of the following fiscal years, beginning with the fiscal year in which the Committee has received disclaimers of agency financial statements from the Committee of not less favorable to the majority party as the Chairman may designate in consultation with the Members of the majority party. Such recommendations shall provide for a ratio of majority party Members to minority party Members no less favorable to the majority party than the ratio of majority party Members to minority party Members on the Committee. In making such recommendations of Minority Party Members as conferees, the Chairman shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

(b) Annual Appropriations.—The Committee shall, in its consideration of all bills and joint resolutions of a public character within its jurisdiction, ensure that appropriations for continuing programs and activities of the Congress, the District of Columbia government will be made annually to the maximum extent feasible; and, in making such recommendations with respect to all matters to be set forth in the budget of the Federal government, and the budget to determine and recommend changes to the following fiscal year. (See Appendix B).—Not later than 6 months before its submission; and submit such views for inclusion with the report.

(c) Budget Act Compliance: Views and Estimates (See Appendix B).—Not later than 6 months after the President submits his budget under section 1105(a) of Title 31, United States Code, or at such time as the Committee shall request, the Committee shall include a focus on the most egregious instances of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs which the Committee may authorize.

(d) Hearing on GAO High-Risk-List.—The Committee or a Subcommittee, shall hold at least one hearing during each 120-day period following the establishment of the Committee on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee's 'high-risk-list' or the 'high-risk series'.

(e) Conference Committees.—Whenever in the legislative process it becomes necessary to appoint conferees, the Chairman shall, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, determine the number of conferees the Chair prescribes the most suitable and that the Committee shall, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, determine the number of conferees the Chairman deems most suitable and that the Chair may appoint to the Committee on the Committee under House Rule X.

(f) Other Committee Activities.

(1) The Committee, or a Subcommittee, shall hold at least one hearing during each 120-day period following the establishment of the Committee on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee's 'high-risk-list' or the 'high-risk series'.

(g) Committee Prints.—All Committee or Subcommittee documents, other than reports or prints of bills, that are prepared for public distribution shall be approved by the Chair of the Committee or the Committee prior to public distribution.

(h) Conference Committees.—Whenever in the legislative process it becomes necessary to appoint conferees, the Chairman shall, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, determine the number of conferees the Chairman deems most suitable and that the Chair may appoint to the Committee on the Committee under House Rule X.

(i) Member Day Hearing.—During the first session of a Congress, the Committee will hold a hearing at which it receives testimony from Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner on proposed legislation within its jurisdiction.

(j) Activities Report.—(1) Not later than January 2 of each even-numbered year, the Committee shall submit to the House a report on the activities of the Committee. After adjournment sine die of the last regular session of a Congress on or before November 15 of an even-numbered year, whichever occurs first, the Chair may file the report, a copy of which shall be made available to the Members of the Committee for at least 7 calendar days, with the Clerk of the House at any time.
(2) Such report shall include separate sections summarizing the legislative and oversight activities of the Committee during that Congress.

(3) The oversight section of such report shall include a summary of the oversight plans submitted by the Committee pursuant to clause 2(d) of House Rule X, a summary of the and recommendations made with respect to each such plan, and a summary of any additional oversight activities undertaken by the Committee, and any recommendations or actions taken with respect thereto.

RULE XI.—SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) Number and Composition.—There shall be such subcommittees as specified in paragraph (c) of this rule, and the subcommittees shall be composed of the number of Members set forth in paragraph (c) of this rule, including ex officio Members. The Chairman may create additional subcommittees of an ad hoc nature as the Chairman determines to be appropriate, subject to any limitations provided for in the House Rules.

(b) Ratios.—On each Subcommittee, there shall be a ratio of majority party Members to minority party Members which shall be consistent with the ratio on the full Committee. The ratios of majority party Members to minority party Members, there shall be included the ex officio Members of the subcommittees and ratios below reflect that fact.

(c) Jurisdiction.—Each Subcommittee shall have the following general jurisdiction and number of Members:

Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit (21 members, 11 majority and 10 minority)—Policies, statutes, and regulations relating to commodity exchanges; agricultural credit; rural development; energy; rural electrification.

Conservation and Forestry (17 members, 9 majority and 8 minority)—Policies and statutes relating to resource conservation, forestry, and all forests under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture.

Nutation, Oversight, and Department Operations (11 majority and 10 minority)—Policies and statutes relating to commodity assistance programs and domestic commodity distribution and consumer initiatives; departmental and agency oversight; and special investigations.

Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research (23 members, 11 majority and 12 minority)—Policies, statutes, and regulations relating to horticulture, including fruits, vegetables, nuts, and ornamentals; bees; organic agriculture; and the promotion and protection of agricultural commodities and institutions; international trade; science and technology; and extension and education.

Livestock and Foreign Agriculture (25 members, 13 majority and 12 minority)—Policies, statutes, and regulations relating to all livestock, poultry, dairy, and seafood, including all products thereof; the inspection, marketing, and promotion of such commodities; market news; trade policies; animal health; and animal welfare; grazing; foreign agricultural assistance and trade promotion.

(d) Referral of Legislation.—

(1) In General.—All bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to the Committee shall be referred to all subcommittees of appropriate jurisdiction after the Subcommittee Chair has determined that the Subcommittee Chair has made the appropriate referral. If a Subcommittee Chair determines that a bill shall be referred to a Committee relating to foreign agriculture, foreign food or commodity assistance, and foreign trade and marketing, the Chair shall include the Subcommittee Chair in the determination. (See Committee Rule VIII.)

(2) The Chairman of the Committee, or a majority of the Committee, may refer a bill, resolution, or other matter referred to the Committee to a Subcommittee or to the Majority Staff Director for an expedited hearing on the matter. The Majority Staff Director shall be provided to the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee by the Majority Staff Director.

(3) The Committee may request the Majority Staff Director to conduct an expedited hearing on any matter referred to a Subcommittee. The Majority Staff Director shall be provided to the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee by the Majority Staff Director.

(e) Subcommittee Hearings and Meetings.—(1) Any Member of the Committee may participate in a Subcommittee meeting. A Member of the Committee may be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum at a Subcommittee meeting, and a Member may not be counted for the purpose of the Majority Staff Director.

(2) The Chairman, or a majority of the Committee, may determine that a Subcommittee hearing shall be held under the jurisdiction of a Subcommittee of the Committee.

(3) The Committee shall promptly hold meetings in accordance with the provisions of this rule, and shall provide the Majority Staff Director with all necessary information to facilitate their conduct.

(f) Subcommittee Action.—Any Subcommittee may hold hearings to consider any matter referred to the Subcommittee, and shall hold such hearings in accordance with the Committee's rules and procedures for holding hearings, and shall make recommendations to the Committee on any matter referred to the Subcommittee.

(g) Subcommittee Action.—Any Subcommittee may hold hearings to consider any matter referred to the Subcommittee, and shall hold such hearings in accordance with the Committee's rules and procedures for holding hearings, and shall make recommendations to the Committee on any matter referred to the Subcommittee.

(h) Subcommittee Action.—Any Subcommittee may hold hearings to consider any matter referred to the Subcommittee, and shall hold such hearings in accordance with the Committee's rules and procedures for holding hearings, and shall make recommendations to the Committee on any matter referred to the Subcommittee.

(i) Subcommittee Investigations.—No investigation shall be initiated by a Subcommittee without prior consultation with the Chairman of the Committee or a majority of the Committee.

RULE XII.—COMMITTEE BUDGET, STAFF, AND TRAVEL

(a) Committee Budget.—The Committee shall prepare a preliminary budget for each session of the Congress. Such budget shall include necessary amounts for personnel, travel, and other expenses of the Committee and subcommittees. After consultation with the Majority Member, the Chairman shall consult with the Majority Members for staff under their direction and supervision. Thereafter, the Chairman shall combine such proposals into a consolidated budget, and the Chairman shall take whatever action is necessary to have such budget duly authorized by the House.

(b) Committee Staff.—The Committee shall be composed of the Majority Staff Director and the Majority Members for staff under their direction and supervision. The Majority Staff Director shall be provided to the Committee by the Majority Staff Director.

(c) Committee Business.—The Committee shall conduct its business in accordance with the House Rules, and shall make recommendations to the Committee on any matter referred to the Committee.

(d) Committee Action.—Any Committee may hold hearings to consider any matter referred to the Committee, and shall hold such hearings in accordance with the Committee's rules and procedures for holding hearings, and shall make recommendations to the Committee on any matter referred to the Committee.
Chairman, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of such staff members and delegate such authority as he or she determines appropriate. (See clause 9 of House Rule X). (2) The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the professional and clerical staff assigned to the minority within the budget approved for such purposes. The professional and clerical staff of the minority shall be subject to the general supervision and direction of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee who may delegate such authority as he or she deems appropriate.

(3) From the funds made available for the appointment of Committee staff pursuant to any primary or additional expense resolution, the Chairman shall ensure that each Subcommittee is adequately funded and staffed to discharge its responsibilities and that the Subcommittee is properly treated in the appointment of such staff (See clause 6(d) of House Rule X). (c) Committee Travel.—(1) Consistent with the primary purpose of the Committee and its subcommittees and meeting the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee and its subcommittees and meeting the prior authorization of the Chairman, who shall establish and assign the professional and clerical staff assigned to the minority within the budget approved for such purposes. The professional and clerical staff of the minority shall be subject to the general supervision and direction of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee who may delegate such authority as he or she deems appropriate.

(3) From the funds made available for the appointment of Committee staff pursuant to any primary or additional expense resolution, the Chairman shall ensure that each Subcommittee is adequately funded and staffed to discharge its responsibilities and that the Subcommittee is properly treated in the appointment of such staff (See clause 6(d) of House Rule X). (c) Committee Travel.—(1) Consistent with the primary purpose of the Committee and its subcommittees and meeting the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee and its subcommittees and meeting the prior authorization of the Chairman, who shall establish and assign the professional and clerical staff assigned to the minority within the budget approved for such purposes. The professional and clerical staff of the minority shall be subject to the general supervision and direction of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee who may delegate such authority as he or she deems appropriate.

(3) From the funds made available for the appointment of Committee staff pursuant to any primary or additional expense resolution, the Chairman shall ensure that each Subcommittee is adequately funded and staffed to discharge its responsibilities and that the Subcommittee is properly treated in the appointment of such staff (See clause 6(d) of House Rule X). (c) Committee Travel.—(1) Consistent with the primary purpose of the Committee and its subcommittees and meeting the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee and its subcommittees and meeting the prior authorization of the Chairman, who shall establish and assign the professional and clerical staff assigned to the minority within the budget approved for such purposes. The professional and clerical staff of the minority shall be subject to the general supervision and direction of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee who may delegate such authority as he or she deems appropriate.

(3) From the funds made available for the appointment of Committee staff pursuant to any primary or additional expense resolution, the Chairman shall ensure that each Subcommittee is adequately funded and staffed to discharge its responsibilities and that the Subcommittee is properly treated in the appointment of such staff (See clause 6(d) of House Rule X).

(c) Committee Travel.—(1) Consistent with the primary purpose of the Committee and its subcommittees and meeting the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee and its subcommittees and meeting the prior authorization of the Chairman, who shall establish and assign the professional and clerical staff assigned to the minority within the budget approved for such purposes. The professional and clerical staff of the minority shall be subject to the general supervision and direction of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee who may delegate such authority as he or she deems appropriate.

(3) From the funds made available for the appointment of Committee staff pursuant to any primary or additional expense resolution, the Chairman shall ensure that each Subcommittee is adequately funded and staffed to discharge its responsibilities and that the Subcommittee is properly treated in the appointment of such staff (See clause 6(d) of House Rule X).
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BACON (for himself, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. MOUTLON):

H.R. 1727. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1728. A bill to provide rental assistance to low-income tenants in certain multi-family rural housing projects financed by the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture, and to develop and implement a plan for preserving the affordability of rural rental housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BARR (for himself, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BACON, Mr. PERRY, Mr. KALVINS of Mississippi, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. ISSA, Mr. HuIZENGA, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. GUEST, Mr. STEFANIC, Mr. ROUKAS, Mr. ROUZET, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. ROSE, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. HICK of Georgia, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. BUCK of Utah, Mr. POSKEY, Mr. GORAK, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. LATURNER):

H.R. 1729. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit certain financial service providers who deny fair access to financial services from using taxpayer funded discretionary window lending programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.R. 1730. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to accelerate development of therapies across the spectrum of rare diseases and conditions and facilitate access to such therapies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. VULANO, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. GRJALVA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CAHAIJAL, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TERRIE-TOVEY, to the Committee on Education and Labor, and Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. Fay, Mr. PINTO, Mr. JIMENEZ, Mr. HERNANDEZ, Mr. SOTO, Ms. GONZALES, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BACA, Mr. SANCHEZ, Mr. CASTELO, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 1731. A bill to award grants to States to establish or improve, and carry out, Seal of Biliteracy programs to recognize high-level student proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in both English and a second language; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 1732. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to address the teacher and principal retention incentives in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and 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. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BRINDICCI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. QUADRI-NEAL, Mr. WILSON, Ms. HOU-OHALAHAN, Mr. SEWELL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SIBRES, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BOWMAN, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1733. A bill to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide funds to States and Indian tribes for the purpose of promoting economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. LAMB, Mrs. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. GRJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1734. A bill to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1977 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to delegate certain emergency reclamation activities to the States and Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. BUCK, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SPARZITI, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. WILD, Mr. STEUFE, and Mr. GARTZT):

H.R. 1735. A bill to provide a temporary safe harbor for online content to collectively negotiate with dominant online platforms regarding the terms on which content may be distributed; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 1736. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Challenge Grant Program to promote technological innovation in our Nation’s communities; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DESJARLAIS (for himself, Mr. HARSHBAUGH, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. STEUFE):

H.R. 1737. A bill to designate the Mental Health Residential Long-Term Rehabilitation Treatment Facility Expansion of the Department of Veterans Affairs Alvin C. York Medical Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, as the “Sergeant John Toombs Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Facility”; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mr. KAGAN):

H.R. 1738. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide for 12-month continuous enrollment of individuals under the Medicaid program and Children’s Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 1739. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for veterinary care for military and combat support personnel and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Miss GONZALEZ-COLON:

H.R. 1740. A bill to designate all of Puerto Rico as an opportunity zone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Miss GONZALEZ-COLON:

H.R. 1741. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow accelerated depreciation of certain qualified film and television and live theatrical productions in Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Miss GONZALEZ-COLON:

H.R. 1742. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat Puerto Rico as part of the United States for purposes of determining whether real property qualifies for treatment as a like-kind exchange; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 1743. A bill to require annual reports on sexual contribution on defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. BUSCHMAN, Mrs. BRATTT, Ms. ROYALL-ALLARD, and Mr. BROWNLEE):

H.R. 1744. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of a National Center for Alternatives to Animals in Research and Testing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. LAHOD, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BALDERSO, Mr. GOLDEN, and Mrs. HINSON):

H.R. 1745. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers under the age of 21, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 1746. A bill to facilitate the efficient licensing and deployment of advanced civilian nuclear technologies; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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. ISSA (for himself and Mr. MALAFALI):

H.R. 1747. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for priority to appoint individuals to Federal firefighting and firefighting support positions in the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (for himself and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio):

H.R. 1748. A bill to assess and improve the competitiveness of American civilian nuclear commerce, to expedite Department of Energy review of certain nuclear technology exports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. KELLER (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. STEPHENS), March 10, 2021:

H.R. 1751. A bill to provide for technical assistance under the health profession opportunity grant program under section 389 of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KANENOAMOORTHI (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT of Missouri, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTAÑEDA of Texas, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Maryland, Ms. DEAN, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURA, Mr. DEMINGS, Ms. DESaulNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GABRIEL, Mr. GEHLEN of Texas, Mr. GILSEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KIND, Ms. LOWEN, Ms. MATHUR, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PETE of New York, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, and Mr. YARMUTH).

H.R. 1752. A bill to designate certain National Forest System lands and certain public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management as wilderness; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LONG (for himself, Mr. CARBONERO of Oregon, Ms. CASTAÑEDA of Texas, Mr. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CURTIS, Mr. DE LEÓN, Mr. DE LA ROCHA, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. EMSWELLER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ESQUIVEL, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. FITZGERALD of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FITZGERALD of Wisconsin, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. HARRISON, Mr. HICKERSON, Mr. HICKERSON of North Carolina, Mr. HICKERSON of South Carolina, Mr. HUNT, Mr. JATROUNI, Mr. JIMMIE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Idaho, Mr. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KEATING of Florida, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Mr. KOCH, Mr. KOSAKOWSKI, Mr. LAND, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEE of Florida, Mr. LEE of Missouri, Mr. LEE of Tennessee, Ms. LEE of Utah, Mr. LEE of Wisconsin, Mr. LEE of Wyoming, Mr. LEEYONKHORST, Ms. LEEYONKHORST of New York, Mr. LEEYONKHORST of Texas, Mr. LESSER, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOGUE, Mr. LOCKENYER, Mr. LOVE, Mr. MAGUIRE, Mr. MALCOLM, Mr. MANN (for himself, Mr. HUDZO of Kentucky), Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLI, Mr. MOUTON, Mr. NORLING, Mr. NORLING of California, Ms. O’CONNOR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASSCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUISENBERRY, Mr. ROTAIRER, Mr. ROSA, Mr. ROSARIO-ALLARD, Mr. RUOPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSI, Mr. SABLIN, Ms. SACHOWSKY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SHERMAN of Florida, Mr. SHERMAN of Indiana, Ms. SOTO, Ms. SOTO of Florida, Mr. SPEZI, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TILTS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. WILSON of Florida).

H.R. 1753. A bill to ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 1754. A bill to authorize appropriate payment adjustments; to authorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. LIEDKE, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. PERRY of Texas, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. PALMER).

H.R. 1755. A bill to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to conduct a study on potential disparities in incurred costs for rural and urban hospitals under the inpatient prospective payment system and to authorize appropriate payment adjustments; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KIND, Ms. LOWEN, Ms. MATTHIS, Mr. McNERNY, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PETE, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, and Mr. YARMUTH).

H.R. 1756. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to provide identification kits for missing children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 1757. A bill to amend title III of the Social Security Act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

H.R. 1758. A bill to authorize the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KELLER (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. GRIFFITH of Louisiana):

H.R. 1759. A bill to amend title XVII of the Medicare Act of 2008 to repeal the particular provision at issue, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 1760. A bill to amend title VIII of the Social Security Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on potential disparities in incurred costs for rural and urban hospitals under the inpatient prospective payment system and to authorize appropriate payment adjustments; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. GRIFFITH of Louisiana):

H.R. 1761. A bill to amend title XVII of the Medicare Act of 2008 to repeal the particular provision at issue, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. GRIFFITH of Louisiana):

H.R. 1762. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to submit to Congress a report on unfair or deceptive acts or practices targeting Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 1763. A bill to amend title III of the Social Security Act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

H.R. 1764. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to provide identification kits for missing children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. O’HALLORAN (for himself and Mr. HUDSON):

H.R. 1765. A bill to enhance cooperation between the Federal Trade Commission and State Attorneys General to combat unfair and deceptive practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 1766. A bill to amendment title X, United States Code, to authorize the Defense Language Institute to award English as a Second Language degrees in a foreign language, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. PLASKETT (for herself, Ms. FORTENBERRY, and Ms. ADAMS):

H.R. 1767. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SWALWELL, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART):

H.R. 1768. A bill to provide for the reporting to Congress of the general fund balance of the State and local government authorities of cases in which the national instant criminal background check system indicates that a firearm has been sought to be acquired by a prohibited person, so that authorities may pursue criminal charges under State law, and to ensure that the Department of Justice reports to Congress on prosecutions secured against prohibited persons who attempt to acquire a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mr. LAMAR, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Ms. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. HICK of Georgia, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. DONALDS, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mr. MAGGIE of New York):

H.R. 1769. A bill to allow Federal funds appropriated for kindergarten through grade 12...
education to follow the student; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. ROY (for himself and Mr. Bost):
H.R. 171. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from transmitting certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RYAN (for himself, Mr. Rorschenthaler, Mr. Kelly of Mississippi, Ms. Stefanik, and Mrs. BUSTORF):
H.R. 1772. A bill to amend the Passport Act of 1920 to exempt from the collection of certain passport fees an individual who was awarded the Purple Heart, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SABLON:
H.R. 1773. A bill to make the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands eligible for the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCHRAIDER:
H.R. 1774. A bill to reduce the annual rate of pay of Members of Congress if a Government shutdown occurs during a year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. Yarmuth, Ms. Stefanik, and Mr. STEFANIK):
H.R. 1775. A bill to provide justice for victims of State misrepresentation to the World Health Organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAMMACK (for herself, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Arrington, Mr. Barino, Mr. Bacon, Mr. Balendon, Mr. Banks, Mr. Barr, Mr. Bentz, Mr. Bergman, Ms. Rice of Oklahoma, Mr. Biggs, Mr. Bilirakis, Mr. Bishop of North Carolina, Mrs. Boebert, Mr. Bost, Mr. Brady, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Buck, Mr. Bushon, Mr. Budd, Mr. Burchett, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Carl, Mr. Carney, Mr. of Georgia, Mr. Caithorn, Mr. Chabot, Mr. Cline, Mr. Cloud, Mr. Clyde, Mr. Crenshaw, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Rooney, Mr. David slides, Mr. Donalds, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Emmer, Mr. Fallon, Mr. Ferroestra, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Fulcher, Mr. Gaetz, Mr. Gianforte, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Gimenez, Mr. Gooden of Texas, Ms. Granger, Mr. Graves of Louisiana, Mrs. Green of Georgia, Mr. Hardeman of Texas, Harshauser, Mr. Herin, Mr. Herrell, Mrs. Hinson, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Issa, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Johnson of Louisiana, Mr. Johnson of South Carolina, Mr. Joyce of Pennsylvania, Mr. Kelly of Mississippi, Mr. LaMalfa, Mr. Lamborn, Mr. LATurner, Mrs. Lieb, Ms. Mace, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Massie, Mr. Mcelheny, Mr. McClain, Mr. McClintock, Mr. McKinley, Mrs. Rodgers of Washington, Mrs. Miller of Illinois, Mrs. Miller-Meeks of Georgia, Mr. Moore of Alabama, Mr. Murphy of North Carolina, Mr. Nihls, Mr. Newhouse, Mr. Norman, Mr. Owens, Mr. Palazzo, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Petri, Mr. Pfluger, Mr. Posey, Mr. Rorschenthaler, Mr. Rogers of Alabama, Mr. Rosendale, Mr. Rouzer, Mr. Roybal-Allard, Mr. Schabert, Mr. Scott of Georgia, Mr. Smith of Nebraska, Mr. Smucker, Mrs. Spartz, Mrs. Steel, Mr. Steube, Mr. Taylor, Ms. Tenney, Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania, Mr. Tiffany, Mr. Van Drew, Ms. Van Duyn, Mr. Vela, Mr. Warden of Texas, Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, Mr. Wittman, Mr. Young, Mr. Williams of Texas, Mr. Scalise, Mr. Sheehan, and Mrs. Stewert of Georgia):
H.R. 1776. 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; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees 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 Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mrs. Hartley, Mr. Waltz, Mr. Crenshaw, Mr. Turner, Mr. Steube, Mr. Brat, and Mrs. STEEL):
H.R. 1777. A bill to address foreign threats to higher education in the United States; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself, Ms. Rosemend, Mr. Owens, Mr. Newhouse, Mr. Goser, and Ms. Herrell):
H.R. 1778. A bill to improve the process for awarding grants under certain programs of the Department of Transportation to certain counties in which the majority of land is owned or managed by the Federal Government and to Tribal governments in those counties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself, Mr. Rosemend, Mr. Owens, Mr. Newhouse, Mr. Goser, and Ms. Herrell):
H.R. 1779. A bill to improve the process for awarding grants under certain programs of the Department of Agriculture to certain counties in which the majority of land is owned or managed by the Federal Government and Tribal governments in those counties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H. Res. 213. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Ways and Means in the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mrs. LURIA (for herself, Mr. Schneider, Ms. Manning, Miss Rice of New York, Mr. Gottheimer, and Mr. Miller):
H. Res. 214. A resolution recognizing the sense of the House of Representatives that Iran must cease enriching uranium to 20 per cent purity and abandon its pursuit of a nuclear weapon; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Ms. Bratton, Mr. Espalliat, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Ms. Bass, Ms. Lee of California, Mrs. Watson Coleman, Mr. David Scott of Georgia, Mr. Bishop of Georgia, Mr. Norton, Ms. Plaskett, Ms. Castor of Florida, Ms. Garcia of Texas, Mr. Cardenas, Mr. Morelle, Ms. Johnson of Texas, Mr. Evans, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Danny K. Davis of Illinois, Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, Ms. Williams of Georgia, Ms. Clark of Massachusetts, Ms. McCollum, Ms. Tlaib, Mr. Khanna, Mr. Bost, Mr. Connolly, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Norman, Ms. DeGette, Mr. Lawson of Florida, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Demings, Mr. Griffin, Mr. Carson, Mr. Dritch, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. Press of Wisconsin, Mr. Schrader, Ms. Skewell, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Vela, Mr. Gallego, Mr. Higin of New York, Mr. Hasting, Mr. Royal-Alford, Mr. Raskin, Mr. Lowenthal, Mr. Bowman, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Jones, Mr. Stanton, Ms. Velázquez, Mrs. Fletch, Mrs. Moore of Wisconsin, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Auchincloss, Ms. Blunt Rochester, Ms. Speier, Ms. Jayapal, Mr. Meeks, Mr. Torres of New York, Ms. Lofgren, Mr. Bonamici, Mr. Lynch, Ms. Jacobs of California, Mr. Kahele, Mr. Mcnerney, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Pallone, Mrs. Trahan, Mr. Gheen of Texas, Mr. Crow, Mr. Schneider, Ms. Stevens, Ms. Bourdeaux, Mr. Thompson of California, Mr. Omar, Mr. Pease of North Carolina, Mr. Omar, Ms. Estess, Ms. DelBene, Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Michael of Georgia, Mr. Culline, Mrs. Press of California, Mr. Cost, Mr. T. Rush, and Mr. Veasey):
H. Res. 215. A resolution recognizing the forthcoming centennial of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre; 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. ROY:
H. Res. 216. A resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 471) to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from using any funds to annex, to acquire, or for any purpose of, and to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from ceasing or lessening implementation of, the COVID-19 border health provisions through the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. TAKANO:
H. Res. 217. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.
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. 1727.

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

- Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
- Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
- Article III, Section 2

By Mrs. AXNE: H.R. 1728.

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

- The power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS: H.R. 1730.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to:

- Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. BROWNLEY: H.R. 1731.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to:

- Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. BUSTOS: H.R. 1732.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to:

- This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT: H.R. 1733.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to:

- Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DeSAULNIER: H.R. 1734.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to:

- Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
- Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
- Article III, Section 2

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee: H.R. 1740.

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. HASTINGS: H.R. 1741.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to:

- Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HUDSON: H.R. 1742.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to:

- Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio: H.R. 1743.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to:

- Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin: H.R. 1744.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to:

- Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
- Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. KELLY: H.R. 1745.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to:

- Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania: H.R. 1746.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to:

- Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. KILDEE: H.R. 1751.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to:

- Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI: H.R. 1752.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to:

- Article I, Section 8

By Ms. LEE of California: H.R. 1753.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to:

- Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LONG: H.R. 1754.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts and 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 Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:
H.R. 1755.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 provides Congress with the power to “dispose of and make all needful rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States.”

By Mr. MCKINLEY:
H.R. 1760.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 5, Clause 2 provides Congress with the power to “carry 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. MULLIN:
H.R. 1762.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution:
Clause 18, section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution:

By Mr. PANETTA:
H.R. 1767.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 1768.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. QUIGLEY:
H.R. 1769.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. ROY:
H.R. 1770.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RYAN:
H.R. 1772.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution:

By Mr. SABLAN:
H.R. 1773.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. SCHRADER:
H.R. 1774.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Const. art. 1, § 8; U.S. Const. art. 4, § 3.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:
H.R. 1775.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the US Constitution:
By Mrs. CAMMACK:
H.R. 1776.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the United States Constitution, including the power granted under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, and the power granted to each House of Congress under Article I, Section 5, Clause 2.

By Ms. STEFANIK:
H.R. 1777.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8.

By Mr. STEWART:
H.R. 1778.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. STEWART:
H.R. 1779.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Ms. VELAZQUEZ:
H.R. 1780.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.
The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. WALBERG:
H.R. 1781.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3—Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce with foreign Nations, and among several States, and with the Indian tribes.

By Ms. WEXTON:
H.R. 1782.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS
Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:
H.R. 18: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 38: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 51: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 97: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 144: Mr. BONAMICI, Mr. LAMB, Mr. GARCIA of California, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 239: Mr. LAMB and Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 243: Mr. TURNEY.
H.R. 303: Ms. CRAIG and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 333: Ms. BROWNLEY and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 342: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 366: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 384: Mr. SIREN.
H.R. 431: Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mrs. ROSEN, Mr. BRENDAN P. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. TRONE, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. Luetkemeyer.
H.R. 432: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. LOWOWITZ, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 469: Mr. BEESKES.
H.R. 485: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 543: Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 545: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 549: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 550: Mr. BAIRD, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. DEMING, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. NORTON, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. LEVIN of California, and Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 671: Ms. SPARKS, Mr. BROWN, Ms. JACOBS of California, and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 571: Ms. KELLY of Michigan, Mr. VAUGHN and Mr. GRIEVA.

H.R. 603: Ms. KUSTNER.
H.R. 634: Mrs. MCCLAIN and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 638: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 671: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 682: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. STUART, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. JACOBS of New York, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 684: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 695: Mr. MVAN.
H.R. 706: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 707: Mr. CLINTON.
H.R. 713: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 714: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 715: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 716: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 717: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 718: Mr. NORMAN.
H. R. 1203: Mrs. Lesko.

H. R. 1202: Mrs. Axne and Mr. Keating.

H. R. 892: Mr. Barr.

H. R. 1012: Mr. Kim of New Jersey.

H. R. 589: Ms. Dingell, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Neguse, and Mrs. Kim of California.

H. R. 896: Mr. Perlmutter, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Kim of New Jersey, Ms. Ross, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Nogro, Mr. Lowenthal, Mr. Young, and Ms. Schakowsky.

H. R. 892: Mr. Barr.

H. R. 1012: Mr. Kim of New Jersey.

H. R. 1016: Mr. Buchanan.

H. R. 1020: Mr. Khanna.

H. R. 1097: Mr. Hich of Georgia.

H. R. 1115: Mrs. Axne, Mr. Guest, Mr. Huizenga, Ms. Schrier, Mrs. Tenney, Mr. Garbarino, Mr. Oke, and Mr. C. Scott Franklin of Florida.

H. R. 1145: Mr. Grothman.

H. R. 1183: Mr. LaMalfa and Mr. Stieh.

H. R. 1202: Mrs. Axne and Mr. Kating.

H. R. 1203: Mrs. Lesko.

H. R. 1210: Mr. Timmons.

H. R. 1275: Mr. Wenstrup, Mr. Joyce of Pennsylvania, Mr. Jordan, and Mr. McHenry.

H. R. 1282: Mrs. Harshaberger.

H. R. 1283: Mr. Guest.

H. R. 1289: Mr. Grijalva and Mr. Carson.

H. R. 1379: Mr. Schiff and Mr. San Nicolas.

H. R. 1439: Ms. DeGette.

H. R. 1442: Mr. Sarbanes, Ms. Newman, Mrs. Kim of California, Mrs. Napolitano, Ms. Eshoo, Ms. Schrier, Mr. Spanberger, and Mr. Lamb.

H. R. 1446: Mr. Aguilar, Mr. Correa, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Gomez, Mr. Gheen of Texas, Mrs. Johnson of Texas, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Keating, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Mr. Liu, Ms. Lowgren, Ms. McCollum, Mr. McGovern, Mr. McNerns, Mr. Meeks, Mrs. Murphy of Florida, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Pascrell, Ms. Plaskett, Ms. Porter, Mr. Price of North Carolina, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, Ms. Tittus, and Ms. Wilson of Florida.

H. R. 1466: Mr. Rouzer and Mr. Bishop of North Carolina.

H. R. 1479: Mr. Buchanon.

H. R. 1480: Ms. Chu and Mr. Pappas.

H. R. 1496: Mr. Gohmert.

H. R. 1503: Mr. Cohen.

H. R. 1527: Mr. Bilirakis.

H. R. 1534: Mr. Meijer, Mr. Higgin of Louisiana, Ms. Tenney, Mr. Brooks, and Mr. Weber of Texas.

H. R. 1543: Mr. Hich of Georgia.

H. R. 1573: Ms. Barragan, Mr. Blumenauer, Ms. Bonamici, Mr. Carson, and Mr. Galllego.

H. R. 1576: Mr. Foster, Mr. Perlmutter, Ms. Stevens, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Kiddee, Ms. Ross, and Mr. Tonko.

H. R. 1577: Mr. Butterfield, Ms. DeGette, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Ms. Sewell, Mr. Long, Mr. Carabajal, Mr. Panetta, Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Griffith.

H. R. 1582: Ms. Pingree and Mr. Bowman.

H. R. 1584: Mr. Hill, Mr. Mooney, and Mr. Emmers.

H. R. 1585: Mr. Emmers.

H. R. 1603: Ms. Schrier and Miss Gonzalez-Colon.

H. R. 1611: Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Van Drew, and Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois.

H. R. 1633: Ms. Craig.

H. R. 1638: Ms. Pingree, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Lowenthal, and Mr. San Nicolas.

H. R. 1642: Mr. Bacon.

H. R. 1650: Mr. Mann and Mr. Bentez.

H. R. 1652: Ms. Ross and Mr. Connolly.

H. R. 1657: Mr. Meeks.

H. R. 1672: Ms. Eshoo.

H. R. 1673: Ms. Eshoo.

H. R. 1675: Mr. Bishop of Georgia, Ms. Wild, and Mr. Morellie.

H. R. 1679: Ms. Cheney.

H. R. 1692: Mr. Cloud.

H. R. 1695: Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, Ms. Spanberger, Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia, Mr. Taylor, Ms. Kuster, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Walz, Mr. Cole, Mrs. Luria, Ms. Halland, Mr. Bacon, Mr. Brown, Ms. Escobar, Mr. Mullin, Mr. Carter of Georgia, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Yarmuth, Miss Gonzalez-Colon, Mr. Young, Mr. Norman, Mr. Liebkemeyer, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. McKinley, Mr. Fortenberry, Ms. Schrier, Ms. Cheney, Mr. Nunge, Mr. Wattman, Ms. Axne, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Heinz, Mr. Turner, Mr. Delgado, Mrs. Hartleroe, Mr. Graves of Louisiana, Mr. Stuber, Mr. Rouzer, Mr. Gotttheimer, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Mast, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. DesJarlais, Mr. Gaetz, Mr. Hill, Mr. Joyce of Pennsylvania, Ms. Craig, Mr. Guest, Mr. Westerman, Mr. LaTta, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Emmer, Mr. Golden, Mr. Allen, Mr. Calvert, Mr. Stivers, Mr. Murphy of North Carolina, Mr. Graves of Missouri, Mr. Posty, Mr. LaHood, Mr. Reschenthaler, Ms. McCollum, Ms. Pingree, Mr. Courtney, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Kilmer, Mr. Pappas, Ms. Omar, Mr. Tonko, Mr. Kind, Mr. Lien, Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Himis, Mr. Welch, Mr. O’Halleran, Mr. Pallone, Mr. Cais, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pocan, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mr. Chow, Mr. Case, Ms. Slotkin, Mr. Perlmutter, Mr. Harder of California, Mr. Moore of Wisconsin, Mr. Kim of New Jersey, Ms. DeLauro, and Mr. Larson of Connecticut.

H. R. 1709: Mr. Hudson, Mr. Waltz, and Ms. Kustoff.

H. R. 1707: Mr. Gonzalez of Ohio and Mr. Mast.

H. R. 1709: Ms. Kaptur.

H. R. 1726: Ms. Herrell and Mr. Fulcher.

H. Res. 64: Mr. Soto.

H. Res. 89: Mr. Pascrell and Mrs. Watson Coleman.


H. Res. 162: Mr. Gallagher.

H. Res. 186: Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, Mr. Steube, Mr. Burchett, Mr. Perry, Mr. Kinzinger, Ms. Tenney, and Mr. Meijer.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, PT-2. The Speaker presented a petition of North Carolina State University Student Senate, relative to Resolution 21, formally opposing the changes to Title IX regulations as outlined; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor.
The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:
Let us pray.

Eternal God, You are our fortress. Thank You for surrounding us with Your walls of goodness, mercy, and love. Even when overwhelmed, we remain confident. Great and marvelous are Your works.

Today, inspire our lawmakers to again seek Your wisdom. May they cry out to You for guidance and receive Your light to illuminate the path ahead.

Lord, be merciful to them and answer their prayers, for You are the God of their salvation. Remind them that You are alive and in control of all challenges that confront our Nation and world.

We pray in Your powerful 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 to the Senate 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 BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICE LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LUJÁN 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, the Senate has a packed schedule. By the end of the day, the Senate will have confirmed another three members of President Biden’s Cabinet.

First up is Representative MARCIA FUDGE to serve as the 18th Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. What an excellent choice for the job. She represented the people of Ohio in Congress since 2008 and, before that, served as the first African American and first female mayor of Warrensville Heights in Ohio.

She has a difficult job ahead of her. Millions of Americans are behind on the rent and 3 million homeowners are in forbearance. At the same time, we are on the verge of passing major assistance for renters and for homeowners. As the incoming Secretary, I know Representative FUDGE will implement that assistance with alacrity. And, of course, I will be focusing, among other issues in housing, on public housing, which I know she cares about a great deal as well.

Later this afternoon, we will move to the confirmation of Merrick Garland to become Attorney General. After Donald Trump spent 4 years, 4 long years, subverting the powers of the Justice Department for his own political benefit, treating the Attorney General like his own personal defense lawyer, America can breathe a sigh of relief that we are finally going to have someone like Merrick Garland leading the Justice Department, someone with integrity, independence, respect for the rule of law, and credibility on both sides of the aisle.

He understands that the job of Attorney General is one to protect the rule of law, unlike the previous Attorneys General under President Trump who, too often, just bowed to his whim and his will when it was against rule of law.

It is confounding, in light of all of that, that Republicans have chosen—some of them anyway—to delay his nomination, particularly in the aftermath of the Capitol attacks, but he will be confirmed today, despite their attempts to stonewall the process.

Finally, Mr. President, the Senate will confirm Michael Regan to serve as EPA Administrator. Once again, the change between the previous administration and the incoming Administrator will be dramatic. Under Donald Trump, the EPA weakened environmental protections, fudged the science, and completely ignored climate change to potentially, unfortunately, disastrous effect.

It is high time the Senate confirmed someone like Michael Regan, who has made environmental protection the cause of his career, to lead the Agency and set it back on its proper footing.

Once we finish with the confirmations of these three nominees, the Senate will have confirmed 16 Cabinet-level officials. That is in addition to passing a massive COVID bill and conducting an impeachment trial of the former President—despite getting a late start to our work thanks to a delay in the organizing resolution. The Senate is going to keep up the pace.

*This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.*
President Biden deserves to have his team in place, working for the American people.

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on the American Rescue Plan, later today, the House of Representatives is set to approve the American Rescue Plan and send it straight to President Biden’s desk for his signature, capping a monthslong effort by the Democrats to pass bold COVID relief to defeat the pandemic and boost our economy. Once President Biden signs the bill into law, it will immediately become the most sweeping federal recovery package in recent history.

Even a cursory reading of the headlines gives you a sense of the historic nature of this bold and so helpful legislation. Here is one from yesterday from the New York Times:

*“In the U.S. could surge on the stimulus plan and a rapid vaccine rollout.”*

Wouldn’t that be great? We think there is a very good chance of its happening.

Forbes: **U.S. Economy Will Recover Twice as Fast Thanks to $1.9 Trillion Stimulus.**

That is from Forbes, a conservative publication.

The Associated Press: **COVID bill to deliver big health insurance savings for many.**

This is something so many Americans desperately need and want.

Here is another from the New York Times:

*“In the Stimulus Bill, a Policy Revolution in Aid for Children.”*

A policy revolution.

Simply put, the American Rescue Plan is one of the most significant federal relief efforts that Congress has seen in a very, very long time. I am greatly looking forward to its becoming law.

Now, I have spent a lot of time talking about all of the different provisions of the bill today and in previous remarks on the floor of the Senate. That is because the American Rescue Plan is a truly comprehensive effort. COVID–19 has impacted nearly every aspect of American life. So we had to craft legislation that spanned the gamut: schools, businesses, families, jobs, healthcare. Because this bill is so wide-ranging, I haven’t spent enough time on the significance of the individual programs.

I want to rectify that over the next several weeks. This morning, I want to focus on two initiatives: first, the child tax credit and, second, agricultural assistance for disadvantaged farmers.

According to the most recent data, more than 30 million children live below the poverty line in America—10 million children. A child starting out in life, through no fault of his or her own, lives below the poverty line, and we know what that means in terms of food and healthcare and housing and education. Compared with other nations around the world, the United States dedicates a relative pittance—a pittance—to fixing that terrible injustice.

Listen to this. This is something that should make us both ashamed that the United States has been in this position for so long and proud that the American Rescue Plan will rectify that injustice. Here it is: The United States ranks next to last among the world’s 37 most developed economies in terms of family benefits—barely ahead of Turkey—nothing that can make Americans proud.

Of course, the pandemic has made the problem of child poverty even worse. It has forced parents to serve as childcare providers and surrogate teachers while trying to keep up with their own jobs. For those whose jobs through no fault of their own, the pressure only increased. The difficulty of childcare during the pandemic is likely one of the main reasons there has been a disproportionate share of women who have fallen out of the workforce. The pandemic has left mothers and fathers with impossible choices, between keeping their jobs and incomes or leaving work to care for their children, stuck at home, whom they so dearly love.

Democrats decided to tackle this problem head on in the American Rescue Plan. We expanded the child tax credit to provide up to $3,000 per child, ages 6 to 17, and $3,600 per child under the age of 6 for an overwhelming majority of families in this country. Analysts predict that this policy will cut childhood poverty in half—in half. That is an astounding statistic. It will cut childhood poverty in half. A goal of so many who have studied the frailties of our society, that it would get at half will be so removed.

That is just one reason reviewers have called the American Rescue Plan one of the “most far-reaching anti-poverty efforts in an [entire] generation.”

A salute to Sherrod Brown, Michael Bennet, and Cory Booker, who really spearheaded this, along with Congresswoman Neal in the House; Ron Wyden and his committee that worked on drafting it; and my staffs who spent so much time on making this work as well. A salute.

Now, another provision that has received too little attention is the support this bill will provide to disadvantaged farmers. Across nearly every statistic, farmers from socially disadvantaged backgrounds face challenges that their White counterparts, suffering from generations of systemic discrimination, land loss, and what Secretary Vilsack calls a “cycle of debt.” It is almost something that recalls the days of slavery and sharecropping and tenant farming. Recently, these farmers have suffered again, disproportionately, from COVID–19.

The American Rescue Plan provides more than $10 billion to support our nation’s agriculture and sets aside, roughly, half of it—half of it—for disadvantaged communities, particularly Black farmers, for debt relief, education, training, and land acquisition. That it is only a small fraction of the overall bill, experts have called the American Rescue Plan “the most significant legislation for Black farmers since the Civil Rights Act.”

It is amazing what we can do when we put our minds to it. The hangover from the horrible treatment that rural African-American farmers have gotten since the days of slavery can, in part—in decent part—be undone by this legislation.

I want to thank some of my fellow Senators who did such work on this bill. The provisions I have mentioned owe a great deal to the members of the Agriculture Committee and the Finance Committee. Senator Stabenow was relentless in pushing this issue. Senator Warner, chair of the Finance Committee, helped out a great deal, and Senators Warnock and Booker pushed very hard as well.

The American Rescue Plan is going to have an immense impact on nearly every community in America. In the weeks and months to come, I will be highlighting how much good it will do. I have a few housekeeping things to do.

**SIGNING AUTHORITY**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the senior Senator from New York be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions on March 10.

The **ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore**.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 328 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The **ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore**.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill by title:

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 320) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide that the authority of the Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to make certain research endowments applies with respect to both current and former centers of excellence, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.
The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore, is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 320) was passed, as follows:

S. 320

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 ‘‘John Lewis NIMHD Research Endowment Revitalization Act of 2021.’’

SEC. 2. RESEARCH ENDOWMENTS AT BOTH CURRENT AND FORMER CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.

Paragraph (1) (beginning with ‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.’’) of section 464e-3(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 285t(h)) is amended to read as follows:

‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Institute may apply funds appropriated for research and development at current or former centers of excellence to improve and expand research and develop procedures to enhance minority health disparities research and other health disparities research by providing research endowments to a center, in accordance with the provisions of section 217(a).’’

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that the motion that for consideration be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDING THE FEDERAL FOOD, DRUG, AND COSMETIC ACT WITH RESPECT TO THE SCOPE OF NEW CHEMICAL EXCLUSIVITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 415 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 415) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

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

SECTION 1. CLARIFYING THE MEANING OF NEW CHEMICAL ENTITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act is amended—

(1) in section 505 (21 U.S.C. 355)—

(A) in subsection (c)(3)(E), by striking ‘‘active ingredient (including any ester or salt of the active ingredient)’’ and inserting ‘‘active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations))’’;

(B) in subsection (j)(5)(F), by striking ‘‘active ingredient (including any ester or salt of the active ingredient)’’ each place it appears and inserting ‘‘active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations))’’; and

(2) in clause (i), by inserting ‘‘or biological product’’ before the period;

(B) by amending subsection (s) to read as follows:

‘‘(1) not later than 30 days after the date of approval of such applications—

‘‘(1) for a drug, no active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)) of which has been approved in any other application under this section; or

‘‘(2) for a biological product, no active ingredient of which has been approved in any other application under section 315 of the Public Health Service Act; and’’; and

(2) in clause (ii), by inserting ‘‘or biological product’’ before the period;

(C) by amending subsection (t)(2)(A)—

(1) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

‘‘(i) not later than 30 days after the date of approval of such applications—

‘‘(1) for a drug, no active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)) of which has been approved in any other application under this section; or

‘‘(2) for a biological product, no active ingredient of which has been approved in any other application under this section; or

‘‘(3) in section 524(a)(4) (21 U.S.C. 360a(a)(4)), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

‘‘(A) is for a drug or biological product that is for the prevention or treatment of a rare pediatric disease;

‘‘(B)(1) is for such a drug—

‘‘(i) that contains no active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)) that has been previously approved in any other application submitted under section 505(b)(1); or

‘‘(ii) is for such a biological product—

‘‘(i) that contains no active ingredient that has been previously approved in any other application under section 315(a) or 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act; and

‘‘(ii) that is the subject of an application submitted under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act;’’ and

(3) in section 505(b)(1) (21 U.S.C. 360bb-4a(a)(4)), by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

‘‘(D) is for—

‘‘(1) a human drug, no active moiety (as defined by the Secretary in section 314.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)) of which has been approved in any other application under section 505(b)(1); or

‘‘(2) a biological product, no active ingredient of which has been approved in any other application under section 315(b)(1); or

‘‘(3) in section 524(a)(4) (21 U.S.C. 360a(a)(4)), by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting ‘‘(c)(3)(B)’’.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 505 (21 U.S.C. 355)—

(A) in subsection (c)(3)(E), by repealing clause (i); and

(B) in subsection (j)(5)(F), by repealing clause (i); and


RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOOSIER GYM AND THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RELEASE OF THE FILM ‘‘HOOSIERS’’

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 102, submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 102) recognizing the 100th anniversary of The Hoosier Gym and the 35th anniversary of the release of the film ‘‘Hoosiers’’.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. It was a very good film, I must add.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made
and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 102) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, I voted to advance the nominations of Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Judge Merrick Garland to be Attorney General.

These aren't the nominees whom any Republican would have picked for these jobs, but the Nation needs Presidents to be able to stand up a team so long as their nominees are qualified and mainstream. I have voted to confirm people like Secretaries Austin, Blinken, Yellen, Vilsack, and Buttigieg. We certainly disagree on plenty of issues, but I spent 4 years watching many of our Democratic colleagues do everything possible to obstruct and delay President Trump's nominees right from the start.

Now we hear of many of the same Democrats insisting that, as a matter of principle, a new President needs his team and any delay is an outrage. It is funny how some things change. My position has not.

I am voting to confirm Judge Garland because of his long reputation as a straight shooter and a legal expert. His left-of-center perspective has been within the legal mainstream.

For the country's sake, let's hope our incoming Attorney General applies that no-nonsense approach to the serious challenges facing the Department of Justice and our Nation. Let's hope he controls the bureaucrats and leftist subordinates that the President proposes to place under him, rather than the other way around.

When I spoke to Judge Garland, we discussed his commitment to the ongoing investigation of the events of January 6. Federal law enforcement needs to continue the work of identifying, arresting, and prosecuting those who broke the law in order to disrupt the constitutional business of Congress. He assured me that will remain a priority.

At the same time, it is essential that DOJ treat political violence with equal seriousness. I know Judge Garland was no different from political fringe it may come from. Last summer, riots, vandalism, and even a so-called "autonomous zone" consumed parts of American cities. In some instances, thugs directly attacked Federal property. But amazingly, some local leaders seemed to tolerate the chaos rather than tolerate the angry tweets that leftist activists might have sent if they had stepped in to actually do their jobs.

We were fortunate to have Attorney General Barr, who took seriously the Federal Government's role to protect Federal property and enforce Federal law. Judge Garland must be prepared to do the same.

Of course, the riots haven't been the only area where we have seen liberal governance give short shrift to the rule of law. The Obama administration was famous for its willingness to let ideology dictate the enforcement of Federal laws or the lack thereof.

Take the DACA program for example. When the Obama administration realized their preferred immigration policies couldn't get through Congress the right way, they stretched prosecutorial discretion and law enforcement discretion to breathtaking unconstitution al extremes. When confirmed, Judge Garland must not back other constitutionally corrosive efforts to effectually repeal laws just by ignoring them.

That brings me to the issue of immigration more broadly. Just a few weeks into the job, the Biden administration and Secretary Mayorkas are failing and failing on our southern border. The number of unaccompanied migrant children in Border Patrol custody has tripled in just 2 weeks and now dwarfs anything seen during the last 4 years.

Like I mentioned last week, this is not an isolated question of border policy alone. The backdrop behind this ensemble is the giant push toward amnesty and insecurity that the administration advertised throughout the campaign and every time they step to the podium now. That is what has enticed people to flood in. Even now, administration staff keeps parroting strange lines like "Now is not the time to come." "Now is not the time to come?" Well, when is the right time to break Federal law? Is there going to be a good time to break into the country illegally, and people need to just be patient and wait for their signal? What on Earth are they talking about?

A lot of blame for this mess rests on Secretary Mayorkas himself. He spent months nuking his political downplaying and denying the crisis instead of solving it. But, again, the Biden administration's far-left approach to this issue is not limited to DHS or to the border. Interior enforcement is a key component.

On Secretary Mayorka's watch, we have seen what the Washington Post calls "a sharp drop" in arrests by Immigration and Customs Enforcement—a collapse of more than 80 percent just the prior few months. This political choice, in effect, not to enforce the law.

Judge Garland must ensure the Department of Justice takes its duty to uphold the law more seriously.

Mr. President, on a related matter, after we confirm Congresswoman FUDGE and Judge Garland, the Senate will consider two nominees I will not be supporting. They both report straight to the frontlines of the new administration's leftwing war on American energy. They would work to unbalance the balancing act between conservation and the economic comeback we badly need.

To head the Environmental Protection Agency, the President has nominated Michael Regan, a longtime regulator and activist. Mr. Regan has plenty of experience. The problem is what he is poised to do with it. He and the administration are plainly prepared to do the same: to ignore that experience behind the same far-left policies that crushed jobs and prosperity in States like Kentucky throughout the Obama administration.


Kentuckians know that when bad policies like those are on the table, it means their jobs, their livelihoods, and their communities are on the menu.

Congresswoman HAALAND, the President's pick to lead the Department of the Interior, was literally an original cosponsor of the Green New Deal. She has vowed to "keep fossil fuels in the ground" and once pledged "to vote against all new fossil fuel infrastructures." Her record and her views ignore the fact that American energy independence fueled prosperity for the working class and middle class over the last 4 years. Yet in multiple of those years, our carbon emissions actually went down—went down. The supposed choice between a clean environment and do nothing is a choice. It only exists as a zero-sum tradeoff in the minds of Democrats.

We have every reason to believe that voting for Mr. Regan and Representative HAALAND would be voting to raise gas prices for families who are already struggling, voting to raise fuel and heating bills for seniors on a fixed income, voting to take the tough times we have been through and making them even tougher.

I will be voting for American families and against both of their nominations.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.
EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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 MARCIA LOUISE Fudge to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, for 20 years now, I have come to this floor hundreds of times to speak on behalf of the DREAM Act, which I introduced long ago. During that period of time, I have had an occasional vote. I have not been successful in making it the law of the land.

The closest I came was about 8 years ago, when we had the comprehensive immigration reform bill. Four Democratic Senators and four Republican Senators—and I was among them—worked for months to try to address our immigration system. We kept up with an agreement that was no mean feat. It is a complex area of law. It is a controversial area of law. It is an area of law that changes almost by the day, and we were trying to find a solution to it that changes it presents.

To think that we are a nation of immigrants and, then, to reflect on our history on immigration is to leave one puzzled.

Most of the time we have been against immigration, despite the arrival of good people on our borders. Occasionally, when we were building a transcontinental railroad, we would invite people from China in to take the backbreaking jobs, only to categorically exclude them from immigration in the meantime. It is hard to explain, understand, or appreciate where we stand on immigration.

When I hear the Republican leader come to the floor and criticize President Obama for DACA, I have to say that it is personal to me. I was writing letters to President Biden, my former Senate colleague from Illinois, begging him to do just that, and he did.

In creating DACA, he gave the Dreamers a fighting chance, and more than 800,000 of them came forward. These were young people who were brought to the United States as toddlers and infants and children, not because of a personal decision but a family decision. They grew up here, went to school here, and believed they were a part of this country, only to learn in a quiet moment of honesty from their parents that they didn’t have the necessary paperwork and they had to be extra careful or face deportation.

I thought that was a heartbreaking conclusion for their time in America and introduced the Dream Act. And when we could not pass it, I asked President Obama to do what he could to help, and he did. I thank him for it still to this day.

But DACA, if it was stretching Executive power, was certainly reflective of where the American people are on this issue. No apologies; the American people don’t hold these young children now grown responsible for their family’s decision. They want to give them a chance. They want to give them a chance to earn legal status, to earn a path to citizenship. No apologies here; these are wonderful young people who make America a better country, and we need them to be a part of our future.

So for those who come to the floor critical of DACA, I just tell you: Take a couple of minutes and meet these young people. I have come to the floor over a hundred times telling their personal stories. They are a great source of pride, not just for me but for this Nation.

Now we face problems on our border—and we have for some time—and they are challenges that are very real.

Mr. Mayorkas has taken over as the head of the Department of Homeland Security. He is a person I willingly and anxiously support for that job. He has a personal family story of immigration, but, more importantly, he has a depth of experience that is almost impossible to find in other places.

He has tried to come together with the leaders in Central America to fashion a plan for order on the border, and it is difficult. It is true that larger numbers are coming to the border at this time. The Senator from Kentucky said earlier that they believe they have a right to break Federal law. I couldn’t disagree with him more. They are presenting themselves at the border under the law of asylum in the United States so that they can be judged as to whether or not they are eligible to come into this country. That is the process, but it has broken down because the numbers presenting themselves at the border and the backlogs are, more than a million cases pending.

We don’t have enough judges. We don’t have a procedure that is sensible and humane. We need all of that, and it is not going to happen the day after tomorrow. Part of it depends on us. It is one thing to come to the floor and lament the situation of immigration in our country. It is another to roll up your sleeves and say: Let’s do it; let’s solve it on a bipartisan basis. And it is certainly an imperative in a 50-50 Senate that any immigration legislation be done on a bipartisan basis.

I stand ready to do that as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and I think that the Republican side agree with me. As tough as it may be, we need to tackle these issues and not ignore them as they have been ignored during the last 4 years. That is going to call for some cooperation and some compromise on both sides, but we owe it to our country to do the right thing to make our immigration system sensible, logical, and fair.

I don’t want to go back to those moments under the Trump administration of zero tolerance, where over 2,000 children were forcibly removed from their parents, sent into a bureaucratic “Never Never Land” and then were only reunited—and not all of them have been reunited—because they were because of a Federal court order calling on the Trump administration to do it.

They cast those children adrift in the bureaucracy. It wasn’t until the Federal court had demanded they be reunited with their families that it happened—in most instances but not in all of them. So we have a lot of work to do, and I hope we can do it on a bipartisan basis. We need to do it as quickly as we can on a bipartisan basis.

56TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY SUNDAY

Mr. President, I was a college student in town here at Georgetown University, and I can remember it well. You have a lot of time to talk with your roommates about things that you might just do with your life and things that you should do, even as a student. I remember that week before the march on Selma, there was a serious conversation among my roommates as to whether we ought to pack up and head to Selma, AL, to join in the march. We were serious about it. We thought about it, but, in the end, it fell through. Too many classes would be cut and jobs we wouldn’t be attending to, and we decided at the last minute it just wasn’t practical at all for us to do it. I regret that decision to this day. I wish I had been there, even if I were in the back of the line, to say I was part of that day in history.

It was 56 years ago last Sunday, some 600 civil rights activists, 56 years ago, were kneeling in prayer outside the Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma. Leading them was our dear departed friend—and I know he was the President Officer’s friend as well—and former colleague John Lewis. As they stood up outside the church, they formed two rows and began a silent, orderly march toward Montgomery, AL. We all remember that photo of John Lewis coming over that bridge in his tan raincoat and his backpack.

As the civil rights activists reached the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were met by a phalanx of State troopers and armed vigilantes. They whipped cattle prods, billy clubs, shotguns, and other makeshift weapons. We all know what happened next. Today, that violence is remembered as “Bloody Sunday.”

What some may not know is what happened the night before that march. The county sheriff in Selma, Jim Clark, had issued a call to arms. He ordered White men in the area to join troopers in Selma, and he deputized those people to stop the march. They were powered up by the hundreds alongside the State troopers.

John Lewis and his fellow patriots were not going to be intimidated. They
stood tall. They bore the brunt of racist violence, and they did so with a solemn purpose: They wanted to build a more perfect union in this country, to make sure every voice is heard in our democracy.

Days later, with the brutal scenes from Selma fresh in the minds of America, President Lyndon Johnson urged Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act. That August, he signed the bill into law. It is hard to imagine, isn’t it? In the same year he proposed it, with Congress in session, he signed the law. That is what happened in the good old days. His law fundamentally changed our Republic for the better, but our work remains far from over.

Last weekend also marked the anniversary of another tragic moment in our Nation’s history, far more recent than Bloody Sunday. It was 2 months ago—2 months ago on January 6 that a violent mob stormed through the halls of this Capitol Building. Like the vigilantes in Selma, they, too, were answering a call to arms—except this one wasn’t issued by a county sheriff; it was issued by the former President of the United States, Donald Trump. The failed insurrection of January 6 not only didn’t die, but, like Bloody Sunday, left a permanent stain on our Nation’s history.

Make no mistake, no more than half a century stands between these two dark days for democracy. They are part of the same thread that sadly has run through American history: racism—racism weaponized to deny full citizenship to Black and Brown Americans.

The mob violence that we personally witnessed on January 6 in this building was not an aberration; it was the continuation of a sad chapter in our history. For months, former President Trump had sowed doubt about the legitimacy of the election. He claimed that it was stolen from him. “Stop the steal!” he ordered. We know that President Trump’s claims have no basis in reality. Just 2 days ago, the Supreme Court finally dismissed the last remaining case brought by Trump supporters to push the big lie. The Supreme Court didn’t buy it. In fact, no court bought it.

The former President has never let facts stand in his way, has he? In fact, he claims to know exactly where this supposed fraud transpired, cities like Philadelphia, Atlanta, Milwaukee, and Detroit—coincidentally, cities with large populations of Black and Brown voters. This is no coincidence. President Trump and his enablers believe they were entitled to victory because they don’t think that every American should have an equal vote in our democracy.

President Trump’s efforts to overturn the election are just the most recent example of a decades-long movement to suppress voters of color. I have spoken on this floor before about investigations I conducted as chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human rights of the Senate Judiciary. I took the show on the road. I traveled to Ohio and Florida, where lawmakers at that time were considering making it more difficult to vote, requiring IDs, and this was before the Supreme Court’s disastrous decision in Shelby County.

That ruling opened the floodgates. It allowed a number of State legislatures to enact discriminatory restrictions on voting that would no longer require approval from the Department of Justice. That decision was a repudiation of the sacrifices of these fellow patriots made on Bloody Sunday.

We must learn from our history, whether it was 56 years ago or just 2 months ago, and we must recognize that the fundamental right to vote is still under attack. Just last week, the Supreme Court heard arguments in a case that could further fracture the Voting Rights Act by limiting the effectiveness of a provision that allows voters to challenge discriminatory restrictions. What States already have introduced more than 250 bills this year to restrict voting access.

This book, “One Person, No Vote,” was written by Carol Anderson, a professor at Emory University in Atlanta. I read her first book, “White Rage,” contacted her, and we are friends. I think her analysis of Reconstruction, Jim Crow, the Great Migration, and all that followed is the most lucid presentation I have read about that chapter in history.

In this book, she goes directly into the issue of voter suppression. One of her observations is worth repeating on the floor of the Senate. She refers to what is known in history as the Mississippi Plan. I will read a few sentences from this book, as follows:

That became most apparent in 1890 when the Magnolia State passed the Mississippi Plan, a dizzying array of poll taxes, literacy tests, understanding clauses, newfangled “character” clauses—all intentionally racially discriminatory but dressed up in the genteel garb of “guaranteeing integrity” to the voting booth. This legalized illegality was legislative evil genius.

Virginia representative Carter Glass, like so many others, swooned at the thought of bringing the Mississippi Plan to his own state, especially after he saw how well it had worked. He rushed to champion a bill in the legislature that would “eliminate the darky as a political factor... in less than five years.” Glass, whom President Franklin Roosevelt would one day describe as an “unconstructed rebel,” planned “not to disfranchise a single white man of the ballot, but [to] inevitably cut from the existing electorate four-fifths of the Negro voters” in Virginia.

One delegate questioned him: “Will it not be done by fraud and discrimination?”

Glass responded:

“By fraud, no. By discrimination, yes.”

Glass retorted. “Discrimination! Why, that is precisely what was done... to discriminate to the very extremity... possible... under... the Federal Constitution, with a view to the elimination of every negro voter who can legally, without materially impairing the numerical strength of the white electorate.”

In those days, they were very direct and honest about their ambitions in voter suppression. What is the explanation these days?

If we don’t believe that there was massive fraud—and there was not, by the way, in the 2020 election, why are so many legislators in the business now of reducing the opportunity for Americans to vote in their States? Why? If they can’t sell an idea, they just want to change the electorate, and perhaps—perhaps—would lead to victory, but at what cost?

The most enduring legacy of Bloody Sunday is the legislation that it helped to inspire, the Voting Rights Act. We trust now draw from this moment in our history, a lesson to be realized, the promise of that legislation: a full and vibrant democracy, made up of all Americans of every color and creed.

We have an obligation not just to restate all the America heroes who set out to build on it, to make it stronger and more comprehensive. Fortunately, President Joe Biden’s administration has indicated it is ready to do just that. Last Sunday, in honor of the 56th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, President Biden signed an Executive order calling on the Federal Government to make it easier for Americans to register to vote and access the ballot box.

While this Executive order was a welcome announcement, we need to act as well in Congress. As chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a cosponsor of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act in the last Congress, I look forward to working to restore and strengthen the Voting Rights Act in the months ahead.

Though our friend and colleague is no longer with us today, his legacy towers over us. We stand on his shoulders and all of those Americans who bled on the streets of Selma in 1965 and long after. We must carry on the fight for equality, and we can begin by enacting a bill the House of Representatives passed last week, the For the People Act.

This bill would prohibit voter roll purges, as we have seen in States like Ohio and Georgia, and modernize and strengthen voter registration systems and ballot access.

I would say to the other party: Don’t be afraid of the voters. In this democracy, they have the last word. Denying them the right to vote is no way and no strategy for a great political party.

I believe and help end the dominance of dark money in our political system, including through establishing a small-donor public financing system for congressional elections, based on my Fair Elections Now Act.

The For the People Act is a vital step toward repairing and improving our democratic process. Passing it and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advance- ment Act will provide critical tools in the fight to ensure that all Americans can exercise their right to vote. These bills represent the bold actions that Americans have been calling for. We must not ignore that call.
In 2020, the American people turned out in historic numbers in the election, but they also turned out in historic numbers in protests in support of racial justice across America. John Lew-
is’s march to Montgomery never ended. It has taken on a new life, a new gen-
eration of marchers, and more Ameri-
cans than ever before are putting their feet to the pavement.

It is time to finish the work of John Lewis and the heroes of the civil rights move-
movement. As we commemorate the 56th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, we can do no less. With his eyes wide open, John Lewis marched across the Ed-
mund Pettus Bridge in Selma knowing he was facing a deadly, hateful crowd. They broke down his body, but they could not defeat his spirit. The ques-
tion we face today is whether John Lewis’s spirit still lives in us.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO ROY BLUNT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to take a moment to ex-
press my sadness about Senator BLUNT’s announcement that he will not seek reelection in 2022.

He served in both chambers within our con-
ference ever since he came over to the Senate, and he will be sorely missed. I will especially miss having him as a Member of the whip team here in the Senate.

I come to the House of Representa-
tives with Senator BLUNT back in the
election of 1996. We began our service
in January of 1997, and he quickly rose
up through the ranks in the House and
became the Republican whip in the House of Representatives. He has al-
ways been involved in leadership where-
evver he has been, and his list of achievements is long.

All Americans have benefited over the past year from his tremendous ef-
forts to lead the coronavirus testing and vaccine development. And less than 2 months ago, in his role as chair-
man of Rules Committee, he oversaw a
very successful inauguration at a par-
ticularly challenging time.

The one good thing is that ROY is not leaving us immediately. He will be here for 2 more years, and I look forward to con-
tinuing to work with him and to seeing everything that he will accom-
plish.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

Mr. President, it has been quoted that “[t]he Senate works best when we work together. . . . The challenges we face are great. The divisions in the country are real. We have no choice but to try to work together every day to reward the faith the American people have placed in us.”

Those are not my words. Those are the words of the Democratic leader on Inauguration Day. But I agree with him. The Senate always worked best when we worked together. And, for proof, look no further than last week’s deba-
cle—a good example of what happens when, instead of working together, one party tries to strong-arm its legisla-
tion through the Senate.

Last Friday was perhaps most nota-
ble for its 11-plus-hour vote on an amendment. Democrats held a 15-
minute vote open for almost 12 hours—
making it the longest vote in modern Senate history. It became clear that they were in danger of losing the support of one of their Members.

It turns out that when you force a massive, liberal piece of legislation through your committee review and without any attempt at so-
liciting input from the Senate as a whole, you start to lose support even from Members of your own party. It was an embarrassing moment for the Democratic leadership and a sad moment for the rest of the Senate.

In that same speech on Inauguration Day, the Democratic leader pledged:

(The) Senate will legislate. . . . And to my Republican colleagues, when and where we can, the Democratic majority will strive to make this important work bipartisan.

There was no evidence of that here. Democrats didn’t try to make this bill bipartisan. In fact, they actively tried to make sure Republicans didn’t have a voice in this legislation.

Remember, this is almost 12-hour amendment vote? Democrats held that vote open for nearly 12 hours solely be-
cause they were afraid that a Republic-
an amendment might pass. Repub-
licans were more than willing to work with Democrats on COVID relief, as we did last year on five separate COVID bills, but Democrats didn’t want Repub-
licans interfering with their legisla-
tion.

I want to talk about those previous COV-
ID bills for just a minute. Prior to Demo-
crats taking control of the Senate, COVID relief was a bipartisan process. Under Republican control, the Senate passed five COVID relief bills with overwhelming bipartisan majori-
ties. Because both Democrats and Re-
publicans had a voice in the legisla-
tion, there was no need to keep any of those votes open to engage in partisan arm-twisting. “The Senate works best when it works together.”

The bipartisan process on those other COVID bills didn’t just guarantee a bi-
 partisan vote in the Senate; it also
guaranteed that those other COVID bills were actually about COVID. Be-
cause both parties had to work to-
together to get a result, neither party
was able to hijack the bill for partisan purposes.

Contrast that with the bill the Sen-
ate passed on Saturday. While Demo-
crats have tried to sell their legislation as a COVID relief bill, the truth is it isn’t one. Just 1 percent—1 percent—of this bill actually goes to our top COVID priority—vaccinations—and less than 10 percent of this bill is di-
rectly related to combating the virus.

There has been a lot of talk about how this list was created, and it is, but that is almost being too generous. A liberal wish list at least suggests some grand policy schemes. This bill is mostly just a col-
collection of payoffs to Democrat interest
groups in Democrat States.

For the extreme abortion wing of the Democ-

-iat Party, this bill omits long-

-standing Federal restriction on using

taxpayer dollars to pay for abortion. It

also stops labor unions eligible for loans designed to rescue Main Street small

businesses. It bails out failing union-
pensions—a bailout even the New York

Times describes as having “nothing to do with the pandemic” and as an “al-
most unprecedented $50 billion dol-

-lars. That is from the New York Times.

It provides nearly $129 billion for K-

-12 schools—despite the fact that these schools have spent just $5 billion of the

$86 billion already given to them—
to keep teachers unions happy by making sure funding isn’t tied to any requirement to actually get back to

in-person instruction.

Then, of course, there is the money for the States. The bill appropriates a

$550 billion, despite the fact that a major-

-ity of States already have the resources they need to weather the rest of the pandemic.

On top of that, the distribution for-

-mula for that $550 billion is heavily

-biased in favor of States that voted Demo-

cratic Governor of New York, presumably in an attempt to protect the

-Republican amendment might pass. Re-

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1.1 Congress of the United States / 2021
Think about that. More than $10,000 of their unemployment benefits is untaxable without regard to income.

Working Americans still have to pay their taxes, even if they are making less money than they would on unemployment. You can imagine the average taxpayer in this country and you are not getting a tax break when the people who are on unemployment are getting a $10,000 tax break, nontaxable income that is costing the Federal Government somewhere on the order of $30 billion a year. You can imagine the average taxpayer in this country might find that to be highly objectionable when they find out about it. A substantial amount of unemployment benefits will be tax-free. That doesn’t seem too fair, not to mention that the last thing we should be doing right now is discouraging people from going back to work.

In that speech I referenced earlier that the Democratic leader gave on Inauguration Day, he said: “The Senate will do business differently.” Well, now we have a glimpse of what that looks like. And, apparently, it looks like ruthless partisanship in an attempt to completely silence the minority and the Americans they represent. It is deeply disappointing that Democrats have turned a bipartisan process into a totally partisan exercise.

As I mentioned, pandemic relief ought to be bipartisan, and it was last year, five times. Five times here in the U.S. Senate, we passed pandemic relief, coronavirus relief legislation, with overwhelming bipartisan majorities under regular order, where 60 votes are required, instead of under the procedure that was used by the Democrats last week to shut Republicans out of that process.

We could have passed a bill last week again with overwhelming bipartisan support, had we required Democrats to be willing to genuinely collaborate with Republicans. And, unfortunately, it is becoming clear that collaboration is not part of the new way of doing business in the Democratic-led Senate.

I hope my Democratic colleagues will change course in the days ahead and work with Republicans to unite our country. As the Democratic leader suggested on Inauguration Day, they owe the American people nothing less.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore, The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to oppose President Biden’s Executive orders on immigration.

Now, there are more than 11 million illegal immigrants in the country today. This is a group equivalent to the population of the entire State of Georgia, and this group has nearly tripled since the turn of the century, so the number, some experts say the number is a lot higher than that. Folks at Yale and MIT and the researchers there said it could actually be twice as high; it could be 22 million people in the country illegally. When we look at the majority of the population of the entire State of New York.

So it appears to me that illegal immigration is making a mockery of our borders. Yet President Biden and this administration refuse to admit, even as of this morning, that there is a crisis at the southern border.

Now, if you talk to law enforcement all across the country, they will tell you that many of the problems that they face every day are problems related to illegal immigration. The Drug Enforcement Administration has said for nearly a decade now that the vast majority of illegal drugs in America come here across the southern border.

Now, I am a doctor. I will tell you, these drugs have killed thousands of Americans. They kill hundreds of Americans every year. They tear families apart. They lead to heartbreaking stories. They rob people of their God-given potential. They lead to heartbreaking stories. They rob people of their God-given potential.

Our law enforcement, our Coast Guard, our border agents, they do heroic work every day to intercept drugs, to stop human trafficking. They can’t do it alone. They need the support of the U.S. Senate.

Well, during the debate last week over the spending bill, we had a chance to give them support. Senator CRUZ introduced an amendment to prevent checks from going to illegal immigrants. It failed. Senator COTTON introduced an amendment to cut the bailout funding to sanctuary cities. Well, these are cities that actively try to prevent Federal agents—actively try to prevent Federal agents from enforcing our immigration laws. Democrats blocked the amendment.

So no wonder we have a crisis at the border. Democrats seem to be advertising to the entire world: Come here in Mexico. How does the world know that our asylum system here in the United States is broken?

Our law enforcement, our Coast Guard, our border agents, they do heroic work every day to intercept drugs, to stop human trafficking. They can’t do it alone. They need the support of the U.S. Senate.

Now, another requirement for asylum is that you have to apply for asylum in the country you are in the nearest safe country and seek asylum. You don’t get to pick anywhere you want to go in the world. You have to go to the nearest safe country. Yet people around the world know that our asylum system here in the United States has become a sham. It is no secret that it is easy to game the system, and it is being gamed regularly in the Biden administration.

So they often stop in at least one or two other countries and apply for asylum here. President Biden now says: You don’t have to wait in Mexico. Cross the border. We will give you a court date years from now, from years from now, and after they give you the court date, they release you into the United States. Even those who know they don’t qualify and will not qualify for asylum, they come anyway because they know they get released into the United States. It happens all the time.

Before this administration took over, the Department of Homeland Security published a report about this. According to the Department, our border agents apprehended 3.5 million illegal immigrants along the southern border between 2014 and 2019. Only 8 percent of them—only 3 percent. Out of 12—ended up receiving legal protection from being deported, but the Department says half of them are still here in the United States. How does that happen? They didn’t show up.

President Biden has already started an unprecedented expansion of the refugee program. The most refugees that this country has ever resettled in a single portations for a hundred days. It didn’t matter to President Biden what you were going to be deported for. No. Now, maybe you are a serious criminal. President Biden says: You can stay longer. A court has already stepped in and said this is illegal, this Executive order.

President Biden has, astonishingly, brought back the idea of catch-and-release—catch-and-release. He has ordered our immigration agents to release illegal immigrants into the United States, and he is doing it in the middle of a pandemic. Senator COTTON and I sent a letter to the President raising this concern. It is now harder to go to church in some parts of America than it is to cross the border into America.

Under President Trump, if you wanted to apply for asylum in this country, you had to remain in Mexico. That was the policy. The policy of “Remain in Mexico” was based on the standards of international law. To get asylum, you have to show that you can’t live safely in your home country because of persecution—understandable. Yet the fact is that most illegal immigrants don’t come here because of persecution. They come here for economic gain. They want a better job. They want better schools for their kids. They are understandable motives; nonetheless, they are not standards for asylum.

Now, another requirement for asylum is that you have to show that you are fleeing persecution. President Biden has also eliminated that. President Biden’s Executive order on immigration has become a sham. It is no secret that it is easy to game the system, and it is being gamed regularly in the Biden administration.

So they often stop in at least one or two other countries and apply for asylum here. President Biden now says: You don’t have to wait in Mexico. Cross the border. We will give you a court date years from now, years from now, and after they give you the court date, they release you into the United States.
year was 85,000 in President Obama’s final year in office. President Biden wants to break the record. He wants to increase it to 250,000. It will be the most, by far.

President Biden has told his administration to bring back the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, also known as DACA. Now, this is a program for people who were brought here illegally while they were children. It is not the children’s fault. Yet DACA is illegal, plain and simple.

President Obama has admitted it. Liberal activists asked him to do it. At least 10 different times President Obama said: No, I can’t do it. It is illegal. Then an election year came. He decided to do it anyway.

As you and I know, we are a nation of compassionate people. We are giving. We are generous. We have the most generous immigration system in the world. The issue before us is not about what should be handled by Congress, not by Executive order—not through an illegal Executive order, and DACA is still illegal. I expect a court will ultimately strike it down.

So this is some of what President Biden has done by Executive order. At the same time, he is trying to cram an even more radical agenda through Congress. Last month, President Biden’s immigration bill was introduced in the Senate. It already has the support of 26 cosponsors on the Democratic side of the aisle. It includes the majority leader, Senator SCHUMER.

Well, this bill will give illegal immigrants blanket amnesty, citizenship—citizenship, citizenship. Democrats in Washington tried that in 2007, the year I arrived in the Senate. It already has the support of 26 cosponsors on the Democratic side of the aisle. It includes the majority leader, Senator SCHUMER.

Democrats in Washington tried it again in 2013. The American people picked up the phone. They actually shut down the phone lines, shut down the switchboards here in the U.S. Senate. They were all calling in to say no. Democrats in Washington tried it again in 2013. The American people are going to say no again in 2021.

Now, President Biden has issued, signed a lot of Executive orders; many of them, the ones I talked about with people at home this weekend in Wyoming, very unpopular. Polis show his immigration order is the most unpopular of them all.

President Biden should keep in mind that it was a very close election in November. We have a 50-50 Senate, very narrow margins in the House. The American people, for the first time, are finding out just how liberal Joe Biden is. Many of them are already having buyer’s, scary agenda. We want safe communities. We want laws obeyed. We want a secure border. It is time to stand up to this radical agenda.

Our immigration system is broken. Instead of breaking it further, we should work together to fix it. Let’s protect our communities, protect our American workers, and secure our southern border.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll. Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF MERRICK GARLAND

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, today the Senate will vote on Judge Merrick Garland’s nomination to be Attorney General of the United States. I will oppose this nomination. I was open-minded at first about Judge Garland’s nomination, hoping he would rise to the occasion as a fair-minded judge. But since being nominated, my confidence in Judge Garland has been undermined—first, by his evasive, haughty refusal to answer some of the most basic questions we would expect from an Attorney General, the kind he would never allow in his own courtroom, so why should we allow it in the U.S. Senate? And, second, when he did answer questions, he sounded more like a liberal ideologue who had embraced the radical agenda of the Democratic Party’s far-left base.

If confirmed, I am afraid that he will enable extremists in the Department of Justice to undermine our police, our Constitution, and our rule of law. This weak-on-crime nominee will fan the flames of our Nation’s drug crisis, border crisis, and violent crime crisis. And he has made clear that on the greatest challenges facing the Department, he will cede the reins to the radical, law-and-order不好看 the President has nominated to be some of his top deputies. Our Nation simply cannot afford Judge Garland as our Attorney General.

In the last 12 months on record, over 83,000 Americans died from drug overdoses, more than any year in history. Drug overdoses killed more Americans in a single year than the Vietnam war and the War on Terror combined. Yet Judge Garland plans to reduce prison sentences for drug dealers, traffickers, and gang members.

Judge Garland appears to believe that these merchants of misery engage in a victimless trade, but virtually every family and community in our Nation bears the scars that prove otherwise. Whether it is the disabled child, addicted parent, suffering sibling, recovering neighbor, or deceased friend, the victims of drug crime are everywhere. Judge Garland’s silence shows that he would be this radical and his actions would be this scary.

President Biden needs to listen to the American people. The American people don’t want a radical, extreme, dangerous, scary agenda. We want safe communities. We want laws obeyed. We want a secure border. It is time to stand up to this radical agenda.

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administration’s irrational immigration agenda. He will help transform zero tolerance into total tolerance of crime, and his inaction will only further advance the administration’s recruit-and-release policies at our border, where he won’t just allow illegal aliens into our country after catching them at the border; we go back and find them in Mexico and invite them to return to the border and then release them into the country.

This will attract an ever-growing surge of illegal migration and will result in more drugs and criminal aliens entering our country, as we see with the Biden border crisis growing worse every day.

Of course, the vast majority of meth, heroin, and cocaine—and a large quantity of fentanyl—is smuggled across the southern border each year. As our border facilities and personnel are overwhelmed by the Biden border surge, our security will falter and even more will come into our society.

Hardened criminals will accompany the flood of drugs from the Rio Grande. Thousands of confirmed and suspected gang members cross the southern border into our country, and even more will do so if border policies that Judge Garland will have a hand in creating. This will fuel skyrocketing violence in our Nation.

Last year, we experienced the largest single increase in murder in American history—the largest single increase in murders in our country’s history. Preliminary data from the FBI indicates that there was a 20-percent increase—20-percent increase—in murder nationwide. In big cities, it was even worse. Murders rose in Atlanta by 60 percent; in Chicago, by 45 percent; and in Washington, DC, by 40 percent. There were also, I would add, over 500 violent riots last year that injured over 2,000 law enforcement officers.

Our police need our support more than ever before, but they wouldn’t get it from a Garland Department of Justice. Personnel is policy, and Judge Garland has allowed two leftwing radicals to be selected as his chief lieutenants in the Department of Justice. Vanita Gupta and Kristen Clarke both support defunding, disarming, and disarming our police. They stand with the perpetrators of crime, not with the victims. There is little doubt that Judge Garland would empower these leftwing radicals embedded inside the Department.

In response to written questions from the Judiciary Committee, Judge Garland also responded with some variation of ‘I don’t know’; ‘I haven’t studied the issue’; ‘I am not familiar’; ‘I haven’t thought about it’; ‘I am not aware of’; or refused to comment altogether over 250 times. Again, this is a sitting Federal judge of almost a quarter century with a vast resume of the country’s best lawyers at his disposal for a week to answer written questions, and over 250 times he couldn’t answer the question. That was more than one-third of the colleagues—or more than one-third of the questions that I and my colleagues asked him.

Judge Garland may not have thought about these questions or thought about how he would deal with the Justice Department, but I bet Ms. Gupta and Ms. Clarke have, and they will gladly fill this void of purpose with their radical ideology. The Garland Justice Department will make America less safe.

At the time, Judge Garland would work to weaken our Second Amendment. At his hearing, he repeatedly refused to explain how he would deal with the Second Amendment. While he acknowledged accurately that it would be tough to overturn the Supreme Court’s ruling in Washington, DC, v. Heller, which affirmed Americans’ constitutional right to keep and bear arms, he said that he “can’t promise”—he “can’t promise”—that he won’t try to overturn it. He also said he just doesn’t know whether President Biden has the authority to ban certain semiautomatic rifles, some of the most popular sporting firearms today. He doesn’t know whether Biden has the authority to ban them by Executive order. He has also said he is just not familiar with whether the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives—which would report to him if he is confirmed—I would remind everyone—would have the authority to indefinitely delay approving gun sales to Americans who have not had any flags show up in their background checks. Once again, Judge Garland demonstrated through his evasion that he would bow to the radical left to the detriment of normal law-abiding American citizens.

I urge every Senator who believes in the Second Amendment and the rule of law and who cares about stopping crime in our streets to reject Judge Merrick Garland’s nomination for Attorney General.

Now is not the time for weakness, evasion, and obfuscation from our Nation’s foremost law enforcement officer. We need strength, resolve, and certainty. Our Nation needs and deserves a better nominee for Attorney General. I will oppose his nomination.

I yield the floor.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise this morning to oppose the nomination of Representative Fudge to serve as the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The confirmation of Cabinet Secretaries is one of the most important duties we are given in the Senate. I think most of my colleagues would agree that one of the important considerations is that Cabinet officials can be relied on to coordinate and work productively with Congress as they implement the policies of the legislation that we pass.

I am concerned that Representative Fudge’s past rhetoric makes clear that she lacks the temperament to collaborate with Congress, particularly across the aisle with Republican Members, and her comments cast doubt on whether she even wants to.

Congresswoman Fudge has made multiple statements throughout the years attacking and disparaging the integrity and motives of Republicans with whom she has policy disagreements. Policy disagreements are entirely understandable. They happen every day. They are expected, especially in a legislative body. But consistently attacking the integrity and motives of people with whom you have these disagreements is another thing altogether.

In September 2020, during a speech on the House floor, Congresswoman Fudge attacked efforts to fill Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s seat on the Supreme Court. In her speech, she said, among other insults, that Senate Republicans had “no decency,” “no honor,” “no integrity.” She went on to say, referring to Republican Senators, that we “are a disgrace to the Nation.”

In June 2020, during a virtual townhall, Congresswoman Fudge admitted believing that Republicans did not care about minorities. She said that if Republicans “want to save face and let this country know that they care even a little bit about people of color, which I don’t believe they do, but if they want to try, I want to listen.”

Back in a January of 2013 PBS forum with Tavis Smiley, Congresswoman Fudge harshly questioned the motives and character of other Republicans again. This time Republicans who supported cuts to the food stamps program.

Congresswoman Fudge said:

If we continue to send people to Congress who don’t even understand what their job is—who don’t understand that our government’s job is to take care of its people—then we are never going anywhere as a country because we’ll just have this constant division. These people are evil and mean. They care nothing about anybody but themselves. And so if you think you are going to have something bipartisan, you need to think again. It’s not happening.

Overtly partisan attacks on integrity and motive simply have a toxic and detrimental impact on the working relationship that ought to be a constructive relationship between Members of Congress and members of the administration. The Senate should really only confirm officers who are willing to cooperate with legislators, especially now when we have reached many government programs—just passed a $2 trillion bill that is probably going to pass the House and be signed by the President—and it is especially true for the administrator of HUD.

Fudge’s multiple statements impugning the integrity and motives of Republicans, Congresswoman Fudge has very little or no housing experience. Except for her service as a smalltown mayor, Congresswoman Fudge’s entire career has been in a capacity where she would be familiar with any of HUD’s many programs. Even traditionally liberal media outlets criticized

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

March 10, 2021

S1442
Congresswoman FUDGE’s nomination for HUD Secretary on the grounds that she lacked knowledge and experience in housing policy.

She did not show an interest in developing housing policy expertise as a Member of Congress by sponsoring very few housing-related bills and choosing instead to serve on unrelated committees. I acknowledge that not all Cabinet nominees are experts in the policy areas that their Agency oversees. But when they don’t have that expertise, it is especially important that their temperament and their policy views—and their willingness to listen to Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, especially the other side of the aisle, is all the more important.

Congresswoman FUDGE’s views as reflected in her response to questions for the record are also a matter of concern. When she was asked whether HUD should better target its programs to the areas where they are actually helping the low-income Americans they are supposed to help, she responded by saying, “The challenge for HUD programs isn’t that they aren’t targeted, it is that funding levels are inadequate to meet the need.”

The fact is, funding for HUD spending has grown dramatically in recent years. That is not even including the $15 billion for COVID-19 assistance that the Senate appropriated and worked on, and it is not including the $56 billion for housing assistance passed in December omnibus and the reconciliation bill.

The Congresswoman’s answer ignores the fact that HUD programs certainly can be better targeted to help those in need. For example, families with disqualifying high incomes nevertheless participate in a number of HUD-assisted programs, and that makes housing unavailable for lower income families for whom it is meant. FHA in 2018, for example, has not accepted any applications for an FHA mortgage for families with an income above the area’s median income.

I worry that the Congresswoman’s approach will simply be to ask Congress for ever more money without being willing to do the hard work of making the reforms that are necessary and working with Republican Senators to achieve those reforms. Those reforms are going to be necessary if we are going to be able to ensure that HUD programs are improved so they actually better serve the low-income Americans they are meant for.

For these reasons, I cannot support Congressman FUDGE’s nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I appreciate the candor of my colleague from Pennsylvania and the work that we do jointly on the Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs.

I ask unanimous consent to finish if I go a bit over and if my remarks continue into the next section or, potentially, the vote.

Have I said that right, Mr. President? The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting a dedicated and talented public servant and great Ohioan, my Congresswoman for the last 12 years, MARCIA FUDGE, to be our next Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. The Presiding Officer served with her in the House of Representatives and appreciates her.

I can think no one better to lead us out of this pandemic and create strong communities for the future than MARCIA FUDGE. When she came before the Banking and Housing Committee, Congresswoman FUDGE’s knowledge and passion for service and her commitment to the people who make this country work was obvious to all of us, Republicans and Democrats alike.

After a year when Black Americans endured so many painful reminders of the yawning gap between the promise of our founding ideals and our failure to make that promise real for everyone, it is meaningful that our committee’s first hearing featured two African-American women who will take leading roles in our economic recovery, MARCIA FUDGE and Dr. Cecilia Rouse, who has been confirmed already to be Chair of the National Economic Council at the White House. The Senate confirmed Dr. Rouse with broad bipartisan support this month.

It matters on so many levels. It is important for our future that little girls, including Black and Brown girls, see themselves in our leaders, from the Vice President to MARCIA FUDGE, to Cecilia Rouse, to so many people in this Cabinet, including the new Secretary of the Interior from the Presiding Officer’s area of the country. It matters on so many levels, and the Congresswoman FUDGE will work to protect our kids from the lead poisoning that is still all too common in ZIP Code 44105, to restore the promise of fair housing, and to give communities the help and the resources they need to thrive.

She brings to the job critical experience, as Senator TOOMEY said, serving as a mayor in the industrial heartland for the kind of community that is either overlooked or outright preyed upon by Wall Street and big investors.

Even though Senator TOOMEY said that Congresswoman FUDGE doesn’t have the experience in housing, I know up close—I was the Senator during her entire time in the House. I represented her in the Senate. We live in the same community. We worked on many of the same projects. She was helpful on a number of housing issues that I worked on in the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee. She understands our communities.

She will lift up the voices of all the people left out of our housing policy, people who work hard to try to keep a roof over their family’s head, whose hard work never pays off like it should; people who are just trying to make rent or pay the mortgage every month who just don’t feel like they can keep up. Their wages are flat. Costs go up. Pressure builds on them.

Congresswoman FUDGE has the expertise and tenacity to fight back. That is why I ask my colleagues to confirm her for Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.
Mr. President, in so many ways, we know here that government is really about whose side you are on, whom you fight for, what you fight against. We know we passed—Senator CARDIN is here. He came to the Senate the same day I did, and we served in the House together. We both recognized what a big deal it was to pass that bill last Saturday. That is the biggest thing I have ever done in my career, and I heard other Senators say the same thing—big deals in people’s arms, money in people’s pockets, kids back in school and workers in jobs.

But I think it is also important, just for a moment—I will be brief. This is a chart of the difference—the biggest issue that Senate Republicans and President Trump worked on in this Congress was the GOP tax bill, the tax bill in 2017. Senator CARDIN and I are on the same committee that fought against some of the overreach from Wall Street that that bill.

The purple, the blue is what our bill does. Just glance at this for a moment. The 20 percent lowest earners, we are increasing—we are increasing their after-tax revenue by 20 percent, essentially raising revenue for people making $20,000 or $30,000 a year. There was no help in the Trump tax bill for that.

Then you work up to the second lowest 20 percent, to the people who are middle class, working class families, not quite middle class. They get a big bump in their incomes from our bill. Under the Trump plan, they got pen-nies.

Then you work your way up here to, essentially, the top 1 percent. All of the money went to them, essentially, overwhelmingly.

When you think about what we do with taxes and when you think about what this Congress did on Saturday when they put money in people’s arms and money in people’s pockets and kids back in school in people’s lives. It is something to celebrate. More importantly, it is something we need to carry out and make sure that it matters in our constituencies’ lives.

Yield the floor.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my support for the confirmation of my friend and colleague Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE to be the next Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. I know that she will bring strong leadership to HUD at a time when our Nation needs it most.

Across my State of Maryland and throughout the country, our fellow Americans are struggling to keep a roof over their heads. Families are living in fear of eviction or of missing their next mortgage payment. In this time of crisis, we need a leader at HUD who will prioritize tackling the ongo-ing housing crisis spurred by COVID–19. Congresswoman FUDGE has expressed her determination to do just that. She is a dedicated and experienced public servant who has earned a reputation for swift action and firm leadership. Her accumulated experience spanning a lifetime of service will be invaluable in helping the Federal government mount a robust and co-ordinated campaign to bring those hardest hit back from the brink and ensure an equitable recovery.

While addressing the urgent needs of renters and homeowners during this pandemic, we can’t lose sight of the bigger picture. The pandemic has exacerbated our country’s affordable housing crisis and shone a spotlight on how it disproportionately harms communities of color. We are seeing the result of decades of discriminatory practices like redlining that have targeted minority families and left an enduring stain on our communities that won’t be easily wiped away. President Biden has put forth a bold plan to combat our Nation’s housing crisis, and as HUD Secretary, Congresswoman FUDGE will be charged with implementing it, reversing the damage caused by the Trump administration, restoring and improving our fair housing protections, rebuilding our Nation’s supply of affordable housing, and investing in our housing infrastructure. She has her work cut out for her.}

There is no doubt in my mind that Congresswoman FUDGE will work over-time to tackle these challenges head-on. She has spent her career fighting on behalf of those most in need and those who have been historically barred from stable living and home ownership. She has seen these issues up close: first as the mayor of Warrensville Heights, OH, and then as a member of the House of Representatives and as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, where she has helped forge compromises that brought real results. She is guided by the principle that each of us has a responsibility to respect and uplift those most in need. In her words, there is dignity and there is grace within every woman and every man and every child in this nation—including those who live on the outskirts of hope.” For MARCIA FUDGE, service isn’t just a job, it is a calling. I know that, should she be confirmed, Congresswoman FUDGE will lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development with unwavering commitment. I look forward to partnering with her and the Biden administration to provide more Americans with the dignity and stability that we work ur- gently to strengthen and grow our af-fordable housing programs across Maryland and throughout the country.
pleased that last week the committee favorably recommended his nomination to the full Senate by a bipartisan vote of 15 to 7.

Judge Garland is uniquely qualified at this moment in history to serve as the protector and restorer of law, integrity, and independence to DOJ.

Judge Garland graduated summa cum laude from Harvard College in 1974 and magna cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1977. Following graduation, he served as law clerk to the Honorable Henry J. Friendly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and to U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. From 1979 to 1981, he was Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States. He then joined the law firm of Arnold & Porter, where he was a partner from 1985 to 1989 and from 1992 to 1993. He served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1989 to 1992 and as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Clinton administration. He clerked for Justice Brennan on the Supreme Court, and after a time in private practice, he served as chief judge of the D.C. Circuit from 2013 to 2020.


Judge Garland has served both Democratic and Republican administrations in the Justice Department, including service under President Carter, the first President Bush, and President Clinton. He earned a reputation as a tough and fair prosecutor who took on complicated terrorism, violent crime, and corruption cases. He established a sterling reputation of handling cases with the utmost professionalism and is seen by his peers as a modest man who is fundamentally a decent human being.

In 1997, the Senate reviewed his record in detail and confirmed him by an overwhelming, bipartisan vote of 76 to 23 to serve as judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. I would note that many of the no votes for Judge Garland’s previous confirmation had to do with a dispute over the proper size of the D.C. Circuit, as opposed to concerns over Judge Garland’s qualifications or fitness to serve as a judge.

As President Biden noted in his introduction of Judge Garland’s nomination, despite his busy schedule and prestigious positions, he still makes time to volunteer regularly, tutoring students in Northeast DC, as he has done for 20 years. And I agree this really shows us the true character of Judge Garland, in terms of his commitment to protect the poor, the vulnerable, and not necessarily seeking out the limelight. I am hopeful that Judge Garland’s appointment will shore up and improve the morale at the Justice Department, given the commitment to uphold civil rights and voting rights laws; protect the civil liberties and equal access to justice of all Americans; safeguard our national security and combat violent crime; and rouse out systemic racism in our criminal justice system and government. As the only Cabinet department named after an ideal, I am convinced that Judge Garland will follow the facts, evidence, and law wherever it leads him, regardless of political pressure or outside influences.

Let me close by highlighting what President Biden and Judge Garland stated upon announcing his nomination. President Biden said forcefully: “You won’t work for me. You are not the president’s or the vice president’s lawyer. Your loyalty is not to me. It’s to the law, the Constitution.”

Judge Garland said: “The rule of law is not just some lawyer’s turn of phrase. It is the very foundation of our rule of law. The essence of the rule of law is that like cases are treated alike, that there is not one rule for Democrats and another for Republicans, one rule for friends and another for foes.”

Judge Garland noted President Biden’s promise that he would have the “independent capacity” to decide who is subject to prosecution, based on the facts and the law. Judge Garland concluded that: “I would not have agreed to be considered for attorney general under any other circumstances.

I again urge the Senate to swiftly confirm this nomination, so we can bring Senate-confirmed leadership to the Department of Justice as soon as possible.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the nomination of Judge Merrick Garland to be United States Attorney General and to describe some of the greatest challenges confronting the U.S. Department of Justice.

The DOJ, as it is often called, is unlike any other Federal Agency. It is charged with protecting the constitutional rights and civil rights of all Americans. The past 4 years, to put it mildly, broke the long-standing precedent that has enabled the Department of Justice to operate above the political fray.

The Trump Justice Department joined a misguided lawsuit to take away healthcare coverage of tens of millions of Americans. The Trump Justice Department oversaw a cruel set of immigration policies that separated young children from their parents at our southern border and locked these children in cages. And the Trump Justice Department remained painfully silent as our Nation cried out for racial justice in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man.

After the firing of Attorney General Sessions, the Attorney General of the United States became the Attorney General for Donald Trump. When our Nation’s top law enforcement official becomes little more than a political fixture for the President, it erodes the public’s confidence in the law and calls into question the mission of the Department.

In the waning days of the Trump administration, with nearly half a million Americans dead from the coronavirus, a swarm of White supremacists and other extremists stormed our Capitol, including this very Chamber, and disrupted our peaceful transfer of power. Tragically, five people died during the January 6 insurrection, and the memorial for the Capitol police officer.

Our Nation must now bring the perpetrators to justice and address the root causes in our society that enable White supremacists and other extremists to fuel hate and violence.

The next Attorney General cannot shy away from these historic challenges. The next Attorney General must meet these challenges head on to restore integrity to the Justice Department and to work every day—to restore the trust of the American people.

President Biden has nominated Judge Garland—not just one of the finest public servants I have ever met but one of the finest people I have ever met—to be Attorney General of the United States. His name should be familiar to many of our colleagues because President Obama nominated him to serve on the Supreme Court in 2016. At the time, I could not think of a more qualified individual ever nominated to be on our Nation’s highest Court, and I still believe that to this day.

Judge Garland graduated at the top of his class at both Harvard undergrad and Harvard Law School. He clerked for Justice Brennan on the Supreme Court, and after a time in private practice, he worked at the Department of Justice, where he prosecuted the perpetrators of the Oklahoma City bombing. Judge Garland called this, and I quote him, “the most important thing I have ever done in my life.”

In 1997, Republicans and Democrats joined together to confirm Judge Garland to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, which is often called the “second highest court in this land.” Judge Garland has served honorably and dutifully for the past 24 years on the DC Circuit, including several years as its chief judge.

Judge Garland has gained the respect of all of his colleagues—left, right, and center—as someone who knows the law and never allows politics into the courtroom. Judge Garland works to...
build consensus and find principled compromises. Judge Garland will bring a wealth of legal, law enforcement, and judicial experience to the Department of Justice to make him uniquely qualified—uniquely qualified—to lead the Department at this critical moment.

Judge Garland will be an Attorney General for all Americans—all Americans. He will not shy away from the challenges facing the Justice Department. He will meet them head on.

At the top of Judge Garland’s to-do list is bringing the perpetrators of the January 6 insurrection to justice. Judge Garland will make sure that the Department stays out of the political fray and remains independent from the White House. And Judge Garland will answer the calls for racial justice and refocus the Department on one of its core missions, to protect the civil rights and voting rights of all Americans.

While I will never truly forget the shameful treatment of Judge Garland during his previous nomination to serve on the Supreme Court and in my heart I will always believe he should be serving on the Supreme Court today, I am grateful that Judge Garland has answered the call to serve.

I am also grateful to his wife of many years. I am grateful to his family for supporting him and allowing him to serve us as he has. He is more than just a judge or attorney or a servant. He is a mentor. He is somebody who, every week, for years—20 years—has made time, found time in his life to mentor a kid who needs somebody in his life or her life. As someone who has been mentored for many years myself, I just want to say: God bless you. God bless you, Judge Garland. My hope today is he will get a resounding—resounding—vote out of this body. He has earned it. He deserves it.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 70, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 114 Ex.]

YEAS—70

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Blunt
Booker
Brown
Burr
Cannwell
Capito
Carmen
Capitol
Carper
Casey
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Corr
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Duey
Ernst
Feinstein
Gillibrand
Graham
Grassley

NAYS—30

Barrasso
Blackburn
Boozman
Brockman
Brown
Burr
Capito
Carper
Cref
Crapp
Crum
Daines
Fischer

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The nomination of Michael Stanley Regan, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall be brought to a close?

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Michael Stanley Regan, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 65, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 115 Ex.]

YEAS—65

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Bonger
Brown
Burr
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Corr
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Duey
Ernst
Feinstein
Gillibrand
Graham
Grassley

NAYS—35

Barrasso
Blackburn
Boozman
Brockman
Brown
Burr
Capito
Carper
Cref
Crapp
Crum
Daines
Fischer

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). On this vote, the yeas are 65, the nays are 35.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Donald B. Trump, Jr., to be Attorney General of the United States.

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 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 Donald B. Trump, Jr., to be Attorney General of the United States.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient sec-
and we know that the economic cost of spending a little today more than outweighs the cost of inaction. I believe it was Ben Franklin who once said that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." I think that is a quote that comes from our grandparents. It actually came originally from Ben Franklin.

As EPA Administrator, Mr. Regan will also need to work with States, who play a significant role to combat contamination in our Nation’s water supply from something called PFAS, one of thousands of permanent chemicals. Some are benign. Some of them are very, very dangerous to our health. They are called forever chemicals. Unfortunately, this is a critical public health issue that the last administration did not approach with the urgency it deserved. They talked a good game but didn't come through. What do they say in Montana? ‘All hat, no cattle.’ That is why we have to be mindful with respect to these permanent chemicals in the last administration.

This has hit home for me, and my guess is it hits home for the Presiding Officer, too, in Wisconsin. But coming from the Pacific State—we have got military installations, one of the biggest airbases in the world, Dover Air Force Base. I am hugely proud of Dover Air Force Base. It may be the best airlift base in the world. And, for years, we have, unfortunately occasionally, had incidents, accidents, and we need to have firefighters come out, and they use firefighting foam to try to save lives. And in doing that, it endangered the lives of other people because of the PFAS contamination that is in the firefighting foam, and it gets into our groundwater.

And it is not just Delaware. It is not just Delaware. It is not just Wisconsin. It is like, last I heard, hundreds, maybe one thousand bases across this country where there is a problem with PFAS contamination in the groundwater close to our military bases.

If his work in North Carolina on this issue is any indication, Mr. Regan will leave no stone unturned. We will also be looking to the EPA Administrator to ensure cleaner air by reestablishing the legal basis for the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, which were suspended by an administration more interested in protecting special interests than in protecting our men and women who were keeping mercury out of our air and our water supply.

These standards have been shown over time to be cost-effective, and they are supported by major coal-fired utilities across this country. Let me say that again. These standards have been shown over time not only to be cost-effective, but they are supported by major coal-fired utilities across this country.

As EPA Administrator, Michael Regan will also oversee the phasedown of something called HFCs, powerful greenhouse gases used as a refrigerant—think refrigerators, freezers,
air-conditioners in our house and our cars. They do a good job of keeping it cool and our food cool. Unfortunately, they are about 1,000 times worse, more dangerous than carbon dioxide is to greenhouse gas—1,000 times worse.

Leadership is critical to the success of renewable energy. Wind and solar are already cheaper than fossil fuels. But as we scale up these technologies, we need leadership to help lead a bipartisan effort with a couple of our Republican colleagues, JOHN NEELEY KENNEDY and JOHN BARRASSO, to phase down the production of these harmful chemicals while giving American manufacturers the opportunity to fill the coolants of the future.

How many jobs will flow from this? Tens of thousands of American jobs. How much economic opportunity for American companies? Billions and billions of dollars. And, oh, by the way, I should hasten to add, you know, we hear from scientists that tell us that we are sort of at the turning point for us in terms of climate change by which we can’t turn back. It is about 2 degrees Celsius for the balance of this century. And I do believe that phase-out of hydrofluorocarbons is worth a half-degrees Celsius just by itself, just this one thing. So this is a huge thing, and we did it in a bipartisan way here in the Senate and the House. I am very grateful to their support.

I will add a couple of more points, if I can. Mr. Regan will need to help craft emission standards for cars, trucks, and vans that will fight climate change and help keep America in the lead. We heard not long ago from our friends at GM. GM announced that beginning in 2035, they are not going to be building gasoline- or diesel-powered vehicles. Think about that. That is like 14 years from now. I think Ford may have announced in Europe that they are not going to be building vehicles that drive or are powered by gasoline or diesel. In Europe, by 2030, like I said, 9 years, this is coming. So the question is, Will we be ready for it? Will we take advantage of it? Will we be able to find, in this adversity of climate change, an economic opportunity? Yes, we can and especially with respect to the kinds of vehicles that we are going to build and drive into the future.

Michael Regan’s tenure in North Carolina is, I think, a testament to his ability to bring people together and work across the political divide. He speaks highly of the resolution that he led as the largest coal ash cleanup settlement in U.S. history. He successfully led the negotiations that resulted in the cleanup of the Cape Fear River, right where my wife used to work for the DuPont company, the Cape Fear DuPont plant. And he continues with Carolina’s first-ever Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Board.

Mr. Regan has been able to do these things and much more by bringing people together to find bipartisan, lasting solutions, and we could use a few more of those around here.

That ability to unite people in common purpose, to approach his role as a public servant with humility, with empathy, and with grace, that central quality has been demonstrated throughout his public service and his nomination process.

Interestingly, 23 of our country’s national agricultural organizations wrote to my committee—to our committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee—to recommend him for the job. Most people might say: Well, big deal. Well, it was a big deal. How often do we have like dozens of major national agricultural organizations stepping up and saying, “We want to embrace this candidate to be the head of the Environmental Protection Agency”? Not very often, but they did in this case.

They highlighted his “established record in listening to stakeholders, including farmers and ranchers.” And they applauded his pragmatic approach, writing that “during his tenure, he has worked to find practical, sound solutions to myriad environmental issues in the state.” So we have heard this sentiment in his nomination hearing before the Environment and Public Works Committee. Throughout his testimony and questioning, Mr. Regan made it clear that he will be an EPA Administrator for red States just like he will be an EPA Administrator for blue States. He listened to concerns from both sides of the aisle and made commitments to work with anyone to solve a problem facing their constituents.

That is what helped earn him a 14-to-6 bipartisan vote of approval coming out of the EPW Committee. I remember us measuring the amount of time from someone’s name being actually submitted by a President to, actually, we heard from very much Deb Roy, who less got somebody reported out—measured in months, in months. In this case, we are talking about weeks, and, God willing, hours this afternoon.

Believe it or not, his committee hearing before the committee a couple of weeks ago, he was introduced to the committee by two Senators from his State. You may think that is not a big deal, maybe not, but they are both Republicans. They are both Republicans. They are both Republicans. Well, it is Thom TULLIS, that Mr. Regan “has earned a reputation for being a thoughtful leader willing to engage.” His colleague from North Carolina Senator BURR underscored Mr. Regan’s ability to listen, saying that organizations across North Carolina and across the country support Mr. Regan for Administrator because “they understand they will not always agree with every decision handed down by EPA, but they know and trust they will receive a fair hearing.”

This has been recommended by two Republican Senators from the same State. Honestly, I don’t see that every day, and I want to say a special shout-out thanks to RICHARD BURR and THOM TULLIS for doing that, supporting Mr. Regan’s nomination.

Michael Regan understands that climate change shouldn’t be a partisan issue. Its impacts hit red States and blue States alike. Across the country, California, while floods in Florida damage homes and roads. Deadly ice storms endanger the power supply in Texas, while a drought in New Mexico harms farming and puts people at risk.

Leadership is critical to the success of renewable energy. Wind and solar are already cheaper than fossil fuels. But as we scale up these technologies, we need leadership to help lead an Air Force base in Delaware harms families just like contamination near a National Guard base in South Dakota.

And dirty air from a powerplant in Ohio or West Virginia can make their way into neighboring States like ours and like Maryland, our neighboring State, like New Jersey.

The problems that are before us next EPA Administrator—and, hopefully, it will be Michael Regan—those problems are great. As Albert Einstein once said, “In adversity lies opportunity.” Think about that—in adversity lies opportunity. We have an opportunity here to fulfill our moral obligation to be good stewards of this planet, and we can seize on that opportunity here at the right leader in place to make it happen.

During my years in the Navy, then as Governor of Delaware, I learned firsthand that leadership is maybe the most important thing in the success of any organization. I have been a part of. I don’t care if it is a business; I don’t care if it is a State; I don’t care if it is the Senate or House, a hospital, a school, leadership is always the key—always the key. The leader sets the tone, helps write the rules of the road, makes sure that those working under him or her are doing what is right.

I learned a lot from really good leaders, and, frankly, I have learned a few things from really bad leaders—suspect, if truth be known, we would all say the same thing. The best leaders are humble, not haughty. They have the heart of a servant. They understand their job is to serve, not to be served. Leaders have the courage to stay out of step when everyone else is marching to the wrong tune. They understand their job is to unite, not divide. They build bridges, not walls.

Leaders surround themselves with the best people they can find. When the team does well, the leader gives the credit to his or her team. When the team falls short, the leader takes the blame. Leaders don’t build themselves up by tearing other people down. They are aspirational. They appeal to people’s better angels.

I remember a French philosopher, Albert Camus, once said that leaders are “purveyors of hope.” Think about that, purveyors of hope. Leaders always seek to do what is right, not what is easy or expedient. They focus on excellence in everything they do. If it is not perfect, they say: Let’s just make it better. Leaders treat other people the way
they want to be treated. And, finally, when leaders know they are right, they are sure they are right, they don’t give up. They just don’t give up.

Michael Regan is that kind of leader. We need that kind of leader, and I am convinced that he is the leader we need for his critical role at this critical time in our Nation’s history.

So, Madam Chair and colleagues, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, I urge all of my colleagues to support his nomination.

With that, 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.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the roll be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Junior Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today to discuss my opposition to the nomination of Michael Regan for Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Now, before I begin, let me be very clear. I really liked meeting and getting to know Michael Regan. He is a dedicated public servant and an honest man. He had a beautiful family with him, and he answered the questions as straightforwardly as he thought he could. I have enjoyed getting to know him through my role as the ranking member on the Environment and Public Works Committee, and I appreciated the willingness he expressed to visit my home State of West Virginia. But this vote is not based on what Mr. Regan might do if he had his say; this vote is about confirming someone to execute President Biden’s agenda, which Mr. Regan said he would faithfully do, and I cannot support that agenda if confirmed—Regan would be tasked with implementing.

Throughout his confirmation process, Secretary Regan did not commit to a different policy agenda than that of the Obama administration—an agenda that absolutely devastated my State and other energy-producing States.

In his nomination hearing, Secretary Regan, because he is secretary of North Carolina’s Department of Environmental Quality, would not commit as to whether the so-called Clean Power Plan or something worse would be re-instituted. He did not rule out a return to the WOTUS rule. He could not say whether the EPA would again claim overarching authority to force States to shift their electricity generation sources. He could not commit to real changes, and that is because the agenda is already set. Climate czar Gina McCarthy and others have already set the table.

InsideEPA recently reported:

Administration observers are questioning whether Michael Regan . . . could face a diminished role if he wins Senate confirmation due to the large number of Obama-era officials who have returned to the agency and the White House to work on implementing Biden’s environmental agenda.

The article went on to say:

[T]hese sources also say that because there are so many officials now working on climate change policies across the Biden administration, this could lead to “turf wars” between EPA and the White House on this issue.

Well, I share those concerns. For almost 2 months now, unaccountable czars Markle and others have been working both behind the scenes and in front of the press to lay the groundwork for the Biden administration’s agenda. She is wielding her power publicly to make it clear who is calling the shots and directing the troops.

McCarthy herself said recently:

I’ve got a small stronghold office, but I am an orchestra leader for a very large band.

She is operating this “stronghold” office with no transparency outside of the Senate confirmation process. It would be bad enough with just a turf war between an equally matched White House and EPA, but we know that McCarthy is poised to have influence within the Biden administration.

In addition to the Obama EPA alums already in place, the nomination of Janet McCabe to serve as EPA Deputy Administrator has only increased my concern and made it worse.

In 2019, McCabe, McCarthy, and another alum of the Obama EPA wrote an op-ed fully backing the overreaching Clean Power Plan. They admitted that their Clean Power Plan was a War on Coal. They stated:

The best way to cut emissions is to shift electricity generation from the dirtiest plants, which happen to use coal.

So they were willing to say it outright once they were out of public office. They are willing to admit to their former office why they wouldn’t say it to the people of my State when they were in the office. They didn’t have the courage to look the people in West Virginia—and McCarthy clearly didn’t even come to our State to talk about it—to look them in the eye and admit they wanted to wipe coal off the map. Had they come, they would have had to hear in person, eye to eye, the harm, the devastation that workers in our coal industry and many other associated industries in West Virginia were facing.

WVU economist John Deskins put that harm into perspective in testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee at a hearing in 2015. He observed:

In Central Appalachia, coal production has fallen by 51 percent since 2010, compared to a decline of 10 percent from the nation’s other coal-producing regions. . . . [N]early all of the coal job losses that have occurred in West Virginia have come from our state’s southern coalfields. The concentration of these job losses has created a Great Depression—

Great Depression—in six southern counties—Boone, Clay, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, and Wyoming [Counties]. Job losses over the past four years range between—

Remember, this is in 2015—25 and 33 percent in each of these counties.

That is how many jobs were lost.

John Kerry stood alongside Gina McCarthy in the Oval Office in January and talked about how the fossil fuel industry can just become wind turbine technicians or solar panel technicians. John Kerry doesn’t really know what it actually means to be any type of these workers.

Brad Markle, a representative from the AFL–CIO Industrial Union Council, explained some of the differences to the Washington Post. He said:

You get guys that are coming off of fossil jobs in the Dakotas or the wind belt, and are making, you know, eighty, ninety, a hundred thousand a year. [To put wind turbines up], they’re looking at thirty to thirty-five thousand, with either no or substandard benefits.

In President Biden’s White House, we can have accountable—and either misguided at best or uninformed at worst—czars trying to do what they think is best for this country.

So let’s go back to Secretary Regan.

In his hearing, he talked in depth about how his work was in North Carolina and his commitment to transparency, and both of the Republican Senators from his home State came and introduced him to our committee and spoke very well of his ability to work across the aisle.

I appreciate that greatly, and I welcome that, but the fact remains that I can’t support Secretary Regan when Gina McCarthy is the self-described orchestra leader for the Biden administration and Kerry—is basing so-called “transition” policies on a fantasy world that does not exist.

I am very skeptical that the next 4 years will be any better than the 8 years of economic devastation brought on by Obama’s EPA. So, let’s not cut Gina McCarthy out of power and let her know who is calling the shots for environmental policy in the Biden administration. I hope Secretary Regan embraces President Biden’s mandate of unity and works with both red and blue States to take care of our planet. Until then, I will continue to look out for my State and practice aggressive oversight on what I think may be coming.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASCAN). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINES. Madam President, good afternoon. I rise today to talk about
Small businesses, which have suffered so much, will get a significant uplift—just restaurants, with the $28 billion restaurant fund in the American Rescue Plan. There are 15,000 restaurants in Virginia, all of which have suffered because of COVID, because of social distancing requirements and supply chain challenges, workers who have been out sick. That $28 billion fund offers great hope for our restauranters.

For Virginia education, our local school systems—134 cities and counties operate K–12—will receive more than $2 billion to deal with the costs of COVID, including expanded broadband so that their students can have better access to online course curriculum, including money that could be used for summer instruction, for example, so that we can tackle learning gaps that occurred during the last year; and $845 million for Virginia higher education institutions.

And something that I am particularly excited about is a child who is an early childhood worker. That is what he does. Forty percent of Virginia childcare centers were closed for much of the year because of the pandemic. Virginia will receive nearly $800 million to support so our childcare centers can be open, which will not only be good for children but will enable their parents to return to work more easily.

In the healthcare space, acceleration of vaccines, lower healthcare premiums because of expanded subsidies for those who are purchasing insurance, mental health expansion to deal with the significant psychological and emotional traumas of the last year, housing, food, transit, broadband, pension reform.

There is so much in this bill for Virginians. There is so much in this bill for the residents of red States, blue States, in-between States. Every ZIP code in the Virginia family in the United States will see some impact that they can see, touch, and feel. It is not often that you pass a bill where you can say this about it—that the tangible results for virtually every American will be seen so quickly. I want to focus a little bit, having talked about the tangible benefits in Virginia, just on the analysis of the bill nationally, and I have a couple of charts I want to show.

Coincidently or maybe not coincidentally, the size of the American Rescue Plan was pretty close to the size of the Trump tax cuts that were done in December of 2017. The Trump tax cuts were about $1.9 trillion, and the American Rescue Plan ended up being at about $1.75 trillion. So they are pretty close.

And what these two plans demonstrate, if you look at the American tax plan and you look at the American Rescue Plan, is that you will see how very different the priorities of the two parties are. The recovery plan passed in this body with every Democratic vote and no Republican votes.

The Trump tax plan passed in 2017 with every Republican vote and no Democratic vote. I believe these two plans are almost a perfect representation of the priorities of the two parties right now in this body—not just in this body but around the country.

If you analyze the content of these two bills, which were nearly identical in size, you can definitely understand a lot about the priorities of the two parties. On the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the Trump tax cuts, $1.9 trillion benefit went to people making more than $75,000 a year, 16 percent went to people making less than $75,000 a year, 31 percent were tax cuts for businesses.

If you look at the American Rescue Plan, you see something very, very different: 44 percent of the aid was aid to individuals, 21 percent was pandemic and other policies that focus on getting us out of the healthcare crisis, 9 percent to our school systems, 18 percent for our State and local governments to try to forestall massive layoffs of governmental employees, and then 8 percent are tax cuts to individuals.

These are very different priority sets between the GOP's key accomplishment with the 2017 tax cuts and now this accomplishment that the Democrats have worked so hard to achieve in the American Rescue Plan.

This tells you about priorities, but the next chart is probably my favorite because I think it makes it even clearer. This is a chart that shows the benefits of both the American Rescue Plan in blue and the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in red, and I don't think those colors were coincidentally done by my staff.

It shows how the benefits of these two bills—they are identical in size—were arrayed across the income groupings, income quintiles of the American public. The top 20 percent of the American public in income got 65 percent of the benefit from the Trump tax cuts. They get 11 percent of the benefit from the American Rescue Plan.

In the 60-to-80-percent quintile, you will see that the two plans were pretty close to equal. Not exactly—the Democratic plan was a little bit better in terms of the benefits at that level. But as you move into the 40-to-60-percent quintile, that midrange of Americans, the Democratic proposal gave much more of the benefit to people in that income frame, the American Rescue Plan, than the Republican proposal.

In the 20-to-40 percent range, it is quadruple the Democratic allocation of benefits to that lower middle-class portion of the American public, quadruple what the Republican tax plan allocated.

But what you really see is, in the lowest quintile income of the American public, the people who struggle the most and during the pandemic were hurt the most, 23 percent of the benefits of the American Rescue Plan went to that lowest 20 percent of the American public while only 1 percent of the
benefit of the Trump tax cuts was allocated to that hard-hit, struggling group of people.

Again, if you want to look at the priorities of the two parties by analyzing these two sizable bills that each side claimed a significant accomplishment then I'm proud of, you just need to look at this particular chart and understand who each side, each party, is battling for and who is each side, each party, trying to help.

Finally, one last chart and then a concluding comment. The last chart shows the poverty rate in this country, beginning in 2007. Now, we know we had an economic challenge in 2008, 2009, 2010 that was significant, and then the poverty rate started to come down late in the Obama first term and continued to come down into the Trump first term. But you will see what has happened since 2017 with the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. If that had not happened, the poverty rate would have started to tick back up again after having come down for a number of years.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act did have an effect on the poverty rate. It knocked it down a little bit. So there was a positive effect on the poverty rate by the $1.5 trillion tax cut proposal, but it was not very significant.

But the projection about the American poverty rate following the passage of the American Rescue Plan is a dramatic reduction—a dramatic reduction of poverty from more than 15 percent down to poverty just above 8 percent—and we would expect to see that by the end of the year.

We are not talking about by the end of the decade or by the end of 5 years or by the end of this Congress. We are talking about by the end of the year.

I think these charts—and, again, particularly this chart that arrays the benefits of both the tax cuts bill of 2017 and the American Rescue Plan and shows that the benefits are heavily concentrated—speak volumes about two very different philosophies about the economy, two very different philosophies about equity, two very different philosophies about how to truly include the American economy. It's going to have a significant, positive effect on the American economy at a time when it needs it and at a time when people who are most helped are most in need.

We need to build an economy coming out of this crisis that is not only robust but that is also sustainable, meaning environmentally sustainable but sustainable in ways that are also robust in areas that leave people high and dry. We also need to build an economy that is more equitable, that measured just by GDP increase or stock market increases that can affect some but not the majority of the population. We need to see things like wages, reduction of poverty, startup of new businesses that demonstrate an economic vitality that is spread broadly among the population.

We are starting the real-time clock on that experiment now. We will be able to compare the value of the $1.9 trillion tax cut to the $1.75 trillion American Recovery Plan in years to come. And I am very, very excited to understand that because I think it may point the way forward to additional economic advances that will make us stronger.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL STANLEY REGAN by Mr. Moran. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the absence of a quorum be approved.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I am here this afternoon to speak in opposition to H.R. 1, the so-called For The People Act. Every American—no American should be fooled by the wholesome title of H.R. 1. H.R. 1 is an affront to the U.S. Constitution, and the drastic impact this legislation would have on federalizing elections, restricting free speech, and accelerating the divide in this country—that divide between left and right, rural and urban, red States and blue States—would be terribly damaging to our Nation.

We often hear that elections have consequences. In November, Americans voted for a Congress that is nearly a 50-50 split between the parties in the House and precisely a 50–50 split in the Senate. If elections have consequences, then the consequence American voters may have had in mind was to encourage Congress to put aside partisan differences and to work together to do its job on their behalf.

Americans did not vote to give one party free rein to implement an unprecedented power grab, to nationalize elections, and to strip power from States and localities from now into perpetuity, forever.

I am a conservative, and I believe in the primacy of individual liberties and in a Federal Government that exercises restraint. I believe that State and local units of government are inherently responsive to the wishes of our citizens. Article I, section 4 of the Constitution states that “Time, Places and Manner” of congressional elections “shall be prescribed [by the States].” My adherence to the Constitution thus instructs me to oppose several of government’s attempts to oversee their own elections, as they always have and always should.

There are so many problematic and, frankly, unconstitutional aspects of
this legislation, particularly as it pertains to the micromanagement of local elections by the Federal Government.

With regard to the bill’s intent to Federalize State elections, I draw your attention to page 44, section 1004. Democrats, in sponsoring and pursuing passage of this legislation, intend to eliminate voter identification laws. Voter identification laws have a lot of merit. It is required that you be a U.S. citizen to cast a vote in the United States. Many people generally have common sense, and the Gallup poll indicates that 80 percent of Americans support voter ID laws. When you explain to Americans what voter ID really is, they do support it. Yet, under this legislation, voters showing up to the polls without an ID could simply sign a statement claiming they are who they say they are. If you want to dispel the notion that voter fraud occurs in our elections, this is not the place, this is not the way to accomplish that. Our laws, are designed to discourage people from voting, but I want people to be legal who do vote.

On page 166, this bill requires that ballots be counted outside a voter’s precinct, removing a local government’s ability to verify voter rolls. That authority would instead go to a bureaucrat in Washington.

The requirement to allow third parties, including those politically affiliated, to pick up and deliver absentee ballots, is also nothing more than a bureaucratic nightmare. If anything, it will further erode confidence in elections. Such a requirement is directly at odds with recommendations from a 2005 bipartisan Commission on Federal Election Reform led by former President Jimmy Carter, which recommended that States prohibit this practice due to an increased likelihood of fraud.

H.R. 1 doesn’t even keep the bipartisan nature of the Federal Election Commission in place. It alters its structure, thereby making it work on behalf of the party in power.

One last point on local elections. This bill allows for in-person voting 15 days before an election. This is the typical, the classic unfunded mandate. I talked to local election officials about this provision specifically, and it would kill their budgets, maintaining rent and staff for weeks on end in rural counties across Kansas where, realistically, you might get fewer than a handful of votes up on a Tuesday, let alone far before the election. There are plenty of other ways to vote in advance when necessary. This would create real-world consequences, real consequences in rural America and in rural Kansas. A one-size solution from Washington, known by everyone as harvesting vote, is not only the problem and, in fact, in many instances creates more problems.

While this provision alone probably wouldn’t have contributed to voter fraud, this bill does so by prohibiting officials from reviewing un-vote, all problems and, in fact, in many instances creates more problems.

It is imperative that we restore America’s faith in our elections, and that is why I am a supporter of S. 13, legislation led by our own Senator, Tim Scott of South Carolina, to establish a bipartisan advisory committee to make recommendations that will improve the integrity and administration of Federal elections. This is a measured approach that will help us regain the trust of American voters. H.R. 1 goes as far as the other end of the spectrum as is imaginable. It drastically changes the rules of our election, implementing every leftwing policy idea pertaining to Federal elections—ideas that are evidently so good, they must be made mandatory. If they were good, they might find their way into existence across the country because they are good, not because the Federal Government requires them.

This legislation would sow immense doubts among voters about the integrity and administration of our elections—something we farther do not need. It would corrode our entire system of elections, and for what purpose? Because, simply put, I think Democrats believe passing H.R. 1 would render rural voters, red State voters, a non-impotent, and therefore help them win elections.

At a time when our country is so divided, when we should be working together, for example, to end the consequences of the COVID–19 pandemic, to get America vaccinated, and get our economy back on track, this is a very damaging policy to our Republic, and it is contained within the 800 pages of H.R. 1.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle take time to read and understand this bill and see and determine for themselves what it truly is. I am interested in making sure that all people have the opportunity to vote. All people who are legally eligible to vote, I want them to vote. But we ought not skew our elections to see that those we want to vote are the only ones who are eligible to do so and that those who are not eligible to vote are able to do so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATIONS OF VANITA GUPTA AND LISA MONACO

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, yesterday, the Senate Judiciary Committee heard from the nominees for the No. 2 and No. 3 jobs at the Department of Justice.

As you know, earlier today, we confirmed the next Attorney General of the United States, Judge Merrick Garland. I supported Judge Garland’s nomination because I think he is a qualified, mainstream nominee with the right experience and the right temperament to lead the Department of Justice. I believe being Attorney General is probably the hardest job in the Cabinet because you have two masters. One is the rule of law, as the chief law enforcement officer of the United States. The other is, you are a member of the President’s Cabinet and serve at his or her pleasure, obviously, a political appointment.

Judge Garland told me, and I take him at his word, that he would work hard to keep politics out of the work of the Justice Department—a goal that folks on both sides of the aisle should support, especially after the struggles of previous administrations.

As I said, I was proud to support Judge Garland’s nomination, and now we begin the process of considering other senior positions at the Department of Justice.

One of the nominees who came before the Judiciary Committee yesterday was Lisa Monaco, who has been nominated to serve as the Deputy Attorney General.

Ms. Monaco is a lifelong public servant who previously spent 15 years at the Department, as an organization will be invaluable to the Department, whose more than 100,000 employees are responsible for carrying out a diverse set of missions. It is a huge organization with a lot of moving parts.

Like Judge Garland, Ms. Monaco affirmed to me that she does not intend to inject politics or to even give it a veneer over the Department of Justice and her duties as the Deputy Attorney General.

I asked her, for example, if she would allow Mr. Durham, who has been appointed as special counsel, to investigate the Crossfire Hurricane issue from the last administration and the tail end of the Obama administration. She said she saw no reason not to give Mr. Durham a chance to complete his investigation. That is, after all, the job of the Attorney General. She said that is why we gave him a hearing within the Department of Justice. Again, there is 100,000 employees are responsible for carrying out a diverse set of missions. It is a huge organization with a lot of moving parts.

Like Judge Garland, Ms. Monaco affirmed to me that she does not intend to inject politics or to even give it a veneer over the Department of Justice and her duties as the Deputy Attorney General.

Ms. Monaco discussed her experience at the Department over the course of the Clinton, Bush, and Obama administrations. She really does have a lot of important, relevant experience. She talked about the unique role of the Justice Department, which, as I suggested a moment ago, functions both as an executive agency that is charged...
with implementing the President's policies as well as being an independent investigator and, in some cases, a prosecutor. She described the importance of acting free from political or partisan influence as her "North Star."

While Ms. Monaco and I will surely have policy disagreements at some point, I trust her ability to fairly and impartially administer justice while operating free of personal bias or political agenda. I believe she is well qualified to serve as the Deputy Attorney General, and I plan to support her nomination.

Unfortunately, I cannot say the same for the second nominee who appeared before the Judiciary Committee yesterday. Vanita Gupta has been nominated to serve as the Associate Attorney General, which is sometimes considered to be the No. 3 position at the Department of Justice. Throughout her career, Ms. Gupta has been a clear and outspoken advocate for some pretty radical policies.

In 2012, for example, she wrote that States should decriminalize the possession of all drugs—not just marijuana but all drugs—which, I presume, would include things like fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine, and other highly addictive and destructive drugs. In yesterday’s hearing, when I asked Ms. Gupta about this statement, she took the opposite position. She didn’t tell me “I used to advocate for that position and have now changed my position.” She said, unequivocally, that she did not advocate for the decriminalization or all drugs. It became apparent she wanted Senators to forget what she previously wrote:

States should decriminalize simple possession of all drugs, particularly marijuana, and for other drugs consider severance decisions.

That is a quote from an article she wrote in 2012. Unfortunately, the list of inconsistencies does not end there.

In June of 2020, less than a year ago, Ms. Gupta declared that it ought to be easier to sue police officers in court for money damages. Now, this is something that is ancient law school writings but are recent public statements—indeed, sworn testimony before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee—are views she no longer holds, which she said she held so recently.

I want to be clear on one point. The opinions of Ms. Gupta’s as a private citizen are not an issue. She has every right to hold opinions that differ from mine; that presupposes that she was nominated for a high level—indeed, one of the highest levels—of critical law enforcement positions, these are highly problematic and, to my mind, disqualifying.

Perhaps more so than any other at the Department of Justice, the Department of Justice must operate free from bias and political agendas. The men and women leading the Department must be able to separate their personal beliefs from the jobs before them. As they feel about the wisdom of the policies enacted by Congress, their jobs are to enforce the law not as they want it to be but as it is. People across the country should have confidence that the senior leaders at the Justice Department will follow the law as written—without fail. We can’t have leaders who turn a blind eye to whatever is politically convenient or as platforms to argue for changes in the law.

As the Senate has considered the President’s nominees over the past several weeks, I have been very clear that I will not oppose nominees based simply on the President’s political party. I think the President is entitled to some deference as to the people he chooses. That was the strategy of our Democratic colleagues previously, and it is increasingly damaging to both our country and its institutions. Just because a President doesn’t like a nominee somebody does not justify opposing that President’s nominee. I will continue to evaluate all nominees of this President based on their merits and their abilities to do the jobs for which they were nominated.

I firmly believe that the American people deserve to have qualified, fair-minded individuals leading these important law enforcement and national security agencies. For the Department of Justice, which is responsible for enforcing the law of the land and imparting fair and equal justice, that is doubly true. There is simply no room for political or partisan influence at the Department of Justice. I am concerned that Ms. Gupta will continue to pursue those objectives from within the Department and use all of the Department’s tools and the authority given to her to achieve these ideological outcomes. Therefore, I cannot support her nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, recently, the Biden administration withdrew a proposed Trump administration rule that would have required foreign universities and K-12 schools, and foreign institutes, which are very much connected to the country of China and, I would even say, to the Communist Party of China, which may be one and the same. These foreign universities and foreign institutes should be forced to identify their connections with Confucius Institutes, which are very much connected to the country of China and, I would even say, to the Communist Party of China, which may be one and the same.

Since April 2015, I have conducted oversight on several key aspects of foreign efforts to influence Members of
Congress and the American public. First, I have focused on the equal, fair, and aggressive enforcement of transparency laws. An example of one transparency law that I will focus on is the Foreign Agents Registration Act. I first raised concerns about the Foreign Agents Registration Act in April 2015, when it became very apparent that it wasn’t being used hardly at all. Historically, it hasn’t been used very much, and people have been getting away with not registering under that act. It may be OK to represent a foreign country or a foreign interest, but at least we in Congress ought to know about it, and, in turn, the American people ought to know who you are and whom you are speaking for.

In 1938, Congress passed that law for the purpose then of exposing Nazi propaganda and identifying foreign attempts to influence policymakers as well as the American public. Last updated in 1966, the Foreign Agents Registration Act ought to be better enforced and also be equally enforced. That is why I added to express new enforcement in the existing law and then find ways through additional legislation to shore it up even or even use oversight to see that the Justice Department takes its use with more certainty and with more force.

As a result of those efforts, last session, I introduced a bipartisan bill that goes by the title of “Foreign Agents Disclosure and Registration Enhancement Act.” Since it wasn’t passed in the 116th Congress, I will be reintroducing it this session. The bill requires the Justice Department for the first time to craft a comprehensive enforcement strategy and to release advisory opinions to promote that transparency. It gives investigators new tools, including civil investigative demand authority, to help identify violations.

Last Congress, the bill had support from Chairman GRAHAM and Ranking Member FEINSTEIN of the Judiciary Committee, and Vice Chairman RUBIO of the Senate Intelligence Committee. It also had bipartisan support on the Foreign Relations Committee, including from Senators HARRIS, RUBIO, MURPHY, and YOUNG, who have all worked to shine a light on foreign influence. We also had the signoff from the chairman of that committee, also with support from the Trump administration.

Unfortunately, when Senator CORNYN and I joined on the floor just before Christmas to ask for unanimous consent for the passage of this bill that had such broad bipartisan support, the Democrats objected even though it had this bipartisan, multicommittee support.

So I strongly urge the Biden administration to join my efforts in making commonsense, bipartisan reforms to the Foreign Agents Registration Act and to make it a priority. My bill gets the job done.

The second point I want to raise is that I have focused my oversight on increasing nontraditional espionage activities and foreign threats targeting taxpayer-funded research.

When I was chairman of the Judiciary Committee in 2018, I convened a hearing regarding Chinese nontraditional espionage against the United States. In that hearing, both DOJ and FBI officials made very clear that the threat to our universities and taxpayer-funded research from foreign governments, especially China, is real and it is ongoing. For example, the Department of Justice witness stated: "We need to adapt our enforcement strategy to reach non-traditional collectors, including researchers in labs, universities, and the defense industrial base, some of whom may have undisclosed ties to Chinese institutions and conflicting loyalties."

The FBI witness stated that China's talent recruitment programs are effectively "brain gain programs" that "encourage theft of intellectual property from U.S. institutions."

In June of 2019, when I was chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I held a hearing on foreign threats to taxpayer-funded research, which is used heavily on China's theft and China's espionage within our research community here in the United States.

After the hearing, I organized a classified committee briefing on the topic from the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Health and Human Services inspector general, and the Department of Homeland Security.

The Biden administration ramped up government efforts to investigate and prosecute researchers for stealing intellectual property and research. The Biden administration must continue those aggressive efforts if they want to be taken seriously. Those efforts are more important now than ever. For example, during the COVID pandemic, China has used cyber attacks to try to steal COVID-related research.

Third, another focus of mine has been on China's Confucius Institutes within our schools and universities. Specifically, that concerns China's Confucius Institutes. As an extension of the Chinese Government, the Confucius Institutes are a foreign principal for purposes of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. According to reporting, the strategic goal of the Chinese Government is to place its institutes within existing colleges and universities in order to influence perceptions of the Communist government in China under the guise of teaching the Chinese language, culture, and Chinese history. In other words, we have to see this problem with open eyes.

In light of these factors, in October of 2018, I wrote to the Justice Department and asked why it had yet to require individuals working for Confucius Institutes to register as foreign agents under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. Then, in March of 2020, I wrote to dozens of schools asking that they get a briefing from the FBI on the threats Confucius Institutes bring to the academic environment. I have also strongly backed Senator KENNEDY's Confucius Act—that is the title of the bill—which passed the Senate just last week. In part, that bill mandates that if a school wants an institute on campus, that school must have full managerial and academic control, not control from the Chinese Government.

China's threats to our security are very real. They are known and show no sign of stopping. It is a very good sign that in the past couple of years, many universities and colleges have cut ties with Confucius Institutes. Probably some of those were on those respective campuses for a long period of time. The Biden administration, two years after the previous administration, must use every tool at its disposal to protect and defend our national security from this Communist threat, which is why I wrote to the Biden Department of Homeland Security this year regarding its withdrawal of the Confucius rule, which I thought was a very good step forward from the previous administration.

Among the questions I asked of the Department, two relate to whether the Biden administration considers the Confucius Institute to be an extension of the Communist Chinese Government as well as being purveyors of Communist Chinese propaganda. That is to be expected, and I imagine our President does recognize it, but I want to have him tell me so. So far, that Department has thus far failed to respond.

The Biden administration would be wise to answer both in the affirmative to clearly state to the country and the world where it stands regarding China's gigantic propaganda machine, of which the Confucius Institutes are only a small part. In other words, besides going after the Confucius Institutes, we have to have our eyes open to every way that the Communist Chinese and their government is trying to influence things in this country, as well as stealing things from our country.

Lastly, I want to highlight a very important issue that has recently been brought to my attention. Upon entering office, President Biden fired all U.S. Executive Directors at multilateral development banks that are currently serving out their terms. Some of these multilateral development banks are the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

It has been U.S. tradition for incoming Presidents to allow these nonpartisan U.S. Executive Directors to
serve in their positions until their term ends regardless of whatever ad
ministration put them in those posi
tions. This tradition is meant to ensure that the United States maintains a
consistent authoritative presence and engagement within those multilateral institutions.
In the last administration, the United States was tough on China through these development banks, and we were hoping that these people would be left in place so they could continue that approach. The Executive Directors who were in their re-
spective positions made it a point to defend U.S. strategic interests by building coalitions aimed at eroding Chinese influence, which has been al-
lowed to grow at an alarming rate. There is quite a push by the Chinese Communist Government to get in-
volved in the highest levels of almost every international organization, not just these banks that I am talking about.
Removal of these U.S. leaders from their positions prior to their terms ex-
piring and with no replacements even nominated isn’t an example of the United States leading; this is an exam-
ple of abdicating their duties and responsibilities on the world stage.
In addition to my unanswered let-
ters, the Biden administration should inform Congress as to why it removed all Executive Directors from their posi-
tions prior to their terms expiring. I hope President Biden knows China is aggressively growing its influence in these multilateral organizations, so now isn’t the time to abandon the field. There is no time to be weak with China. We must work tirelessly to pro-
tect our way of life and our national security from the ever-present threat of the Communist Chinese Government. At the same time, we must build on the foundation that the Trump admin-
istration has laid to protect American taxpayers from foreign theft and espionage and propaganda.
I yield the floor.
I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the question be rescinded.

Mr. SCHUMER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I rise to support the nomination of Mi-
ichael S. Regan to be Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at the request of the Senate’s Ex-
ecutive Committee. I believe the President has made an excellent choice. Mr. Regan brings a wealth of ex-
perience to this position and is deeply committed to ensuring the EPA achieves its mission.

Mr. SCHUMER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. The clerk will call the roll.

The Environmental Protection Agency seeks to protect the environment and public health, and economic benefits over the last 50 years. While the Trump administration claimed that rolling back clean air pro-
tections frees up economic activity, in fact, reducing climate emissions is critical to a thriving, sustainable econ-
omy. Fortunately, many States maintain a strong commitment to pro-
tecting the environment and aligning our policies with the science and goals of the Paris Agreement.

The EPA is implementing innovative Clean Energy Policies to address climate change. Maryland, under Repub-
lican and Democratic Governors, has strengthened environmental protections which the agency will play a key role in enforcing.

I am confident Mr. Regan will respect the science and the duties of the Agency to lead the Chesapeake Bay Program through this substantial milestone.
however, if the EPA does not act as arbiter to hold States accountable for pollution upstream. Therefore, I was particularly pleased to see that the agricultural community widely supports Mr. Regan’s nomination.  

Both the global effort to combat climate change and the regional Chesapeake Bay restoration effort are enormously challenging. Yet the prospect of confirming Michael Regan to be the Administrator of an EPA that produces policy based on Scientific evidence and robust community input has given me hope—ful that we can sustain a healthy, vibrant watershed and Nation for generations to come.

VOTE ON REGAN NOMINATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote that was set for 5:23 begins right now. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Will the Senate advise and consent to the Regan nomination? Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk called the roll. The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 116 Ex.]

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YEAS—66

Baldwin                Hassan                Portman
Bennet                 Heitkamp               Reed
Blumenthal             Hirono                 Rosen
Booher                 Hyde-Smith             Rounds
Brown                  Kaine                  Rubio
Burr                   Kelly                  Sanders
Cantwell               King                   Schatz
Cardin                 Klobuchar             Schumer
Carper                 Leahy                  Shaheen
Casey                  Lankford              Smith
Collins                Lujan                  Sinema
Coons                  Manchin                Stabenow
Cortez Masto           Markley                Tester
Cramer                 Menendez               Tillis
Duckworth              Merkley                Van Hollen
Durbin                 Murray                 Warnock
Feinstein              Murphy                 Whitehouse
Fischler               Murray                 Whitehouse
Gillibrand             Ossoff                 Wicker
Graham                 Padilla                Wyden
Grassley               Peters                 Wyden

NAYS—34

Barasso                Hagerty                Risch
Blacksburg             Hawley                 Sasse
Buent                 Hoeven                 Scott (FL)
Boozman                Inhofe                 Scott (SC)
Capito                 Johnson                Shelby
Cassidy                Kennedy                Sullivan
Cornyn                 Lankford               Thune
Cotton                 Lemmings              Toomey
Crapo                  Marshall               Tipton
Cruz                   McConnell             Toomey
Daines                 McSally               Tipton
Ernst                  Paul                   Paul

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that, with respect to the Regan nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, let me explain to the public and the Senators what we are doing here. In the bipartisan agreement we faced under a 50-50 Senate, the rules say that if there were a tie vote, the majority leader has the ability to discharge the nomination from committee and then there be an up or down vote.

In this case, the nomination of Xavier Becerra to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, there was a tie vote in the Finance Committee. And what I will be doing in a moment is invoking that rule so that there can be 4 hours of debate on the nomination equally divided, and we will debate whether Becerra should be approved. Obviously, he only needs approval with 50 or 51 votes if the Vice President comes to break the tie.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the yeas and nays. I ask for the yeas and nays.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, we expect a vote on the motion to discharge to occur at approximately 12 noon on Thursday, March 11, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, we expect a vote on the motion to discharge to occur at approximately 12 noon on Thursday, March 11, 2021.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, we expect a vote on the motion to discharge to occur at approximately 12 noon on Thursday, March 11, 2021.
that hard work paid off. The Pentagon selected Fort Knox to host the reactivated V Corps headquarters. Kentucky is one of the most military-friendly States in the country, and Hardin County was eager to welcome more than 600 additional soldiers. I am grateful to KRDA, Brad and his team, and our many other partners who made the stationing of the V Corps at Fort Knox a reality.

Over the years, Brad increased chamber membership and made substantial innovations for the community and our Commonwealth. That record of accomplishment would be enough for anyone. But Brad was determined to bring his good humor and enthusiasm to every project. He made it a real pleasure to be part of his team. When Brad took this job, he set an ambitious goal to enhance the quality of life in Hardin County. By any objective standard, I think he succeeded.

So we are all going to miss working with Brad at the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce, alongside his colleagues and friends. I extend my best wishes for a fulfilling retirement. On behalf of the Senate, I would like to congratulate Brad on all of his success and to thank him for many years of leadership in Kentucky.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

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

To the Secretary of the Senate:

FNI16, the nomination of Rohit Chopra, of Georgia, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection for a term of five years, having been referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the committee with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

1. On the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed 12 ayes to 12 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote and that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the Resolution.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to submit for the RECORD a letter sent to the U.S. Senate from Cathy and Bill Schreiber of Wilson, WY.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with Bill. He shared with me his optimism for the future of our Nation and his belief that the “worst of the pandemic is behind us.”

In their letter, Cathy and Bill expressed support for helping those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Like many people, they felt assistance should be targeted to only those individuals truly impacted by the pandemic. They offered sincere, honest opinions to make sure the relief got to the hands of those who need it, while limiting the financial and additional debt spending will create for our Nation.

Cathy and Bill asked that I share their letter with the Senate. It expresses their confidence in the future of our Nation and their continued commitment to do everything they can to lessen the impact of the current pandemic. I ask unanimous consent that their letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

MARCH 3, 2021.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: I want to start by thanking you all for the hard work you have all performed over the last year dealing with the COVID 19 pandemic. The economic relief and stimulus bills that you have passed last March have made all the difference in the world! Without this support from the federal government I believe the country would have descended into the greatest depression the country has ever experienced. And that would negatively effect the world economy.

As indicated by the amazing rebound in the stock market, it is clear that the current economic slow down is a health problem, not a systemic issue. I live and work in a small resort in northwest Wyoming and our community was hit very hard early last year. But now the economy is strong again and the unemployment rate is less than 4% That means over 90% of the workforce is working. With the number of vaccines being administered now close to two million doses a day and vaccine availability ramping up very quickly, I believe the worst of the pandemic is behind us.

So now it is time to focus on the people who got left behind. And there are millions. I see that the Senate is reducing the income eligibility for stimulus checks and I believe that is a good thing. I hope it can focus the relief to an even higher degree to the people that need them. This will help the bill be more bipartisan which will set the tone for future legislation!

This is so important right now. It appears to me that my wife and I will qualify for the full $2,800 stimulus check based on our income from 2019. But we would not qualify based on our 2020 income. We do not need the stimulus check. The check we received last spring we gave to people we knew who had lost their jobs. We will do the same thing again if we receive a check, but we would much rather see less money borrowed by the U.S. government than giving money to the millions of workers that have not been financially effected by the pandemic. I would like you all to compromise a little and consider the following.

Treat the stimulus checks received in 2021 as ordinary income. This way folks that have made great financial gains over the last year will give some back to the U.S. treasury.

Restrict who gets checks based on net worth. Pick a number. I understand this is difficult to determine but it can be done.

Have state and local governments provide revenue statements for the last 24 months to decide which ones really needs help. The county I live in does not need any financial help in my opinion. A 5% reduction in revenue is not the end of the world. It is even healthy in my opinion.

Keep some extra “gunpowder” for some more future support for the unemployed for later this year and 2022.

Start to discuss how the government is going to pay this money back. These trillions of dollars will become a large debt after a while. If the taxpayers of this county were to pay 10 million dollars a day towards this new debt, it would take 530 years to pay it off! And that amount does not even account for any interest.

And last, please remove funding for special projects and put them in a separate piece of legislation.

I know that fundamentally all Senators basically want the same near-term result. The pandemic to be behind us and that all Americans who have been hit hard by it be helped through the next year or two. I believe the economy is going to come roaring back very soon. It will be different but strong.

I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

CATHY AND BILL SCHREIBER, Wilson, Wyoming.

P.S. Please reduce the proposed stimulus bill by $2,800 on our behalf.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1276. An act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID-19 vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1319) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 5.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 4:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1319. An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 5.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. SCHUMER).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–603. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Management Division, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Rural eConnectivity Program” (RIN0576–AC51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–604. A communication from the President of the United States, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency that...
was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995, with respect to Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–606. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Higher-Price Mortgages Loan Escrow Exemption, (RIN3661–AF65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–607. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Rule - Role of Supervisory Guidance”, (RIN3664–AF32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–608. A communication from the Deputy Division Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Emergency Broadband Benefit Program”, (RIN3669–AL16) (WC Docket No. 20–445) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–609. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Credit Loss Methodology”, (RIN3064–AF65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.


EC–611. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, six (6) reports relative to vacancies in the Office of Management and Budget, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–612. A communication from the Yeoman Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Security Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Missouri, and Mississippi”, (RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0036) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–613. 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 “Security Zone; Duluth-Superior Harbor, Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin”, (RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0039) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–614. 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 “Security Zone; Old Ford Bayou, Mississippi”, (RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0040) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–615. 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 “Emergency Safety Zone; Richmond Entrance Channel, Richmond, California”, (RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0057) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–616. 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; Power Plant Demolition; Grand River, Grand Haven, Michigan”, (RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0060) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–617. 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 “Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Old Ford Bayou, Mississippi”, (RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2018–0998) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–5. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to the impeachment process; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. BROWN for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2021.

*Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

By Mr. SANDERS for the Committee on the Budget.

*Stroman, D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee’s commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 653. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the application of Medicare secondary payer rules to certain workers’ compensation settlement agreements and qualified Medicare set-aside provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUHR (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 654. A bill to reauthorize the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 655. A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to provide that the United States district courts shall not have jurisdiction to condemn property in which a State holds any interest, for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HAYLey, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. Sasse, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BLACkEYn, Mr. CASIDY, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 656. A bill to ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLI- BRAND, Mr. WAREn, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. BRAUn):

S. 657. A bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Vietnam during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 658. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortiums for training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KING, Mr. COTTON, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 659. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate regulations relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers under the age of 21, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 660.
S. 660. A bill to require parity in the coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services provided to enrollees in private insurance plans, whether such services are provided through Federal programs or not, to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 661. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the qualifying advanced coal project credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 662. A bill to establish an interactive online dashboard to allow the public to review information for Federal grant funding related to mental health programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 663. A bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library, in accordance with section 1353 of the Revised Statutes, to accept a statue depicting Harriet Tubman from the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission of Maryland and display the statue in a prominent location in the Capitol; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Ms. HassAN, Mr. LANKFORD, and Ms. Ernst):

S. 664. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to review certain legislation in order to identify potential risks of duplication of and overlap with existing Federal programs, offices, and initiatives; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 665. A bill to allow Federal funds appropriated for kindergarten through grade 12 education to follow the student; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 666. A bill to modify the criteria used by the Corps of Engineers to dredge small ports; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 667. A bill to provide regulatory relief to alternative fuel producers and consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 668. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to permit Governors of States to regulate intrastate endangered species and intrastate threatened species, to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to permit the taking of certain black vultures and ravens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 669. A bill to provide for the appropriate balance of empowering diplomats to pursue vital national interests and mitigating security risks at United States diplomatic posts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 670. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to accelerate development of therapies across the spectrum of rare diseases and conditions and facilitate patient access to such therapies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 671. A bill to require the collection of voluntary feedback on services provided by agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Ms. Ernst, Mr. CARPER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. HAYAKAWA):

S. 672. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to save Federal funds by authorizing changes in the composition of cir- culating coins and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 673. A bill to provide a temporary safe harbor forEPIC content to collectively negotiate with dominant online platforms regarding the terms on which content may be distributed; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. SMITH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CARDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. ROSEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 674. A bill to support public health infra- structure; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARPER, Ms. WINEK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mrs. SHAHAN):

S. 675. A bill to provide for the reporting to State and local law enforcement authorities of cases in which the national instant criminal background check system indicates that a firearm has been sought to be acquired by a prohibited person, so that authorities may pursue criminal charges under State law, and to ensure that the Department of Justice reports to Congress on prosecutions secured against prohibited persons who attempt to acquire a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 676. A bill to address foreign threats to higher education in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Ms. Ernst, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. HAGERY):

S. 677. A bill to require annual reports on allied contributions to the common defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 678. A bill to declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MURRAY, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 679. A bill to authorize additional monies to the Public Housing Capital Fund of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHTutz (for himself and Mrs. SHAHAN):

S. 680. A bill to award grants to States to establish or improve, and carry out, Seal of Biliteracy programs for high-level student proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in both English and a second language; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. ROSEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. PEYTON, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 681. A bill to report data on COVID-19 immigration detention facilities and local correctional facilities that contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BOOKMAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SINEMA, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. COONS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 682. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish a vaccine for COVID-19 to certain enrollees not enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. MARKLEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 683. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a carbon fee to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 684. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out an active transportation investment program to make grants to eligible applicants to build safe and connected options for bicycles and walkers within and between communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 685. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a carbon fee to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 686. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to address the teacher and school leader shortage in early childhood, elementary, and secondary education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. HAGERTY, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 687. A bill to advance a policy for managed strategic competition with the People’s Republic of China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 688. A bill to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):
S. 691. A bill to provide for congressional review of the imposition of duties and other trade measures by the executive branch, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MORALES, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 692. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the ‘Hello Girls’; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 693. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the halt in pension payments for Members of Congress sentenced to prison; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. HINCHI, Ms. MUKOWSKY, Mr. MERRICK, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 694. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide grants for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy improvements at public school facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 695. A bill to improve the Safe Routes to School Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 696. A bill to amend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to allow counties to use certain funds to provide for broadband telecommunications services and other technologies; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 697. A resolution recognizing the centennial of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 419

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 419, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a full annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers.

S. 425

At the request of Mr. MARKET, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 425, a bill to require States to establish complete streets programs, and for other purposes.

S. 437

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 437, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to concede exhumation of bodies interred by the United States in foreign cemeteries to family members.

S. 447

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 447, a bill to establish the Development of American Research Institutes for Cancer program in the National Cancer Institute.

S. 475

At the request of Mr. MARKET, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 475, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to designate Juneteenth National Independence Day as a legal public holiday.

S. 584

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 584, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of medical nutrition therapy services for individuals with eating disorders under the Medicare program.

S. 595

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 595, a bill to prohibit the use of funds for the research and development, production, or deployment of the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile and its associated nuclear warhead.

S. 623

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to make daylight saving time permanent, and for other purposes.

S. 628

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 628, a bill to increase access to agency guidance documents.

S. 631

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 631, a bill to direct the Secretary
of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, to conduct or support research on the mental health consequences of SARS–CoV–2 or COVID–19, and for other purposes.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 635, a bill to reauthorize The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor and the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

S. 644

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as co-sponsors of S. 644, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State authority to waive for certain facilities the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 641

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a co-sponsor of S. Res. 95, a resolution recognizing the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on women and girls globally.

S. Res. 95

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Ms. FISCHER), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Cramer) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 96, a resolution designating March 8 through March 14, 2021, as “Women of the Aviation Workforce Week”.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 685. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a carbon fee to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The request being without objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 685

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 “America’s Clean Future Fund Act”.

SEC. 2. CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCE CORPORATION.

(a) Establishment.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the executive branch an independent agency, to be known as the “Climate Change Finance Corporation” (referred to in this section as the “C2FC”), which shall finance clean energy and climate change resiliency activities in accordance with this section.

(2) Mission.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The mission of the C2FC is to combat climate change by building resilience among communities facing harmful impacts of climate change and supporting a dramatic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 100 percent, based on 2018 levels; and by 2050, a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 100 percent, based on 2018 levels.

(B) ACTIVITIES.—The C2FC shall carry out the mission described in subparagraph (A) by—

(i) financing investments in clean energy and transportation, resiliency, and infrastructure;

(ii) using Federal investment to encourage the infusion of private capital and investment into the clean energy and resilient infrastructure sectors, while creating new workforce opportunities; and

(iii) providing financing in cases where private capital cannot be leveraged, while minimizing competition with private investors.

(c) EXERCISE OF POWERS.—Except as otherwise provided expressly by law, all Federal laws dealing with public or Federal contracts, property, works, officers, employees, budgets, or funds, including the provisions of chapters 5 and 7 of title 5, United States Code, shall apply to the exercise of the powers of the C2FC.

(d) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The management of the C2FC shall be vested in a Board of Directors (referred to in this subsection as the “Board”) consisting of 7 members, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, from among the individuals appointed to the Board under paragraph (1).

(B) TERM.—An individual—

(i) shall serve as Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the Board for a 3-year term; and

(ii) may be renominated for the position until the end of the term of that individual on the Board under paragraph (3)(C) expires.

(3) BOARD MEMBERS.—

(A) CITIZENSHIP REQUIRED.—Each member of the Board shall be an individual who is a citizen of the United States.

(B) REPRESENTATION.—The members of the Board shall fairly represent agricultural, educational, research, industrial, nongovernmental, labor, and commercial interests throughout the United States.

(C) TERM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, each member of the Board—

(I) shall be appointed for a term of 6 years; and

(II) may be reappointed for 1 additional term.

(2) INITIAL STAGGERED TERMS.—Of the members first appointed to the Board—

(I) 2 shall each be appointed for a term of 2 years; and

(III) 2 shall each be appointed for a term of 4 years; and

(III) 2 shall each be appointed for a term of 6 years.

(e) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Board are appointed, the Board shall hold an initial meeting.

(f) WORKING GROUPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall create, operate, and incorporate feedback from the following working groups (each referred to in this section as a “working group”):

(A) An environmental justice working group.

(B) A worker and community transition assistance working group.

(C) A research and innovation working group.

(2) WORKING GROUP MEMBERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each working group shall—

(i) be chaired by a Board member; and

(ii) comprise not less than 10 and not more than 20 individuals, who shall be experts, members of directly impacted communities relating to the subject matter of the working group, and other relevant stakeholders.

(D) DIVERSITY.—Individuals on a working group shall, to the maximum extent practicable, represent—

(i) a diverse array of interests related to the subject matter of the working group; and

(ii) diverse geographical, racial, religious, gender, educational, age, disability, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

(g) MEETINGS.—Each working group shall meet not less than 2 times per year.

(h) COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each working group shall create and engage in meaningful community stakeholder involvement, activities including through regular community engagement activities, for purposes of—

(i) maintaining up-to-date situational awareness about the needs of relevant communities and stakeholders;

(ii) using the feedback obtained through these opportunities to inform the advice of the working group to the Board; and

(iii) providing a mechanism for direct and substantial community feedback relating to the investment plan and the funding decisions of the C2FC.

(B) PUBLIC AWARENESS.—Each working group shall inform the public about C2FC investment by engaging in public awareness campaigns, which shall target relevant communities through electronic media, newspapers, radio, direct mailings, canvassing, or other outreach methods suited for the relevant community.

(C) BROAD PARTICIPATION.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), each working group shall, to the maximum extent practicable, maximize participation from a broad group of stakeholders, including by holding multiple meetings with significant advance notice and holding meetings at different times and in multiple languages.

(D) TASKS.—Each working group shall, as it relates to the subject matter of the working group—

(i) advise and provide general input to the Board regarding loans and grants provided by the C2FC; and

(ii) consult with and, based on the activities described in paragraph (4), provide recommendations to the Board in the development of and updates to the investment plan of the C2FC.

(i) INVESTMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board, in consultation with each working group described in subsection (c)(1), shall develop an investment plan (referred to in this subsection as the “investment plan”) for the C2FC in accordance with this subsection.

(2) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Board shall establish an advisory committee, to be known as the “C2FC Advisory Committee” (referred to in this subsection as the “advisory committee”), which shall assist the Board in the development of and updates to the investment plan of the C2FC.
(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the investment plan are—

(A) to ensure that investments made by the C2FC—

(i) are equitable and reach the prioritized communities described in subsection (e)(2);

(ii) are effective at progressing towards the goals described in subsection (a)(2)(A)(i);

(iii) include an emphasis on research in clean technologies and resilience; and

(iv) are transparent to the public; and

(B) to provide methods and standards by which the Board and the working groups described in subsection (c)(1) shall choose projects in which to invest.

(3) PRIORITIZED COMMUNITY FUNDs.—The initial investment plan shall require that, of the total amount of grant funds provided under subsection (e)(3)(A) each year, not less than 40 percent shall be used to benefit communities described in subsection (e)(2)(A).

(4) INVESTMENT PLAN UPDATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board, in consultation with each working group described in subsection (c)(1), shall update the investment plan not later than December 31, 2023, and every 4 years thereafter, including by taking into account—

(i) the current needs of the prioritized communities described in subsection (e)(2);

(ii) the effectiveness of the previous investment plan in addressing the needs of those communities;

(iii) the state of relevant research and technology;

(iv) the resiliency needs of local communities;

(v) the goals described in subsection (a)(2)(A)(i); and

(vi) the 2 most recent program reviews conducted under subsection (f).

(B) EFFECTIVENESS.—An investment plan shall include an effect until the date on which the Board approves an updated investment plan.

(C) PUBLIC INPUT.—In updating the investment plan, the Board and the working groups described in subsection (c)(1) shall—

(i) engage stakeholders and the public in a public comment and feedback process; and

(ii) ensure that the prioritized communities described in subsection (e)(2) have access to participate in that process.

(D) PUBLIC UPDATES.—The Board shall make public available on a quarterly basis information relating to the expenditure of funds under the investment plan.

(VI) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) COMMUNITY OF COLOR.—The term ‘‘community of color’’ means a geographically distinct area in which the population of any of the following categories of individuals is higher than the average population of that category for the State in which the community is located:

(i) Black.

(ii) African American.

(iii) Other non-White race.

(iv) Asian.

(VII) COMMUNITY PRIORITIZATION.—In providing financial and other assistance under paragraph (3), the C2FC shall give priority to, as determined by the C2FC—

(A) environmental justice communities, communities with populations of color, communities of color, indigenous communities, and low-income communities that—

(i) experience a disproportionate burden of the negative human health and environmental impacts of pollution or other environmental hazards, such as natural disasters; or

(ii) may not have access to public information and opportunities for meaningful public participation relating to human health and environmental planning, regulations, and enforcement;

(B) deindustrialized communities or communities with significant local economic reliance on carbon-intensive industries;

(C) low-income communities at risk of impacts of natural disasters or sea level rise exacerbated by climate change; and

(D) public or nonprofit entities that serve dislocated workers, veterans, or individuals with a barrier to employment; and

(E) communities minimal or no investment in the approved practices and projects described in paragraph (3)(A)(i).

(3) GRANTS, LOAN GUARANTEES, AND OTHER INVESTMENT TOOLS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The C2FC—

(i) shall provide grants to eligible entities and loan guarantees to eligible lenders issuing loans to eligible borrowers for approved practices and projects relating to climate change mitigation and resilience measures including—

(I) energy efficiency upgrades to infrastructure;

(II) electric, hydrogen, and clean transportation projects and deployment, including programs—

(aa) to purchase personal vehicles, commercial vehicles, and clean transportation fleets and school bus fleets;

(bb) to deploy electric vehicle charging and hydrogen infrastructure; and

(cc) to deploy and employ low carbon sustainable aviation fuels;

(III) clean energy and vehicle manufacturing research, demonstrations, and deployment;

(IV) battery storage research, demonstrations, and deployment;

(V) development or purchase of equipment for practices described in section 8; and

(VI) development and deployment of clean energy and clean technologies, with a focus on—

(aa) carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration, bioenergy with carbon capture and sequestration, direct air capture, and infrastructure associated with those processes, including construction of capture pipelines for the transportation of anthropogenic carbon dioxide;

(bb) energy storage and grid modernization;

(cc) geothermal energy;

(dd) commercial and residential solar; and

(ee) other energy;

(ff) any other clean technology use or development, as determined by the Board;

(VII) measures that anticipate and prepare for climate change impacts, and reduce risks and enhance resilience to sea level rise, extreme weather events, heat island impacts, and other climate change impacts, including by—

(aa) building resilient energy, water, and transportation infrastructure;

(bb) providing weatherization assistance for low-income households;

(cc) increasing the resilience of the agriculture sector; and

(dd) natural infrastructure research, demonstrations, and deployment; and

(ii) may implement other investment tools and products approved by the Board, pursuant to subparagraph (C), to achieve the mission of the C2FC described in subsection (a)(2).

(B) LOAN GUARANTEES.—In providing loan guarantees under subparagraph (A), the C2FC shall cooperate with eligible lenders through agreements to participate on a deferred guaranteed basis.

(C) LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION IN GUARANTEED LOANS.—In providing a loan guarantee under subparagraph (A), the C2FC shall guarantee 75 percent of the balance of the financing outstanding at the time of disbursement of the loan.

(D) INTEREST RATES.—Notwithstanding the provisions of the constitution of any State or the laws of any State limiting the rate or amount of interest that may be charged, taken, received, or reserved, the maximum rate of interest on any financing made on a deferred basis under this subsection shall not exceed a rate prescribed by the C2FC.

(E) GUARANTEE FEES.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each loan guaranteed under this subsection (other than
a loan that is repayable in 1 year or less), the C2FC shall collect a guarantee fee, which shall be payable by the eligible lender, and may be charged to the eligible borrower in accordance with this subsection.

(B) Borrower Charges.—A guarantee fee described in subclause (I) charged to an eligible borrower shall not—

(1) exceed 2 percent of the deferred participation share of a total loan amount that is equal to or less than $150,000;

(2) exceed 3 percent of the deferred participation share of a total loan amount that is greater than $150,000 but less than $700,000; or

(3) exceed 3.5 percent of the deferred participation share of a total loan amount that is equal to or greater than $700,000.

(C) Other Investment Tools and Products.—

(1) In General.—The Board may, based on market needs, develop and implement any other investment tool or product necessary to achieve the mission of the C2FC described in subsection (a)(2) and the deployment of projects described in subparagraph (A)(i), including offering—

(I) warehousing and aggregation credit facilities;

(II) zero interest loans;

(III) credit enhancements; and

(IV) construction guarantees.

(2) State and Local Green Banks.—The Board shall provide—

(I) funds to United States Green Bank Institutions as necessary to finance projects that are best served by those entities; and

(II) technical assistance as necessary to States and localities seeking to establish green banks.

(D) Wage Rate Requirements.—

(A) In General.—All laborers and mechanics employed by eligible entities and eligible borrowers on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by the activities of the C2FC under this section shall be paid at wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a similar character in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subsection IV of chapter 31 of title 42, United States Code (commonly known as the “Davis-Bacon Act”).

(B) Authority.—With respect to the labor standards prescribed in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Labor shall have the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1960 (84 Stat. 1327; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

(E) Buy America Requirements.—

(A) In General.—All iron, steel, and manufactured goods used for projects under this section shall be produced in the United States.

(B) Waiver.—The Board may waive the requirement in subparagraph (A) if the Board finds that—

(i) enforcing the requirement would be inconsistent with the public interest;

(ii) the iron, steel, and manufactured goods produced in the United States are not produced in a sufficient and reasonably available amount or are not of a satisfactory quality; or

(iii) enforcing the requirement will increase the overall cost of the project by more than 25 percent.

(F) Program Review and Report.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Board shall—

(1) conduct a review of the activities of the C2FC and identify projects and funding opportunities that were a part of the current investment plan;

(2) submit to Congress and make publicly available a report that—

(A) describes the projects and funding opportunities that have been most successful in progressing towards the mission described in subsection (a)(2) during the time period covered by the report;

(B) includes recommendations on the clean energy and resiliency projects that should be prioritized in forthcoming years to achieve that mission;

(C) quantifies the total amount and percentage of funding given to prioritized communities described in subsection (e)(2); and

(D) identifies barriers that disadvantaged groups to receive C2FC funding and provides recommendations to address those barriers.

(G) Initial Capitalization.—There is appropriated to the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $7,500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 3. CARBON FEE.

(a) In General.—Chapter 38 of subtitle D of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

Subchapter E—Carbon Fee

Sec. 4691. Definitions.

Sec. 4692. Carbon fee.

Sec. 4693. Fees on noncovered fuel emissions.

Sec. 4694. Refunds for carbon capture, sequestration, and utilization.

Sec. 4695. Border adjustments.

SEC. 4691. Definitions.

For purposes of this subchapter:

(1) Administrator.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) Carbon Dioxide Equivalent or CO2-e.—The term ‘carbon dioxide equivalent’ or ‘CO2-e’ means the number of metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions with the same global warming potential over a 100-year period as a given amount of carbon dioxide.

(3) Carbon-Intensive Product.—The term ‘carbon-intensive product’ means—

(A) iron, steel, steel mill products (including pipe and tube), aluminum, cement, glass (including flat, container, and specialty glass and fiberglass), pulp, paper, chemicals, or industrial ceramics, and

(B) any mature product which the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Energy, determines is energy-intensive and trade-exposed (with the exception of any covered fuel).

(4) Covered Entity.—The term ‘covered entity’ means—

(A) in the case of crude oil—

(i) any operator of a United States refinery (as described in subsection (d)(1) of section 4611), and

(ii) any person entering such product into the United States for consumption, use, or warehousing (as described in subsection (d)(2) of such section);

(B) in the case of a—

(i) any producer subject to the tax under section 4211, and

(ii) any importer of coal into the United States;

(C) in the case of natural gas—

(i) any entity which produces natural gas (as defined in section 613A(e)(2)) from a well located in the United States, and

(ii) any importer of natural gas into the United States;

(D) in the case of any noncovered fuel emissions, the entity which is the source of such emissions, provided that the total amount of carbon dioxide or methane emitted by such entity for the preceding year (as determined under section 4692(e)(4)) was not less than 25,000 metric tons, and

(E) any entity or class of entities which, as determined by the Secretary, is transporting, selling, or otherwise using a covered fuel in a manner which emits a greenhouse gas into the atmosphere and which has not been covered by the carbon fee, the fee on noncovered fuel emissions, or the carbon border fee adjustment.

(5) Covered Fuel.—The term ‘covered fuel’ means crude oil, natural gas, coal, or any other product derived from crude oil, natural gas, or coal which shall be used so as to emit greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

(6) Greenhouse Gas.—The term ‘greenhouse gas’ means—

(A) has the meaning given such term in section 901 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17321), and

(B) includes any other gases identified by rule of the Administrator.

(7) Greenhouse Gas Content.—The term ‘greenhouse gas content’ means the amount of greenhouse gases, expressed in metric tons of CO2-e, which would be emitted to the atmosphere by the use, production, processing, or transport of a covered fuel.

(8) Noncovered Fuel Emission.—The term ‘noncovered fuel emission’ means any carbon dioxide or methane emitted as a result of the production, processing, or transport of any product or material within the energy or industrial sectors.

(a) including any fugitive or process emissions associated with the production, processing, or transport of a covered fuel, and

(b) excluding any emissions from the combustion or use of a covered fuel.

(9) Qualified Carbon Oxide.—The term ‘qualified carbon oxide’ has the meaning given the term in section 45Q(c).

(10) United States.—The term ‘United States’ shall be treated as including each possession of the United States (including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

SEC. 4692. CARBON FEE.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Applicable Period.—The term ‘applicable period’ means, with respect to any determination made by the Secretary under subsection (e)(3) for any calendar year, the period—

(A) beginning on January 1, 2023, and

(B) ending on December 31 of the preceding calendar year.

(2) Cumulative Emissions.—The term ‘cumulative emissions’ means an amount equal to the sum of all noncovered fuel emissions resulting from the use of covered fuels and any noncovered fuel emissions for all years during the applicable period.

(3) Cumulative Emissions Target.—The term ‘cumulative emissions target’ means an amount equal to the sum of all noncovered fuel emissions for all years during the applicable period.

(4) Emissions Target.—The term ‘emissions target’ means the target for greenhouse gas emissions during a calendar year as determined under subsection (e)(1).

(b) Carbon Fee.—During any calendar year that begins after December 31, 2022, there is imposed a carbon fee on any covered entity’s use, sale, or transfer of any covered fuel.

(c) Amount of the Carbon Fee.—The carbon fee imposed by this section is an amount equal to—

(1) the greenhouse gas content of the covered fuel, multiplied by

(2) the carbon fee rate, as determined under subsection (d).

(d) Carbon Fee Rate.—The carbon fee rate shall be determined in accordance with the following:
"(1) IN GENERAL.—The carbon fee rate, with respect to any use, sale, or transfer during a calendar year, shall be—

(A) in the case of calendar year 2023, $25, and

(B) except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), in the case of any calendar year after 2023, the amount equal to the sum of—

(i) the amount under subparagraph (A), plus

(ii) in the case of calendar year 2024, $40, and

(iii) in the case of any calendar year after 2024, the amount in effect under this clause for the preceding calendar year, plus $10.

(2) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any calendar year after 2023, the amount determined under paragraph (1)(B)(ii)(II) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

(i) that dollar amount, multiplied by

(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for that calendar year, determined by substituting ‘2022’ for ‘2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

(B) Rounding.—If any increase determined under subparagraph (A) is not a multiple of $1, such increase shall be rounded up to the next whole dollar amount.

(3) ADJUSTMENT OF CARBON FEE RATE.—

(A) INCREASE IN RATE FOLLOWING MISSED CUMULATIVE EMISSIONS TARGET.—In the case of any calendar year following a determination by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (e)(3) that the cumulative emissions for the preceding calendar year exceeded the cumulative emissions target for such year, paragraph (1)(B)(ii)(II) shall be applied—

(i) in the case of calendar years 2026 through 2030, by substituting ‘$15’ for ‘$10’,

(ii) in the case of calendar years 2031 through 2040, by substituting ‘$20’ for ‘$10’, and

(iii) in the case of any calendar year beginning after 2040, by substituting ‘$25’ for ‘$10’.

(B) CESSATION OF RATE INCREASE FOLLOWING ACHIEVEMENT OF CUMULATIVE EMISSIONS TARGET.—In the case of any year following a determination by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (e)(3) that—

(i) the average annual emissions of greenhouse gases from covered entities over the preceding 3-year period are not more than 10 percent greater than greenhouse gas emissions during the year 2018, and

(ii) the cumulative emissions did not exceed the cumulative emissions target, paragraph (1)(B)(ii)(II) shall be applied by substituting ‘$0’ for ‘$10’.

(C) METHODOLOGY.—With respect to any year, the annual greenhouse gas emissions and cumulative emissions described in subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be determined using the methodology required under subsection (e)(4).

(4) EMISSIONS TARGETS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(A) REFERENCE YEAR.—For purposes of subparagraph (B), the cumulative emissions target for any year shall be the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that is equal to—

(i) for calendar years 2023 and 2024, the applicable percentage of the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions from the use of any covered fuel during calendar year 2018, and

(ii) for calendar year 2025 and each calendar year thereafter, the applicable percentage of the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions from the use of any covered fuel during calendar year 2018.

(B) METHODOLOGY.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), with respect to determining the applicable percentage of greenhouse gas emissions from the use of any covered fuel and noncovered fuel emissions during calendar year 2018, the Administrator shall use such methods as are determined appropriate, provided that such methods are, to the greatest extent practicable, comparable to the methods established under paragraph (2).

(ii) in the case of calendar year 2024, 81 percent.

(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—

(A) 2023 THROUGH 2035.—In the case of calendar years 2023 through 2035, the applicable percentage shall be determined as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Applicable percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
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<td>2024</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2033</td>
<td>1 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>2034</td>
<td>0 percent</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(B) 2036 THROUGH 2050.—In the case of calendar years 2036 through 2050, the applicable percentage shall be equal to—

(i) the applicable percentage for the preceding year, minus

(ii) 2 percentage points.

(C) AFTER 2050.—In the case of any calendar year before 2051, the applicable percentage shall be equal to 10 percent.

(3) EMISSIONS REPORTING AND DETERMINATION.—

(A) REPORTING.—Not later than September 30, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall make available to the public a report on—

(i) the cumulative emissions with respect to the preceding calendar year, and

(ii) any other relevant information, as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(B) DETERMINATIONS.—Not later than September 30, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary and as part of the report described in subparagraph (A), shall determine whether cumulative emissions with respect to the preceding calendar year exceeded the cumulative emissions target with respect to such year.

(4) EMISSIONS ACCOUNTING METHODOLOGY.—

(A) DEFINITIONS.—Not later than January 1, 2023, the Administrator shall prescribe rules for greenhouse gas accounting for covered entities for purposes of this subsection, which shall—

(i) to the greatest extent practicable, employ existing data collection methodologies and greenhouse gas accounting practices,

(ii) ensure that the method of accounting—

(I) applies to—

(aa) all greenhouse gas emissions from covered fuels and all noncovered fuel emissions, and

(bb) all covered entities,

(ii) excludes—

(aa) any greenhouse gas emissions which are not described item (aa) of subclause (I), and

(bb) any entities which are not described item (bb) of such subclause, and

(iii) appropriately accounts for—

(aa) qualified carbon oxide which is captured and disposed or used in a manner described in this subsection,

(bb) nonmitting uses of covered fuels, as described in subsection (f),

(iii) subject to such penalties as are determined appropriate, require any covered entity to report, not later than April 1 of each calendar year—

(I) the total greenhouse gas content of any covered fuels used, sold, or transferred by such covered entity during the preceding calendar year, and

(II) the total noncovered fuel emissions of the covered entity during the preceding calendar year, and

(iv) require any information reported pursuant to clause (i) to be certified by a third-party entity that, subject to such process as is determined appropriate by the Administrator, has been certified by the Administrator with respect to qualifications, independence, and reliability of such entity.

(B) GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING PROGRAM.—For purposes of establishing the rules described in subparagraph (A), the Administrator may elect to modify the activities of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program to satisfy the requirements described in clauses (i) through (iv) of such subparagraph.

(v) REVISIONS.—With respect to any determination made by the Administrator as to the amount of greenhouse gas emissions for any calendar year before 2024, any subsequent revision by the Administrator with respect to such amount shall apply for purposes of the fee imposed under subsection (b) for any calendar years beginning after such revision.

(f) EXEMPTION AND REFUND.—The Secretary shall prescribe such rules as are necessary to ensure the carbon fee imposed by this section is not imposed with respect to greenhouse gas emissions for a nonmitting use, including rules providing for the refund of any carbon fee paid under this section with respect to such use.

(g) ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall prescribe such regulations, and other guidance, to assess and collect the carbon fee imposed by this section, including—

(1) the identification of covered entities that are liable for payment of a fee under this section or section 4693,

(2) as may be necessary or convenient, rules for distinguishing between different types of covered entities,

(3) as may be necessary or convenient, rules for distinguishing between the greenhouse gas emissions of a covered entity and the greenhouse gas emissions that are attributed to the covered entity but not directly emitted by the covered entity,

(4) requirements for the quarterly payment of such fees,

(5) rules to ensure that the carbon fee under this section, the fee on noncovered fuel emissions under section 4693, or the carbon fee adjustment is not imposed on an emission from covered fuel or noncovered fuel emission more than once.

SEC. 4693. FEE ON NONCOVERED FUEL EMISSIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—During any calendar year that begins after December 31, 2024, there is imposed a fee on a covered entity for any noncovered fuel emissions which occur during the calendar year.

(b) AMOUNT.—The fee to be paid under section (a) by the covered entity which is the source of the emissions described in that subsection shall be an amount equal to—

(1) the total amount, in metric tons of CO₂-e, of emitted greenhouse gases, multiplied by

(2) an amount equal to the carbon fee rate in effect under section 4693(d) for the calendar year of such emission.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall prescribe such regulations, and other guidance, to assess and collect the carbon fee imposed by this section, including regulations describing the requirements for the quarterly payment of such fees.

SEC. 4694. REFUNDS FOR CARBON CAPTURE, SEQUESTRATION, AND UTILIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—
proved by the Secretary pursuant to sub-
section (2).

(2) ELECTION.—If the person described in paragraph (1) makes an election under this paragraph in such time and manner as the Secretary may prescribe by regulations, the credit attributable to any fees imposed under this sub-
section shall be allowed to the use, sale, or transfer of such fuel.

(c) IMPORTS.—

(1) CARBON-INTENSIVE PRODUCTS.—

(A) IMPORT EQUVALENCY FEE.—In the case of any carbon-intensive product im-
ported into the United States, there is im-
posed an equivalency fee on the person im-
porting such product to an amount equal to
the cost of such product that would be attri-
butable to any fees imposed under this sub-
chapter related to the manufacturing of such pro-
duct and the fees imposed on the foreign pro-
ducers producing such product were subject to
such fees (as determined under regula-
tions established by the Secretary).

(B) REDUCTION IN FEE.—The amount of
the equivalency fee under subparagraph (A) shall be reduced by the amount, if any, of any fees imposed on the carbon-intensive product by the for-

(c) APPLIED PERCENTAGE.—For pur-
poses of this paragraph, the applicable per-
centage shall be equal to—

"(1) in the case of the first 10 fiscal years be-
ginning after September 30, 2023, an amount
equal to—

(1) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—In general,
for purposes of this section, the term
"eligible individual" means, with respect to
any quarter, any natural living person—

(b) PAYMENTS FOR CARBON CAPTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any facil-
ity for which carbon capture equipment has
been placed in service, the Secretary shall
make payments in the same manner as if such facility were subject to an over-
payment of the fee imposed by section 4692 or 4693.

(2) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The payment determined under this subsection shall be an amount equal to—

"(A) the metric tons of qualified carbon oxide captured and disposed of, used, or uti-
лизed by such facility; or

"(B) the carbon fee rate during the year in
which the fee was imposed by section 4692 on the covered fuel to which such carbon oxide relates, or

"(ii) in the case of a direct air capture fa-
cility (as defined in section 45Q(e)(1)), the carbon fee rate during the year in which a fee on a
certified carbon oxide was captured and dis-
pensed of, used, or utilized.

"(1) utilization in a manner described in
clause (i) or (ii) of section 45Q(f)(2)(A), or

"(2) any other use which ensures minimal leakage or escape of such carbon oxide.

(d) EXCEPTION.—In the case of any facility which
is owned by an entity that is deter-

(1) in violation of any applicable air
or water quality regulations, or

(2) with respect to any environmental jus-
tice community (as defined in section
2(d)(1)(D) of the America’s Clean Future
Act), creating health or environmental harm,
such facility shall not be eligible for any
payment under this section during the period of such harm.

"SEC. 4695. BORDER ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The fees imposed by, and refunds allowed under, this section shall be referred to as the ‘carbon border fee ad-
justment’.

(b) EXPORTS.—

(1) CARBON-INTENSIVE PRODUCTS.—In the case of any carbon-intensive product which is
exported from the United States, the Secretary shall pay to the person exporting such product a refund equal to the amount of the cost of such product attributable to any fees imposed under this subchapter related to the manufac-
turing of such product (as determined under regulations established by the Secretary).

(2) COVERED FUELS.—In the case of any covered fuel which is exported from the
United States, the Secretary shall pay to the person exporting such fuel a refund equal to
the amount of the cost of such fuel attribut-
able to any fees imposed under this sub-
chapter related to the use, sale, or transfer of such fuel.

"(A) disposed of by such person in secure
geological storage, as described in section
45Q(f)(1), or

"(B) used in a manner which has been ap-
proved by the Secretary pursuant to sub-
section (2).

"(1) CARBON-INTENSIVE PRODUCTS.—

(A) IMPORT EQUVALENCY FEE.—In the case of any carbon-intensive product im-
ported into the United States, there is im-
posed an equivalency fee on the person im-
porting such product to an amount equal to
the cost of such product that would be attri-
butable to any fees imposed under this sub-
chapter related to the manufacturing of such pro-
duct and the fees imposed on the foreign pro-
ducers producing such product were subject to
such fees (as determined under regula-
tions established by the Secretary).

(B) REDUCTION IN FEE.—The amount of
the equivalency fee under subparagraph (A) shall be reduced by the amount, if any, of any fees imposed on the carbon-intensive product by the for-

(3) TREATMENT OF ALTERNATIVE POLICIES AS FEES.—Under regulations established by the Secretary, foreign policies that have sub-
stantially the same economic effect as reducing emis-
sions of greenhouse gases as fees shall be treated as fees for purposes of subsections (b) and (c).

(e) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-
sult with the Administrator, the Secretary of
Commerce, and the Secretary of Energy in
establishing rules and regulations im-
plementing the purposes of this section.

"(2) TREATIES.—The Secretary, in con-

on the covered fuel by the foreign nation or
governmental units from which such product was imported.

(2) COVERED FUELS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any cov-

"(1) any amounts refunded or paid under
sections 4692(d), 4694, and 4695(b), and

(2) for each of the first 18 fiscal years be-
ginning after September 30, 2023, an amount
equal to the quotient of—

"(A) $100,000,000,000, and

"(B) 18.

"(c) EXPENDITURES.—For each fiscal year, amounts in the Trust Fund shall be appor-
tioned as follows:

"(1) 75 percent of those amounts, minus

"(ii) the amount determined under sub-
paragraph (B) for such fiscal year, and

"(ii) for any fiscal year beginning after the period described in clause (i), the applicable percentage of such amounts.

(2) AGRICULTURAL DECARBONIZATION TRANSITION PAYMENTS.—For the purposes
described in section 6 of the America’s Clean Future Fund Act, for each of the first 10 fis-
cal years beginning after September 30, 2023, an amount equal to 7 percent of the amount
determined annually under subparagraph (A)(i).

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes
described in section 2 of the America’s Clean
Future Fund Act, the applicable percentage
of such amounts.

"(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For pur-
poses of this paragraph, the applicable per-
centage shall be equal to—

"(1) for the first fiscal year beginning after the period described in subparagraph (A)(i), 76 percent;

"(ii) for each of the first 3 fiscal years sub-
sequent to the period described in clause (i), the applicable percentage for the preceding fiscal year increased by 1 percentage point, and

"(ii) for any fiscal year subsequent to the period described in clause (ii), 80 percent.

"(2) CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCE CORPORA-
TIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes
described in section 7 of the America’s Clean
Future Fund Act, the applicable percentage
of such amounts.

"(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For pur-
poses of this paragraph, the applicable per-
centage shall be equal to—

"(1) for each of the first 10 fiscal years be-
ginning after the period described in sub-
section (e) of such section, 15 percent.

"(ii) for each of the first 4 fiscal years sub-
sequent to the period described in clause (i), the applicable percentage for the preceding fiscal year increased by 1 percentage point, and

"(iii) for any fiscal year subsequent to the period described in clause (ii), 30 percent.

"(3) TRANSITION ASSISTANCE FOR IMPACTED
COMMUNITIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes
described in section 6 of the America’s Clean
Future Fund Act, the applicable percentage
of such amounts.

"(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For pur-
poses of this paragraph, the applicable per-
centage shall be equal to—

"(1) for each of the first 10 fiscal years be-
ginning after September 30, 2023, 10 percent,

"(ii) in any budgetary year, the percentage shall be equal to—

"(i) for each of the first 10 fiscal years be-
ginning after September 30, 2023, an amount
equal to—

"(1) any amounts refunded or paid under
sections 4692(d), 4694, and 4695(b), and

"(B) TRANSFERS TO AMERICA’S CLEAN FU-
TURE FUND.—

"(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is estab-
lished in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the America’s Clean Fund (referred to in this section as the ‘Trust Fund’), con-
sisting of such amounts as are appropriated to
the Trust Fund under subsection (b).

"(B) TRANSFERS TO AMERICA’S CLEAN FU-
TURE FUND.—

"(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is estab-
lished in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the America’s Clean Fund (referred to in this section as the ‘Trust Fund’), cons-
ing of such amounts as are appropriated to
the Trust Fund under subsection (b).

"(B) TRANSFERS TO AMERICA’S CLEAN FU-
TURE FUND.—

"(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is estab-
lished in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the America’s Clean Fund (referred to in this section as the ‘Trust Fund’), cons-

(f) **FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND FEDERAL ASSISTED PROGRAMS.**—The carbon fee rebate payment received by any eligible individual shall not be taken into account as income and shall not be taken into account as resources for purposes of determining the eligibility of such individual or any other individual for benefits or assistance, or the amount of such individual’s or an eligible individual’s benefits or assistance under any Federal program or under any State or local program financed in whole or in part with Federal funds.

(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ELIGIBLE LAND.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘‘eligible land’’ means land in the United States—

(i) that is—

(II) nonindustrial private forest land (as defined in section 5(c) of the Cooperative Forest Fire Protection Assistance Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 2103a(c)).

(B) INCLUSION OF TRIBAL LAND.—The term ‘‘eligible land’’ includes land described in subparagraph (A) that is Indian land (as defined in section 2601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501)).

(2) **ELIGIBLE PRODUCER.**—The term ‘‘eligible producer’’ means an individual or legal entity that—

(A) is an owner, operator, or tenant of eligible land; or

(B) has control over the eligible land;

(C) is actively engaged in farming, ranching, or forestry on the eligible land, as determined by the Secretary;

(D) bears the risk of loss of the farming, ranching, or forestry on the eligible land; and

(E) has the ability to enter into an agreement with the Secretary to carry out qualifying practices described in subsection (c)(2) under the program.

(3) **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION.**—The term ‘‘greenhouse gas emissions reduction’’ means the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as a result of the adoption of qualifying practices described in subsection (c)(2), as compared to a historical baseline.

(h) **HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED.**—The term ‘‘historically underserved’’, with respect to an eligible producer, means that the eligible producer—

(A) is American Indian or Alaskan Native; or

(B) is Asian or Asian American; or

(C) is Black or African American; or

(D) is Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; or

(E) is Hispanic; or

(F) is disabled; or

(G) is female; or

(H) is new to farming, ranching, or forestry, as determined by the Secretary; or

(I) has not operated a farm, ranch, or forestry operation; or

(J) is new to farming, ranching, or forestry, as determined by the Secretary; or

(K) is an owner, operator, or tenant of a limited resource farming, ranching, or forestry operation or has a household income not greater than the national poverty level.

(i) **PROGRAM.**—The term ‘‘program’’ means the program established under subsection (c)(1).

(2) **Secretary.**—The term ‘‘Secretary’’ means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(c) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall establish a program to provide payments to eligible producers that will assist with the transition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the adoption of qualifying practices described in paragraph (2).

(2) **QUALIFYING PRACTICES.**—The term ‘‘eligible for payments under the program, a practice shall be—
(i) any payments received, or to be received, by the applicable eligible producer from a private carbon offset market due to the applicable qualifying practice described in paragraph (2).

(4) INELIGIBILITY.—A person that is determined to be in violation of any applicable water or air quality regulation, including a regulation described in subparagraph (A) of section 304 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), (including regulations), shall not be eligible for any payment under paragraph (1) during the period of the violation.

(5) EFFECTIVENESS.—The authority to provide payments under this subsection shall be effective for each of the first 10 fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2022.

(d) COLLECTION OF DATA AND REPORTING.—

(1) MEASUREMENT SYSTEM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an outcomes-based measurement system (referred to in this paragraph as the ‘‘measurement system’’) that uses the best available science and technology for cost-effective record-keeping, modeling, and measurement of farm-level greenhouse gas emissions on eligible land enrolled in the program.

(B) STANDARDS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate standards on the measurement system, based on information obtained from:

(i) agro-ecosystem models;

(ii) remote sensing data and analysis;

(iii) soil health demonstration trials; and

(iv) field-level measurement.

(C) PROTOCOLS.—In developing the measurement system, the Secretary shall compile and publish a list of generally accepted public and private protocols for soil health and greenhouse gas emissions reduction by primary production type and production region.

(D) REVIEW.—The Secretary shall maintain the measurement system by—

(i) conducting an annual review of the measurement system; and

(ii) making any necessary updates to the measurement system.

(2) INVENTORY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of providing payments under the program, the Secretary shall conduct a nationwide soil health and agricultural greenhouse gas emissions inventory that uses the best available science and data to establish baselines and expected average performance for soil carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions reduction by primary production type and production region.

(B) DATABASE.—The Secretary shall—

(i) establish an accurate and interoperable database for the inventory established under subparagraph (A) using the measurement system established under paragraph (1); and

(ii) improve and update the database as new data is collected, but not less frequently than once every 2 years.

(3) CRITERIA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish criteria for payments under the program to inform policy and market stability that are consistent with improved soil carbon sequestration or greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The criteria established under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) be based, to the maximum extent practicable, on environmental impact modeling of the changes of shifting from baseline practices to new or improved practices; and

(ii) provide, to the maximum extent practicable, the degradation of other natural resource or environmental conditions.

(E) PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish—

(I) safeguards to protect the privacy of information that is submitted through or retained by a third-party agent approved under subparagraph (A), including employees and contractors of the third-party agent; and

(II) other rules and standards of data security as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to carry out this subsection.

(ii) PENALTIES.—The Secretary shall establish penalties for any violations of privacy or confidentiality under clause (i).

(F) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—

(i) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—Information collected for purposes of services provided under subparagraph (A) may be disclosed to the public—

(I) if the information is transformed into a statistical or aggregate form such that the information does not contain identifiable or personal information of individual producers; or

(II) in a form that may include identifiable or personal information of a producer only if that producer consents to the disclosure of the information.

(ii) REQUIREMENT.—The participation of a producer in, and the receipt of any benefit by the producer under, a program under this section or any other program administered by the Secretary may not be conditioned on the payment or provision of any data to the public only if the data has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form.

(iii) REPORTING.—Not later than July 1, 2022, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section, including—
(1) the amount of a payment under subsection (c), which shall be based on—
(A) the quantity of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions reduced; and
(B) the considerations described in subsection (c)(3);
(2) a methodology that any third-party agents approved under subsection (d)(4)(B) may use to provide the services under that subsection, including—
(A) an accreditation process; and
(B) a conflict of interest policy; and
(3) the need for the ownership and trans- portability of data, including historical data, generated by an eligible producer for the purpose of determining eligibility for pay- ments under the program.

SEC. 7. TRANSITION ASSISTANCE FOR IMPACTED COMMUNITIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 3304).
(2) INDIVIDUAL WITH A BARRIER TO EMPLOY- ment.—The term “individual with a barrier to employment” has the meaning given the term in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).
(3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institute of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).
(4) LOCAL BOARD.—The term “local board” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).
(5) RCOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDEN- TIAL.—The term “recognized postsecondary credential” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).
(6) INSTITUTIONAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Com- merce for Economic Development.
(7) STATE.—The term “State” means—
(A) a State;
(B) the District of Columbia;
(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and
(D) any other territory or possession of the United States.
(8) STATE BOARD.—The term “State board” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).
(9) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—The term “supportive services” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).
(b) GRANTS.—The Secretary, in coordi- nation with the Secretary of Labor, shall pro- vide grants to eligible entities for transition assistance to a low-carbon economy.
(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to receive a grant under this section is a labor organization, an institution of higher education, a unit of State or local govern- ment, an economic development organization, a nonprofit organization, community-based organization, or inter- medary, or a State board or local board that serves or is located in a community that—
(1) as determined by the Secretary, in co- ordination with the Secretary of Labor, has been or will be impacted by economic changes caused by carbon-intensive industries, in- cluding job losses;
(2) as determined by the Secretary, in con- sultation with the Administrator of the Fed- eral Emergency Management Agency, has been or is at risk of being impacted by ex- treme weather events, sea level rise, and nat- ural disasters related to climate change; or
(3) as determined by the Secretary, in con- sultation with the Administrator of the En- vironmental Protection Agency, has been impacted by harmful residuals from a fossil fuel or carbon-intensive industry.
(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the funds to—
(1) economic and workforce development activities, such as—
(A) job creation;
(B) providing reemployment and worker transition assistance, including registered apprenticeships, subsidized employment, job training, transitional jobs, and supportive services, with priority given to—
(i) workers impacted by changes in carbon- intensive industries; and
(ii) individuals with a barrier to employ- ment; and
(2) climate change resiliency, such as—
(A) building electrical, communications, utility, transportation, and other infrastruc- ture in flood-prone areas above flood zone levels;
(B) building flood and stormproofing meas- ures in flood-prone areas and erosion-prone areas;
(C) increasing the resiliency of a surface transportation infrastructure asset to with- stand extreme weather events and climate change impacts;
(D) improving stormwater infrastructure;
(E) increasing the resiliency of agriculture to extreme weather;
(F) ecological restoration;
(G) increasing the resiliency of forests to wildfires;
(H) increasing coastal resilience; and
(I) implementing heat island cooling strat- egies;
(3) environmental cleanup from fossil fuel industry facilities that are abandoned or re- tired, or closed due to bankruptcy, and re- siduals from carbon-intensive industries, such as—
(A) coal ash and petroleum coke cleanup;
(B) mine reclamation;
(C) reclamation and plugging of abandoned oil and natural gas wells on private and pub- lic land; and
(D) remediation of impaired waterways and drinking water resources; or
(4) other activities as the Secretary, in co- ordination with the Secretary of Labor, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, de- termines to be appropriate.
(e) REQUIREMENTS.—
(1) LABOR STANDARDS; NONDISCRIMINA- TION.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the funds in a manner consistent with sections 181 and 188 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 321h, 321h).
(2) WAGE RATE REQUIREMENTS.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—All laborers and mechan- ical employed by eligible entities to carry out projects and activities funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by a grant under this section shall be paid at wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a similar character in the locality as deter- mined by the Secretary of Labor, in con- formance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the “Davis-Bacon Act”).
(B) MINIMUM WAGES.—With respect to the labor standards specified in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Labor shall have the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code;
(3) BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—All iron, steel, and man- factured goods used for projects and activi- ties carried out with a grant under this sec- tion shall be produced in the United States.
(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement in subparagraph (A) if the Sec- retary finds that—
(i) enforcing the requirement would be in- consistent with the public interest;
(ii) the iron, steel, and manufactured goods produced in the United States are not pro- duced in sufficient quantities; or
(iii) enforcing the requirement will in- crease the overall cost of the project or ac- tivity by more than 25 percent.
(4) COORDINATION.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section is encour- aged to collaborate or partner with other eli- gible entities in carrying out activities with that grant.
(f) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the Secretary establishes the grant program under this section, the Secretary and the Secretary of Labor shall sub- mit to Congress a report on the effective- ness of the grant program, including—
(1) the number of individuals that have re- ceived reemployment or worker transition assistance under this section;
(2) a description of any job creation activi- ties carried out with a grant under this sec- tion and the number of jobs created from those activities;
(3) the percentage of individuals that have received reemployment or worker transition assistance under this section who are, during the second and fourth quarters after exiting the program—
(A) in education or training activities; or
(B) employed;
(4) the average wages of individuals that have received reemployment or worker transi- tion assistance under this section during the second and fourth quarters after exit- ing from the program;
(5) a description of any regional invest- ment activities carried out with a grant under this section;
(6) a description of any export promotion activities carried out with a grant under this section, including—
(A) a description of the products promoted; and
(B) an analysis of any increase in exports as a result of the promotion;
(7) a description of any resilience activities carried out with a grant under this section;
(8) a description of any cleanup activities from fossil fuel industry facilities or carbon- intensive industries carried out with a grant under this section; and
(9) the distribution of funding among geo- graphic and socioeconomic groups, including urban and rural communities, low-income communities, communities of color, and In- dian Tribes.
(g) FUNDING.—
(1) INITIAL FUNDING.—There is appropriated to the Secretary, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $5,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to carry out this section, to remain available until expended.
(2) AMERICA’S CLEAN FUTURE FUND.—The Secretary shall carry out this section using amounts made available from the America’s Clean Future Fund under section 9512 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by section 4).
SEC. 8. STUDY ON CARBON PRICING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2025, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this subsection as the "Administrator") shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the National Academy of Sciences shall carry out a study to determine the level of greenhouse gas emissions that would result if—

(1) States, units of local government, Tribal governments, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall—

(A) establish a target for carbon sequestration that can reasonably be achieved throughout the United States by 2050,520
(B) develop strategies for meeting that target; and
(C) develop strategies to expand protections for coastal ecosystems that sequester carbon and provide resiliency benefits, such as—

(i) flood protection;
(ii) soil and beach retention;
(iii) erosion reduction; and
(iv) nutrient cycling.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In executing the agreement under subsection (a), the Administrator shall ensure that, in carrying out a study under that subsection, the National Academy of Sciences—

(1) includes an evaluation of—

(A) total annual greenhouse gas emissions by the United States, including greenhouse gas emissions not subject to the fees described in paragraph (2); and
(B) the historic trends in the total greenhouse gas emissions evaluated under subparagraph (A); and

(2) develops and presents the fees established under sections 4692 and 4693 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 on changes in the levels of greenhouse gas emissions that would result if the fees established under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) were to be adjusted to impose stricter limits on greenhouse gas emissions at levels described in that subsection, with a particular focus on greenhouse gas emissions not subject to the fees described in that subsection;

(3) analyzes the extent to which greenhouse gas emissions have been or would be reduced as a result of current and potential future policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

(A) a projection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions that would result if the regulations of the Administrator were to be adjusted to impose stricter limits on greenhouse gas emissions than the goals described in that subsection, with a particular focus on greenhouse gas emissions not subject to the fees described in that subsection;

(B) the status of greenhouse gas emissions reductions that result from the fees established under sections 4692 and 4693 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(C) a projection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions that would result if the fees established under those sections were annually adjusted to reflect the—

(i) at the current price path; and
(ii) above the current price path;

(D) an analysis of greenhouse gas emissions reductions that result from the policies of States, units of local government, Tribal communities, and the private sector;

(E) a projection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions that would result from the promulgation of additional Federal climate policies, including a clean energy standard, increased fuel economy and greenhouse gas emissions standards for motor vehicles, a low-carbon fuel standard, electrification of cars and heavy-duty trucks, and reforestation of not less than 3,000,000 acres of land within the National Forest System; and

(F) the status and projections of decarbonization in other major economies; and

(4) submits a report to the Administrator, Congress, and the Board of Directors of the Climate Change Finance Corporation describing the results of the study.

SEC. 9. ESTABLISHING TARGETS FOR CARBON SEQUESTRATION BY LAND AND WATER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, in consultation with the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior, the Chief of Engineers, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall—

(1) establish a target for carbon sequestration that can reasonably be achieved throughout the United States by 2050,520

(A) maintain, enhance, and increase the ability of public and private land and water to function as natural carbon sinks;

(B) develop strategies for meeting that target; and

(C) develop strategies to expand protections for coastal ecosystems that sequester carbon and provide resiliency benefits, such as—

(i) flood protection;

(ii) soil and beach retention;

(iii) erosion reduction;

(iv) biodiversity;

(v) water conservation; and

(vi) nutrient cycling.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In executing the agreement under subsection (a), the Administrator shall ensure that, in carrying out a study under that subsection, the National Academy of Sciences—

(1) includes an evaluation of—

(A) total annual greenhouse gas emissions by the United States, including greenhouse gas emissions not subject to the fees described in paragraph (2); and

(B) the historic trends in the total greenhouse gas emissions evaluated under subparagraph (A); and

(2) develops and presents the fees established under sections 4692 and 4693 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 on changes in the levels of greenhouse gas emissions that would result if the fees described in that subsection;

(3) analyzes the extent to which greenhouse gas emissions have been or would be reduced as a result of current and potential future policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

(A) a projection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions that would result if the regulations of the Administrator were to be adjusted to impose stricter limits on greenhouse gas emissions than the goals described in that subsection, with a particular focus on greenhouse gas emissions not subject to the fees described in that subsection;

(B) the status of greenhouse gas emissions reductions that result from the fees established under sections 4692 and 4693 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(C) a projection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions that would result if the fees established under those sections were annually adjusted to reflect the—

(i) at the current price path; and

(ii) above the current price path;

(D) an analysis of greenhouse gas emissions reductions that result from the policies of States, units of local government, Tribal communities, and the private sector;

(E) a projection of greenhouse gas emissions reductions that would result from the promulgation of additional Federal climate policies, including a clean energy standard, increased fuel economy and greenhouse gas emissions standards for motor vehicles, a low-carbon fuel standard, electrification of cars and heavy-duty trucks, and reforestation of not less than 3,000,000 acres of land within the National Forest System; and

(F) the status and projections of decarbonization in other major economies; and

(3) submits a report to the Administrator, Congress, and the Board of Directors of the Climate Change Finance Corporation describing the results of the study.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The shortage of experienced, qualified early childhood educators and elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education program directors, school leaders, and school-based mental health service providers are essential for providing strong educational opportunities and services for students and promoting teacher retention through improved professional supports and teaching conditions.

(2) In 2020, surveys found nearly 27 percent of educators were considering leaving teaching due to the COVID–19 pandemic, including 55 percent of teachers with more than 30 years of experience.

SEC. 4. REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT FOR TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER RETENTION CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after section 36B the following new section:

"SEC. 36C. TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER RETENTION CREDIT.

"(a) ALLOWANCE FOR CREDIT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual who is employed in a position described in paragraph (2) during a school year ending with or within the taxable year, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this subtitle for the taxable year an amount equal to the applicable amount (as determined under subsection (b)).

"(2) ELIGIBLE POSITIONS.—The positions described in paragraph (2) shall consist of the following:

"(A) An eligible early childhood educator.

"(B) An eligible early childhood education program director.

"(C) An eligible early childhood education program director.

"(D) An eligible teacher.

"(E) An eligible paraprofessional.

"(F) An eligible school-based mental health services provider.

"(G) An eligible school leader.

"(h) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the applicable amount shall be an amount determined based on the number of school years for which the individual has been continuously employed in any position described in subsection (a), as follows:

"(A) Subject to paragraph (2), for the first year of employment, $5,800.
"(B) For the second continuous year of employment, $5,800.
"(C) For the third and fourth continuous year of employment, $7,000.

"(3) For purposes of this section, the term "school year ending with or within the taxable year" means the school year ending with or within the taxable year with respect to which the credit is allowed.

"(3) SEC. 36C. TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER RETENTION CREDIT.

"(a) ALLOWANCE FOR CREDIT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual who is employed in a position described in paragraph (2) during a school year ending with or within the taxable year, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this subtitle for the taxable year an amount equal to the applicable amount (as determined under subsection (b)).

"(2) ELIGIBLE POSITIONS.—The positions described in paragraph (2) shall consist of the following:

"(A) An eligible early childhood educator.

"(B) An eligible early childhood education program director.

"(C) An eligible early childhood education program director.

"(D) An eligible teacher.

"(E) An eligible paraprofessional.

"(F) An eligible school-based mental health services provider.

"(G) An eligible school leader.

"(h) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the applicable amount shall be an amount determined based on the number of school years for which the individual has been continuously employed in any position described in subsection (a), as follows:

"(A) Subject to paragraph (2), for the first year of employment, $5,800.
"(B) For the second continuous year of employment, $5,800.
"(C) For the third and fourth continuous year of employment, $7,000.

"(3) For purposes of this section, the term "school year ending with or within the taxable year" means the school year ending with or within the taxable year with respect to which the credit is allowed.
“(D) For the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth continuous year of employment, $8,700.

“(E) For the tenth continuous year of employment, $8,800.

“(F) For the eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth continuous year of employment, $8,700.

“(G) For the sixteenth continuous year of employment, $7,000.

“(H) For the seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth continuous year of employment, $5,800.

“(2) First year.—For purposes of the first year of employment ending with or within a taxable year, an individual must have been so employed for a period of not less than 4 months before the first day of such taxable year.

“(3) Limitation based on total number of school years.—In the case of any individual who has been employed in any position described in subsection (a)(2) for a total of more than 20 school years, the applicable amount shall be reduced to zero.

“(c) Inflation adjustment.—

“(1) In general.—In the case of any taxable year beginning after 2021, each of the dollar amounts in subsection (b)(1) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined for such calendar year by substituting ‘calendar year 2021’ for ‘calendar year 2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

“(2) Rounding.—If any increase determined under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of $100, such increase shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of $100.

“(d) Supplementing, Not Supplanting, State and Local Education Funds.—

“(1) In general.—A State educational agency or local educational agency shall not reduce or supplement compensation for early childhood assistance provided through a loan forgiveness program, to an employee of the State educational agency or local educational agency who serves in any position described in subsection (a)(2) due to the individual’s eligibility for the credit under this section.

“(2) Methodology.—Upon request by the Secretary of Education, a State educational agency or local educational agency shall reasona­bly demonstrate that the methodology used to allocate amounts for compensation and funding, that is consistent with the methodology described in paragraph (1) at qualifying schools or qualifying early childhood education programs ensures that employees at each qual­ifying school or qualifying early childhood education program in the State or served by the local educational agency, respectively, receive the same amount of State or local funds for compensation and loan forgiveness that the qualifying school or qualifying early childhood education program would receive if the credit under this section had not been enacted.

“(e) Information Sharing.—The Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide the Secretary with such information as is necessary for purposes of determining whether an early childhood education program or an elementary school or secondary school satisfies the requirements for a qualifying early child­hood education program or a qualifying school, respectively.

“(f) Definitions.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) ESEA Definitions.—The terms ‘elementary school’, ‘local educational agency’, ‘secondary school’, and ‘State educational agency’ have the meanings given the terms in section 6101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

“(2) Eligible Early Childhood Education Program Director.—The term ‘eligible early childhood education program director’ means an employee or officer of a qualifying early childhood education program who is responsible for the daily instructional leadership and managerial operations of such program.

“(3) Eligible Early Childhood Education Provider.—The term ‘eligible early childhood education provider’ means an individual—

“(A) who—

“(i) has an associate’s degree or higher degree in early childhood education or a related field, or

“(ii) is enrolled during the taxable year in a program leading to such an associate’s or higher degree and is making satisfactory progress toward graduation;

“(B) who is responsible for the daily instructional leadership and managerial operations of a qualifying early childhood education program in a home-based setting;

“(C) eligible early childhood education provider’ means an individual—

“(A) who—

“(i) has an associate’s degree or higher degree in early childhood education or a related field, or

“(ii) is enrolled during the taxable year in a program leading to such an associate’s or higher degree and is making satisfactory progress toward graduation;

“(B) who has credentials or a license under State law for early childhood education, as applicable, and

“(C) whose primary responsibility is for the learning and development of children in a qualifying early childhood education program during the taxable year.

“(D) Eligible Paraprofessional.—The term ‘eligible paraprofessional’ means an individual—

“(A) who is a paraprofessional, as defined in section 2301 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7011),

“(B) who meets the applicable State professional standards and qualifications pursuant to section 1111(g)(2)(M) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6311(g)(2)(M)),

“(C) whose primary responsibilities involve working or assisting in a classroom setting, and

“(D) who is employed in a qualifying school or a qualifying early childhood education program.

“(3) Eligible School-Based Mental Health Services Provider.—The term ‘eligible school-based mental health services provider’ means an individual—

“(A) described in section 4102(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7122(b)), and

“(B) who is employed in a qualifying school or a qualifying early childhood education program.

“(4) Eligible School Leader.—The term ‘eligible school leader’ means a principal, assistant principal, or other individual who is—

“(A) an employee or officer of a qualifying school, and

“(B) responsible for the daily instructional leadership and managerial operations in the qualifying school.

“(5) Eligible Teacher.—The term ‘eligible teacher’ means an individual who—

“(A) is an elementary school or secondary school teacher who, as determined by the State or local educational agency, is a teacher of record who provides direct classroom teaching (or classroom-type teaching in a nonclassroom setting) to students in a qualifying school or qualifying early childhood education program.

“(B) meets applicable State certification and licensure requirements, including any requirements for certification obtained through alternative routes to certification, in the State in which such school is located and in the subject area in which the individual is the teacher of record.

“(6) Qualifying Early Childhood Education Program.—

“(A) In general.—The term ‘qualifying early childhood education program’ means an early childhood education program, as defined in section 105 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1053), that, regardless of setting—

“(i) serves children who receive services for which financial assistance is provided in accordance with the Child Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9657 et seq.), the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), or the child and adult care food program established pursuant to section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766), and

“(ii) participates in a State tiered and transparent system for measuring program quality.

“(B) Special rule.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), an early childhood program that does not satisfy the requirements of subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be deemed to be a qualifying early childhood education program until September 30, 2021, if the program—

“(i) satisfies all requirements of subparagraph (A) except for clause (ii) of such subparagraph, or

“(ii) meets the Head Start program performance standards described in section 611(a) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9857(a)), if applicable, or

“(B) is accredited by a national accreditor of early learning programs as of the date of enactment of the Retaining Educators Takes Accountability and Investment Bill (20 U.S.C. 1003).

“(C) For Qualifying School.—The term ‘qualifying school’ means—

“(A) a public elementary school or secondary school that—

“(i) is in the school district of a local educational agency that is eligible for assistance under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.), or

“(ii) is served or operated by an educational service agency that is eligible for assistance, or

“(B) an elementary school or secondary school that is funded by the Bureau of Indian Education and that is in a school district of a local educational agency that is eligible for such assistance.

“(B) W-2 Reporting of Continuous Employment.—Certain Provisions at Qualifying Early Childhood Education Programs or Qualifying Schools.—Section 6051(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ‘‘and’’ at the end of paragraph (16), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (17) and inserting ‘‘; and’’, and by inserting after paragraph (17) the following new paragraph:

“(18) in the case of an employee who is employed in a position described in subsection (a) of section 36C, the number of school years for which such employee has been continuously employed in any such position.’’.

“(c) Conforming Amendments.—

“(1) The table of sections for part C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting ‘‘36C’’ after ‘‘36B’’.

“(2) Section 6211(b)(4)(A) of such Code is amended by inserting ‘‘36C’’ after ‘‘36B’’. 
Whereas the Panthers of Knightstown played their last official regular-season basketball game at the gym in February 1966; Whereas, after 45 years of serving the community and providing a place for its young people to grow and develop, the gym was closed, and for the next 19 years, the gym saw little use; Whereas, in 1985, interest in the gym increased when a film crew descended upon Knightstown, Indiana, looking for a place to film “Hoosiers”; Whereas “Hoosiers” is an American sports film written by Angelo Pizzo and directed by David Anspaugh in his feature directorial debut, and both individuals were raised in Indiana; Whereas the film tells the story of the unique phenomenon known as “Hoosier Hysteria”—Indiana’s obsession with basketball; Whereas the film is inspired by the 1954 Milan High School team, which made an unlikely run to win the Indiana High School Boys Basketball State Championship, which consisted of a single class of high school basketball for all schools throughout the State; Whereas about 1⁄2 of the film was filmed in the gym, and the film included many Hooisers, including players on the team and most of the stand-ins; Whereas Dennis Hopper’s role earned him an Oscar nomination, and Jerry Goldsmith was also nominated for an Academy Award for his score; Whereas the film “Hoosiers” is often considered one of the greatest sports movies of all time and was added to the National Film Registry in 2001 by the Library of Congress as being “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant”; Whereas, as a result of the success of this film, the old Knightstown gymnasium came to be known as The Hoosier Gym; Whereas The Hoosier Gym has kept the same look as it did when “Hoosiers” was filmed in 1985; Whereas, by 1988, the gym faced possible demolition when the 112-year-old school next door, then serving as an elementary school, saw little use; Whereas, in 1999, the gym housed the Hoosiers Reunion All-Star Classic, which Indiana’s best high school athletes play against each other with the teams named “Hickory” and “Terhune”, as in the film; Whereas many of these athletes have gone on to play in the National Basketball Association and the Women’s National Basketball Association; Whereas “Hoosiers” and The Hoosier Gym have highlighted the cultural impact and importance of basketball in the State of Indiana to the world; Whereas, in 2021, The Hoosier Gym is celebrating its 100th anniversary, and the film “Hoosiers” is celebrating its 35th anniversary; and Whereas the film “Hoosiers”, The Hoosier Gym, Hinkle Fieldhouse, and all the other locations throughout Indiana used for filming highlight Hoosiers’ love for basketball and “Hoosier Hysteria” at its finest: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) The Hoosier Gym, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2021, continues to remain an important historical and cultural location for the State of Indiana, Henry County, the Town of Knightstown, and the nearly 80,000 basketball enthusiasts and tourists throughout Indiana, the United States, and the world that visit the location every year;

(2) the film “Hoosiers”, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary in 2021, continues to remain one of the top ranked and most influential sports movies of all time, and helps continue the love of basketball in the State of Indiana, and provides a better understanding of “Hoosier Hysteria” to the world; (3) both the film and this historical location deserve recognition for the continued legacies that greatly enrich the State of Indiana, its local communities, and its citizens by providing the world with a better understanding of the love of basketball in Indiana and what it means to be a Hoosier; (4) continued admiration for this film and historical location reinforces the quote by Dr. James Naismith, basketball’s inventor, after visiting an Indiana High School State Basketball Championship game that “Basketball really had its beginning in Indiana and what it means to be a Hoosier”; and (5) the anniversaries of the film “Hoosiers” and The Hoosier Gym should be recognized due to the historical and cultural significance they have had and continue to have in introducing the State of Indiana and its love of basketball to the rest of the country and the world.
(1) condemns exertion of illegitimate authority for Chinese Coast Guard military aggression by the People’s Republic of China against foreign vessels; (2) refutes unlawful claims by the Government of the People’s Republic of China to offshore resources; and (3) applauds the United States Navy and the United States Coast Guard for their continued efforts to conduct freedom of navigation operations in order to assert international rights to freedom of navigation and uphold a free and open international order that promotes security and prosperity; (4) calls on all nations to condemn the exertion of power by People’s Republic of China and to enforce rules based order and international law; (5) calls on all nations to join and condemn unlawful claims by the Government of the People’s Republic of China and to provide protection for their sovereign rights to offshore resources; and (6) encourages all nations to condemn and stand together against attempts by the Government of the People’s Republic of China to impose its will on other countries.

SENATE RESOLUTION 104—RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE 1921 TULSA RACE MASSACRE

WHEREAS, in the early 20th century, de jure segregation confined Tulsa’s Black residents into “The Greenwood District”, which they built into a thriving community with a nationally renowned entrepreneurial center known as the “Black Wall Street”; Whereas white supremacy and racist violence were common throughout the United States and went largely unchecked by the justice system; Whereas on May 31, 1921, a mob of armed white men descended upon Tulsa’s Greenwood District and launched what is now known as the “Tulsa Race Massacre”; Whereas, in the days and weeks following the massacre, law enforcement officials deputized many white authorities, including white municipal officials, to participate in the massacre, engaging in brutal violence and killings of black people in the massacre and decades-long efforts to suppress its recollection; Whereas none of the law enforcement officials nor any of the hundreds of other white mob members who participated in the violence were ever prosecuted or held accountable for the hundreds of lives lost and tens of millions of dollars of Black wealth destroyed, despite the Tulsa Race Massacre Commission confirming their roles in the massacre, nor was any compensation ever provided to the massacre’s victims or their descendants; Whereas government and city officials not only abdicated their responsibility to rebuild Greenwood and in the wake of the violence, but actively blocked efforts to do so, contributing to continued racial disparities in Tulsa akin to those that Black people face in the United States; Whereas the pattern of violence against Black people in the United States, often at the hands of law enforcement, shows that the fight to end State-sanctioned violence against Black people continues; and Whereas this year marks the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre; (2) acknowledges the historical significance of this event as one of the largest single instances of State-sanctioned violence against Black people in American history; (3) encourages the United States Congress to authorize and fund a comprehensive investigation of the estimated 300 Black individuals who were killed during the Massacre and the nearly 9,000 Black individuals who were left homeless and penniless; (4) condemns the participants of the Tulsa Race Massacre, including white municipal officials and law enforcement who directly participated in or who aided and abetted the unlawful violence; (5) condemns past and present efforts to cover up the truth and shield the white community, and especially State and local officials, from accountability for the Tulsa Race Massacre and other instances of violence at the hands of law enforcement; (6) condemns the continued legacy of racism, including systemic racism, and white supremacy against Black people in the United States, particularly in the form of police brutality; (7) encourages education about the Tulsa Race Massacre, including the horrors of the massacre itself, the history of white supremacy that fueled the massacre and subsequent attempts to deny or cover up the massacre, in all elementary and secondary education settings and in institutions of higher education in the United States; and (8) recognizes the commitment of Congress to acknowledge and learn from the history of racism and racial violence in the United States, including the Tulsa Race Massacre, to reverse the legacy of white supremacy and fight for racial justice.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BROWN. 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 BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

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 Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 3 p.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 Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT, AGENCY ACTION, FEDERAL RIGHTS AND FEDERAL COURTS

The Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Rights and Federal Courts is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.
Federal Courts of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 10, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 11; that following the prayer and the pledge of allegiance to the flag, the hour of its adjournment be extended until 12 noon; that after the speech of the Majority Leader, the Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Xavier Becerra from the Committee on Finance, with the time allocated thereto expiring at 12 noon; and that after the adjournment of the Senate, the Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Debra Haaland to be Secretary of the Interior; finally, that the cloture motion on the Haaland nomination ripen at 1:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. For the information of Senators, there will be two rollcall votes during Thursday’s session of the Senate at 12:00 noon on the motion to discharge the Becerra nomination and at 1:30 p.m. on the motion to invoke cloture on the Haaland nomination.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that I recommit it to the Executive Committee, that I ask the Committee on Environment and Public Works to report it forthwith, that I ask the Senate to adjourn under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator SULLIVAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

CONFIRMATION OF MICHAEL STANLEY REGAN

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, we just voted on Secretary Michael Regan to be the EPA Administrator. I want to congratulate him on his vote. He is now the new EPA Administrator. I sit on the Committee on Environment and Public Works. So we had hearings for Mr. Regan—Administrator Regan. I guess we want to call him now—and I have had a number of conversations with him. I actually voted for him to move out of committee to come to the floor for this vote that we took today.

I like to come down to the floor to explain my votes because sometimes I support the Biden administration’s Cabinet officials. I introduced Secretary of Defense Austin at his confirmation hearing. I served with him many years ago when I was a marine and he was a four-star general in the Army. I have a lot of respect for the Secretary of Defense.

Then there are other times when I am a “no.” You typically like to do is come and explain the noes but not always. On this one, for Secretary Regan, for Administrator Regan and his team, I want to explain it because I will say that I was impressed with him. I think he is qualified. He was essentially the EPA Administrator for North Carolina. Both of his Republican Senators introduced him at his hearing and voted for him. I believe, today, and I have had good conversations with him as well.

Here is the thing: I was trying to get commitments from him. Now, this is very normal in the confirmation process. You work with the nominees and try to get commitments. Sometimes they give them, and sometimes they don’t. I think it’s really do-or-die advice and consent. We have been doing this since the Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution on what the Senate should be doing in these confirmation processes that we are going through right now with the administration. So I wasn’t asking for a lot in terms of commitments from this administration for the great State of Alaska, but it was important to me.

Why was it important to me? Unfortunately, the administration has launched a war on working families in Alaska. Now, that sounds like a pretty dramatic statement, “a war on working families in Alaska.” What I am looking for is a ceasefire. My State, like a lot of States, is hurting economically. We are doing very well and I am very proud of Alaska on the health side. We are No. 1 in terms of vaccinations per capita in the country, which is remarkable, if you have been to any State, as it is so huge and the populations are so spread out, but we are working together, all of us, and we are achieving really remarkable results. We have been No. 1 in testing per capita throughout the whole pandemic, and we have had some of the lowest per capita death rates throughout the whole pandemic. But we are being really hit hard economically in the energy sector, the tourism sector, and the commercial fishing sector.

So why did I vote a “no” on this? In the first 2 months of the Biden administration, there have been eight Executive orders, if you include the recent statement by the President and the Prime Minister of Canada, which had a focus on Alaska, which have been focused on my State. Usually, it will be on economic development projects and usually on access to Federal lands. Eight. There is no State in the country that is getting that kind of attention from this administration, and we are planting a seed. Show me any other State represented in the U.S. Senate Chamber that has eight Executive orders directed at your State. It won’t exist. Trust me—my constituents don’t like all the attention.

So I want to ask the President—not the Presiding Officer but the President: Mr. President, Mr. President Biden, sir, you were a U.S. Senator for three decades. Let me just ask you this question. If a Republican administration came into office and focused its attention on shutting down Delaware with eight Executive orders inside of 2 months, you would be on the floor every day like me, talking about it, asking for some relief that is all we are asking for—a ceasefire on the hard-working families of Alaska.

This is what I asked Secretary Regan. A commitment on these is not a big issue. I told him, if I could get a commitment on these things, I would come down to the floor and give a speech in favor of his confirmation.

One was of a very big energy project in my State that has been permitted for almost 25 years. It started with the Clinton administration, in a place called the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, and was set aside by Congress for oil and gas development. That is what the NPR-A is. We do it responsibly, better than any place in the world, but this is a project that was started by the Clinton administration and moved forward by the Bush administration. There was a big NPR-A environmental impact statement by the Obama administration, called the Integrated Activity Plan for NPR-A, which was approved. It was completely non-controversial because that is what this part of Alaska is set aside for. Then the Trump administration finalized a very large but responsibly developed energy project. We started it this winter with no controversy. It has estimates of 2,000 direct jobs, with thousands more indirect jobs. All we wanted was a commitment to keep it going. That is it—simple, status quo. Couldn’t get it. Couldn’t get it.

There is litigation with regard to this project right now. About 200 people—almost 200 workers—have been sent home with pink slips during a recession. Those were great jobs by the way. We tried to get a commitment on this. We couldn’t get it. By the way, 75 percent of those 2,000 jobs were union jobs and high-paying—building trades, laborers, operating engineers, teamsters. They are great Americans, by the way. Seventy-five percent. Non-controversial. Twenty-five years of permits. No one has been against this. So I just wanted a commitment on it. No. Like I said, it is a war on working families.

Here is another one. Here is something that a lot of people don’t know about Alaska: 60 percent of the country’s wetlands, of America’s wetlands, are in my State—six zero. Now, we have the most beautiful State. We love our wilderness. We love the wilderness. We care about the Alaskan environment more than anyone else and—trust me—even more than anyone else in the
EPA. That is for sure. We have 175 million acres of wetlands. So this creates challenges.

Unlike most of the lower 48, we have not dredged and filled these areas in the past. If you look at the east coast, at least some—we have—no offense to some of my colleagues whose States are up the corridor here—holy cow. And you wonder about my environment—Geez Louise. But it is hard to do compliance projects when you haven’t had dredge and fill before, because we have so many wetlands. So, in 2018, the Corps of Engineers and the EPA had an MOU to address some of these mitigation challenges. It wasn’t contentious—It was creative. I thought Secretary Regan thought it was creative when I talked to him about it. So we just asked for a continuation of this. These are really simple commitments, good ideas—couldn’t get it from the Secretary.

Now, here’s my own view. I think Mr. Regan wanted to—I explained these to him. I think he was reasonable, someone who has done this in his State and knows each State is unique. He cares about jobs. He cares about environmental justice. That is a big issue in my State when a lot of these communities that are getting targeted are actually Alaska Native communities. They are killing jobs in those. That is environmental justice; that is for sure. So my instinct was he wanted to make these commitments, but I think he was told no. I don’t know that, but I am pretty—well, I don’t know why, I think he was told no by the White House. This raises a much bigger concern about this nominee.

My good friend, the esteemed Senator from West Virginia, Senator Capito, was on the floor earlier. She also sits on the EPW Committee. She is the ranking member on the committee. She gave a really important speech on why she also voted no for Mr. Regan. And I think she had the same feeling I did. The issues, is qualified, cares about different States’ challenges. But she raised a concern that I want to reiterate because I think it is going to come to a head here—the President of the United States because natural gas is going to be key for our workers, for our environment, for our national security. And at the EPA level, who is in charge? Mr. Regan? I hope so. Or Gina McCarthy? I certainly hope it is more and more like she is in charge.

So that is why a number of us, despite being impressed, wanting to work with the new EPA Administrator, I didn’t vote for Mr. Regan. I wouldn’t want that notion out there. But with all due respect, sir—and, again, congratulations—it is out there, and you need to tamp this down because it is going to come to a head.

Look, my State did not fare well under the Gina McCarthy EPA. There is a long list: the waters of the United States—I won’t get into the details of the different constituents in my State. The Armed EPA officials with body armor, rifles, were going after gold miners and placer miners in Alaska because they thought they were violating the Clean Water Act. No kidding. Read about it. Chicken AK—go Google that. We were not big fans.

So I believe Mr. Regan wants to work with Alaskans. I believe he understands the concept of cooperative federalism on these environmental issues. I don’t believe he is going to unilaterally authorize armed guards to terrify small placer miners in the interior of Alaska the way the previous Administrator McCarthy did and talk to the press in a blatantly disrespectful way to my fellow Alaskans. It was shameful, in my view. But this issue is going to come to a head.

Who is in charge? Regardless of whether you are a Democrat or Republican, if you voted for the EPA Administrator, you are in charge because he is the Senate-confirmed official nominated by the President, not an unelected official in the White House who I guarantee wouldn’t have been able to get confirmed. So it is going to be a challenge.

And it is not just Gina McCarthy. We had an EPW hearing today, and I raised the issue of the other czar—John Kerry, the former Senator. But he is not confirmed. He hasn’t been appointed. He is not confirmed. The President and the Senate are at loggerheads on a really big issue. President Biden, the President of the United States, recently in a meeting reported by the press with labor leaders, said: I am all in on natural gas. That is important. That is a huge issue for our environment and our workers. The President of the United States said “I am all in on natural gas” to the men and women who build pipelines. He told them that recently in a White House meeting. He is President of the United States.

Now John Kerry—I think some people think he is President of the world. He is flying around on his airplane right now, and he is telling people he is not for natural gas. Well, I wonder who is going to win that debate.

But this goes to this issue: These are going to come to a head. Who is in charge here—the President of the United States or the EPA Administrator? Mr. Regan is in charge. The President of the United States because natural gas is going to be key for our workers, for our environment, for our national security. And at the EPA level, who is in charge? Mr. Regan? I hope so. Or Gina McCarthy? I certainly hope it is more and more like she is in charge.

So that is why a number of us, despite being impressed, wanting to work with the new EPA Administrator voted no, and I certainly hope that the unaccountable team of McCarthy and Kerry in the White House are not going to be running the policy, but it is going to be the people who were actually confirmed by the U.S. Senate because that is how our system of government is supposed to work.

So, Mr. President, for those reasons, although I again want to congratulate Mr. Regan, I respectfully declined to support his nomination, and we will see who is going to be ultimately in charge.

I want to work with him and his team. These issues are so important to my State. I want him to help convince others in the Biden White House for the ceasefire that my constituents need.

We need to get to work, and I am hoping he is going to be a constructive partner in that regard.

NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, most mornings I get up kind of early, and I go for a run on the Mall, run by the Capitol, this beautiful building, the Senate, the House, the people’s house, which recently was open for all of us to enjoy. And now, as most Americans know, it is ringed with gates and razor wire and troops. It looks a little bit like the Green Zone in Baghdad, not the U.S. Capitol.

Here’s the thing. When I go running—I do this most mornings; I did it this morning—you see these wonderful National Guard men and women who are serving their country still here behind the fence, behind the razor wire. And they are literally about every 50 yards, sometimes closer, standing post all night—all night—hundreds of them, American soldiers.

They are doing their duty, and we all appreciate it. I talk to them. I just say: Hey, how you guys doing? How is morale? You want to be here? You think it is time to go home? I think it is time for you to go home, and I am going to try and help you with that.

Now, look, most are retired. They are tough. They are soldiers doing their job. But make no mistake, they want to go home. They are standing their post all night, 1, 2, 3 in the morning,
every 50 yards, for what? For what? I don’t think they know what for, and neither do I.

Now the assault that took place on our democracy on January 6 was a dark day for our country, no doubt. I will remember that for the rest of my life. But the Members of Congress did something really important that same day. We reconvened right here in the U.S. Senate, even amid some of the broken glass and smashed doors in the House. We finished our constitutional duty to count the electoral college votes. The rioters that day—who should be prosecuted—did not win. That was important.

But that was 3 months ago, and our Nation’s Capitol is still decked in layer upon layer of barbed wire and metal fencing. More than 5,000 troops still roam the Capitol instead of being where they know they should be: home with their families, back to their jobs—these are National Guard members, so their work is obviously being disrupted—and back to their States and their communities.

The cost of keeping them here since January at this juncture is over a half billion dollars. But here’s the thing: I pay close attention to these issues. I keep asking: OK, I understand this; they were here after the 6th, and they were here for the inauguration, but what is the threat now? Give me an intel threat—a credible intel threat—that requires 5,000 troops and razor wire all across the U.S. Capitol, the people’s house. What is the credible intel? I have not gotten any credible intel that I am aware of.

We learned yesterday that the Secretary of Defense approved the request for these soldiers to be here for another 60 days. Here is what you didn’t hear about in those reports. I have a lot of respect for the Secretary of Defense. As a matter of fact, as I mentioned in my remarks earlier, I introduced him at his confirmation hearing. But this decision on whether there should be troops here or not is actually not his decision. It is our decision. It is the Members of Congress’s decision. That is the threshold issue: Should we still have the troops here? It is the majority leader’s decision. It is the Speaker of the House’s decision. So why do we still have troops here? Why is the Capitol still in high security lockdown?

I think it would be really important for the majority leader to come to the floor and not only tell us but tell the troops, tell the American people what is going on.

Remember, this is not our House. This is not our building. This belongs to the people of America. We are privileged to be here, certainly, but we need answers.

And I will tell you who else needs answers. The troops need answers.

My own view is we need to get these troops home. We need to tear down the wall. We need to open the gate. And this is not just my view; this is a widely held view. Democrats and Republicans all agree.

Just look around the Capitol Hill neighborhoods. These signs are everywhere. So are other signs. “Free the People’s House.” “Don’t Fence the Capitol.”

What is happening right now—we all love our military. Our military normally is a symbol of strength for America. But right now, the military here is not a symbol of strength. We are telling the world, through razor wire, that American democracy is fragile and that it is afraid. American democracy is not fragile, and it is not afraid. So these troops are a symbol not just to Americans but to the rest of the world that the Capitol lives in fear or weakness.

There was evidently some kind of vague—it wasn’t credible—threat on March 4 from some nutjob group, QAnon—however the heck you pronounce it—and we had the entire House on the other side of this great building call it quits, went home, and said: We are not going to do any work. That is exactly the wrong answer. That is not what we did on January 6.

So what we need is we need our leaders in the House and in the Senate to come down here and tell us why we are still in an armed camp. One can’t help but wonder if there is something else going on here. Why do the leaders of the House and Senate still want thousands of troops and razor wire around the Capitol? I hope they don’t fear the people they represent. I don’t fear my constituents. Is there intel that they have that we don’t know about? How long can we expect this green zone in our Nation’s Capitol to continue? The American people need answers.

But here is the key issue. At the end of the day, this is a law enforcement problem. It is not a military problem. To make it a military problem is dangerous. If the Capitol Police need more officers, then let’s have that discussion, but we are a citizen-controlled government, and our military, whom I respect so much, should not be used for an extended period of time here on the Capitol grounds to handle a law enforcement issue, especially at the most important symbol of democracy in America, probably the most important symbol of democracy in the world.

So here is what we need to do. It is time to tear these walls down, open these gates, and send our brave National Guard troops home. I yield the floor.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10:30 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:03 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

**CONFIRMATIONS**

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 10, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

MARCIA LOUISE FUDDER, OF OREGON, TO BE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

MICHAEL STANLEY REGAN, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MERRICK BRIAN GARLAND, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

KINCIADE GREEN EARN S EAGLE SCOUT RANK

HON. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kinciade Green of Dover, FL for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout is the highest honor a Boy Scout can earn. Only a small percentage of Boy Scouts reach the rank of Eagle Scout. This honor requires years of effort to develop the necessary leadership, service and outdoor skills. To earn it, Kinciade’s project included a flag retirement and a fire pit for use by the veterans of AMVETS post No. 26. He built five Adirondack chairs, four benches and cleared an area around the fire pit. The leadership skills he has learned through the Boy Scouts already benefit our community and will continue to help in countless ways.

Kinciade began his Scouting career as a Tiger Cub in Second Grade. He has been active in Scouting as well as his High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Club and Junior Air Force ROTC organizations. He will represent his District for the second time this year at State FBLA competition.

On behalf of the Fifteenth Congressional District of Florida, congratulations again to Kinciade Green for becoming an Eagle Scout. We are proud of his continued success and thank him for his dedication to making our community a better place.

REMEMBERING DONALD F. “DON” STEVENS

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Donald F. “Don” Stevens, a friend, a Patriot, and a pillar of his community, who went to be with the Lord on January 27, 2021.

In the history of every community, there are leaders whose work shapes that community for generations to come. Don was one such leader. He has been called “the right man for the time” as Cherokee County transitioned from a rural community in the foothills of North Georgia to a metropolitan center. Don believed in the simple values of hard work, enthusiasm, and positivity—attributes he would continue to exemplify in the Cherokee County community.

A retired Delta Airlines pilot, Don carried his love for aviation into a second career as the Chairman of the Cherokee County Airport Authority, where he fought to lengthen the municipal runway so it could accommodate more air traffic and larger jets. He believed the airport would be the gateway to bringing business into Cherokee County, and he was right. He loved planes, and he and his son maintained and flew a beautiful vintage Cessna 195, and often soared through the blue North Georgia skies.

Don also loved classic cars. He could often be found at a weekend car show or in a parade. He was well known for his jokes, as he did his best to bring a laugh or a smile wherever he went.

Don was a generous man who loved people and believed in second chances. He was an outspoken advocate for criminal justice reform; and, he worked to establish Cherokee County’s DUI Court, which today helps many win their battles with substance abuse and regain control of their lives. Years ago, Don and his wife, Lila, began Cherokee Thanksgiving, serving holiday meals to those in need throughout the community. He also served on the board of the Cherokee Bank, was a volunteer firefighter, and has been recognized by the Chamber of Commerce as a “First Citizen” of Cherokee County.

Don is survived by his wife, Lila, son Keith, two daughters, Janet and Kelly, and six grandchildren, who will long remember his passion for people and the community, and will carry on his wonderful legacy. On behalf of Georgia’s 11th Congressional District and the community of Whafre, I commend and thank Donald F. Stevens for his life lived in humble service to the community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WASHINGTON CHANNEL PUBLIC ACCESS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Washington Channel Public Access Act. This bill would prohibit the Secretary of the Army from finalizing, implementing or enforcing a proposed rule, or any other rule, that would restrict access to the Washington Channel (Channel) in the District of Columbia. The proposed rule is arbitrary, capricious and unnecessarily restricts recreational and commercial access to the Channel without providing any security benefits.

The proposed rule would establish a permanently restricted area in the Channel adjacent to Fort McNair, which would restrict access to the navigable portion of the Channel by narrowing the waterway where recreational and commercial vessels can traverse and prohibiting angling and mooring altogether. The U.S. Army Military District of Washington cites security needs at Fort McNair to justify the proposed rule.

Neighborhoods like the Navy Yard and the Wharf have reinvigorated community engagement on the waterfront, and the Channel is increasingly used for regional transportation and recreation. The stretch of the Channel past Fort McNair is the only connection to the Potomac River. The proposed rule would likely force kayaks, paddleboards and recreational boats into the same space as water taxis and river cruise ships, creating a potentially dangerous situation.

I hosted a public meeting in which community members expressed overwhelming opposition to the proposed rule, but military officials did not address the question of whether less restrictive measures could provide the same security. I then wrote asking Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin to direct the U.S. Army Military District of Washington and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw the proposed rule and to prohibit these agencies from proposing a similar rule. In response, the U.S. Army indicated that the proposed rule will not be finalized until an appointee of President Biden can review it. Despite this positive response, this bill is necessary to ensure the proposed rule, or any other rule that would restrict public access, does not go into effect.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HUMANE RESEARCH AND TESTING ACT OF 2021

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Humane Research and Testing Act of 2021. The exact number of animals used in federally funded medical research is unknown, but estimates range widely from 17 to 100 million animals utilized each year. Despite this widespread use, animal testing often fails to produce valid results predictive of human trials. In particular, more than 30 percent of candidate drugs fail human clinical trials because they are found to be toxic, despite promising pre-clinical studies on animals.

On top of this, 65 percent of medications that advance to human trials fail due to lack of efficacy even after completing clinical trials on animals. Fortunately, there have been important advancements in medical research methods over the past several years. Animal testing is therefore no longer necessary in the many circumstances where non-animal alternatives are available. Some of these human-relevant methods include synthetic skin, synthetic organs, and various methods of chemical toxicity testing that can decrease the number of animals used. Recognizing the need to promote alternatives, Congress passed the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993 which in part directed the National Institutes of Health to outline a plan for reducing the number of animals used in research. Unfortunately, little progress has been made since the passage of this law, and animals continue to be used extensively despite new and improved methods and mounting evidence that animal testing can often be
ineffective. The delayed adoption of these viable alternatives means that every year several million animals are needlessly held in captivity and oftentimes senselessly harmed by experiments in the process.

To rectify this situation, I am introducing the Humane Research and Testing Act of 2021 alongside my colleagues, including good friend Congressman VERN BUCHANAN. This legislation establishes the National Center for Alternatives to Animals in Research and Testing within the NIH. First, the National Center will provide assistance, funding, and training to educate scientists in alternatives to the use of animals in research. The National Center will also facilitate collaborations that provide scientists lacking resources with access to human-relevant methods. Second, the National Center will be tasked with tallying the number of animals used in federally funded research. Scientists receiving federal funding and government agencies that use animals in research will be required to submit regular reports to the National Center that state the number of animals used in their research projects, disaggregated by species, and there will be required to outline a plan for reducing the number of animals they use.

Madam Speaker, I urge the House to swiftly pass this legislation. The establishment of a new center dedicated to encouraging human-relevant alternatives to animal testing is needed, so that the NIH can meet its goal of reducing the number of animals unnecessarily harmed in research every year.

IN RECOGNITION OF KIERSTEN ENGLEBERT

HON. JOHN JOYCE
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kiersten Englebert of Biglerville for her dedication to helping homeless veterans.

Kiersten, who holds the title of International United Miss Pennsylvania PreTeen, worked alongside fellow friends to provide vital items for her neighbors in need. She collected hygiene products, socks, hats, gloves, and other items, filling 70 backpacks to support the work of local nonprofit For the Love of a Veteran.

In her career, Kiersten has demonstrated great dedication to the people of Adams County. It is my pleasure to recognize Kiersten for her selfless work to serve our veterans in need, and I wish her continued success in this mission.

HONORING THE LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY OF MARIA CUNHA

HON. LORI TRAHAN
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the leadership and legacy of a mentor and a friend, Maria Cunha, who will retire as Associate Dean and Director of the Out of School Youth Development Program at Middlesex Community College. Her most recent years at MCC have had an immense impact on students and faculty alike, advising and supporting them in their educational and vocational pursuits.

Maria was born in the Azores and moved with her family to the United States in 1967, eventually settling in Lowell among a vibrant, grounded Portuguese community. After graduating from Lowell High School in 1974, she went to Regis College and became the first in her family to graduate from college four years later.

Public service has always guided Maria’s career. She worked as a teacher, interpreter, and mentor serving on countless non-profit boards and dedicated her life to advocating fiercely for families, children, and immigrants in our community.

For twelve years at the International Institute, Maria helped families navigate government agencies on their path to becoming citizens and creating a new life in the Greater Lowell region. She carried that passion for advocacy to her next role as Constituent Services Director in former Representative Marty Meehan’s District Office. There, she continued her mission to provide the highest quality services to our community and exemplified the nobility of service—picking up the phone and listening to someone in crisis and delivering assistance; not giving up on someone in need of a hand; and advocating for resources and laws that fix our broken, inequitable systems.

Over the years, Maria has served as a role model and mentor to so many, myself included. She is what we all should aspire to be as public servants—a shining and tangible example of how government, education, and community are supposed to work.

Even in retirement, Maria will continue to champion those who don’t have a voice, her rich Portuguese heritage, and immigrants in search of a better life here in our community. Through her many years of service, Maria has made the City of Lowell a better place to call home. Thanks to her efforts, the City’s future is bright, and I join Lowell residents and so many throughout our region in thanking her for her dedication to this incredible community.

HONORING ROBIN MACH

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robin Mach of the Meramec Valley R–III School District. In the Meramec Valley R–III School District, a whole new meaning to “going the extra mile” became a reality.

Robin Mach began working with pre-kindergarten students in 1999 and has long been known for going above the norm for her students. The Kulage family is grateful for Dr. Stephanie Bechard, who stated, “Ms. Robin has always had a very strong sense of community and supporting our students outside of school. She always thinks of others in need and sees how all things affect our students and families. Her heart for our students, families, and community is monumental.”

Monumental is an excellent way to describe the selflessness Robin Mach has displayed. She risked her life for her student and in doing so changed lives of that little girl and her family forever. She is a true hero among us, and we are lucky to have her educating our students and our community.

PERSFSONAL EXPLANAITION

HON. KEN CALVERT
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I was prevented from voting on the motion to recommit on March 9, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on the motion to recommit H.R. 842.

GEORGE FLOYD JUSTICE IN POLICING ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF
HON. GWEN MOORE
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1280—George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021. This legislation has been a long time coming and for many it has arrived too little too late. Our nation is a work in progress, and we will continue to fight for equality under the law in every and all aspects.

This essential legislation has critical provisions including supporting the need for more deescalation training for police officers, something that I have long fought for and which has proven time and time again to work. The bill will also block the transfer of weapons of war to police departments, end the no-knock warrants that led to the murder of Breonna Taylor, ban choke holds that killed Eric Garner and George Floyd, and finally end qualified immunity which has shielded police officers from receiving justice for killing or injuring members of the community.

As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus but more importantly as a black mother, grandmother, and now great-grandmother,
I am so proud to be an original sponsor of the legislation.

Our communities are demanding action, calling for strong and effective action that will help not only prevent future tragedies between police and the communities they patrol, but also help increase trust and build safer communities.

This is a commonsense bill that deserves bipartisan support. This is the first step to making our union more perfect, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THRIVENT COMMUNITY-ADVENT PARTNERS**

**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

**OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Thrivent Community-Advent Partners team for their service to the Adams County community.

As an act of kindness for their neighbors, this group assembles and delivers care packages to patients who are undergoing cancer treatments in the Gettyburg Cancer Center and the Wellington Adams Cancer Center. This tradition was established five years ago and has continued to be a service project shared by many community members. During the COVID–19 pandemic, the Thrivent Community-Advent Partners team has taken extra care to safely assemble packages that include items such as masks, blankets, lotion, hand sanitizer, tissues, lip balm and other items. Despite challenges, they have persevered to continue this mission.

Thrivent Community-Advent Partners’ commitment to community service is invaluable to the Adams County community. It is an honor to thank these Pennsylvanians for their commitment and highlight this invaluable work, and I wish them every continued success.

**IN RECOGNITION OF WARREN PIERNER’S 100TH BIRTHDAY**

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

**OF WISCONSIN**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor World War II veteran Warren Pierner as he celebrates his 100th birthday on March 13, 2021.

Warren grew up in Green Bay and attended Green Bay East High School. In 1942, he joined the United States Coast Guard, where he served in the Atlantic on a patrol frigate called the Grand Rapids, and in the Pacific on an attack transport called the Aquarius. Mr. Pierner ran the boilers on these ships for nearly four years and attained the rank of Water Tender 1st Class. Warren continued his service to his country and community as a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, where he worked for 36 years before his retirement in 1984.

After his military service, Warren began to build a family. He married Myra Larsen in 1948 and together they had 7 children during their 60 years of marriage until her passing in 2008. His family enjoyed the summers together fishing, swimming, and playing cards while camping or staying in a rented cabin in Northern Wisconsin. An avid sportsman and sports fan, Warren loved to golf, bowl, fish, and swim. Mr. Pierner has been a longtime Chicago Cubs fan but makes up for it by being an avid Green Bay Packers and Wisconsin Badger fan, UW Green Bay Phoenix fan, and Wisconsin Badger fan. Beloved husband, father, and soldier, Warren is a tribute to the “Greatest Generation” and a grateful nation and state thank him for his service.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in applauding Warren Pierner for his service in WWII and wishing him a happy and healthy 100th birthday.

**SUPPORT OUR MILITARY WORKING DOGS ACT**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

**OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I reintroduce the “Support Our Military Working Dogs Act” in commemoration of National K9 Veterans Day later this week. The United States K9 Corps was established on March 13, 1942.

Military working dogs serve with our troops on the front lines and provide recuperative services for our veterans and their family members. Caring for these dogs in the field and once they return home is our responsibility. The “Support Our Military Working Dogs Act” would ensure that our nation’s military working dogs receive the best possible care and direct help not only prevent future tragedies between police and the communities they patrol, but also help increase trust and build safer communities.

Lastly, the bill for this Congress includes a new provision clarifying that DOD’s Joint Trauma Education and Training Directorate may also conduct research on the treatment and avoidance of injuries for military working dogs. Former Congressman Ralph Abraham (R–LA) sponsored this provision as an amendment to the House-passed “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021,” but it was ultimately removed during conference negotiations with the Senate. I am pleased to include this much-needed clarification in my bill.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, which has jurisdiction over military working dogs, I urge all members of the House to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation. Congress must support our K9 veterans during and after their service.

**HONORING SUE WILSON AND THE HELPING HAND AS IOWANS OF THE WEEK**

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

**OF IOWA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sue Wilson and The Helping Hand of Warren County in Indiana, Iowa for their aid to the underserved people of their community. Sue and The Helping Hand are the pinnacles of what it means to be an Iowan, and I wish to recognize them as my Iowan of the Week for their remarkable dedication to the betterment of their state.

The Helping Hand is a volunteer organization whose mission is to distribute food, clothing, and household items to residents in their community for no cost. While they have been serving the people of Warren County for years via their walk-in food pantry, they have begun outreach to expand their services to address underlying issues resulting in food insecurity such as substance misuse and mental health services.

The Helping Hand is expanding its network to multiple resources and services that its community members can utilize. Not only is it a support system for people who need food and clothing, it is also a resource for those who look to better their mental health as well, not just their physical.

Sue serves on Governor Reynolds’ Advisory Council for Brain Injuries and has started to administer a voluntary brain injury screening tool to the community members that utilize The Helping Hand. While people are waiting in the food pantry line, they are invited to participate in the screening and are then asked a series of questions. This new programming is in the early stages, but Sue and The Helping Hand are hoping that they will soon be able to provide data of the percentage of people who have suffered from a brain injury and have limited resources to assist them in their betterment. So far, The Helping Hand has screened approximately 100 people in their food pantry line.

Sue and The Helping Hand’s desire to better the lives of those in Warren County is incredible. Whether it be feeding, housing, or clothing the needy, they do so through community service. Their mission is to build a community that is better for everyone, and they do this through collaboration with local organizations.

The Helping Hand is always looking for community members to volunteer and help with their services.

**CELEBRATING THE 110TH BIRTHDAY OF EL DORADO NATIVE, MRS. WILLIE BELL COGGINS**

**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

**OF ARKANSAS**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 110th birthday of El Dorado, Arkansas, native, Mrs. Willie Bell Coggins.

Mrs. Coggins was born on March 13, 1911, and has been an integral part of the El Dorado community for over 70 years. She has been involved in many community organizations, including the El Dorado Women’s Club, the El Dorado Historical Society, and the El Dorado Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Coggins is a dedicated community member who has always been involved in the betterment of her community. She has worked hard to improve the quality of life for all residents of El Dorado, and her contributions have not gone unnoticed.

Through her work with various organizations, she has helped to bring many new opportunities to El Dorado, including the construction of a new library, the expansion of the city’s parks and recreational facilities, and the development of a new community center.

In addition to her work in the community, Mrs. Coggins is also a devoted family woman. She has been married for over 70 years and has raised a family of four children.

Despite her many accomplishments, Mrs. Coggins remains humble and dedicated to her community. She is a true asset to El Dorado and a shining example of what it means to be a caring and supportive community member.

I urge all members of the House to join me in celebrating the 110th birthday of Mrs. Willie Bell Coggins, an El Dorado native and a true community hero.
Coggins. A Fourth District resident of over 70 years. Mrs. Coggins boasts a long life full of family and strong values which set her apart as joy to her community.

Born on February 25, 1911, Mrs. Coggins was born in Summerfield, Louisiana to Andy and Eula Davis. After marrying Woodrow Coggins on October 8, 1949, in El Dorado, they raised ten children together. Today, her large family boasts of 20 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

It was this beautiful, large family which inspired her to work so hard throughout her life. After her husband passed away in 1967, Mrs. Coggins continued to present a hard work ethic to provide for her family, creating a home where “everyone felt welcome.” While this is mostly due to her cooking skills and her tremendous love of sports, according to her children, Mrs. Coggins always seeks to live her life in a way that is loving to all people. Her wisdom and innate love for her neighbors shine in her life motto: “no secrets, living right, not hating people, and obeying God.”

I take this time today to celebrate the 110th birthday of Mrs. Willie Bell Coggins and wish her a life full of blessings. May we all look to her as the truest example of kindness, hard work, family, and love for our fellow man.

IN RECOGNITION OF WAYNESBORO SALVATION ARMY

HON. JOHN JOYCE
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Waynesboro Salvation Army upon the completion of a successful Red Kettle Campaign.

This year, the Waynesboro Service Unit of the Salvation Army continued its long history of supporting the “Do the Most Good” program that benefits the Waynesboro, Greencastle and Mercersburg communities. This year, the group overcame obstacles to not only achieve but exceed their goal. The generosity of the community members and the work, family, and love for our fellow man.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN KATKO
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on Roll Call No. 66 on March 9, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 66.

Additionally, on Roll Call No. 68, I mistakenly voted YEA and would like to correct my vote to a NAY.

HONORING BOYD McDANIELS III

HON. KWEISI MUFUME
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. MUFUME. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to call attention to the passing of First Sergeant Boyd McDaniels III, a Fellow Brother Mason and friend to all that would come to know him. His funeral services are taking place as I speak.

First Sergeant McDaniels was a dedicated and highly accomplished soldier who served in several high-profile conflicts, including Desert Storm I and II, Operation Iraqi Freedom and several other classified missions. A skilled soldier, Boyd took over the ranks of the Army and served in both the famed 82nd Airborne Division and 101st Airborne Division and was also a trained marksman. He received his training in lithography at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where he also served years later as a drill sergeant.

Boyd was a highly decorated veteran who served with great honor and distinction. During his service, he was the recipient of two Bronze Star Awards. Among his other military honors was a U.S. flag, Service Star, Office Star Professional Badge, Basic Marks, Quail Badge, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Badge, Parachutist Terrorism Service Medal, Meritorious Service medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

The Army is also where Boyd met his future wife and the love of his life, Deborah, when they were both serving in Germany. He retired from the U.S. Military on June 1, 2003.

Boyd was also called to another type of service while serving in the military: becoming active in two fraternal organizations. While in Germany he joined the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons of North America becoming the lodge’s youngest ever “Most Worshipful Grand Master.” He would later rise to the rank of 33rd degree. He was also a member of Shriners International.

Boyd was a huge Dallas Cowboys and avid South Carolina Gamecocks football fan. He also loved his Lamar High School Silver Foxes, his alma mater (Class of 1984). Gregarious, outgoing and the life of the party, Boyd loved to have a good time and wanted others to enjoy themselves as well. Family was the most important thing to him. He talked to his mom every day and adored his wife and two sons. They were the center of his universe.

First Sergeant McDaniels leaves to mourn his passing a wife, Deborah McDaniels of Columbia, S.C.; two sons Bryan McDaniels of Columbia, S.C. and Ryan McDaniels of Rock Hill, S.C.; his parents, Rev. Boyd McDaniels, Jr. and Marnie Lee McDaniels of Darlington, S.C.; three siblings, Tara (Michael) Bines of Columbia, S.C., Zachary (Andrea) McDaniels of Baltimore, Md., MD. Connie (Troy) McDaniels Williams of Florence S.C.; and sister-in-law Charlene Swain (David) and two brothers-in-law, Troy (Linda) Cummings and Ronald Cummings of Eatonton, GA. He also has eight nieces and nephews—Marcus, Kyla, Kelsen, Chelsea, Kevin, Emmons, Exp, Troy, Kyr. Mrs. McDaniels was preceded in death by two siblings, Robin Lee Williams and Phillip “Ricky” Rueben.

HONORING DR. WILLIE BLAIR’S LIFE AND LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. JUAN VARGAS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Congresswoman SARA JACOBS, to honor Dr. Willie Blair. A Vietnam Combat veteran, former congressional staffer, and leader of the Black American Political Association of California-San Diego Chapter (BAPAC), Dr. Blair was born in 1951 in Knoxville, Tennessee and was one of eight children.

He received a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Manville College in 1973, attended Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island and was commissioned as a U.S. Naval Officer.

Dr. Blair served as a Naval Officer for eight years, including a tour of duty in Vietnam as well as small scale combat in the evacuation of Saigon and Cambodia in May of 1975. After being honorably discharged in 1981, Dr. Blair moved to San Diego and earned a Master of Business Administration degree and a subsequent Doctorate in Humanities and Arts from Point Loma Nazarene University.

Dr. Blair was a special assistant to former Congressman Bob Filner, focusing on veterans’ issues, including veteran homelessness, retiring in 2013.

As a San Diego community leader, Dr. Blair left a legacy of social justice and equity. From 2008 to 2017, he served as board chairperson for BAPAC, an organization that strives to ensure the Black community in San Diego
Diego County remains a relevant economic, social, and political force in Southern California.

Dr. Blair strongly believed in the mission of BAPAC: to work for the maximum effective representations of Black people in the political, economic, and educational systems of San Diego County and find solutions to issues related to jobs, education, and healthcare.

In 2017, he was elected as BAPAC’s President where he continued his work in civil and human rights and used his stature to promote quality leadership in the community.

Dr. Blair devoted his life to bridging the achievement gap for ethnic and minority groups and elevate the positive educational outcomes of disenfranchised communities.

Dr. Blair devoted his life to mentoring leaders in the black community ensuring status within the Democratic party and in other institutions and he was passionate about reaching common ground among Latinos, Asians, and other ethnic and minority groups.

Dr. Blair is survived by his daughter, U.S. Airforce Officer Deborah Smith, siblings Janet, Trece and Roger, and several nieces and nephews.

HONORING FRANCESCO GENUARDI FOR HIS TENURE AS CONSUL GENERAL OF ITALY IN NEW YORK

HON. BILL PACRELL, JR. OF NEW JERSEY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. PACRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Francesco Genuardi, who after five years of admirable service as the Consul General of Italy in New York, has been designated Ambassador of Italy to the Kingdom of Belgium.

Mr. Genuardi, who is married with two daughters, is an Italian diplomat with over 27 years of professional experience. Born in Brussels on July 7, 1967, he graduated with a degree in Law from the University of Milan in 1991.

He joined Italy’s diplomatic service in 1993, and for the next five years worked at the European Union’s Directorate-General for Economic Affairs, where he dealt with international issues of importance associated with environmental protection and safety.

From 1998 to 2002, he served as Deputy Consul at the Consulate General in Buenos Aires, Argentina. From 2002 through 2005, he returned to his native Brussels to serve as First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Italy to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Mr. Genuardi returned to Rome in 2005 and began an eleven-year tenure at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working with seven successive Ministers as a liaison officer for parliament. In 2014, Mr. Genuardi was appointed by the Minister Paolo Gentiloni to serve as head of the Office for Parliamentary Relations of the Italian Foreign Ministry.

In March of 2016, Mr. Genuardi was appointed Consul General of Italy in New York, covering the states of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, as well as the territory of over 3 million Italian Americans.

During his tenure at the Consulate General of Italy in New York, Mr. Genuardi demonstrated a special attention towards all of the Italian and Italian American people of New York and the Tri-State area by actively engaging with the many existing Italian and Italian American associations, and contributing to the creation of new interest groups related to culture, education, athletics, and more.

Mr. Genuardi also contributed greatly to the budding careers of young Italians and Italian Americans through the Consulate’s “Meet the New Italians” program, a series of workshops and professional development seminars aimed at Italian professionals.

Mr. Genuardi’s commendable tenure in New York and lifetime of diplomatic service leaves no doubt that he will take on his new role in Brussels with professionalism, grace, and resolve. His presence will be deeply missed among the Tri-State Italian American community. I am proud to rise today in recognition of the career and service of Francesco Genuardi, incoming Ambassador of Italy to the Kingdom of Belgium.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDWIN GOTWALT

HON. JOHN JOYCE OF PENNSYLVANIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Edwin Gotwalt, a beloved member of the central Pennsylvania community.

Mr. Gotwalt was born May 20, 1936 in York County. His strong work ethic began early, as he took his first job at the age of six to help support his family. After a career as a manager at Giant Food Stores, he founded Mister Ed’s Elephant Museum and Candy Emporium. Mr. Ed owned and operated this iconic candy shop from 1975 until he retired in 2004.

After his retirement, Mr. Ed sought out opportunities to encourage and mentor the next generation of the business community. He also was a dedicated member of the community. Mr. Ed served on many community boards, including his beloved Totem Pole Playhouse.

After a remarkable life, Mr. Ed passed away on February 26, 2021—the same day that marked his 54th wedding anniversary to his wife Patricia and the 46th anniversary of their marriage. It is a pleasure to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Ed Gotwalt for his many accomplishments and contributions to our region. I offer my condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones as they mourn this great loss.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. WILL BAKER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPENBERGER OF MARYLAND IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. RUPPENBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Will Baker as he retires after more than 40 years as director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), the nation’s premier nonprofit Bay watchdog. Guided by its mission to “Save the Bay,” the CBF strives to ensure that future generations may have the privilege of enjoying this national treasure.

Mr. Baker began his career at the CBF as an intern in 1976, shortly after graduating from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. Just five years later, in 1981, he was appointed as the organization’s next president. Under his leadership, the foundation has grown from a small organization with three staffers to the nation’s largest independent conservation organization dedicated solely to saving the Chesapeake Bay. The CBF now boasts 300,000 members and 200 employees in offices located in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia. CBF oversees 16 separate environmental education centers throughout the region that host an award-winning program that has provided meaningful watershed experiences to more than 1 million students.

With Mr. Baker at the helm, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation has received well-deserved recognition for its outstanding work. Most notably, the CBF received the 1992 Presidential Medal for Environmental Excellence, the nation’s most prestigious environmental accolade. Mr. Baker has been recognized by organizations too numerous to mention in their entirety. He has received honorary degrees from the University of Baltimore, Washington College and St. Mary’s College. He was presented the Circle of Excellence Award by The Daily Record named to Baltimore Magazine’s Power 50, and received the Speaker’s Medalion from the Maryland House of Delegates.

Outside of his work for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Mr. Baker has contributed his time and talents as a member of the Johns Hopkins Medicine Executive Committee, as a trustee to the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance and as a member of the Board of Visitors to the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

On a personal note, I have deeply enjoyed getting to know and working with Mr. Baker over the years. He is not just a passionate and effective steward of one of our nation’s most precious resources, he is a kind and decent person. Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me today to honor the career of Mr. Will Baker. His commitment to the betterment of his community and to the Chesapeake Bay should serve as an example to us all.

HON. JOE WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Friday I visited dedicated men and women of the South Carolina National Guard serving at McEntire Joint National Guard Base. McEntire serves critical state and national security missions, most recently spearheading the effort to quickly distribute Wuhan Virus vaccines. It is an excellent site for placement of F-35s.

McEntire is home to the 169th Fighter Wing “Swamp Foxes,” some of the most capable pilots...
in the Air Force and a valuable strategic resource, led by COL Akshai Ghandi. I appreciated being hosted by Major General Van McCarty whose leadership has been critical during this pandemic along with Phil Hambry, Director of Governmental Affairs.

I knew that the non-elected service members, as a grateful 31-year Army Guard veteran myself, with three Guard sons who have served in Iraq, Egypt, and Afghanistan.

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism. Our sympathy to the family of Sally Jonh, widow of the victorious political strategist, Lee Atwater.

RECOGNIZING THE FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKERS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON OF SOUTH DAKOTA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize, celebrate and honor the frontline healthcare workers of the great state of South Dakota.

Some of the South Dakota heroes are: Corey Rothrock, MD, John Shaker Labebe Roufai, MD, Henri Roukouz, MD, Christal Nickole Starr Rousseau, MD, Ronald D. Rovang, MD, Alexander Vladimirovich Rovner, MD, Ryan Robert Rowbney, MD, Aviral Roy, MD, Keshav Roy, MD, James William Roy, MD, Joseph Michael Rozell, MD, Elizabeth Diane Rubin-Peck, MD, John M. Rud, MD, Nathan Paul Rud, MD, Bongi Ayaana Natalie Rudder, MD, Garrett Barrett Ruddy, MD, Briana Maria Rueda, DO, John H. Rummel, MD, Anthony Jerome Rupp, MD, Richard J. Russell, MD, Paul R. Ruet, MD, Sara Jeanette Ruter, MD, Veronica Yumo Ruvo, DO, Joshua Leighton Ryan, MD, Keith Aaron Ryan, MD, Jon G. Ryckman, MD, Mitchell L. Rydeberg, MD, Kelly Waker Ryder, DO, Muhammad Hamza Saad Shaukat, MD, Huaian Sahuag, MD, Abrahm Ernest Sabersky, MD, John D. Sabow, MD, Irony Cuervo Del Norte Sade, MD.

Malin Abraham Sadler, MD, Urooj Saeed, MD, Farid Saif Saeedi, MD, Ruan Safarow, MD, Gregory Dale Safell, MD, Parshant Sagar, MD, Robert James Sage, MD, William Scott Sageman, MD, Ajay Kumar Sahajpal, MD, Tehmina Sahajwani, MD, David M. Sahilstrom, MD, Adarsh Sahni, MD, Quin Marie Saigh, MD, Monaleze Saine, MD, Sujit Sahajpal, MD, Janet R. Sakhir, MD, Purva Sharma, MD, Puneet Sanyal, MD, Hany Fawzi Shanoudy, MD, Mahmoud Shater, MD, Stanley Gene Sateren, MD, Adam Richard Sasso, MD, Douglas Shavlik, MD, Ahmed Farouk Ahmed Patel Shah, MD, Ahmed Farouk Ahmed Patel Shah, MD, Ravi Jatin Shah, MD, Shah, MD, Qaisar Arjumand Shah, MD, Asha Shakya, MD, Chandar Singaram, MD, Reddy Simonsen, MD, John Austin Simonson, MD, David Charles Simon, MD, Kari Anne Simmons, MD, James Edward Smith, MD, Jeffrey Ralph Smith, MD, Mark D. Smith, MD, Kelly D. Smith, MD, James F. Smith, MD, Terrance H. Smith, MD, Michael Smiley, MD, R. Maclean Smith, MD, Barry A. Slafer, MD, Kirstin Renee Sholes, MD, Melody Anderson Shrack, MD, Yogesh Shrestha, MD, Anup Shrestha, MD, Kinsey Ann Shultz Platz, MD, Grant Shumaker, MD, Mary Ann Sibert, MD, Henry Eugene Sibold, MD, Larry Siders, DO, Christopher Ricardo Sidden, MD, Saif Haq Siddiqi, MD, Zia Ahmed Siddiqui, MD, Avery Lyne Sides, MD, Scott Douglas Sidney, MD, Jonnas Vytas Sidrys, MD, Renee Marie Siegmann, MD, Sheryl Siegmann, MD, Anthony Alfred Sierra, MD, Annette Lee Siewert, MD, Santosh Sigdel, MD, Kathryn Elizabeth Sigford, MD, Eric Roy Sigmund, MD, Julis A. Silvidi, MD, Richard Joseph Simmons, MD, Lynn Maxine Simmons, MD, Matthew E. Simmons, MD, Sarah Vanossi Simmons, MD, Anna Simon, MD, David Charles Simon, MD, Kari Anne Simonson, MD, John Austin Simonson, MD, Janell Lynn Simpkins, MD, Brian Francis Simpson, MD, Ashwani Kumar Singal, MD, Chandar Singaram, MD, Reddy Sreenivas Singsangani, MD, Aditya Singh, MD, Raj Nandan Singh, MD, Rajesh Singh, MD, Leighton James Smith, MD, Leighton James Smith, MD, Anuradha V. Singhal, MD, Angela Marie Sinner Begnau, DO, Lidia S. Sirek, MD, Richard Eugene Sisti, MD, Eric Sizemore, DO, Gwenn L Skar, MD, Nathan William Skelley, MD, Ernest C. Skidmore, JR., Demetre Peter Skliris, MD, Rayburn Russell Skoglund, MD, Richard Joseph Skorey, MD, Brian Steven Skow, MD, Mike T. Slattery, MD, J. Geoffrey Singsby, MD, David Jerome Sly, DO, Donna M. Small, MD, John W. Smiley, MD, R. Maclean Smith, MD, Barry A. Smith, MD, Terrance H. Smith, MD, Michael D. Smith, MD, Kelly D. Smith, MD, James F. Smith, MD, Janet R. Shafter, MD, Charles D. Slinkard, MD, Jeffrey Ralph Smith, MD, Mark Winston Smith, MD, James Edward Smith, MD, Stanley Rhet Smith, MD, Anthony Edward Smith, MD, Deborah Smith, MD, Megan
Deborah Kuehn, Gameth Kuiper, Jessica Kuipers, Michelle Kutzke, Anne Kvanm, April Labat, Maari Labrie, Shannon Ladd, Lynne Laird, Elizabeth Laird, Rose Lammers, Jamie Lammers, Brooke Lancaster, Gretchen Landers, Ashley Landis, Jane Langbehn, Julie Langerock, Elizabeth Lapp, Whitney Larsen, Kristina Larson, Elizabeth Larson, Steven Larsson.


Diana Olinger, Ashley Oliver, Jennalene Olsen, Lindsay Olson, Susan Olson, Rebecca Olson, Ross Olson, Colleen Oman, Amanda O'Neil, Elizabeth O'Neil, Andrea Orr, Charisse Orton Brockmuller, Melody Otte, Hannah Otten, Vicki Owen, Cynthia Pallescen, Lindsey Palmer, Martha Papp, Karla Pardes, Donna Parry, Marie Patton, Lynn Paul, Bette Paulsen, Rachel Paulsen, Beata Pearce, Sarah Pearman, Andrea Pedersen, Anita Pendo, Arthur Pepper, Todd Persson, Megan Persson, Penny Petersen, Bonnie Petersen, Erica Petersen, Andrea Peterson, Lindsey Petersen, Bonnie Peterson, Lindsay Peterson, Anders Peterson, Jodi Peterson, Nathan Peterson, Robin PetersonLund, Nathaniel Pfeffer, Dale Phelps, Angela Pierson, Jill Pitz, Michele Plooster, Ryan Poppe, Amanda Pospischil, Kristin Pratt, Brandi Pravecek, Korie Pravecek, Jessica Preheim, Stephanie Preister, Esther Presler, Vanessa Pribil, Gabriele Price, Ericka Privett, Evelyn Provell, Charles Pugsley, Tamming Pull, Kjerstin Purinton.

Dianna Pultmann, Michal Putzke, Marie Quaschnick, Sara Raabe, Kathryn Radiagan, Rebecca Rakowicz, Dustin Randell, Derek Randell, Danielle Rathjen, Angela Ratzsch, Stacy Rausch, Jada Rausch, Cheryl Reagan, Rebecca Reausaw, Carmen Redlin, Traci Redmond, Jennifer Redmond, Cora Reid, Danielle Reiff, June Reiling, Jennifer Reimer, Michelle Renewable, Nancy Reisus, Jenifer Reitsma, Tiffany Reitsma, Mitchell Relf, Betsy Rentschler, Nelinda Rhode, Susan Richards, Amanda Richter, Kristina Rieffenberger, Trisha Riefenberg, Josie Ries, Maggie Riggis, Angela Riley, Andrea Rishe, Carrie Rishe, Jennifer Rissee, Rebecca Risty, Renia Robbennolt, Lindsey Robin- son, Shirley Roddy, Jamie Roder, Sarah Rodolph, Denise Roemen-Kramer, Michele Rohde, Kristin Rokusek, Tracy Romney, Gwen Rosenau, Sherry Ross, Krisi Ross, Katlyn Rossney, Joy Roth, Diane Rowe, Ryan Rowe.

Janelle Ross, Josephine Ruccio, Karen Runge, Ninel Ruzhitzky, Robert Safar, Megan Sage, Tracy Salameh, Todd Salfran, Sarah Sapp, Maria Sargent, Ann Sarutzki-Tucker, Tresa Sattler, April Saufley, Diane Schabauer, Verna Schad, Marin Schaefer, Tanya Schaefer, Jenny Schaefer, Brandi Schave, Laura Schiber, Constance Schmidt, Angela Schmidt, Darcie Schmidt, Colleen Schmidt, Kate Schmidt, Amanda Schmieg, April Schneider, Kelsey Schepner, April Schnedier, Jill Schramm, Emily Schreur, Maryann Schroder, Beth Schroeder, Erin Schoedler, Patricia Schoedler, Zachary Schroer, Sarah Schryens, Peggy Scheule, Bethany Schultz, Jami Schultz, Mariah Schuman, Krafty Schweitzler, Carla Schweit- zer, Gretchen Scott, Glenn Scotting, Donna Sebesta, Shelly Selland, and Wade Sendelbach.

Over the past year they have faced chal- lenges most of us cannot even imagine. They have shown incredible resolve in the face of adversity. They have shown us all how to seek positivity and hope in each day as we face our nation are serious and deeply con- cerning—and include partisan gridlock among policy-makers, Faithful Democracy partners are committed to structural democ- racy reforms that lay a solid foundation for rebuilding our nation.

Democratic governance is the best existing system to peacefully hold a diversity of ideas, to enable healthy compromise among competing interests and to instill a sense of belonging among all its members. However, ours falls short since our democratic systems are open to manipulation by those seeking to amass power or undercut the common good for special interests.

The 2020 election has underscored the ur- gent need for transformational democracy reform. Across the nation, Americans experi- enced unprecedented suppression of the his- toric levels of dark money spent to drown out the voices of everyday Americans, and rampant ethnic abuses by special interests. The comprehensive Drive the People Act ad- dresses many of these problems, opening the door for legislative solutions. The bill has three overarching goals: protect and strengthen the sacred right to vote, end the dominance of big money in politics, and im- plement anti-corruption, pro-ethics meas- ures to clean up government.

This historic legislation passed the House of Representatives by a wide margin in March 2019 and was cosponsored by 46 mem- bers of the Senate. President-elect Joe Biden has stated that a “first priority” of his ad- ministration will be to lead on a comprehen- sive set of democracy solutions like those re- flected in the For the People Act. House and Senate Democratic leaders have similarly said they will prioritize this once-in-a-gen- eration legislation. The undersigned organi- zations with the Faithful Democracy coal- ition urge Congress to take bipartisan action on the election reform, anti-corruption and voting rights provisions enshrined in the For the People Act and to resist the priority in the new Congressional session.

Alliance of Baptists; American Friends Service Committee; Church World Service; Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces; Congrega- tion of Sisters of St. Agnes; Creation Justice
Ministries; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Faith in Public Life; Faithful America; Franciscan Action Network; Friends Committee on National Legislation; Islamic Society of North America; Hindus for Human Rights; Leadership Conference of Women Religious; Mormon Women for Ethical Government; National Advisory Council of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd; National Council of Churches; National Council of Jewish Women; Lobby for Carter; Pax Christi USA; Poligon Education Fund; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Office of Public Witness; Religious Coalition for Repentance; Sadbhavana; Coalition of Progressive Hindus; Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team; Society of the Sacred Heart United States Canada Province; Unitarian Church of the Disciples of Christ Board of Church and Society; Union for Re- form Judaism; Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice; United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries.

FITH IN PUBLIC LIFE, Washington, DC.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: On behalf of 40,000 faith leaders across the country, I write in support of the For the People Act, the transformational democracy reform bill that would give Americans their power back. As faith leaders, we believe that a “first priority” of any administration is that every American should have their voices heard in the political process. If you support and co-sponsor S. 1. Representa- tive democracy is the very foundation of our nation. It is a foundation cracked with a leg- acy of exclusivity, the 3/5ths compromise, disenfranchisement, and suppression. Access to the ballot box is now a matter of life or death for some and deprive it from others. As Quakers, we believe that there is that of God in everyone. No one has less value. Unfortunately, voter suppression unduly and disproportionately affects Black and brown communities.

State legislative bills across the country have been a product of this era. We urge you to pass the For the People Act because it reflects our belief that a “first priority” of your administration is that every American should have their voices heard in the political process. If you support and co-sponsor S. 1. Representative democracy is the very foundation of our nation.
political voice. We believe in an ethical government that works solely in the interest of the people. Quakers are united in our support for transparent and fair elections. We encourage you to support this legislation so that we can actualize a more inclusive, secure, and moral democracy for today and generations to come.

Sincerely,
DIANE E. RANDALL,
General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) is deeply concerned about the state of our nation and the future of our democracy and we are committed to using our voice in the public square to speak about matters of justice and moral good. In this increasingly divided nation, we are called to take action to repair our democracy and contribute to the work of building a more perfect union. That is why we urge you to support the For the People Act.

We consider the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair elections, equitable and fair representation, and accountability for elected leaders to be among the most important issues of our day. That is why we are urging Congress to prioritize passage of this pro-voter, anti-corruption legislation. That is why we are asking you to take immediate action on the For the People Act (H.R. 1) and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4).

Only a healthy democracy has the capacity to address the deep challenges we face. At our core, our national values, call us to address: the COVID-19 pandemic, systemic racism, economic inequality, climate change, justice for migrants and refugees, poverty, violence of every type, access to healthcare and more. We must take swift action to protect voting rights, strengthen our democratic institutions, and put an end to manipulation by big money and an concentration of power that undermines democracy.

The 2020 election underscored the urgent need for transformational reform. The For the People Act coupled with the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act represent a long way toward addressing the voter suppression, dark money and ethical abuses that threaten our democracy.

The common-sense reforms in HR 1/8949, which are deeply popular and have passed in many states and localities, aim to accomplish three overarching goals: (1) protecting the sacred right to vote, (2) ending the dominance of big money in politics, and (3) implementing anti-corruption, pro-ethics measures to clean up government. Without structural democracy reform, our nation will remain unable to fully address important substantive priorities critical amid a pandemic protecting and expanding affordable health care, stopping the spread of COVID-19, and ensuring jobs and wages that allow people to support themselves.

The 2020 election has underscored the urgent need for democracy reform. Across the nation, Americans faced unprecedented voter suppression, historic levels of dark money spent, and rampant ethical abuses—all with the goal of drowning out particular voices. The People Act addresses many of these challenges. NCJW was proud to support this historic legislation when it was first introduced. And, we were thrilled to mobilize our advocates in support in support of the bill, which passed the House in March 2019.

President-elect Joe Biden has stated that a “first priority” of his administration will be to lead on a comprehensive set of democracy solutions like those reflected in the For the People Act. House and Senate Democratic leaders have similarly stated that they will prioritize this one-time-in-a-generation legislation. NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice—on behalf of our 90,000 members across the nation—is asking you to ensure that the For the People Act is a first priority when the new Congress is convened. These reforms are desperately needed and overwhelmingly desired by the American people.

Sincerely,
SH. SIMONE CAMPBELL, Executive Director,
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice.

On behalf of the 180,000 advocates of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) in strong support of a transformational democracy reform package that would help return power to everyday Americans—For the People Act—we write in strong support of the 117th Congress conveys. Our democracy must work for everyone.

Sincerely,
JODY RABHAN,
Chief Policy Officer,
National Council of Jewish Women.

The 2020 election underscored the urgent need for transformational democracy reform. Across the nation, Americans witnessed unprecedented voter suppression, historic levels of dark money spent to drown out the voices of everyday Americans, and rampant ethical abuses by special interests. We know that the For the People Act addresses many of these problems. The American people know that our democracy can still deliver, despite all of its shortfalls, and Congress must turn its attention to protecting and strengthening the sacred right to vote, and implementing anticorruption, pro-ethics measures to clean up our government. Without structural democracy reform to begin restoring the faith of the electorate in government accountability, our nation will remain divided and unable to overcome the multiple crises currently at hand.

The momentum gained in 2019 and the unanimous support by Democrats in both chambers must now be driven forward with fresh energy. President-elect Joe Biden has stated that a “first priority” of his administration will be to lead on a comprehensive set of democracy solutions like those reflected in the For the People Act. House and Senate Democratic leaders have similarly stated that they will prioritize this one-time-in-a-generation legislation. NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice—on behalf of our 90,000 members across the nation—is asking you to ensure that the For the People Act is a first priority when the new Congress is convened. These reforms are desperately needed and overwhelmingly desired by the American people.

Sincerely,
DIANE E. RANDALL,
General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

The common-sense reforms in HR 1/8949, which are deeply popular and have passed in many states and localities, aim to accomplish three overarching goals: (1) protecting the sacred right to vote, (2) ending the dominance of big money in politics, and (3) implementing anti-corruption, pro-ethics measures to clean up government. Without structural democracy reform, our nation will remain unable to fully address important substantive priorities for the American people. These include expanding affordable healthcare and stopping the spread of COVID-19; dismantling systemic racism, protecting the environment and minimizing the threat of climate...
most importance. I am urging Congress to prioritize passage of this legislation which increases the overall transparency and effectiveness of our democratic systems.

The United Methodist Church is a global denomination with more than eight million members in the United States.

On a practical level, only a healthy, well-functioning democracy has the capacity to attend to any of the pressing needs our faith calls us to address: the COVID pandemic, systemic racism, climate change, hunger, violence, poverty, healthcare and more. On a moral level, leaders must take swift action to protect the right to vote and to strengthen our democratic foundations from abuse and manipulation by the powerful and the wealthy at the expense of the historically marginalized and most vulnerable people in our nation.

The 2020 election cycle and the insurrection on January 6th have underscored the urgent need for transformational democracy reform. Across the nation, Americans experienced unprecedented voter suppression, historic levels of dark money spent to drown out the voices of everyday Americans, and rampant ethical abuses by special interests. The number of Americans misled into questioning the results of a safe and secure election demonstrates the fragility of our democracy and the urgency of taking concrete actions to shore-up public trust.

The For the People Act (HR1) makes sure that every citizen is able to exercise their civic duty free of voter suppression and murky campaign financing. Too many Americans, particularly in communities of color, have been unjustly prevented from exercising their right to vote through extraordinary and deeply discriminatory voter suppression laws. Strong and dedicated community leaders are prevented from pursuing public office simply because of the overwhelming financial burden of running a campaign. On top of these deep systemic issues, the number of Americans in the 2020 election cycle misled into questioning the results of a general election with historic voter turn-out demonstrates the fragility of our democracy and the urgency of taking concrete actions to shore-up public trust.

The For the People Act (HR1) addresses many of these problems.

The common-sense reforms in this legislation, drafted by bipartisan U.S. Senate leaders and passed in many states and localities, aim to accomplish three overarching goals: (1) protecting and strengthening the right to vote, including the influence of big money in politics, and (3) implementing anti-corruption, pro-ethics measures.

This historic legislation has significant momentum in Congress with priority designation in both chambers. As a United Methodist faith leader, I urge Congress to pass the For the People Act (HR1) quickly in the 117th Session.

Sincerely,

Pablo DeJesus
Executive Director
The United Methodist Church

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN
OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Hot Springs public servant and historian, Mr. Clay Farrar. He passed away on February 27, 2021, leaving behind a community which mourns the passing of a leader, a servant, a mentor, and a friend.

For nearly 50 years, Mr. Farrar worked on a variety of projects around the Hot Springs community. As a partner at Farrar and Williams PLLC, he specialized in trust and estate planning. Serving as Chairman of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce in 1988, Mr. Farrar became instrumental in the development and success of Hot Springs. He was considered an expert in local history, producing a series on the National Park Rotary Club, writing monthly columns of local history for the Hot Springs Sentinel-Record, and contributing to the Garland County Historical Society.

In 1985, Mr. Farrar had a profound impact on the preservation of Hot Springs National Park's designation when efforts were made to return it to its original designation as the Hot Springs Reservation. Even after his retirement, Mr. Farrar continued to serve as chairperson of the committee tasked with the repurposing of the ACTI Complex, or the Army/Navy Hospital, which graces the Downtown Hot Springs skyline.

In addition to his life of service for his beloved city, Mr. Farrar was known to be an inspiration and a mentor to many in the community, teaching the power of devotion and hard work through each project he tackled. It is from men like Mr. Clay Farrar that we can discover the importance of learning from our own history to define our future. From him, we derive the definition of true servant leadership.

I take this time today to honor the life of service exemplified by Clay Farrar. I thank him.

HON. JOHN JOYCE
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of W. Gene Kelly. Gene passed away on February 17, 2021 after a lifetime of service to the Blair County community.

Gene lived in Martinsburg, Pennsylvania for most of his life. He graduated from Martinsburg High School and attended college at Pennsylvania State University. After college, he worked for the Altoona Area School District for 25 years as an elementary school teacher and principal.

Additionally, Gene served our great nation for six years in the U.S. Navy Reserves, and he also founded the W. Gene Henry Mobile Home Parks in Martinsburg.

Throughout his life, Gene was dedicated to community service. He made generous contributions to support the Martinsburg Borough Municipal Building and Police Station, as well as the Martinsburg Volunteer Fire Company. He contributed to many community projects, including highway widenings, the Morrisons Cove Memorial Park, and a pair of buildings in the Fairview Cemetery.

Gene was an admirable, generous, and faithful member of our community. It is my privilege to honor Gene Kelly's life and legacy, and to recognize his many contributions to our nation and region.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HOT SPRINGS NATIVE, CLAY FARRAR
and his family for their dedication to our fellow citizens and our beloved Fourth District.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MITCH RUSSELL

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mitchell Lee Russell who passed away at the age of 67 on February 23, 2021. Mitch was the embodiment of a model public servant, striving to serve the citizens of Hamilton County. He protected his fellow citizens for over 30 years before retiring in 2006.

Mitch started his career following in the footsteps of his older brother, Richard, who was also a police officer. Mitch began his service in Arcadia, Indiana as a Deputy Marshal. He then went on to serve in the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Department where he spent 29 years, rising to the rank of Lieutenant before retiring. His service to his community did not end with retirement as he was appointed Marshal of the Arcadia Police Department. In 2012, his service continued when he took a job as director of Security for Riverview Health in Noblesville, where he served until his passing.

His public service also extended beyond law enforcement. Mitch served as President of the Arcadia Town Council, a member of the Kiwanis Club, a board member of the Arcadia baseball and softball team, and as a coach for his children and grandchildren. The town of Arcadia has always been very close to his heart.

On behalf of the 5th District, I offer my deepest sympathies to Mitch’s wife of 37 years, Melanie Anne, the Russell family, and the community of Arcadia.

NORTHERN MARIANAS FAMILY ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN
OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. SABLÁN. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Northern Marianas Family Assistance Act. This legislation will make long overdue amendments to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (“TANF”) program to include the Northern Mariana Islands.

The TANF program provides a lifeline to low-income families with children to meet ongoing needs. Benefits such as childcare, workforce education and training, and food assistance gives families a chance when times get tough. But the benefits of this block grant program are not available in the Marianas.

My bill addresses this inequity.

As we continue to address the economic challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the inclusion in the TANF program would ensure that working families with children in the Marianas can continue to put food on the table and have a roof over their head.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN GRAY

HON. YVETTE HERREL
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Ms. HERREL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge this year’s winner of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association’s Livestock Inspector of the Year award. District Supervisor Justin Gray has served his community and his team diligently and is well deserving of this award.

After graduating from Clarendon College in Texas with a major in Ranch and Feedlot management, Justin began his career with the New Mexico Livestock Board in 2014. In 2020, he was promoted to District Supervisor. Justin demonstrated his diligence when he responded to an overturned livestock vehicle on U.S. 70. According to a New Mexico State Police Officer on the scene, “Justin Gray responded to the incident and presented himself in an excellent manner. He assisted in the removal of deceased cattle and live cattle from the overturned trailer for approximately six hours without any complaint. Inspector Gray worked tediously from start to finish of the incident.”

Stories like this one exemplify Justin’s hard work and dedication and I congratulate him on this award.

HONORING JOSEPH VAUGHN FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE AS DIRECTOR AT THE W.G. (BILL) HEFNER VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Vaughn for his 16 years of service, including three years as Director at the W.G. (Bill) Hefner Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Salisbury, North Carolina. He has seen his extraordinary leadership firsthand and know how much he means to this community and to our veterans.

Mr. Vaughn began his career in 1983 with the United States Navy, where he served for ten years and completed four Mediterranean cruises before being awarded the Navy Achievement Medal. He retires today after over a decade of combined service at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

After being appointed Director on March 19, 2018, he immediately began the important work that would one day transform both the Salisbury VA and the surrounding community.

Mr. Vaughn led implementation of the VA MISSION Act, saw facility complexity increase from 1C to 1B, opened ambulatory surgery at VA Healthcare Centers in Charlotte and Kernersville, saw the Community Living Center obtain a 5-star quality rating for multiple rating periods, and stimulated major improvements in Hospital Rating (HCAPS). In response to the coronavirus (COVID–19) pandemic, Mr. Vaughn’s quick actions saved many lives and protected countless others through mass vaccination events.

Renee and I would like to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Vaughn for his years of exemplary service at the Salisbury VA. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing him continued success and happiness as he moves on to his next great adventure.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Joseph Vaughn upon his retirement as Director at the W.G. (Bill) Hefner Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

HONORING THE BRAVE AND LIFE SAVING ACTIONS OF ANDERSON POLICE OFFICER JOE TODD

HON. VICTORIA SPARTZ
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic actions of Anderson Police Officer Joe Todd, who is being credited with saving a life on January 31, 2021. Officer Todd, like so many of our great police officers, put himself in harm’s way to serve and protect a citizen.

Officer Todd observed a house fire in progress around 9:00 p.m. that evening. He approached the scene and noticed a woman standing on the front porch with the door open as the flames engulfed the house. Officer Todd ran to the distraught homeowner and asked if there was anyone else inside. The woman then ran back inside the house, visibly shaken by what was occurring. Officer Todd ran after the woman into the burning house and carried her to the front yard to safety.

Our police officers put their lives on the line everyday to serve and protect their fellow citizens. Officer Joe Todd is an example of the selfless work these men and women do every day. On behalf of Indiana’s 5th District, it is my honor to commend these brave actions.

IN RECOGNITION OF OPEN HANDS MINISTRIES

HON. JOHN JOYCE
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Open Hands Ministries of Stalstown, Pennsylvania for its service to the Westmoreland County community.

To help families struggling to buy clothes for young infants, Open Hands Ministries began a program in 1994 to donate necessary items to families in need. Each donation includes a crib blanket, a receiving blanket, diapers, onesies, sleepers, bibs, hats, and socks. These contributions have helped thousands of families as they welcome a new addition into their home.

Over the years, the volunteers at Open Hands Ministries have donated almost 11,000 layettes to area families. I thank the volunteers at Open Hands Ministries for their decades of service to southwestern Pennsylvania, and wish them continued success in this vital mission.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4,
MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 15

6 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To receive a closed briefing on the policy and legal rationale of U.S. airstrikes in Syria.

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States Southern Command and United States Northern Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and Future Years Defense program.

SD-G50
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine ways to strengthen research and development in innovative transportation technologies with a focus on solutions that decrease emissions, reduce our reliance on foreign supply chains, and increase manufacturing in the United States.

SD-366

10 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the effect of the U.S. tax code on domestic manufacturing.

WEBEX
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.

SD-106

MARCH 16

2 p.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the state of housing in America.

WEBEX

MARCH 17

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, and Rachel Leland Levine, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Health and Human Services, and other pending calendar business.

SD-430
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider S. 231, to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, S. 272, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available, S. 583, to promote innovative acquisition techniques and procurement strategies, S. 517, to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism, S. 636, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule, S. 522, to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100 word plain language summary of the proposed rule, S. 111, to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Best Practices, S. 566, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 42 Main Street in Slatersville, Rhode Island, as the “Specialist Matthew R. Turcotte Office Building”, an original bill entitled “Federal Agency Customer Experience Act”, an original bill entitled, “No Congressionally-Obligated Recurring Revenue Used as Pensions to Incarcerated Officials Now Act”, an original bill entitled, “National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act”, an original bill entitled, “Venezuelan Contracting Restriction Act”, and an original bill entitled, “Duplicative Scoring Act”.

SD-342

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine recent Federal actions to expand broadband.

SR-253
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife
To hold joint hearings to examine the challenges facing drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

SD-G50
Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine advancing effective U.S. policy for strategic competition with China in the twenty-first century.

SD-106

11 a.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine the income and wealth inequality crisis in America.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the Paycheck Protection Program, focusing on performance, impact, and next steps.

SR-301

MARCH 18

10 a.m.
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
To resume joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of veterans services organizations.

WEBEX

10:15 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the SolarWinds supply chain attack, focusing on the Federal perspective.

SD-342/WEBEX
D222

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Marcia Louise Fudge, of Ohio, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Senate confirmed the nomination of Merrick Brian Garland, of Maryland, to be Attorney General.

Senate confirmed the nomination of Michael Stanley Regan, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1433–S1475

Measures Introduced: Forty-four bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 653–696, and S. Res. 102–104.

Pages S1458–60

Measures Passed:

John Lewis NIMHD Research Endowment Revitalization Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. 320, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide that the authority of the Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to make certain research endowments applies with respect to both current and former centers of excellence, and the bill was then passed.

Pages S1434–35

New Chemical Exclusivity: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. 415, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity, and the bill was then passed.

Pages S1435

The Hoosier Gym Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 102, recognizing the 100th anniversary of The Hoosier Gym and the 35th anniversary of the release of the film “Hoosiers”.

Pages S1435–36

Motion to Discharge Becerra Nomination: Pursuant to S. Res. 27, Committee on Finance being tied on the question of reporting, the Majority Leader made the motion to discharge the Committee on Finance from further consideration of the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services; under the provisions of S. Res. 27, there will be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees; with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order.

Pages S1456

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to discharge the nomination at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, March 11, 2021, with the time expiring at 12 noon.

Pages S1473

Haaland Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that following the vote on the motion to discharge the Committee on Finance from further consideration of the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Debra Anne Haaland, of New Mexico, to be Secretary of the Interior; and that the cloture motion on the nomination ripen at 1:30 p.m., on Thursday, March 11, 2021.

Pages S1473

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 66 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. EX. 113), Marcia Louise Fudge, of Ohio, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Pages S1437–44

By 70 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. EX. 114), Merrick Brian Garland, of Maryland, to be Attorney General.

Page S1446

By 66 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. EX. 116), Michael Stanley Regan, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Pages S1446–56

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:
By 65 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. EX. 115), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Messages from the House:

Executive Communications:

Petitions and Memorials:

Executive Reports of Committees:

Notice of a Tie Vote Under S. Res. 27:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—116)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:03 p.m., until 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 11, 2021. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1473.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

CHALLENGES FACING THE FBI

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded a closed hearing to examine domestic and foreign threats and other challenges facing the Federal Bureau of Investigation, after receiving testimony from Christopher A. Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Also, Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 117th Congress:

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment: Senators Menendez (Chair), Reed, Warner, Warren, Cortez Masto, Smith, Sinema, Warnock, Scott (SC), Shelby, Crapo, Rounds, Tillis, Kennedy, Lummis, and Moran.

Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance: Senators Warner (Chair), Tester, Sinema, Ossoff, Hagerty, Crapo, Kennedy, and Daines.

Subcommittee on Economic Policy: Senators Warren (Chair), Reed, Van Hollen, Smith, Ossoff, Kennedy, Scott (SC), Tillis, Cramer, and Daines.

Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development: Senators Smith (Chair), Reed, Menendez, Tester, Cortez Masto, Van Hollen, Ossoff, Warnock, Rounds, Shelby, Crapo, Hagerty, Lummis, Moran, Cramer, and Daines.


Senators Brown and Toomey are ex officio members of each subcommittee.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Budget: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

NOMINATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Donet Dominic Graves, Jr., of Ohio, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine climate change in the electricity sector and fostering economic growth, including electricity grid resilience and actions that should be undertaken by the Department of Energy and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, after receiving testimony from Frank Rusco, Director of Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles, California; Ben Fowke, Xcel Energy, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Sandra Snyder, Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, Washington, D.C.; and Jim Wood, West Virginia University Energy Institute, Morgantown.

DEMOCRACY AROUND THE WORLD

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state of democracy around the world, after receiving testimony from Madeleine K. Albright, former Secretary of State, Paula J. Dobriansky, former Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs, and Peter Biar Ajak, National Endowment for Democracy, all of Washington, D.C.; Wai Hnin Pwint Thon, Burma Campaign UK, Geneva, Switzerland; and Nathan Law, former Hong
Kong Legislative Council Member, London, United Kingdom.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

- S.325, to amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children;
- S.314, to repeal the Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Act;
- S.144, to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Indian Health Service, to acquire private land to facilitate access to the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center in Hemet, California;
- S.371, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take certain land located in Pinal County, Arizona, into trust for the benefit of the Gila River Indian Community;
- S.108, to authorize the Seminole Tribe of Florida to lease or transfer certain land;
- S.548, to convey land in Anchorage, Alaska, to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium;
- S.549, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska;
- S.550, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium located in Sitka, Alaska; and
- S.559, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act.

**NATIVE COMMUNITIES AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* Committee concluded a roundtable discussion to examine Native communities and the climate crisis from Charlene Nelson, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Tokeland, Washington; Timothy Davis, Blackfeet Nation, Browning, Montana; Amber Torres, Walker River Paiute Tribe, Schurz, Nevada; Shelley Buck, Prairie Island Indian Community, St. Paul, Minnesota; Craig Quanchello, Picuris Pueblo, Penasco, New Mexico; Livingston Wong, Kamehameha Schools, Honolulu, Hawaii; and Nikoosh Carlo, CNC North Consulting, Seattle, Washington.

**SUPREME COURT AND THE JUDICIARY**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights concluded a hearing to examine the Supreme Court and the Judiciary, after receiving testimony from Michael Klarman, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Lisa Graves, Center for Media and Democracy, Madison, Wisconsin; Benjamin Todd Jealous, People for the American Way, and Scott Walter, Capital Research Center, both of Washington, D.C.; and Jonathan H. Adler, Case Western Reserve University School of Law Coleman P. Burke Center for Environmental Law, Cleveland, Ohio.

**MILITARY TOXIC EXPOSURES**

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine military toxic exposures, focusing on the human consequences of war, after receiving testimony from Anthony Szema, Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, South Setaucket, New York; Karl Kelsey, Brown University School of Public Health, Providence, Rhode Island; Shane Liermann, Disabled American Veterans, and Aleks Morosky, Wounded Warrior Project, both of Washington, D.C.; William Thompson, Princeton, West Virginia; and Jeffrey O’Malley, Houston, Texas.

**INTELLIGENCE**

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.
House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 56 public bills, H.R. 1727–1782; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 213–217 were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H1327–28

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Greene (GA) motion to adjourn by a yea-and-nay vote of 149 yeas to 235 nays, Roll No. 71.

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: The House concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1319, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 5, by a yea-and-nay vote of 220 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 72.

H. Res. 198, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1319) was agreed to yesterday, March 9th.

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Fudge, wherein she resigned as Representative for the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, effective today, March 10, 2021.

Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021: The House considered H.R. 8, to require a background check for every firearm sale. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, March 11th.

Agreed to:

Nadler en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in part C of H. Rept. 117–10: Crow (No. 3) that expands the background check exemption for hunting and fishing to also include pest remediation associated with ranching and farming; Garcia (TX) (No. 4) that requires the Attorney General to make available to any person licensed under this chapter both Spanish and English versions of the form required for the conduct of a background check; Jackson Lee (No. 5) that makes clear that a gun owner who realizes that he or she is at risk of suicide may transfer the gun to someone else, if the risk is imminent, without a background check to prevent self-harm; Lamb (No. 6) that clarifies that no background check is required for exchanges of firearms between family members and rather should be viewed, between family members, as two simultaneous gifts; and Torres (NY) (No. 8) that revises the purpose of the Act to explicitly prohibit gun purchases for certain individuals who do not pass background checks.

H. Res. 188, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 842), (H.R. 8), and (H.R. 1446) was agreed to Monday, March 8th.

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentlewoman from Ohio, Ms. Fudge, the whole number of the House is 431.

Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021: The House considered H.R. 1446, to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, March 11th.

Agreed to:

Nadler en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in part D of H. Rept. 117–10: Burgess (No. 1) that requires the Department of Justice Inspector General to submit a report to Congress on the number of NICS denials referred for investigation after a firearm was sold to a person who was later found to be ineligible; Levin (CA) (No. 2) that adds to the GAO reports in the bill, which are to be completed one year, three years, and five years after enactment, data disaggregated by state and the basis for denial in state law; McBath (No. 3) that amends the domestic violence reporting provision to require that the effects of the Act on domestic violence, domestic abuse, dating partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking will be disaggregated by state; and Neguse (No. 4) that strikes section 4 and replaces it to require the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to make an annual report, which shall be available to the public, that provides disaggregated information on background check denials not made within the 10-day period (by a yea-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 202 nays, Roll No. 73).

H. Res. 188, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 842), (H.R. 8), and (H.R. 1446) was agreed to Monday, March 8th.


Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 6:28 p.m.
Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE; HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OFFICERS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the Government Accountability Office and House of Representatives Officers. Testimony was heard from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; and the following U.S. House of Representatives officers: E. Wade Ballou, Legislative Counsel; Tim Blodgett, Acting Sergeant at Arms; Kembra Hendrix, Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion; Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk; Douglas N. Letter, General Counsel; Michael T. Ptasienski, Inspector General; Ralph V. Seep, Law Revision Counsel; and Catherine Szpindor, Chief Administrative Officer.

MODERNIZING THE FEDERAL CIVILIAN APPROACH TO CYBERSECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing entitled “Modernizing the Federal Civilian Approach to Cybersecurity”. Testimony was heard from Eric Goldstein, Executive Assistant Director for Cybersecurity, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency; and Brandon Wales, Acting Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT IN WATER RESOURCES INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Innovation and Investment in Water Resources Infrastructure”. Testimony was heard from Jason Uhley, General Manager-Chief Engineer, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, California; Thomas J. Winston, President and Chief Executive Officer, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, Ohio; and public witnesses.

NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES AND U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC


PRIVATE MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING: UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSING REFORMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness; and Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a joint hearing entitled “Privatized Military Family Housing: Update on Implementation of Housing Reforms”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE PATH FORWARD: RESTORING THE VITAL MISSION OF EPA

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “The Path Forward: Restoring the Vital Mission of EPA”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

JUSTICE FOR ALL: ACHIEVING RACIAL EQUITY THROUGH FAIR ACCESS TO HOUSING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Justice for All: Achieving Racial Equity Through Fair Access to Housing and Financial Services”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

A YEAR INTO THE PANDEMIC: THE STATE OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on International Development, International Organizations, and Global Corporate Social Impact held a hearing entitled “A Year into the Pandemic: The State of International Development”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SECRETARY BLINKEN: THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION’S PRIORITIES FOR U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Secretary Blinken: The Biden Administration’s Priorities for U.S. Foreign Policy”. Testimony was heard from Antony Blinken, Secretary, Department of State.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a business meeting on Committee Resolution 117–12, Contestee Mariannette Miller-Meeks’s Motion to Dismiss Notice of Contest Regarding the Election for Representative in the 117th Congress from the Second Congressional District of Iowa, and for other purposes. Committee Resolution 117–12 was agreed to, without amendment.

THE NEXT STEPS FOR THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Next Steps for the Paycheck
Protection Program”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR RAIL: WHY RAIL IS MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER FOR ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials held a hearing entitled “Full Steam Ahead for Rail: Why Rail is More Relevant Than Ever for Economic and Environmental Progress”. Testimony was heard from Shannon Valentine, Secretary of Transportation, Virginia; and public witnesses.

HEALTH PROFESSION OPPORTUNITY GRANTS: PAST SUCCESSES AND FUTURE USES

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support held a hearing entitled “Health Profession Opportunity Grants: Past Successes and Future Uses”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine farmers and foresters, focusing on opportunities to lead in tackling climate change, 10:15 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the final recommendations and report of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: business meeting to consider the nomination of David Turk, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the reliability, resiliency, and affordability of electric service in the United States amid the changing energy mix and extreme weather events, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider the nominations of Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary, and Brian P. McKeon, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, both of the Department of State, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Architect of the Capitol and the Government Publishing Office, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “COVID–19 and the Mental Health and Substance Use Crises”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Financial Services and General Government, oversight hearing on the U.S. Postal Service, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Education and Labor, Full Committee, business meeting on new subcommittee assignments, 10:15 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled “Clearing the Air: Science-Based Strategies to Protect Workers from COVID–19 Infections”, 10:45 a.m., Zoom.


Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions, hearing entitled “Slipping Through the Cracks: Policy Options to Help America’s Consumers During the Pandemic”, 10 a.m., Webex.


Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures, hearing entitled “Tax Tools to Help Local Governments”, 2 p.m., Webex.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to discharge the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, from the Committee on Finance, and vote on agreeing to the motion at 12 noon.

At 1:30 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke closure on the nomination of Debra Anne Haaland, of New Mexico, to be Secretary of the Interior.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 a.m., Thursday, March 11

House Chamber


Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Axne, Cynthia, Iowa, E223
Calvert, Ron, Calif., E222
Franklin, C. Scott, Fla., E221
Gallagher, Mike, Wisc., E223
Garamendi, John, Calif., E223
Hastings, Alcee L., Fla., E221
Herell, Yvette, N.M., E232
Hudson, Richard, N.C., E232
Johnson, Dusty, S. Dak., E226
Joyce, John, Pa., E222, E224, E225, E231, E232
Katko, John, N.Y., E224
Loftgren, Zoe, Calif., E228
Loudermilk, Barry, Ga., E221
Luetkemeyer, Blaine, Mo., E222
Mfume, Kweisi, Md., E224
Moore, Gwen, Wisc., E222
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E221

Pascrell, Bill, Jr., N.J., E225
Ruppersberger, C.A. Dutch, Md., E225
Sablan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho, Northern Mariana Islands, E222
Spartz, Victoria, Ind., E224, E232, E232
Trahan, Lori, Mass., E222
Vargas, Juan, Calif., E224
Westerman, Bruce, Ark., E223, E231
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E225

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — DAILY DIGEST

March 10, 2021